Medieval Marais

While Henri IV was busy having place Royale (today’s place des Vosges) built, aristocrats were commissioning gold-brick hôtels particuliers – beautiful Renaissance mansions that lend Le Marais a particular architectural harmony.

**Start** rue François Miron **M** St-Paul
**Distance** 2km **Duration** 1½ hours

**1** Walk south on rue du Prévôt to rue Charlemagne. At 7 rue de Jouy admire majestic Hôtel d’Aumont, built in 1648 for a king’s councillor.

**2** Snap geometric gardens and a neo-Gothic turret at Hôtel de Sens (1 rue du Figuier), begun around 1475 for the lucky archbishops of Sens and restored in 1930.

**3** Mingle with hipsters in Village St-Paul, five courtyards refashioned in the 1970s from the 14th-century walled gardens of King Charles V.

**4** Stride along rue Pavée where Henri II’s legitimised daughter lived in late-Renaissance mansion Hôtel Lamoignon at No 24.

**5** Dip into Musée Cognacq-Jay (www.cognacq-jay.paris.fr), inside Hôtel de Donon, to ogle at the collection of Ernest Cognacq (1839–1928) and his wife.

**6** View one of Paris’ most beloved art collections inside the mid-17th-century Hôtel Salé, now the Musée National Picasso.

**7** Flop on a bench or the grassy lawns of Paris’ oldest city square, place des Vosges, and contemplate its exquisite architectural symmetry.

**8** At No 6 Maison de Victor Hugo (www.maisonsvictorhugo.paris.fr), inside elegant Hôtel de Rohan-Guéménéé, is where the celebrated novelist and poet once lived.

**9** Duck beneath the arch in the southwest corner of place des Vosges and fall instantly in love with the beautifully decorated Renaissance courtyards of Hôtel de Sully (www.hotel-de-sully.fr).

**Classiic Photo** No square in Paris demands to be photographed quite like Place des Vosges.

**Take a Break... Le Loir dans La Théière** (www.leloirdanslatheiere.com) A dozen types of tea and excellent savoury tarts.