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Contact: Amy Weirick
Office: (614) 848-8380
Cell: (614) 296.8513
Amy@WeirickCommunications.com

Travel guru Spud Hilton to appear at AAA Great Vacations EXPO

Columbus, Ohio – San Francisco Chronicle Travel Editor and [SFGate.com's](http://SFGate.com) always irreverent *Bad Latitude* blogger Spud Hilton will share his sage travel advice with visitors to the 2012 AAA Great Vacations EXPO. A noted travel expert who has traveled the globe professionally for more than 12 years, Hilton will share tips for a richer travel experience and better travel photos, along with hilarious tales from the road and the skies. After hearing his entertaining presentation, attendees will never view travel the same old way.

Hilton will make appearances at the EXPO on Friday, Jan. 20 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 21 at 4 p.m. On Jan. 20, his presentation will feature ***Five Lessons Learned from Globetrotting***, where he'll share five truisms, such as when a language barrier isn't and why it's good to step outside your comfort zone or even get lost on the road. Plus, Hilton will also engage guests in an entertaining game of ***What's Worse on a Plane***, as he recaps ridiculous smackdowns between in-flight horrors: a screaming baby vs. yappy dog; an oversize luggage hog vs. an obnoxious loudmouth; the armrest snatcher vs. the seat-kicking kid.

Hilton's Jan. 21 appearance will feature ***Seven Reasons Your Travel Photos Stink***. His funny, yet informative presentation shows just how easy it really is to bring home far better travel photographs. He'll show some of the worst real-life vacation snapshot offenders, helping EXPO guests hone their own sharp shooting skills.

Spud Hilton is the Travel Editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, where for the past 12 years as a travel writer and photographer he has written about, reported on and been hopelessly lost in destinations on six continents. His travels -- from Havana's back alleys, to Kyoto's shrines, to the floor of a hippie bus in Modesto -- have earned six Lowell Thomas Awards, including this year's Gold Award for Best Newspaper Travel Section (North America, under 350,000 circulation) for the second year in a row. He also writes the *Bad Latitude* travel blog at SFGate.com and was named one of the Sexiest Men in Travel in 2010 by women's online magazine GoGalavanting.com.

The AAA Great Vacations EXPO opens Friday, Jan. 20 and runs through Sunday, Jan. 22, at Franklin County Veterans Memorial in downtown Columbus. Show hours are Friday 12 p.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tickets are available at the door or at any AAA Ohio Auto Club store, for \$9 or \$6 for any AAA member. Children ages 16 and under are admitted at no charge. For additional event details or to purchase tickets in advance, visit www.AAAGreatVacations.com.

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