

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, October 2, 2013

4:00 pm at The Hotel at Auburn University
and Dixon Conference Center Auditorium

Lecture by Rick Steves Travel as a Political Act

Rick Steves advocates **smart, affordable, perspective-broadening travel**. As host and writer of the popular public television series **Rick Steves' Europe**, and best-selling author of over 50 European travel books, he encourages Americans to travel as "temporary locals." He helps American travelers connect much more intimately and authentically with Europe — and Europeans — **for a fraction of what mainstream tourists pay**.



Over the past 20 years, Rick Steves has hosted over 100 travel shows for public television, and numerous pledge specials (raising millions of dollars for local stations). His Rick Steves' Europe TV series is carried by over 300 stations, reaching 95 percent of U.S. markets. Rick has also created two award-winning specials for public television: Rick Steves' European Christmas and the ground-breaking Rick Steves' Iran. Rick writes and co-produces his television programs through his company, Back Door Productions.

Rick Steves also hosts a weekly public radio program, Travel with Rick Steves. With a broader approach to travel everywhere, in each hour-long program Rick interviews guest travel expert, followed by listener call-ins. **Travel with Rick Steves** airs across the country and has spawned a popular podcast. Rick has also created a series of audio walking tour podcasts for museums and neighborhoods throughout Europe.

Rick self-published the first edition of his travel skills book, **Europe Through the Back Door** (now updated annually), in 1980. He has also written more than 50 other country, city and regional guidebooks, phrase books, and "snapshot" guides. For several years, Rick Steves' Italy has been the bestselling international guidebook sold in the U.S.

In 2009, Rick tackled a new genre of travel writing with *Travel as a Political Act*, reflecting on how a life of travel has broadened his own perspectives, and travel can be a significant force for peace and understanding in the world.

Rick's books are published by Avalon Travel, a member of the Perseus Books Group. In addition to his guidebooks, TV and radio work, Rick is a syndicated newspaper columnist with the Tribune Media Services. He appears frequently on television, radio, and online as the leading authority on European travel.

Rick took his first trip to Europe in 1969, visiting piano factories with his father, a piano importer. By the time he reached 18, Rick jokes, "I realized I didn't need my parents to travel!" He began traveling on his own, funding his trips by teaching piano lessons. In 1976, he started Europe Through the Back Door, a business which has grown from a one-man operation to a company with a well-traveled staff of 80 full-time employees.

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Contact Marilyn Bradbard at bradbm@auburn.edu for additional information.



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