

CELEBRITY TRAVEL

Ocean storm top memory for comic

By Jae-Ha Kim
Tribune Content Agency

Comedian and author JT Habersaat is a keen observer of life, which is why a lot of things he hears make their way into his stand-up shows.

"I tend to pull from real life quite often," said Habersaat, who resides in Austin, Texas. "I'm a bit of a storyteller. The constant travel of stand-up comedy lends itself well to adventure and insane situations. I try not to include specific people by name unless they are crucial to the material, but that happens sometimes too."

This interview with Habersaat has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Are there places you're reluctant to return to for whatever reason?

A: Oh, for sure. I have a story on my comedy special, "Misanthrope," about touring through a small town in Oregon and basically being run out of the city by a Misfits cover band that did not enjoy humor. (Laughs.) My most recent special, "Swamp Beast," has a whole lot of almost-unbelievable Florida tales. There are certain cities I have never had a good show in, and I'm not completely sure why. Little Rock, Arkansas, comes to mind. Mississippi has always been a bit of a battle.

Q: Where are some places you've had better experiences?

A: At this point, I've performed in every state except Montana and Idaho. Those two seem tough to route through.



Stand-up comedian JT Habersaat said there is nothing like Cape Cod for a relaxing vacation. **MINDY TUCKER**

I did a five-night residency in Anchorage that was pretty wild. I've done festivals all over, including Akumal (Mexico), Las Vegas, Denver and Green Bay.

Q: Did you write any of your book, "Doing Time: Comedians Talk Stand-Up," on the road?

A: Yes, a bunch of interviews were done while I was on tour performing stand-up. I sat down with some fantastic comedians while in Los Angeles, including Todd Glass, Tom Rhodes, Jackie Kashian and Eddie Pepitone. While in New York, I spoke to folks like Joe DeRosa. It was a constant game of who-is-in-the-city-I-am-in-this-week?

Q: Do you have any upcoming trips planned?

A: Lots! I tour a bunch, and right now I have shows looming in Minneapolis, Wilmington (North Carolina), Indianapolis, Boston, Des Moines and beyond.

Q: What is your favorite vacation destination?

A: I really enjoy Cape Cod, mainly because I went there a bunch as a kid and it's nostalgic relaxation.

Q: What untapped destination should people know about?

A: Marfa, Texas, is a pretty magical little town. I like Asheville, North Carolina, too. I like artsy places.

Q: What's a trip you took

as a child that stands out?

A: The Jersey Shore. I went there every summer growing up, and it holds really great memories for me.

Q: What's the most important thing you've learned from your travels?

A: Don't be an obvious tourist. Be aware of your surroundings and lean into the local culture and cuisine.

Q: Where would you like to go that you have never been to before?

A: Iceland and New Zealand.

Q: When you go away, what are some of your must-have items?

A: My backpack is pretty much designed to carry my merch for post-show sales with ease. Also, earbuds and a comfy sleep mask for the plane.

Q: What is your best or worst vacation memory?

A: Watching a huge thunderstorm over the ocean when I was 13 in Cape Cod was the best. Our summer cottage was like 20 feet from the crashing waves, and my parents woke me and my brother up in the middle of the night to see it. Just massive waves and lightning. It was awe-inspiring. Worst was probably altitude sickness one time in Boulder. Would not recommend!

For more from the reporter, visit www.jaehakim.com.



QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-TRIBUNE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Chicago Tribune

WINNER OF 28 PULITZER PRIZES FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM