



RICK STEVES

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 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 US 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 media company.

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 experts, 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 tours for museums and neighborhoods in Paris, Rome, Florence, Venice, London, and Athens.

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 guidebooks, phrase books, and "pocket" guides. For several years, *Rick Steves Italy* has been the bestselling international guidebook sold in the US. 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. He is also an active blogger on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest.

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 Rick Steves' Europe (RSE), a business that has grown from a one-man operation to a company with a well-traveled staff of over 100 full-time employees. RSE offers free travel information through its Travel Center, website, and travel newsletters. RSE also runs a successful European tour program that attracts around 18,000 travelers annually.

Rick is outspoken on the need for Americans to fit better into our planet by broadening our perspectives through travel. He is also committed to his own neighborhood. He's an active member of the Lutheran church (and has hosted the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's national video



WORLDWIDE SPEAKERS GROUP LLC
YOUR GLOBAL PARTNER IN THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

productions). He's a board member of NORML (the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws). And Rick has provided his local YWCA with a 24-unit apartment building with which to house homeless mothers.

Rick Steves spends about a third of every year in Europe, researching guidebooks, filming TV shows, and making new discoveries for travelers. Rick was divorced in March 2010. He lives and works in his hometown of Edmonds, Washington, where his office window overlooks his old junior high school.