

# The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

THE VIP LOUNGE | RANDY PRICE

*In breaking retirement news:*

## SCANDINAVIA, HERE THEY COME

**A**fter nearly 40 years as a broadcast journalist — the last 11 as coanchor of the “EyeOpener” newscast on WCVB Channel 5 — Randy Price is calling it quits. But don’t expect the award-winning anchor to spend retirement twiddling his thumbs. An avid gardener, Price, 70, said he and his husband, Mark Steffen, retired CEO of a medical malpractice insurance company, are looking forward to putting their green thumbs to work year-round at their home in Palmetto Bluff, in Bluffton, S.C. They are also looking forward to biking, swimming, and traveling once it’s safe to do so. “We’ve always enjoyed traveling the world, and while I know we’ll revisit a few places we’ve already been, we’re looking forward to exploring new places,” said Price, who is well known in New England’s civic and philanthropic communities for raising awareness (and money) for causes that are important to him, including autism, animal welfare, alcohol and substance abuse, veterans rights, scouting, and LGBTQ issues. We caught up with the Baton Rouge, La., native, who, with Steffen, shares two dogs, Kobe and Sophie, to talk about all things travel.

**Favorite vacation destination?** Amsterdam has always been a favorite for us. It’s a smaller big city: very walkable, public transportation is great, and it is so orderly and neat — and then you have great museums, parks, and public spaces and lots of smaller restaurants with very affordable international food. Indonesian food is everywhere there. The Dutch people are very inviting, and Amsterdam is not far from a lot of other wonderful destinations. Bruges, Belgium, is one of them.

**Favorite food or drink while vacationing?** Our favorite cuisine of all is Thai food. We’ve had the best you can have, at the Blue Elephant in Bangkok . . . but we have also found wonderful [Thai] offerings all over the world. We’ve been regulars at a small family-owned Thai Restaurant in Amsterdam. We’re always on the lookout for great Thai food.

**Where would you like to travel to but haven’t?** Scandinavia. We’ve been putting it off for years because ideally it is a summer vacation and being obsessed gardeners in New England, we never leave in the summer. Now that we are going to be doing year-round gardening in South Carolina . . . Scandinavia here we come!

**One item you can’t leave home without when traveling?** It probably goes without saying, but a good phone and phone service. Our connections to everything . . . almost anywhere in the world [including] translations, GPS,



food reviews, highlights, and, most importantly, for its a great and convenient camera.

**Aisle or window?** I’m not that fussy as long as I’m onboard and we’re about to take off. But, an aisle seat is more appealing. All of them are great for sleeping for me.

**Favorite childhood travel memory?** We didn’t have much and certainly wouldn’t be leaving the country, but every summer we did take long family car vacations. My mother saved for it and made sure it happened every year. As a result, we covered much of the country and there is a lot of beauty to see in the United States. It was just four of us • my parents and my younger brother — so it was such a fun experience. I’ve always felt fortunate that I had that in my life.

**Guilty pleasure when traveling?** Well, we make it a point to not feel guilty at the time, but enjoying good food whenever we want it is a vacation treat. A hearty breakfast is always different for us . . . and for me, a second or third helping of dessert — ice cream, sorbet, lemon or carrot cake, and on and on.

**Best travel tip?** We always look for a great value. You don’t have to spend an over-the-top amount of money unless you can and that appeals to you. You can stay in great places, have great food, see amazing things, and meet wonderful people without breaking the bank. Also, travel light. We struggled with that concept for years, but it can make a huge difference.

JULIET PENNINGTON

## HERE

### PROMOTING MAINE AND OFFERING AID

Experience Maine, a full-service travel concierge and event planning company, has launched a new online store showcasing handcrafted Maine products, with 20 percent of sales in June benefiting the Maine Tourism Association’s Maine Tourism Relief Fund. Designed to provide relief to businesses and their employees experiencing hardship because of COVID-19, this fund’s grants will be made to Maine businesses with less than 50 employees in tourism-related industries, including restaurants, retail, hotels and lodging, outdoor recreation, event planning, and more. Its signature product is the custom-designed Maine Treasure Box filled with quality gifts and specialty products from local artisans and food purveyors. \$99. [experiencemainemade.com](http://experiencemainemade.com)

### MASSART AT HOME

Art lovers who can’t wait for museums to fling open their doors will be happy to learn that the MassArt Art Museum is bringing its current exhibitions, art projects, videos, and more, directly to your home. Features include artist collective Ghost of a Dream’s site-specific installation, “Yesterday Is Here”; interviews with artists in their studios; highlights from past exhibitions; and activities for adults and kids such as weaving, coloring pages, and virtual drawing together sessions curated by MAAM educators ([maam.massart.edu/maamfromhome](http://maam.massart.edu/maamfromhome)). To help support artists, check out the MassArt Made Virtual Spring Market, a tempo-



rary online showcase of works by students and alumni. Open through June 30, the online shop offers 2-D and 3-D art, clothing and accessories, glass and ceramics, home décor, jewelry and more — perfect gifts in June for dads and grads ([pce.mailchimp.com/home](http://pce.mailchimp.com/home)).

## THERE

### SHOEMAKING WORKSHOPS

When you’re ready to hit the road again, express your creative side at the recently opened Colorado Shoe School. Offering one- to five-day shoe making workshops for all skill levels, guests design their own custom shoes using repurposed leather destined for the landfill, and recycled sole options ranging from bike tires to rubber flooring. You can even bring in your own leather — including that 1980s jacket you love to hate — to craft a unique pair of shoes, sneakers, sandals, or boots. Shoes are held in a custom-built studio in the small town of Bellvue, a 15-minute drive from Fort Collins. To ensure social distancing, workshops will only host only up to four participants at a time; individ-

ual workshops can be scheduled any days except Wednesdays or Saturdays. Rates from \$190 includes all materials and tools. [coloradoshoeschool.com](http://coloradoshoeschool.com)

### FREE LONELY PLANET GUIDE

When the time is right, The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel are looking forward to welcoming visitors back to pristine beaches and outdoor adven-



ture opportunities. Until then, the Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau is offering future travelers a way to plan their next vacation with a new (free!) guidebook to the area from Lonely Planet. This comprehensive resource, filled with practical tips and local insights on sightseeing, accommodations, shopping, and eating, drinking and entertainment venues, is available to receive in the mail, or can be viewed online as a virtual guide in English, Spanish, German, or French. [www.fortmyers-sanibel.com](http://www.fortmyers-sanibel.com)

## EVERYWHERE

### BEAUTY BOOT CAMP

Transform your camping-out-at-home experiences (on your couch, in your office) into an adventure with Camp Skin Authority, a series of five self-care kits that focus on doing, learning and sharing alongside the chance to earn free gifts and merit badges. These beauty boot camps are designed to keep your spirits up and your skin bright whether you’re home alone or chatting with friends and colleagues over Zoom or other platforms. For example, if you’re looking for a way to get an island glow without leaving the house, Fake A Vacay — a combo of Illuminating Body Peel Cream and VitaD fortified Sunless Tanner — does the trick. For seven-minute mini-facials, the Rescue Me kit can rejuvenate five family members. All kits are priced at 30 percent off individual items and include free shipping. From \$31.50. [www.skinauthority.com/Camp](http://www.skinauthority.com/Camp)



### STYLISH BRACELETS FOR NAUSEA RELIEF

Summer boating season is here at last. Getting out on the water — on sea, river or lake — is a joyful experience for many but can be problematic for those who experience motion sickness. To help keep the nausea away, Bisslets has created stylish bracelets for men and women to alleviate the effects of seasickness or other motion-related travel. The chic, drug-free bracelets work by applying pressure to the P6 acupressure point by means of a specially designed bead embedded in a comfortable elastic. Versatile design sets can be mixed and matched, though they must be worn on both wrists for effective relief. Can be used before or after nausea starts. Breathable materials dry quickly after getting wet. Available in small, medium and large sizes. Priced from \$24.99 per set. [myblisslets.com](http://myblisslets.com)

NECEE REGIS