



**"FEAST, FAMINE AND STRANGE APPETITES"
Food in literature in Key West**

January 16 - 21, 2011

Each year in January, the Key West Literary Seminar explores a different literary theme, bringing acclaimed writers and readers from all over the world together in this historic island city. Four days of readings, conversations, lectures, panel discussions, and parties add up to an event that is one of today's smartest and most high-spirited literary gatherings. The two back to back sessions of the seminar takes place from January 6-9 and January 13-16, 2011

This year's theme food in literature. *The Hungry Muse* will present dozens of today's most compelling, thought-provoking, and funniest writers– memoirists, novelists, poets, historians, journalists, and all manner of lettered gastronome, gourmand, and epicure. It promises to be a mouthwatering and fascinating investigation not simply of the stuff we eat, but of all the things food stands for in our thoughts and words and stories. Please register directly with the www.kwls.org. We recommend early registration for the January 13 – 16 session to match with our Classical Pursuits travel program.

Classical Pursuits will follow this conference with a series of seminars in which we will sample works focused on various facets of food and eating. As we sometimes forget in our well-fed society, food has always expressed something beyond literal sustenance. Meals bring people together; food scarcity can tear communities apart. The gourmet is one who elevates eating to an art form, while the ascetic's spiritual purity stems from abstinence. Part of our discussions in this seminar will be to tease out these complex and deliciously contradictory meanings.

In the process of reading and thinking about food, we'll sample the diverse pleasures of Key West food and culture in the temperate January climate. We'll eat conch fritters while taking in the local ritual of watching the sunset at Mallory Square. We'll follow in Hemingway's footsteps and have drinks at Sloppy Joe's. We'll enjoy the true fusion of cuisines in a city that is closer to Havana than it is to Miami.

OUR ITINERARY IN DETAIL

Sunday, January 16

Participants will make their own arrival arrangements. Please contact us for any assistance with your flights or information on arriving in Key West.

The shrimping fleet dominated Key West's harbour in the 1970s, when boats searched for "pink gold". We'll meet this evening for cocktails in the bar of the

historic La Concha Key West Hotel and then go on to our welcome dinner together to sample the island's bounty.

Overnight: Hotel La Concha, Key West

Meals: Dinner

Monday, January 17

After breakfast at the hotel this morning, we'll meet for our first discussion. We'll carry on to lunch at one of Key West's landmark restaurants. This afternoon we'll join our local guide, George Fontana, for a walking tour getting to know Key West. Ernest Hemmingway's Key West home, where the author lived in the 1930s, has recently been designated a literary landmark. Hemmingway was the first of many writers to take residence in Key West, a list which includes Tennessee Williams, Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Frost and Wallace Stevens and a tradition that continues today. Along the way, George will introduce us to the Key Lime and all its magnificent manifestations from pie to vino made only from citrus.

Overnight: Hotel La Concha, Key West

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Tuesday, January 18

Following our second discussion we'll visit Nancy Forrester's Secret Garden. Nancy is an eco-artist and environmental educator who has created a magical hidden oasis full of tropical trees and plants, winding paths and talking parrots. Here we'll learn about the Mana Project which provides education for a sustainable future to the public in the garden. The project is currently working on a capital campaign to buy this last undeveloped wooded acre of land in "old town" Key West, FL. Acquisition by the local Mana Project will conserve a valuable gene pool of rare plants and animals and the earth friendly legacy of Nancy Forrester. This evening we'll enjoy a sunset cruise, getting out on the water of the Gulf of Mexico.

Overnight: Hotel La Concha, Key West

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Wednesday, January 19

Our third seminar takes place this morning. After our discussion, we'll attend a private screening of "Like Water for Chocolate" at the vintage Tropic Cinema. Mexican screenwriter Laura Esquivel's first novel met with unusual success when it was published in 1989. The novel follows the story of a young girl named Tita who longs her entire life to marry her lover, Pedro, but can never have him because of her mother's upholding of the family tradition of the youngest daughter not marrying but taking care of her mother until the day she dies. Tita is only able to express herself when she cooks. In style, the film belongs to the genre of magical realism.

Later, we'll have lunch at the "Help Yourself" Restaurant. From to-go containers made of corn to composting to the ethical sourcing of local ingredients, this restaurant has a passionate commitment to sustainability. Chef owner Charlie Wilson has spearheaded the "Time for Lunch" Campaign to get healthy food into schools and we'll talk about the importance of this type of activity. We'll visit the Conch Farm Research and Educational Foundation, a non-profit organization with the mission of increasing awareness of the endangered Queen Conch and educating the public about mariculture facilities. The goal of the organization is to raise Queen Conchs from eggs, grow them out and restock local waters to increase population and survival.

Overnight: Hotel La Concha, Key West

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Thursday, January 20

Our last seminar takes place this morning after breakfast. In the afternoon we'll meet a representative of the Slow Food movement to learn about the US Ark of Taste project which profiles over 200 rare regional foods. Key West is home to one of these foods, a unique, tropical tree fruit with an interior texture that is both creamy and sweet. The vibrant salmon-colored flesh of the 'Pantin' mamey sapote has a flavour which is a combination of sweet potato and pumpkin with undertones of almond, chocolate, honey, and vanilla. This superior mamey sapote cultivar was discovered growing near a fire station in Key West, Florida. The seeds of this tree were believed to come from Cuba by way of 19th century dissidents who left the island at that time. We'll enjoy a celebratory dinner this evening.

Overnight: La Concha, Key West

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Friday, January 15

Participants will make their own departure arrangements.

Meals: Breakfast

Note: Each evening, we will post the location of following day's discussions and talks and confirm any additions or changes to itinerary. We are a small group and will cover the material included below but we may decide together to alter the order depending on other opportunities and how we feel.

TOUR COSTS AND DETAILS

US\$2195 per person, from Key West

Deposit

A non-refundable deposit of **US\$500** per person is required to reserve a space on this tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

Single Supplement

If you wish to have guaranteed single accommodation, the single supplement for this trip is an additional **US\$700**. Please note that if you are travelling alone, and we cannot match you with a roommate, you will have to pay the single supplement for this trip. This will be collected at 90 days prior to departure.

Cancellation Policy

All deposits are non-refundable. If you cancel within 90 days prior to trip departure, all associated trip costs are non-refundable. The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credits will be given for services not used. In the event of a cancellation, you must notify Worldwide Quest immediately and in writing.

Tour Cost Includes:

- Twin share accommodations in hotels as specified or similar
- Meals as specified
- Sightseeing with qualified English-speaking guides
- All entrance fees to monuments and parks
- Hotels and local taxes
- Discussions as specified

Tour Cost Does Not Include:

- International flights
- Airport and departure taxes
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Travel insurance
- Visa fees
- Excess baggage
- Items of a personal nature
- Additional arrangements due to any emergency or other situation

THIS TOUR IS LIMITED TO 20 PARTICIPANTS

A note on accommodation

The La Concha Hotel, where we stay for all five nights, is a historic, luxury hotel in old Key West. It offers all modern amenities and an excellent, central location.

Discussion Leader

Samantha Webb is an Associate Professor of English, teaching classes in British Romantic literature, children's literature and fairy tales at the University of Montevallo in Alabama. Her favourite things to do in life are reading, eating, and thinking about both. The opportunity to do all three in Key West is about the best thing she can imagine.

Guide

George Fontana is a long-time resident of Key West and fondly referred to by all as Uncle George. He sings; he sails; he is deeply involved in the arts and culture of the town. He will take us to places and introduce us to people we would not ordinarily meet – most with a food connection.

Please note:

1. The itinerary described in these notes is intended as an example only. In the event of weather changes, logistical arrangements, or special events, we may make changes in the published itinerary or the accommodations.
2. Worldwide Quest is a full service tour operator and will be pleased to arrange your flights for this tour.
3. The tour cost does not include extra expenses incurred because of weather and logistical delays, or delayed departures of chartered or scheduled aircraft.

For additional information about Worldwide Quest's terms and conditions, please refer to the current Classical Pursuits brochure or website.



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