



## **ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.**

- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
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**AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #8 OF 2016 – July/August: NINE NEW RELEASES; SEE BELOW**

### **INTRODUCTION**

During the summer months, while most people are enjoying vacations, ITMB is continuing to develop new artwork to make our maps more accurate and better value for end users. At the moment, we are working on a new title, a detailed double-sided map of Washington and Oregon states, as part of our drive to create new travel-oriented maps of all parts of the USA. Lan and I will spend a week in August driving roads and checking information. Yes, I know; the US has already been mapped, but we still have to verify the accuracy of the data for ourselves. We are also creating a new double-sided map of Poland. The threat of a postal strike in Canada has affected our business negatively, and we apologize to those customers who have either been forced to travel without maps or who have had to suffer increased costs to have maps couriered to them. Naturally, this affects mostly people in Canada, as American and International customers can be supplied from our outlet in Point Roberts, WA.

### **COUNTRY REGION IN THE NEWSLETTER FOR THIS MONTH: BRITAIN**

The fallout resulting from the referendum's vote to leave the EU continues to dominate the news. I don't want to get into the rights or wrongs of the issues involved, except to say that they are profound and Brits everywhere are really struggling to figure out what happens next. Let's look at the bright side. The Pound has fallen in value. This makes imports into the UK more expensive but also makes vacation trips to the UK more affordable and hence, more attractive. Cruise lines operating out of the UK, such as Cunard, price themselves in Pounds, making such trips more affordable for Brits as well as for overseas visitors. Air flights originating in the UK are also charged in Pounds, making fares more attractive and, of course, everything inside Britain that would be of interest to a visitor becomes more attractively priced for anyone having to purchase Pounds. We tend to get wrapped up in debates about falling valuations of a currency, forgetting that value is only relative to other currencies. If the Pound 'falls' in value to the US\$, nothing changes in Britain, but the country is more attractively priced for Americans. If the Pound rises in value in relation to the Euro (for example), that would detrimentally affect travel by continental Europeans to Britain. Conversely, and this is happening, political and economic uncertainty inside Britain is leading to higher costs for Brits to travel outside of the UK. While this might stimulate vacation travel within the UK, it definitely makes foreign trips more expensive and less likely for anyone living within the Sterling banking system.

As a travel market, Britain, whether one thinks of it as the UK or of its component parts, is very attractive. Lan and I will be visiting the Isle of Man in early October. It isn't the easiest place in the world to travel to from Vancouver, but we have already booked our flight. I regret that we will not be visiting more of Britain in 2016, due to other travel commitments, because the UK is one of the best travel destinations in the world.

If one is interested in history, few countries anywhere can match England or Wales, or Scotland for that matter. The parish churches of England are normally open for viewing on weekdays during non-service times and are the repositories of a massive treasure-trove of historical trivia. One never ceases to be amazed at the legacies left by the centuries when viewing original copies of the Magna Carta or the round table allegedly used by King Arthur many centuries previously. I well remember driving along a secondary laneway in the Welsh border area and noticing a small sign for a Saxon church. Sure enough, there was the small 6<sup>th</sup> century Saxon church, unchanged over centuries of use except for a new fireproof roof. Very few countries in the world can retain the fabric of what is important like England, with its cathedrals, manor houses and palaces, gardens, battlefields, and monuments. Where else can one see Stonehenge, Roman Bath, Runnymede, and Blenheim Palace all on one trip, experiencing thousands of years of historical development within a day of each other? The same applies to Scotland and Wales. Let us try and keep current political developments in perspective. Britain is, and will remain, Great, no matter what adjustments are made to its future framework with the rest of Europe.

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### **ASIAN HOTSPOTS FOR TRAVEL**

We are in the travel industry as purveyors of information in the form of maps. We are all in the travel industry, whether we are publishers, retailers, libraries, or just plain ordinary travellers. The daily news tends to focus on the extremely negative, and sometimes we need to remind ourselves that for every negative, there is a positive. Here are Asian travel destinations that are showing promise for better times:

1. Katmandu, Nepal – Yes, the country was devastated by a terrible earthquake in 2015, but a massive re-building exercise has resulted in a 144% increase in tourism one year later. This is a credit to Kathmandu's resurgence and Nepal's on-going attraction as a travel destination.
2. Sapporo, Japan and the northern island of Hokkaido – The most Americanized city in Japan in historical development, Sapporo is the gateway to Japan's ski resorts. Hokkaido, as Japan's most northern main island, is very interesting, if less well-known than western Japan. It is my favourite part of Japan.
3. Padang, Indonesia – This is a rapidly-growing tourist destination for surfing and eco-travel
4. Hakone, Japan – This mountainous region, an easy day trip from Tokyo, is an ideal place to escape the crowds and relax in an 'on sen' hot spring. The region is experiencing a 66% increase in travel this year.
5. Surabaya, Indonesia – This city and region at the eastern end of Java is experiencing a significant increase in travel bookings; up 53% over 2015. It is interesting in itself, but is also a good 'jumping-off' place for trips to Bali and Lombok. We stayed in a nice hotel within walking distance of the train station.
6. Nagoya, Japan – This city hosts many art exhibits and has several stand-out museums. Travel is up 50%.
7. Kyoto, Japan – The many temples of Kyoto and nearby Nara continue to fascinate; travel is up 37%
8. Palawan, Philippines – The many islands of the province are a nature lover's paradise, from diving in Coron to island-hopping in El Nido. Bookings are up 37% over 2015.
9. Krabi, Thailand – This is the fastest-growing travel hot-spot in Thailand
10. Bagan, Myanmar – Travel to Myanmar is way up, thanks to a new government and increased open-ness. Bagan is loaded with Buddhist temples, more than anywhere else in the world; another Angkor Wat.

### **EXPLODING PRICES FOR ACCOMMODATIONS**

It seems that there is a world-wide increase underway for accommodation. I know that Vancouver's housing market is super 'hot', leading to bidding wars and extremely high prices. This affects rental accommodation as well. I know of someone paying \$4,000 per month to rent a house just blocks from where we live in Richmond. Higher prices are making Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and cities in Europe so expensive that governments are scrambling to figure out ways to make housing more affordable. Here's an alternative that has just been presented to me – live on a cruise ship year round. It is actually less expensive to pay annual rent, based on June, 2016 data, to a cruise ship operator than to rent in most major US cities. One would save \$7,518 annually over Honolulu, \$7,154 over San Francisco, or \$10,430 over NYC. CruiseWatch calculated how much the average person would spend for housing, transportation, utilities, and food on a weekly basis (2.5 person unit) and found that staying on a cruise ship would save families over \$300 weekly. Given that higher living costs are here to stay, the option of living in a floating hotel might be attractive to retirees. We've met a few 'permanent guests' on various cruises, and they love the relaxed lifestyle – no meals to prepare or cleaning up to do, no cleaning or maintenance to worry about, decent accommodation, nightly live entertainment, and visiting exotic destinations as a bonus!

### **IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT IS NOTHING NEW**

Anyone who has flown is used to seeing tiny monitors attached to the backs of seats for viewing a wide range of movies or TV programs. Here's a little historical trivia. The first movie ever shown on board an airplane was in 1925: a silent movie of Arthur Conan Doyle's Lost World. Imperial Airways, later to evolve into British Airways, loaded a film projector and operating crew into what appears to be a Ford Tri-star plane at Croydon. The camera was set up in the aisle, and a sheet hung at the front for a screen, and the passengers enjoyed a never-before experience.

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### **POPULATION INCREASE**

I have just received a startling statistic from ODT, which has just published two new population maps of the world; one based on 2005, the other on 2015. The world's increase over a short ten-year span is 12.7%. This means that the number of people living somewhere has increased by more than a billion people in just a few short years. Furthermore, the growth is concentrated in a few Asian countries, Africa, and the Middle East – areas that were already overcrowded. The population levels in Europe, Australasia, and North America, have remained relatively static (Mexico excepted). What this means is that these so-called 'developed' countries have actually fallen further behind in one very important aspect. Picking on the USA as a prime example, the total population of America (illegals included) is now less than 3% of the world's population. Does anyone seriously believe that 3% can continue to dominate the world politically, militarily, and economically and that the remaining 97% are going to tolerate such dominance? Today, the USA is the dominant world power, but it no longer has the ability to act unilaterally to impose its will (if it ever did). It can retain its position of dominance through alliances, both military (NATO, NORAD) and economic (trading alliances/partnerships) with like-minded friendly countries. It can isolate itself, like Britain, by withdrawing from the world stage, as the Trumpites advocate, and hope for the best. We'll have to wait for November to see how that scenario plays out. The same 3% population figure applies to Europe including Britain, whose combined population approximates that of the USA. The real significance of these new maps is in extrapolating the data into the next decade. Will there be another 10% increase in population? How about 15%? Does anyone believe there will be no increase? Ten years is not a long time! Think of the strife in the world today, a lot of which is based on poverty and the feeling that might makes right. What will things be like a decade from now? Of course we can't predict something like that, but we can accept that despair arising out of over-crowding and lack of economic prosperity is a recipe for accelerated strife.

### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

At a time when ethnicity is an increasing issue (migration to Europe, Brexit, the US election), it may be worthwhile to step back a moment and consider how changing demographics are changing the world as we know it. The country with the highest percentage of foreign-born residents is Dubai, at 83%. As most are from a relatively few South Asian countries and are in the country as 'guest' workers, this doesn't really count for cultural diversity. A recent study found that Toronto, with 51% of its population hailing from 230 countries, was the most culturally diverse city on earth. Vancouver, at 49.9%, would also rank very high, but was not included in the study. The second most diverse city is Brussels, Belgium. Third place is a tie between Auckland, New Zealand, Sydney, Australia, Los Angeles, USA, and London, England.

Not surprisingly, the study found that the larger the city, the harder it was to maintain cultural diversity. New York, for example, has every possible ethnic group somewhere within the city, but native-born Americans far outweigh those born in other countries. Canada, with 23% of its population consisting of people born in other countries, is one of the most culturally diverse nations anywhere. This creates challenges, and a need to compromise, and occasional tensions.

Europe is becoming more culturally diverse through migration; a bit unwillingly, perhaps, but the new arrivals will alter the face of Europe in generations to come and, in my opinion, for the better. It will, however, change the attributes of 'German', as an example, as it is changing Britain. The reality of low birth rates is that all western nations need to welcome new arrivals to maintain their standards of living. Failure to do so would result in the declines of population, economic strength, and standards that we can see in Russia.

### **ITMB CURRENT PROJECTS AND OUT OF STOCK ITEMS**

Andorra is now out of stock indefinitely. We are working on a new map combining a regional map of the Pyrenees border area between France and Spain with Andorra on the other side; ETA is late fall.

Antarctica has fewer than a hundred copies left in stock. We are working on a new edition.

Armenia/Azerbaijan is out of copies. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

Banff National Park has fewer than 20 copies left. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

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Bolivia is almost out of stock. A new edition is at press and expected in August.

Cayman Islands/Jamaica is almost out of stock. A new edition is at press; due in August.

Germany Northern is out of stock. A new map is being prepared. No ETA.

Lima and Central Peru is down to 18 copies. A new edition is being prepared. No ETA.

New Guinea is almost out of stock. A new edition is at press; due in August.

USA Southwest is getting close to running out of copies. A new edition is being prepared.

Vancouver Island is getting close to running out of copies; a new edition is being prepared.

### **EXCELLENT ITMB TITLES**

We still have limited quantities of a few selected ITMB titles that were returned to us by a defunct wholesaler. All are still current editions and are now in our warehouse. These are:

**Brasil, hard-covered, has 43 copies left.**

**Eritrea still has 89 copies left.**

**Italy South has 6 copies left**

**Niger 9781553413493 has only 2 copies left**

**Piedmont/Liguria has 3 copies left**

**Switzerland has 1 copy left**

**Venice 1 copy remains**

### **NEW TITLES FOR JULY, 2016**

**Alaska Travel Reference Map 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 1:1,500,000 ISBN9781771290036 UPC 817712900364 \$11.95cdn/us E8.50 7.99GBP** – Alaska is a great favourite of ours. It is one of the last of the ‘wide open spaces’ left in the world and is relatively easy to reach by land. Sparsely populated, the land seems to spawn huge visions of future growth, such as the Trans-Alaska Highway, but actual change is slow. This new edition has little new information, simply because the previous edition sold so quickly that there was insufficient time for changes large enough to show on the map to appear. We changed the cover picture and the ISBN, but not the price! This is still the most detailed map of Alaska in print, double-sided, with information updated on roads, towns, and points of interest. This is a land that can best be explored by vehicle, and the map includes road connections from the Yukon. **AVAILABLE**

**Armenia & Azerbaijan Travel Reference Map 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 1:430,000 ISBN 9781771290265 UPC 817712902658 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.50GBP** – These two Caucasian mountain countries dislike each other, but share a common landscape. A basic problem with mapping them is that both insist that the national roads created during the Soviet era remain as national roads, while in reality, political disputes and entrenched enclaves ensures that parts of these roads cannot be used. New by-pass roads have been created to overcome travel difficulties, but neither country will allow these new roads to be shown as or thought of as being ‘main’ highways, even though they are. Thus, our map contains some stretches of roadway that should show as ‘main’ and others shown as ‘main’ that are unusable, simply resulting from political bickering. However, both countries offer visitors a superb travel experience, which is why our map remains so popular. **AVAILABLE**

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**Bermuda Travel Reference Map 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 1:14,500 ISBN 9781771290821 UPC 817712908216 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.50GBP** – This small mid-Atlantic island enjoys marvelous weather, the occasional hurricane, and a travel experience that is unsurpassed. This represents our fifth attempt to portray the island, with its narrow roads, picturesque towns, and secluded beaches. This is a doubled-sided map, enabling the island to be shown in excellent detail. **AVAILABLE**

**Cuba West Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2016 1:600,000 ISBN 9781771291583 UPC 817712915832 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.50GBP** – This is a brand new title for ITMB and reflects the growing interest in travel to Cuba resulting from improved relations with the USA. Licenses to fly into the country from a dozen cities have already been approved; 60 more are awaiting approval. All are for flights into Havana and Varadero airports – in other words, the western half of the country. ITMB already has an exceptionally good map of the entire country. We also have a separate map of Havana. This map expands the scale and opens the information for the western half of the island nation as a double-sided map, with the portion west of Havana (La Habana) to Pinar del Rio province in the far west and south to the Isla de la Juventud (better known, but mis-named, as the Bay of Pigs Invasion Site). This side also has an excellent map of the Varadero beach resort area as an inset, and a map of greater Havana. The other side covers the area east of Havana that has the greatest potential for touristic development: Trinidad, Santa Clara, the developing resort areas off the north coast, and ending at Camaguey, a UNESCO World Heritage Centre. We first visited it ten years ago and it is a true treasure. This side of the map also has a detailed map of the historic centre of Havana and insets of Cienfuegos and Trinidad. **AVAILABLE**

**Finland Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2016 on waterproof paper 1:750,000 ISBN 9781771292825 UPC 817712928252 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.50GBP** – This is brand new artwork for ITMB, but not a new title. It brings this interesting title for yet another European travel destination into the ITMB style of mapping, with attention to points of interest as well as considerable detail for roads, towns, and physical features. The southern half of the country is on one side, along with two large inset maps of Helsinki and region. The network of roads and lakes on this side is fascinating. The other side concentrates on the northern portions, with a certain amount of overlap into Sweden and Norway. Border information with Russia is also noted, but it is not advisable to travel too close to the border. The map is printed on waterproof paper for durability. **AVAILABLE**

**Madagascar Travel Reference Map 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 9781553413042 UPC 815534130402 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.50GBP** – The island of Madagascar retains a refreshingly relaxed ambiance for visitors. In part, this is due to having a government that does little to encourage modernization, but the result is colonial architecture, sleepy towns, and the ability to see a society that is different. Our map is now into its fifth rendering and has changed little in the two decades that we have been mapping the Malagasy Republic. This island in the Indian Ocean is filled with exotic names – Farafangana, Antsiranan (formerly Diego Suarez for stamp collectors), and Morondava, with its erotic stone tombs. This is a steady-selling title, and is now **AVAILABLE**.

**Namibia Travel Reference Map 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 on waterproof paper 9781771295611 UPC 817712956118 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.50GBP** – Having travelled extensively around Namibia, I can attest to its attractiveness. The fact that we are now beginning our 7<sup>th</sup> edition attests to the on-going popularity of this country as an international travel destination. Although it is a desert-like country, we have printed this edition on waterproof paper, more for durability than necessity. This adds bulk to the product, but also brings out the colours better than paper can do. As previously, the map includes inset maps of Windhoek and Swakopmund, and shows the road network excellently. Touristic sites are also well-documented. **AVAILABLE**

**New Zealand's South Island Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2016 1:600,000 ISBN 9781771295628 UPC 817712956286 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.50GBP** - All of New Zealand is a travel paradise, but we particularly enjoy the larger and more wild South Island as a travel adventure. One side of the map covers the far south – Invercargill and Dunedin, Stewart Island, Milford Sound, north to Mount Cook in the Southern Alps. The other side continues north through Christchurch to Nelson on the north Coast and shows the ferry crossing to Wellington, on North Island. This side also includes a large and detailed inset map of Christchurch, which is still rebuilding after the horrific earthquake of a few years ago. This is a brand new map for ITMB, resulting from strong demand for another map that is sadly been discontinued. We hope to re-create a map of the North Island as well. **AVAILABLE**

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**Prague and Western Czech Republic Travel Reference Map 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 2016 on waterproof paper 1:7,000/1:360,000 ISBN 9781771296168 UPC 817712961686 \$10.95cdn/us E8.50 7.95GBP** – We first became involved with mapping Prague in the early 1990s, when we began our long association with Jiri Navratil. The city is now one of the most-visited centres in all of Europe and is a shining example of the best Europe offers. With this edition, we have added a distinctly different map to the reverse side of the city plan. Lovely though the city is, its surrounds are equally attractive, so we have added that portion of the Czech Republic that fits as a regional map of Western Czech Republic at an easy-to-read scale. The map actually goes from Dresden in the north to the Austrian border in the south and from its western border with Germany to somewhat east of Prague. It is an excellent map, full of interesting sites to see. As in the past, the map has been printed on waterproof paper, for durability.

**AVAILABLE**

### **NEW TITLES FOR MAY, 2016**

**Cuba Travel Reference Map 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 1:600,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781553412021 UPC 815534120281 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – AVAILABLE

**Denmark and Southern Sweden Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed 2016 1:450,000/1:900,000 ISBN 9781771296946 UPC 817712969460 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – AVAILABLE

**Hong Kong Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 1:10,000/1:60,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771293334 UPC 97817712933348 \$11.95cdn/us E8.50 7.95GBP** – AVAILABLE

**Sweden Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2016 1:900,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771296960 UPC 817712969606 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – AVAILABLE

**USA Western Railroads and Highways 1<sup>st</sup> Ed 2016 1:1,700,000 ISBN 9781771298445 UPC 817712984456 \$8.95cdn/us E8.50 7.95GBP** – AVAILABLE

**Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 1:230,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781553410812 UPC 815534108159 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 7.95GBP** – AVAILABLE

### **NEW TITLES FOR APRIL, 2016**

**Chicago and Lake Michigan Travel Reference Map 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 2016 1:12,500/1:1,000,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771291569 UPC 817712915696 \$9.95cdn/us E8.50 7.99GBP** – AVAILABLE

**China Travel Reference Map 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 1:3,800,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771291552 UPC 817712915528 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – AVAILABLE.

**Havana and Cuba West Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 1:10,000/1:600,000 ISBN 9781553416388 UPC 815534163844 \$1.95cdn/us E8.50 7.99GBP** – AVAILABLE

**Lebanon and Beirut Travel Reference Map 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 2016 1:8,300/1:190,000 ISBN 9781771294348 UPC 817712943484 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – AVAILABLE

**London and Southeast England Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771294355 UPC 817712943552 \$10.95cdn/us E8.95 7.95GBP** – AVAILABLE

**Philippines Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771296151 UPC 817712961518 \$12.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – AVAILABLE

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