



Ideas For Travelers At Christmas

WHATEVER retailers would have you believe, Christmas shopping is not one of life's little pleasures.

It's a highly overrated occupation designed to part you from your hard earned money. And is closely tied to that equally ridiculous notion that it's better to give than to receive. Receiving wins every time.

But when the time does come to do the Christmas shopping, and eventually it must, we find we have quite different styles and approaches.

One's a grazer. A little thing here. A knik-knak there. Some easy selections from a pile of mail-order catalogs. No hard "malling" for this one. Just some fancy wrapping, a few bows, and basta! Roll on Yule.

The other's a total grump about Christmas. The original "bah humbug." He procrastinates and broods until the very last minute and then leaps into a frenzied bout of quite random acquisition. Wrapping is considered a hell on earth. And the packages mirror the contempt. A child could do better. And does.

But on one thing, we always agree. We do love to get presents — especially imaginative ones that are in some way travel-related.

So, to help you satisfy any travelers on your list this Christmas, here are a few of our own Yuletide gift suggestions.

► Maps. From a utilitarian road atlas to fold ups to antiques. All evoke strong memories of travel past and can be a real aid to planning in the future.

► Walkman-style tape players aren't just for teen-agers or joggers. Travelers of all ages enjoy listening to music of their own choice. Consider including language tapes or walking tour tapes of major cities.

► Also in the electronics field . . . a short-wave radio. As small as a paperback, it can provide limitless enjoyment, and some very useful news and information as you pick up broadcasts from all over the world.

One specific recommendation: The Sony ICF-4910, nine band portable. It includes AM, FM, and seven international shortwave bands. Price, under \$100 (including shipping) from Universal Shortwave Radio, 1280 Aida Dr., Reynoldsburg, O. 43068; 614-866-4267.

► Fill an entire stocking with inexpensive but indispensable travel items. Trial sizes of aspirin, toothpaste, soap, hand cream, shampoo, pre-moistened cleansing cloths, nee-

dle and thread, scissors, Band Aids, a fahrenheit thermometer, emory boards, universal sink stopper, small flashlight, collapsible toothbrush . . . oh, yes, and a Flexo-Line natural rubber-braided clothes-drying line that goes up anywhere and requires no pegs. Price, depending on length \$4.25 and \$6.25 from Flexo-line, Dunbridge, O. 4314.

► We think that travelers should pick out their own luggage, but there are plenty of accessories. One baggers, for example, would certainly appreciate a padded golf bag strap to ease the burden.

► Money is useful in any form. Travelers to foreign destinations could be given a trip pack of \$25 or so in the currency of the country they plan to visit. Go to the main office of any major bank for help on this one.

► Travel books of all kinds. But consider novels set in the place the recipient is planning to go . . . or has just returned from. Also some good escapist literature to read on the trip.

► Subscriptions to travel publications. Travel & Leisure, European Travel and Life, and Travel Holiday are all good choices. Our favorite, International Travel News, costs only \$12 a year. Write to ITN, Box 217309, Escondido, Calif. 92027-0770.

► Binoculars bring the world closer whether you're studying nature or investigating a city. They should be small and lightweight as well as powerful.

► Anyone leaving for a vacation out of Detroit would appreciate a complimentary trip to the airport and back via Jet Port bus service. Call 419-255-2233 to get more details on this comfortable and practical \$18 roundtrip. For even more personalized service, consider limo service home pickup and drop off.

► Travel video tapes. Quality and selection is rapidly improving. One source that we know is Travel View Intl., 800-325-3108, which has a selection of 50 tapes at \$39.95 each. Video rental stores also have a small selection of travel tapes.

Finally some hardy annuals that never fail . . . Swiss Army knife, passport case, money belt, pocket 35mm camera plus film, calculator that converts currencies, dual voltage hair dryer or razor, adaptor plugs, alarm clock.

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