

Great gifts for globetrotters

BY LYNDA TWARDOWSKI
Special to the Record-Eagle

Got an intrepid traveler on your holiday list? A weekend warrior?

You're in luck. There's a host of gift options that could inspire your favorite adventurer. Best of all, you don't have to trek to the ends of the earth to find them.

Up, up and away

Obviously, the greatest gift for any travel enthusiast is ... a trip. Weekend junkets to Las Vegas or Toronto are popular gift picks for good reason, said Kathy Konstanzer, operations manager at North Village Travel in Kalkaska. They don't require the recipient to take time much off from work and they're inexpensive.

"With a flight out of Detroit and hotel, you can usually do Las Vegas for \$450 per person. Toronto is even less if you do the rail

out of Sarnia or Windsor," said Konstanzer.

If you're not comfortable choosing dates or a destination, ask your travel agent if they offer gift certificates. North Village Travel offers their version, called Christmas Cash.

"It's kind of like monopoly money," said Konstanzer. "A lot of people will just buy a \$100 worth, and the recipient can put that toward the trip of their choice whenever they're ready to go."

Go, go, gadget guy

Safety and security are on the mind of anyone who travels, but thanks to SCOTTteVEST apparel company, they can also be on travelers' backs, too. The company's new Version Three.0 line offers leather, fleece and microfiber jackets engineered with up to 40 discreet pockets and compartments.

Tuck in legal pads, pens,

water bottle, keys, credit cards, a baseball hat, a cell phone, a PDA and a laptop — you name it, there's a special pocket, epaulet, loop or clasp made for it. You can also channel PAN (personal area network) wires through the lining of the jacket or hang a Camelbak water hydration system on a loop and route the straw through special access pockets so sips are always at the ready. Need a stocking stuffer? SCOTTteVEST also offers a Tec hat, which features CoolMax mesh and two hidden compartments for keys, credit cards and cash. For more, go online at www.scottevest.com

Oh, momma

Toddlers and trips don't go well together for two reasons: high-altitude tantrums and the sheer amount of carry-on baggage young children require. Though Hammacher-Schlemmer

See GLOBETROTTERS, Page 11 ▶



Ex-Officio's Give-N-Go Stretch Travel Underwear for men and women is available at Traverse City's Backcountry Outfitters. They are breathable, antibacterial and can air dry after a sink washing in less than three hours. Ideal for travelling, they are also comfortable for athletic wear. Pictured are a woman's tank top and bikini brief.

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