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Contact: Kimberly Schwind
Office: (614) 431-7896
Cell: (216) 849-3500
kschwind@aaaohio.com

Discovery Channel's Josh Gates to Return to AAA Great Vacations Travel EXPO

COLUMBUS, OH – Back by popular demand, adventurer and explorer Josh Gates will return to the AAA Great Vacations Travel EXPO for a third time. As host of Discovery Channel's smash-hit series *Expedition Unknown*, Gates crisscrosses the globe to explore archaeological wonders and enduring legends. Gates will tell his tales on the AAA Travel Stage Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020 at noon. Following his appearance, EXPO guests will have the chance to ask Gates questions and meet him for autographs.

In his latest season of *Expedition Unknown*, Gates braved sub-zero temperatures to snowmobile across Siberia investigating one of the coldest cases of the Cold War: the baffling deaths of nine hikers on Russia's infamous "Dead Mountain." Gates also explored the Holy Land as he descended into newly discovered caves and tunnels that could hold the next Dead Sea Scrolls.

An avid adventurer, scuba diver and photographer, Gates has participated in sub-sea archaeological excavations in the Mediterranean, and his wanderlust has taken him to more than 100 countries -- from sweltering African deserts to the icy shores of Antarctica. In addition, he has scaled "the roof of Africa" on Mt. Kilimanjaro and climbed Aconcagua, the tallest mountain in the Americas. A mysterious "Yeti" footprint recovered by Gates in the Himalayas is now on display at the "Expedition Everest" attraction at Walt Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Fla.

While at the EXPO, Gates will share behind-the-scenes tales from the Discovery Channel and provide insights from some of his most memorable excursions. He will also provide tips on how to turn any vacation into the journey of a lifetime. Gates previously appeared at the EXPO in 2017 and 2018.

The AAA Great Vacations Travel EXPO, is a one-stop shop for everything related to travel, featuring more than 150 exhibits, events, attractions and appearances, aimed at helping travelers plan and book their next getaway.

The 2020 EXPO opens Friday, Feb. 7 through Sunday, Feb. 9 in Kasich Hall 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% off admission. Children ages 16 and under are admitted at no charge. Additional event details are available at AAAGreatVacations.com.

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EDITORS NOTE: Images, video, special media access and interviews are available. Contact Kimberly Schwind, O: (614) 431-7896 M: (216) 849-3500 or kschwind@aaaohio.com