

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

THE VIP LOUNGE

He's always on the go, but Paul D'Angelo's love of Magnolia and the sea is no joke

As a stand-up comedian who has traveled the world, Paul D'Angelo said that his family home in Magnolia (in Gloucester) is his favorite place to be. "It's a quaint little oceanside community," said D'Angelo, who is headlining performances at Giggles Comedy Club in Saugus June 18-19. "I've always had so many projects going on, so when I get there, the rhythm of the waves, the clean air ... it slows me down. All I want to do is sit on the deck and chill." In addition to performing comedy, D'Angelo, a former Essex County assistant district attorney and criminal defense trial attorney, has written six books, including his latest release, "This Next Round of Jokes Is on Me." While D'Angelo has been performing select shows over the past year, he said he is looking forward to returning to a more regular schedule — and venues where people aren't spaced far apart from each other. "Comedy audiences aren't meant to be spread out," he said. "Laughter is infectious and when people are crowded together, it makes for a whole different atmosphere." The 65-year-old Wakefield native has lived in various cities — including Los Angeles — but returned to his roots and lives (with his "baby polar bear" dog, Duffy) in Wakefield in the home his grandfather built in the 1920s. We caught up with D'Angelo to talk about all things travel.

Favorite vacation destination?

Working as a comedian for 35 years, I was constantly traveling ... Las Vegas, Atlantic City, LA, and New York, comedy clubs around the country, cruise ships, corporate conventions all over the world, etc., so I prefer to stay closer to home now, especially since flying is such a hassle these days. For that reason, my favorite



Paul D'Angelo with his "baby polar bear," his dog, Duffy, in Magnolia in Gloucester.

place to get away is my family's home in Magnolia, which is part of Gloucester. Magnolia is a quaint, little oceanside community so, even though it's only a half hour away from my home in Wakefield, it's kind of like being down [on] the Vineyard or Nantucket.

Favorite food or drink while vacationing?

I'm a horrible cook who has somehow survived on restaurant food, leftovers, cereal, and my mom's cooking for most of my life but, like most men, I like to think that I can grill. If I'm not cooking Dom's chicken, burgers, or steak

tips on the grill in Magnolia, we're boiling up lobsters and steamers, as you might expect near the ocean.

Where would you like to travel to but haven't?

I'd love to visit Siracusa, Sicily, where my grandparents were from. I've seen pictures and it still looks like an ancient land trapped in a time capsule.

One item you can't leave home without when traveling?

Well, these days you obviously can't go any-

where without your cellphone. On a recent trip to Florida to perform at a corporate show, I inadvertently left my phone on a bench after I went through security. Thank God someone turned it in or I would have withdrawn, assumed the fetal position, and sucked my thumb until I had it replaced.

Aisle or window?

Aisle seat, because I'm not trapped on the inside, and I don't have to wake people up and squeeze by them to get to the bathroom.

Favorite childhood travel memory?

Our summers spent in East Falmouth, when the Cape was still seasonal and relatively undeveloped. It was a kid's paradise, where we spent the days swimming, boating, fishing, and clamming ... years before I spent my days down [at] the Cape at happy hours, drinking, and unsuccessfully chasing women, which is a college kid's idea of paradise.

Guilty pleasure when traveling?

I balanced two full-time careers for many years, working as an Essex County assistant DA, and then a criminal defense trial attorney, all while doing comedy shows most every night of the week as well. Because I was so exhausted and stressed-out from juggling those two jobs, I entertained on a lot of cruise ships as sort of a working vacation. I'd always indulge myself and use the first couple of days just trying to slow down, relax, and decompress, which is totally against my nature.

Best travel tip?

When flying, always remember to leave your weapons, drugs, and embarrassing personal items at home. ... You can always purchase more when you arrive at your destination.

JULIET PENNINGTON

TRAVEL TROUBLESHOOTER

Is his annual insurance policy refundable?

By Christopher Elliott
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Q. Before the pandemic, I paid \$1,025 for an annual travel insurance policy through Allianz for my wife and me. She's in her 70s, and I'm in my 80s. Then COVID-19 came along, and we had to cancel everything we planned to do in Europe. So our policy became useless.

I asked Allianz if we could transfer our policy to next year when travel appears to be coming back. The company offered a 90-day extension, but it's clear that there will be no travel for us during those 90 days. I'd like

90 days of coverage. But you told an Allianz representative that you couldn't use the extra 90 days, which is totally understandable.

Travel insurance companies have some flexibility when it comes to requests like yours. You could have appealed to Allianz online (I recommend a written appeal with any documentation). You also could have appealed to an executive at Allianz. I list their names, numbers and e-mail addresses on my consumer advocacy site at www.elliott.org/company-contacts/allianz.

Travel insurance companies have some flexibility when it comes to requests like yours.

your help to either get a refund for the useless travel insurance or have the policy extended for another year when it appears we will actually be able to make use of it.

DURNDORD KING, *Santa Monica, Calif.*

A. I'm sorry you had to cancel your trip to Europe. You would think that your travel insurance would be refundable, but it usually isn't.

Allianz travel insurance plans offer coverage for any trips that are more than 100 miles from your home and occur during the policy's effective period. So it would have also applied to your trips within the United States to visit friends and family during the summer and holidays. If you want to cancel your annual travel insurance, you can do so for any reason and receive a prorated premium refund.

It appears you asked for an extension of your policy. Allianz was offering extensions during the pandemic on a case-by-case basis, so it offered you an extra

By the way, I have the same annual policy that you do. It makes a lot of sense for travelers who take multiple trips in a year.

Unfortunately, the time for a prorated refund had already passed by the time you contacted me, and a 90-day extension wouldn't have been useful. The terms of your travel insurance purchase were clear, but you were asking the company to bend a rule during a pandemic. I think that was a fair request.

I contacted Allianz on your behalf. A representative said that as a "one-time consideration" it would refund your plan in full.

Christopher Elliott is the chief advocacy officer of Elliott Advocacy, a nonprofit organization that helps consumers resolve their problems. Elliott's latest book is "How To Be The World's Smartest Traveler" (National Geographic). Contact him at elliott.org/help or chris@elliott.org.



HERE

SKY-HIGH ROAD-TRIP PACKAGE

The legendary steep climb up the Mt. Washington Auto Road in New Hampshire offers road-trippers stunning views to the Atlantic Ocean and into Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, and even Canada. To celebrate the road's 160th anniversary, which opened to stagecoach travel back in August 1861, The Glen House hotel is offering The Auto Road to the Sky package. You can't get much closer to the historic route than this 68-room dog-friendly property that sits at its base within the White Mountain National Forest. The package includes two nights in a standard room; auto road passes for one vehicle and two adults; one keepsake cooler with two boxed lunches; two adult souvenir T-shirts; and two adult 4-hour bike rentals from the Great Glen Trails Outdoor Center. Rates from \$279 per night, based on double occupancy for a two-night stay. Valid through Sept. 6, Labor Day, 2021. 603-466-3420, theglenhouse.com/packages-specials

BLOCK ISLAND MARINA MAKEOVER

Those planning a visit to Block Island this summer may want to consider Champlin's Marina and Resort, a newly renovated 9-acre property that aims to be a fresh destination for all — couples, families, and even solo travelers. Champlin's Marina features 46 spiffed-up guestrooms with water or island views; a full-service marina with 120 fixed slips; waterfront pool; private beach; spacious dog park; watersport, bicycle and moped rentals; firepits; and multiple dining options including full-service restaurant, double deck bar and ice cream parlor. In addition, the property hosts a range of events, from fishing tournaments and regattas to live music evenings and private parties of varying sizes. Rates from \$189. 401-466-7777, champlinsresort.com

THERE

ZEN-LIKE RETREAT OPENS IN ADRIATIC

Relaxation and renewal top the list of guest benefits at the newly debuted Maslina Resort in Hvar, Croatia, a country whose borders are once again open to those holding a US passport. This seaside boutique resort's non-intrusive architecture blends into untouched Mediterranean nature, with 33 rooms, 17 suites, and three villas offering views of the Adriatic Sea, olive groves, and terraced vineyards. Amenities and services include a Mediterranean-inspired restaurant; bar with signature cocktails and local wines; sommelier-crafted tastings and winery visits; private beach; two heated pools; children's play space; and spa with fitness room, hair salon, and wellness offerings such as sound healing therapy, meditation, yoga, and a garden-to-skin spa menu designed to alleviate some of the stress accumulated in the past year. High season (June-September) rates from \$508. www.maslinaresort.com

MAJESTIC RAIL ROUTE DEBUTS

Calling all train aficionados! The Rocky Mountaineer, a company offering multiday, daytime journeys in spacious, glass-domed train coaches, is expanding with a new route in the Southwest United States this summer. The Rockies to the Red Rocks route will be a two-day luxury rail journey between Denver and Moab with an overnight stay in Glenwood Springs. The launch includes 40 departures across 10 weeks from Aug. 15 to Oct. 23. In addition, the company is working with local tourism organizations, hotels, and tour operators to curate custom packages with tours, activities, and stays in Denver, Glenwood Springs, and Moab, so travelers can experience even more of the region. This new route compliments three current routes in

Western Canada, between Vancouver and the Canadian Rockies towns of Banff, Lake Louise, and Jasper. Rates from \$1,250 includes one-night hotel accommodation. 877-460-3200, www.rockymountain-eer.com/train-routes/rockies-red-rocks

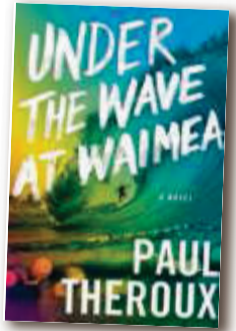
EVERYWHERE

LIGHTWEIGHT PACKABLE HIGH CHAIR

Traveling with a baby or toddler can be challenging, especially when your destination isn't equipped with everyday necessities. To make vacationing with your little one easier, Baby Delight, a product design company for all-things-baby, offers a "Go With Me" line of portable high chairs. The popular Uplift Deluxe model is standard table height, made of durable indoor/outdoor fabric that can be wiped clean, and includes a removable plastic tray with cup holder for sippy cups or bottles. A flared leg system and five-point harness provide stability. The lightweight chair conveniently folds together and fits into its own carry bag. Great to use when visiting grandparents or on camping trips. The line also includes portable chairs, travel cots, and "play yards" (think playpens) for use indoors or out. \$69.99. 401-333-6800, babydelight.com/product-category/go-with-me

THEROUX NOVEL SURFS BIG THEMES

Fans of author Paul Theroux's travel and fiction books won't want to miss his newest novel, "Under the Wave at Waimea," published in conjunction with the writer's 80th birthday. Set in



an atmospheric and gritty underside of Hawaii that tourists rarely see, we meet aging big-wave surfer Joe Sharkey. Rolling into his 60s, Joe remains a hero to local surfers but his corporate sponsors have moved on, along with his ex-wife and a string of surfer-girl lovers. Driving home on a rainy night, an inebriated Joe accidentally hits and kills a homeless man riding a bicycle. As Joe's new girlfriend, Olive, leads him to discover the identity of the dead man, the book takes readers on a darkly spiritual ride through the highly competitive world of championship surfing, island subcultures that pit family against outsiders, and one man's journey to face mortality and find refuge in the waves once more. \$28. www.hmhbbooks.com/shop/books/Under-the-Wave-at-Waimea/9780358446286

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