



**William Welch**  
*in partnership with*  
**the Florida Keys TREE Institute**  
*presents*  
**“People to People” Cultural Trip to Cuba**  
**Painting workshop**  
**Non painters welcome!**  
**January 8-16, 2015- 8 days/8 nights**

*Internationally known Key West artist William Welch received his art education at Ohio University with further study at the Philadelphia College of Art. A Cleveland native, he developed his love and skills in painting under the able instruction of prominent American watercolorists and master oil painters. He refers to himself as an "academic impressionist", drawing on his training in realism and expressive passion for light and color.*

*From miniature watercolor scenes of extreme fine detail to large and expressive oil murals and screens, Mr. Welch's style evokes the romance of color and light in the true impressionist's spirit. He has spent the last decade following a nineteenth century painter's path throughout Europe, concentrating in Normandy, northern Italy, Provence and Portugal. A frequent visitor to Giverny, Claude Monet's legacy of floral and natural beauty, he was even interviewed by a French television crew while he painted in the garden with other artists from many countries. As the impressionist discipline advocated, Mr. Welch considers his best studio to be outdoors in front of ever-changing nature.*

*In addition to teaching activities, William Welch is a member of painting societies - the Philadelphia Water Color Club (Signature Member), the Artist's Association of Nantucket and the Copley Society of Boston. His works are also represented in many prominent galleries in the East - including the Chadd's Ford Art Gallery, Chadd's Ford PA, Nantucket Art works, Nantucket, Mass. and Frangipani Gallery, Key West, FL. He also maintains his own studio on Nantucket Island, Mass*

*In Key West, Welch teaches for and is a prominent figure in the art scene there. His work is widely collected and it always a prize auction item for Key West's many non-profit organizations, included the Anne McKee Foundation, AIDS HELP, MCC Church and many others. Mr. Welch's current honors include: 2014 Miriam B. Good Award for outstanding contribution to the Key West Arts Community, the Robert C. Perrin Outstanding Watercolor Award (Nantucket Artist Association 2013), Pat Gardener Award 2013 for outstanding pleinair watercolor excellence, recent inclusion in the new book, "The Best in Oil Painting", a Rockport Publications book. He is a contributor of work to the United States Department of State's Art in Embassies Program, and has been honored by President Clinton and Secretary Christopher for his support. Mr. Welch will teach all mediums but will recommend watercolors, pastels and small oil or acrylic setups.*





We invite you to experience Cuba through a humanitarian exchange program by our 501-c-3, nonprofit, organization. Our experienced, US representative is with you the entire trip. Share a true "People to People" exchange of culture and the environment. This exceptional program will include visiting the magical UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Biospheres of Vinales Valley, Pinar del Rio, and remarkable Havana. While there, you will learn about the gardens, environment, art, music, architecture and the people living in these historical areas while having an opportunity to personally interface with the people of this region.

**The package includes:** a complimentary conference call briefing 4 weeks prior to the journey, special travel visa, approved license, round trip non-stop charter air service direct Miami-Havana, private air-conditioned motor coach, medical insurance, hotels, luggage handling, transfers, permits, entry fees, English speaking guide, bottled water daily, tips and meals for those stated on the itinerary. (7 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners) We take care of obtaining all of your documents, travel plans and guide you through the whole process! We travel on a **US Department of Treasury** approved license and visa. There are a limited number of seats available for this rare chance to visit this distinctive island. (**SEE ITINERARY page 3 &4**)

**Price:**

**\$3999.00 per person double occupancy (limited to 28 participants)**- Not included: some meals, personal tips, Cuba departure tax of \$30.00 & baggage fees charged in Miami.

**(Add \$450.00 for single supplemental) \*\*limited rooms available\*\***

\*\*\*\*\*Trip cancellation/interruption insurance is available upon request only thru our representative.\*\*\*\*\*



**Trip Application Form for William Welch trip- Jan 8-16.2015**

*Instructions: In order to make your reservation and hold a space, fill out the trip application below and a non-binding \$500.00 deposit per person. (Checks only please). MARK YOUR CHECK MEMO- Jan 8 2015 trip" The check is to be made to: Florida Keys TREE Institute (A 501 c-3 non-profit organization)*

*Mail your deposit check and the application form to:*

**FK TREE Institute- PO Box 450493, Miami, FL 33145.**

*Questions? Contact: [info@fktreeinstitute.org](mailto:info@fktreeinstitute.org) 866- 355-8733 866-FLK- TREE*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Single** \_\_\_\_\_ (**\$500.00 deposit**)

**Double** \_\_\_\_\_ **rooming with** \_\_\_\_\_ (**\$1,000.00 deposit**)

**Roommate Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Roommate cell phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other notes:**

***We take care of getting your documentation, visas and all reservations starting in Miami. You are responsible for getting to Miami. The trip deposit is refundable up until Sept 8, 2014. We will confirm receipt of your deposit. On or about mid July, we will email you a registration packet and instructions which will be due with final payment by Sept 8, 2014. It will also include information for optional trip cancellation/interruption insurance. The package includes medical coverage while in Cuba. About one month prior to the trip, we will have a required toll free conference call to go over all the information for traveling to Cuba. No inoculations are required.***



## Itinerary

### Day 1- Jan 9

Check-in for flight, depart Miami for Jose Marti Airport. Upon arrival, our bus will be waiting for our departure to the lush botanical province of Pinar del Rio and Vinales Valley. Check into our hotel located on the canyon rim. After settling in, gather for a welcome cocktail reception, with introduction and information by our guide. We will have **a private dinner and entertainment on the terrace**. Enjoy the spectacular scenery from our hotel. Overnight Los Jasmines Hotel (D).

### Day 2- Jan 10

Early morning sunrise viewing from the hotel should not be missed. After **breakfast at the hotel**, we depart for a morning excursion to this area of Pinar del Rio province - renowned for its scenic beauty, fertile tobacco plantations, and unusual mogotes (enormous flat top limestone outcroppings) and mountains that contain huge caves and underground river networks. Our walk through **Vinales National Park (designated as a UNESCO biosphere)** boasts some of the most breathtaking scenery in the entire country. Stop at typical tobacco farm to learn about the daily life of Cuban families in this region, as well as how they grow and harvest tobacco for the cigar industry. **There will be sketching time**. Head back to our hotel for **lunch** and **painting session** on the terrace. **Dinner will be at a private tobacco farm home**. After dinner enjoy a visit to the renowned Casa de Musica. Overnight Los Jasmines. (B,L,D)

### Day 3- Jan 11

After **breakfast at the hotel**, there will be a **morning painting session in town**. Optional horseback trip or birding (nature walk) will be available for non painters. We will head to another area of the valley for lunch. **Lunch will be held at El Palenque de los Cimarones** with musical entertainment (nice location to be introduced to Santeria, the Afro-Cuban religion and its origins). We will explore **La Cueva del Indio**, part of it by boat and will have a quick photo stop at the country's largest painted Mural. Our next stop will be a visit to a **private botanical garden** owned by the same family for over **100 years**. **Dinner will be at a private home of a young Cuban family**. Learn about the changes that are happening for the people as they are now allowed to start their own enterprises. Overnight Los Jasmines (B, L D)

### Day 4- Jan 12

After **breakfast at the hotel** and early checkout, we depart for our extensive visit to the **Soroa Orchid Garden** developed and nurtured by the University of Pinar del Rio, in the mountain range of **Las Terrazas UNESCO Biosphere**. We will stop for **lunch at a private finca**. Then we will continue towards Havana. We will then enter the **UNESCO Heritage City of Old Havana**. There will be an extensive walking tour through cobblestone streets to view the magnificent architecture and many courtyard gardens. Check into our Havana Hotel and have Dinner (B,L,D).

### Day 5-Jan 13

**Breakfast at the hotel**. There will be a **morning painting session rooftop**. Then we will head to the **Hemingway Finca**, where Ernest Hemingway created a lush arboretum of native and tropical fruit trees. There will be Sketching time at this location. Then visit a working **organic farm** where we will have lunch. After lunch, we will then venture back to the city for a **painting session** or visit to the **San Jose arts and crafts market**. Gather for Dinner on your own, then a special evening of entertainment, followed by a walk up Opisbo Street. (B,L)

### **Day 6- Jan 14**

**After breakfast**, there will be a morning **painting session**. Non-painters can visit the Capitolio. We will then board our motor coach for a stop will be the historic **Hotel Nacional**, for a private tour of the building and gardens. The hotel offers breathtaking views overlooking the famous Malecon and Atlantic Ocean. Then, break for lunch. After lunch, we will visit private homes and studios of artists. We will take a trip to the famous **Fuster Mosaic City**. Fuster is known as the "Picasso" of Cuba. Learn how he kept his neighborhood full of hope and energy during the Special Period. Dinner will be at a private paladar on your own. Optional entertainment: Buena Vista Social Club **(B,L)**

### **Day 7- Jan 15**

**Breakfast at the hotel.** After breakfast at the Hotel, enjoy a personalized visit with Cubans in the **National Museum of Fine Arts**, then a special surprise before lunch. Lunch is on your own and **painting session**. For non-painters, we will offer several options, including – the Prado Art Show, Cigar Factory, or Presidential Palace & Revolution Museum. The afternoon can be spent visiting the many cultural houses, galleries, smaller museums, churches, and convents there. Our guide will be available to help you explore. In the evening, we enjoy a ride to **Miramar** and **dinner** suspense. **OPTIONAL: 10:00PM SHOW AT THE TROPICANA, or, other entertainment that might be available that night. Our guide will arrange for tickets and transportation.(B,D)**

### **Day 8- Jan 16**

**Breakfast at the hotel.** Depending on the flight return, there will be a **Morning painting session**. Lunch is on your own. Check-out and depart hotel for airport. **(B)**

## **Havana's Story**

Havana was founded by the Spanish in the 16th century and due to its strategic location it served as a springboard for the Spanish conquest of the continent becoming a stopping point for the treasure laden Spanish Galleons on the crossing between the New World and the Old World. King Philip II of Spain granted Havana the title of City in 1592. Walls as well as forts were built to protect the old city. The sinking of the U.S. battleship Maine in Havana's harbor in 1898 was the immediate cause of the Spanish-American War. The 20th century began with Havana, and therefore Cuba, under occupation by the United States. The U.S. occupation officially ended when Tomás Estrada Palma, first president of Cuba, took office on 20 May 1902. During the chicken Period, from 1902 to 1959, the city saw a new era of development. Cuba recovered from the devastation of war to become a well-off country, with the third largest middle class in the hemisphere. Apartment buildings to accommodate the new middle class, as well as mansions for the Cuban tycoons, were built at a fast pace. Numerous luxury hotels, casinos and nightclubs were constructed during the 1930s to serve Havana's burgeoning tourist industry. In the 1930s, organized crime characters were not unaware of Havana's nightclub and casino life, and they made their inroads in the city. Santo Trafficante, Jr. took the roulette wheel at the Sans Souci Casino, Meyer Lansky directed the Hotel Habana Riviera, with Lucky Luciano at the Hotel Nacional Casino. At the time, Havana became an exotic capital of appeal and numerous activities ranging from marinas, grand prix car racing, musical shows and parks. Havana achieved the title of being the Latin American city with the biggest middle class population per-capita, simultaneously accompanied by gambling and corruption where gangsters and stars were known to mix socially. During this era, Havana was generally producing more revenue than Las Vegas, Nevada. In 1958, about 300,000 American tourists visited the city.

After the revolution of 1959, the new regime promised to improve social services, public housing, and official buildings; nevertheless, shortages that affected Cuba after Castro's abrupt expropriation of all private property and industry under a strong communist model backed by the Soviet Union followed by the U.S. embargo, hit Havana especially hard. By 1966-68, the Cuban government had nationalized all privately owned business entities in Cuba, down to "certain kinds of small retail forms of commerce". There was a severe economic downturn after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. With it, subsidies ended, losing billions of dollars which the Soviet Union gave the Cuban government, with many believing Havana's Soviet-backed regime would soon vanish, as happened the Soviet satellite states of Eastern Europe. However, contrary to the Soviet satellite states of Eastern Europe, Havana's communist regime prevailed during the 1990s. After many years of prohibition, the communist government increasingly turned to tourism for new financial revenue, and has allowed foreign investors to build new hotels and develop the hospitality industry. In Old Havana, effort has also gone into rebuilding for tourist purposes, and many of streets and squares have been rehabilitated, with much renovation going on today. Historical sites, art, architecture and music fill the city streets today. The recent changes by the Cuban government, allowing people to own their homes and start businesses has created new energy and vibrancy.