

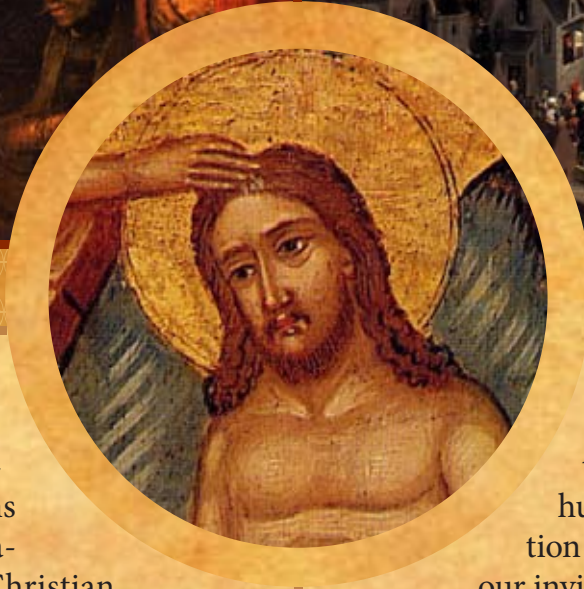


• *Istanbul* • *Saint Petersburg* • *Nicea* • *Bruges* • *Brussels*

The Humanitas Foundation invites you to embark on an extraordinary and exclusive exploration of beauty, faith and meaning in five exceptional European cities.

The Incarnation Tour:
The Art of God And Man

May 23rd–June 4th, 2010



Introduction

At the heart of Western culture's understanding of human 'being' lies the Gospel narrative of the life, actions and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. This life, known in the Christian tradition as *The Incarnation of God*, is a profound revelation for all of us of what it means to be fully human. By his Incarnation, he drew each of us to open ourselves again to the divine image in which he had created us and to the potential for us to lead lives of meaning, service and compassion.

On *The Incarnation Tour* we will join many of the master artists of the last 1,700 years who gave form to their encounter with the Incarna-

tion and who, across time, invite us to think and talk together about the deepest of human questions. Their invitation is the Gospel's invitation, and our invitation to you.

From **May 23rd – June 4th, 2010** we will journey through Istanbul, Nicea, Saint Petersburg, Bruges, and Brussels. Each of these cities provides us with opportunities to experience great artistic works and monuments and discuss the meaning of the Incarnation as it unfolded in each place. **David Goa** and **Greg Pennoyer** invite you to join in this experience and conversation and consider the faith and art that unveil both the mystery of being human and the call to sanctity.

*“All journeys have secret destinations
of which the traveler is unaware.”*

~Martin Buber.

The Humanitas Foundation
2010 Tour Schedule: May 23rd–June 4th

Above Left: *Return of the Prodigal Son* by Rembrandt
Above Right: *Scenes from the Passion of Christ* by Hans Memling
Center: Icon detail, *The Baptism of Christ*

Intentional Itinerary

The Incarnation Tour comprises four-day visits to three major centres: Istanbul, Saint Petersburg and Bruges, with one-day excursions to Nicea (Turkey) and Brussels.

ISTANBUL/NICEA (May 23rd–27th): We begin in ancient Constantinople, former seat of the Eastern Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman empires, and a once-great capital of the Christian faith. Situated near the Hagia Sophia and the Topkapi Palace, our accommodations at the charming Sirkeci Konak Hotel are in the heart of the old city. On our tour, we will experience ninth and tenth century mosaics in the Hagia Sophia and the Chora Church, visit the Asia side of the harbour to hear a Rabbi's stories of the local Jewish community, and cruise the tranquil Bosphorus in the gap between two continents. Evenings will reveal the exotic cuisine of Turkey at the historic Sarnic Restaurant, Hamdi and other



Above: The Hagia Sophia
Center: Medallion, from The Hagia Sophia

fine restaurants in Sultanahmet and beyond. Our Istanbul stage also includes a day trip to Nicea, site of the pivotal 4th century Church council that bequeathed us the Nicene Creed, and rigorously affirmed our understanding of **The Incarnation**.

SAINT PETERSBURG (MAY 27th–31st): Next we fly to Russia's cultural gem, Tsar Peter the Great's magnificent former capital on the banks of the Neva River. The history and romance of majestic Saint Petersburg begin with dramatic views of the neoclassical St. Isaac's Cathedral from our accommodations, the Angletterre Hotel, favoured by poets and writers since the 1920's. At The Hermitage and the Russian Museum, carefully chosen artworks on Jesus' life (including Rembrandt's "The Return of the Prodigal") will reveal the depths to which these visual narratives explore what it means to be fully alive. In

Itinerary Continued

addition to surveying St. Isaac's, we will also observe the ancient rite of Vespers at an Orthodox monastery. Nights will find us sharing our discoveries over exquisite Russian fare at restaurants like Literature Café, Bremen, and the Old Customs House.

BRUGES/BRUSSELS (MAY 31st–JUNE 4th): Our Final Stage takes us to Bruges, via private coach from Brussels airport, where we will stay in the charmed Martin's Orangerie Hotel, located in the heart of the historic city. The capital of Belgium's Flanders province, Bruges is an exemplar nonpareil of medieval architecture, a UNESCO world heritage site, and



Above: The Winter Palace
Center: The central cupola of St. Isaac's Cathedral

home to several remarkable art collections. Here we will examine some of the greatest Flemish paintings — works that speak directly to the core themes of our tour. In addition to the Groeninge, Gruuthuse and Memling Museums in Bruges, our one-day excursion into Brussels takes in the Royal Museums of Fine Arts (the renowned Beaux-Arts), and a Gothic masterpiece, the Cathedral of St. Michael & St. Gudula. The visit to Brussels includes lunch in the world heritage La Grande-Place central square, while evenings in Bruges finish with extraordinary meals at De Vlaamsche Pzot, De Witte Raaf, Maximiliaan van Oost-enrijk and other choice establishments.

*“The glory of God is man
fully alive.” ~Ireneaus*

A Singular Experience

The Incarnation Tour: The Art of God and Man will be distinctive from other travel tours, in a number of significant ways:

- **AN “IDEA” TOUR:** In addition to art, architecture and history, this tour will engage the world of ideas and meaning — in particular, the tour will explore the central idea that **The Incarnation** holds within its profound implications for living a truly meaningful life.
- **A RICHLY INTEGRATED TOUR:** The tour will uniquely integrate art, history, faith... and the conviviality of the banquet table. In each of our five cities, we will glimpse the movement of history, experience and discuss master works of art, and engage the religious life in churches, monasteries, synagogues and mosques — while considering how all these weave together to shape not only a specific place, but also an understanding of who we are. Much of this conversation, this immersion, will occur as we dine each evening, sampling not only local cuisines and vintages, but also the diverse ideas emerging from our experiences during the day.



Above: Bruges water way

Center: Detail from *The Annunciation* by Robert Campin.

- **AN INTIMATE TOUR:** *The Incarnation Tour* will be limited to fifteen to twenty participants.

- **A WELL-PACED TOUR:** The Tour itinerary is shaped for your enjoyment as travelers who wish to learn, discuss and understand: four days at each of the three stages; formal tours in the mornings; afternoons free for personal exploration of local artistic, natural, architectural and cultural highlights; evenings at table with excellent food, wine and inspiring conversation.

- **A REFLECTIVE TOUR:** Reflection and contemplation are key components of the tour. Unlike traditional sightseeing, formal morning tours will concentrate on one or two sites, so as to provide significant opportunities, under the guidance of David Goa and Guest Curators, for reflection on major works of art and historic monuments that unfold the story of **The Incarnation**, and the meaning it brings to our life in this world.

Tour Details

The Cost: \$6750.00 (CAD)* per person (includes 12 nights accommodation, all breakfasts and dinners, ground transportation to formal tour locations, entrance fees to all scheduled tour sites, and all inter-european flights** (Istanbul to St. Petersburg to Bruges). The single supplement is \$1491.00 (CAD).

*The only remaining outstanding costs are flights from North America to Istanbul and back to North America from Brussels, as well as visas to Turkey (\$60.00 CAD) and Russia (\$95.00 CAD). More information on visas to follow upon registration.

**Please note that the price for inter-european flights are in effect as of September 12th 2009. Rates are secured only upon payment.

Registration Deadline:

February 15th, 2010 or until the tour reaches its limited capacity (currently 25% filled).

Fee Payment Schedule:

- \$500.00 (CAD) due upon registration (non-refundable).
- \$3000.00 (CAD) by February 15th (non-refundable after March 25th).
- \$3250.00 (CAD) due by March 12th (non-refundable after April 23rd).



Above Left: Accommodations at the Angleterre
Above Right: Outside Café Literature
Center: Dining area at the Sarnic Restaurant

Transcontinental Flights:

These flights are the responsibility of each registrant to organize for timely arrival in Istanbul and departure from Brussels.

Travel Insurance: It is recommended that all registered participants confirm adequate travel insurance prior to the tour.

Additional Details:

Visas: A visa is required for travel to Turkey and Russia. The Turkish visa is \$60.00 (CAD) and will be issued at the Istanbul airport. The Russian visa, to be purchased in advance will cost \$95.00 (CAD). Further information on the Russian visa application process will be forwarded to participants upon registration.

Walking: The tour includes plenty of walking, particularly in Bruges (which actively discourages motor vehicle transportation), so please bring comfortable walking shoes.

Itinerary: A complete detailed itinerary will be forwarded upon registration indicating all sites the tour will formally visit, plus accommodations and restaurants.

“...the whole world is presented as one all-embracing banquet table for man. And this image of the banquet remains, throughout the Bible, the central image of life.” ~Alexander Schemann

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