

For Immediate Release
December 10, 2018



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Travel expert Rudy Maxa to appear at Great Vacations Travel EXPO

Host of Rudy Maxa's World will tell stories of his world-wide adventures

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Rudy Maxa, inspirational globetrotter and host of the popular American Public Television series, *Rudy Maxa's World*, as well as the NPR show *The Savvy Traveler*, will share his rich travel expertise at the 2019 Great Vacations Travel EXPO, presented by AAA. At 3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8, Maxa will be on the AAA Travel Stage, presented by Royal Caribbean, to recount his unforgettable journeys and relay his master-traveler advice. Maxa will also answer audience questions and be available following his stage appearance for photos and to sign autographs.

Rudy Maxa's World airs on Travel Channel International, PBS and locally on WOSU. The Emmy Award-winning Public Television series features destinations as diverse as Korea, Argentina, South Africa, Tuscany, and Thailand. Maxa's thrilling travelogues have been featured in nearly 100 television episodes taking viewers along as he dives deep into the world's great destinations. In addition, his two-hour weekend radio interview show, *The Savvy Traveler*, is the world's most widely syndicated radio travel show, airing in 121 countries and 22 different languages.

Before his work reporting on consumer travel, Maxa worked as a Washington Post investigative reporter and columnist and a freelance writer whose work appeared in dozens of publications. As a reporter for the Post, he was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the Capitol Hill scandal that resulted in changes in congressional rules.

EXPO guests will have an unprecedented chance to travel in Maxa's world as he demystifies some of the most exotic and bucket list destinations on the planet. One of the world's most consummate storytellers, Maxa will share captivating tales from his recent series on Japan, Hong Kong and Bangkok, as he reveals expert tips on how to immerse yourself in local culture and cuisine to more fully enjoy every destination – no matter where your travels take you. EXPO guests will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Maxa for unparalleled access to one of travel's top authorities following his appearance.

The AAA Travel Stage, presented by Royal Caribbean, will feature round-the-clock activities, presentations and entertainment, making the EXPO a destination in itself. Favorite travel spots come alive with engaging, helpful and educational interactive experiences. The EXPO also offers different zones highlighting regional destinations, so visitors can quickly and easily find the ideal getaway for their interests, lifestyle and budget. Guests will also have exclusive access to EXPO-only deals, so travelers are encouraged to bring a calendar and a form of payment and be ready to book on the spot.

The Great Vacations Travel EXPO, presented by AAA, opens Friday, Feb. 8 and runs through Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Ohio Expo Center. Hours are Friday: Noon to 7 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$8 at the door or at any AAA Ohio Auto Club store. AAA members who show their AAA card receive 50 percent off admission. Children ages 16 and under are admitted at no charge. Additional event details are available at AAAGreatVacations.com.

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