

Out and About: Travel Tips from Q Club Staffers

Like most travelers, our Q Club staffers enjoy sharing highlights and tips from their trips. Here's a sampling from recent travels.

■ While visiting China in November, Laurel found that the subjects of her photos welcomed prints of their own. Carry airmail envelopes, she suggests, on which persons photographed can write their own addresses in Chinese characters.

■ In Florence, Teresa loved the beautiful soft leather jackets displayed at Noi on Via delle Terme. Back from her trip there in November, she also raves about the cup of hot chocolate she enjoyed at *Rivoire*, a café on Piazza della Signoria. And she recommends a visit to the Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella, the oldest pharmacy in Italy, just around the corner from the famous square of the same name and the Grand Hotel Minerva. She enjoyed the frescoes and furnishings as much as the hand-made soaps, oils and potpourri.

■ In October, Bonnie traveled with Crystal Cruises and loved it. "They make you so welcome that you feel you're a returning guest, even if it's your first cruise," she says.

■ Headed for New Zealand? Don't forget the sunscreen, advises Kent. A hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica lets ozone-depleted air spread into regions in the Southern Hemisphere, subjecting those locales to higher levels of ultraviolet rays. Take sunscreen, and use it — good advice anywhere you plan to spend time outdoors.

■ For Stephanie, the defining moment of her visit to Botswana was "seeing the sun going down over the Okavango Delta with hues you've never seen anywhere else in the world and realizing that it's unchanged for centuries."

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Please turn to Page 8