

Speakers



“Famous Dave” Anderson

America's Rib King

“Famous Dave” Anderson is the founder of the legendary family of Backyard BBQ restaurants, Famous Dave’s of America. Famous Dave’s does it like nobody else, serving up authentic, pit-smoked BBQ & made-from-scratch sides, resulting in over 700 awards for ‘The Best of the Best’ in every category imaginable, including the prestigious honor of “Hottest Concept in America”, bestowed by Nation’s Restaurant News. Dave was recently crowned “Smoked Champion” when he took home the top honors in a BBQ Battle Showdown on Destination America’s popular BBQ Competition show Smoked.

The BBQ magic begins with our time-tested recipes and certified pitmasters, who hand-rub the meats with a custom blend of spices before smoking them for hours over genuine hickory logs in live-wood smokers to extract the natural flavors before serving them to fans in communities across America at our 179 restaurants.

Growing up in Chicago, Anderson remembers his father coming home from work with a lunch pail full of street vendor ribs. Those early flavors inspired a lifelong passion, one that’s taken Anderson from barbecue novice to one of the foremost authorities on the art and craft of meat, heat, and smoke.



Samantha Brown

Travel Channel Host

Samantha Brown has spent more than a decade at Travel Channel. Living in airports, hotels and out of a suitcase, she’s taken viewers on intimate, off-the-beaten-path journeys discovering exotic destinations – whether around the world or in their own backyard.

Brown has hosted a number of shows on the network including “Passport to Europe,” “Passport to Latin America” and “Passport to Great Weekends.” She served as co-host of “The Trip: 2014,” and will also co-host “The Trip: 2015,” which premieres on January 26 at 8:00 p.m. ET on Travel Channel.

An inspirational resource for prospective travelers, Brown has truly enjoyed showing the Travel Channel audience how extraordinary it is to be a part of everyday life in another part of the world. Brown’s travel goal is to prove that if she can do it, you can do it. Viewers passionately follow Brown and her advice not only because of her experience and knowledge, but because of her warmth, genuineness and love for travel.



Pauline Frommer

Editorial Director of the Frommer Guides and Publisher of Frommers.com

Pauline Frommer is a nationally syndicated radio talk show host. The Travel Show, which she co-hosts with her father, travel legend Arthur Frommer, is now heard in every state in the nation except Alaska. She also pens an internationally syndicated newspaper column on travel for King Features. You may recognize her face as Pauline created weekly travel segments for CNN’s Headline News for 3 years. She’s also appeared on The Today Show, Good Morning America, The Early Show, The O’Reilly Factor, NPR’s Marketplace and Talk of the Nation, CNN, FOX, MSNBC and every local news station you can name. She was the founding editor of Frommers.com and edited MSNBC.com’s travel section for two years. Pauline is the proud mother of two well-traveled daughters and wife to physical therapist Mahlon proud mother of two well-traveled daughters and wife to physical therapist Mahlon Stewart.



Peter Greenberg

Emmy Award-Winning Investigative Reporter and Producer and CBS News Travel Editor

A multiple Emmy Award-winning investigative reporter and producer, Peter Greenberg is America's most recognized, honored and respected front-line travel news journalist. Known in the industry as "The Travel Detective," he is the travel editor for CBS News, appearing on *CBS This Morning*, *CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley*, and *Sunday Morning*, among other broadcast platforms.

The consummate insider on reporting the travel business as news, Greenberg hosts the television show, "The Travel Detective with Peter Greenberg," airing on Public Television. The series offers 42 half-hour episodes with cutting-edge travel information and insider tips you need to know before you ever leave home, plus in-depth reports on the good, bad, and yes, even ugly aspects of travel.

Greenberg also produces and co-hosts an ongoing series of acclaimed public television specials, "The Royal Tour," featuring personal, one-on-one journeys through countries with their heads of state. Along with such figures as the King of Jordan, Prime Minister of New Zealand and presidents of Mexico and Peru, Greenberg's newest special features the prime minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu.



Russell Hannon

Ultra-Economical Travel Expert

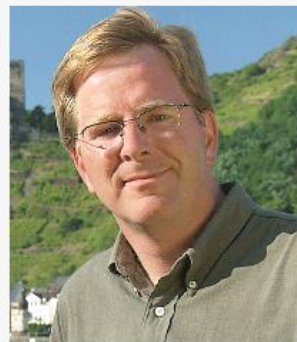
Once feeling unable to afford to travel, Russell Hannon uses lean principles to travel at a fraction of the going rate. He has been on CNBC, FOX, CBS, America Tonight, the Huffington Post, Around the World Travel TV and nationally broadcast lifestyle and personal finance shows. Russell has worked as a CBC Budget Travel Columnist, is the founder of breakthetravelbarrier.com and is the author of 'Stop Dreaming Start Traveling: The Ultimate Guide to Traveling More and Spending Less.'



Johnny Jet

Editor-In-Chief, JohnnyJet.com

Johnny Jet travels around 175,000 miles and visits over 20 countries each year. He and his website JohnnyJet.com have been featured over 3,000 times in major publications, including USA Today, Time, Fortune and The New York Times, and he has appeared on ABC, CBS, CNBC, CNN, FOX, MSNBC, NBC, PBS and recently hosted "Hot Spots 2012" on the Travel Channel. JohnnyJet.com has been named "one of the top best money-saving web sites for travel" by Budget Travel Magazine, while the L.A. Times calls it "one of the top 10 essential travel resources on the internet." Sign up today for Johnny Jet's free weekly travel newsletter at JohnnyJet.com and follow him live on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/JohnnyJet).



Rick Steves

Travel Writer, Host of Rick Steves Europe and Travel with Rick Steves, Europe Through the Back Door

Rick Steves grew up in Edmonds, Washington and studied at the University of Washington where he received degrees in Business Administration and European History. But his real education came in Europe — since 1973 he's spent 120 days a year in Europe. Spending one third of his adult life living out of a suitcase in Europe has shaped his thinking. Today he employs 80 people at his Europe Through the Back Door headquarters where he produces over 50 guidebooks on European travel, the most popular travel series in America on public television, a weekly hour-long national public radio show, and a weekly column syndicated by the Chicago Tribune. Rick Steves lives and works in his hometown of Edmonds, Washington. His office window overlooks his old junior high school.

