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- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
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AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #8 OF 2018 – End of August – New Titles: see below for details

INTRODUCTION

As we will be travelling for much of August, this newsletter is being prepared at the beginning of the month. However, we have several new releases to report, with every expectation of having more next month. We enjoyed our trek to the Arctic Ocean (7,800 kms in two weeks) and are hoping that our third trip of the summer (to Germany and Scandinavia) will be less stressful. I'll let you know in the next newsletter.

TO TUK AND BACK

When I was a footloose youngster first discovering the delights of the world, there were two 'dream' destinations for itinerant travellers. The first was Timbuktu, in Niger, and the second was Nordkapp (northernmost point in Europe) in northern Norway. One would see VW campervans loaded to the gills with spare parts and signs in the back window saying Nordkapp or Bust, trundling northward from Germany. Now there is a third location for those wanting to seek out extreme places to visit – Tuktoyaktuk, in Canada's Northwest Territories. The government recently created a road to Tuk, which was previously available only by ship during the summer or by an ice road in the winter months. The new highway is a dirt road, 780 kms long, called the Dempster Highway. It goes from a point on the Yukon road system close to Dawson City north in a relatively straight line through Tombstone Park to Eagle Plains, then on to the NWT border. One has to take a ferry across the Peel River to reach Fort McPherson, and another, longer, one across the great Mackenzie River, to reach Inuvik. This portion of the Dempster has been in place for many years, but due to the nature of building on permafrost, has been a 'work in progress' since its inception. Now the road has been extended another 150 kms further north to the edge of the Arctic Ocean, at Tuk, a largely native village unused to outsiders.

Now that there IS a road, albeit one of uncertain stability, Tuk is becoming a destination point – the northernmost spot on the mainland of North America. Tourism is up 20% already over last year and the villagers are already grumbling about the 'Southerners' camping at the point of land right on the edge of the Arctic Ocean. I know, we were there last week, having driven over 3,000 kms from Vancouver north through Prince George and along the Alaska Highway to Whitehorse, then negotiating the Dempster for its 780 kms. Lan and her sister, who is visiting from Vietnam, are probably the first Vietnamese to traverse Canada from south to north (at least the mainland) by car. Johnny HAS to be the first Viet/Canadian kid to swim in the Arctic Ocean (he found it not too cold, surprisingly).

The proof is in the pudding: it is now possible to drive in an ordinary vehicle from anywhere in North America to the Arctic Ocean. Furthermore, the road is already on our ITMB Yukon/Northwest Territories map and it is do-able. I know; I just did it! Mark my words: this new road is going to be a HUGE tourism attraction, and our map is the only one showing it!

LAKE LOUISE, ALBERTA

The glacial lake in the Canadian Rockies is one of the gems of Banff National Park. Winter or summer, tourists flock here to see the famous glacier on the far side of the lake, walk the shoreline, and enjoy the view from the patio of the former CPR hotel that graces the lake. Thousands of people come here every day. We were showing the glacially-cold lake to Lan's sister when Johnny slipped and fell into the lake. Passers-by started to rush to his assistance until he bobbed to the surface and laughingly started swimming in circles. We eventually enticed him out, but he just had to go back in two more times (remember, he was fully dressed) before we could persuade him to go to a public facility and change into dry clothes. He thought it was a great adventure. I'm afraid that my view was that a lake with ice cubes in it is not something I would like to be in, but when one is eight, there is no such thing as cold water! He also went for a swim in Wild Horse Creek, which is a fast moving river, and was swept over a dam and downstream faster than one could yell "Stop!!!" Fortunately, he grabbed on to a rock and made his way to shore.

SUMMER IN ITMB'S WORLD

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ITMB has now been mapping the world for 38 years. We haven't stopped travelling and researching in all that time. Over the years, we have published well over 600 different titles, most of which have survived and established an on-going market, and many are into their tenth or more editions. The time has come for Lan and myself to train the next generation in the researching process. Daughter Phuong has been doing a fair amount of the cartography recently, under Lan's supervision, and we feel that we need to take her, and Linh, on a research trip to Norway, where we hope to prepare the groundwork for a future map of the Spitsbergen island chain. That means that we have to take the two young grandchildren along, which adds a degree of compromise as they need to be cared for, but the point I'm trying to make is that all four adult management members of ITMB will be in Europe for most of August. That means that customers used to calling Linh will find queries waiting a couple of days until we are in internet access range. Queries about invoices will be answered, assuming that we find an internet-friendly café in Narvik, and I'm sure that most matters will be handled easily by our staff, who have been well-trained. If you have experienced any difficulties reaching us during August, this is why!

WORK IN PROGRESS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

The number of titles at press is shrinking as new titles arrive. However, other titles are almost out of copies. We had to short-ship one map title to a customer to save what little inventory we had for other customers until the new map arrives. This doesn't happen very often, but it is necessary sometimes to make executive decisions. Work will continue on developing fresh artwork while we are in Europe, but the pace of completing projects may slow down until we return.

Lesotho is now out of print indefinitely. We hope to publish a new map, combining Lesotho and Swaziland into a double-sided map at some time in the future.

Morocco is now out of print. The artwork is at press and expected in late August or early September.

North Korea is out of print indefinitely. In spite of recent political talks with the USA, the regime in charge of the country shows no signs of changing its behaviour, so the country remains extremely difficult to visit. We have decided to await developments and pause a while before committing to a new edition.

Quito/Northern Ecuador is out of print. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA is yet available. In the meantime, please use our Galapagos/Quito map.

Sao Paulo & Brasil South Coast is at press and due in late August.

Samoa/American Samoa is out of print indefinitely.

Singapore is out of print indefinitely.

Swaziland is out of stock indefinitely. We hope to release a combined map of the country, along with Lesotho, hopefully within the next year.

Vancouver Northshore Hiking Trails is out of print. A new combined map that will include the Fraser Valley on the reverse side is being prepared, but no ETA is yet available.

NEW RELEASES IN AUGUST, 2018

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Denver and Colorado Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2018 1:10,000/1:750,000 ISBN 9781771292313 UPC 817712923134 \$10.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – This is a brand new title for ITMB. Denver, the ‘mile-high’ city on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, is a vibrant, fairly modern city. It is the state capital, and the gold-coated dome of the legislative building highlights the wealth and strength of the state. The Denver Zoo is becoming one of the great attractions of the city, as are the Center for Performing Arts and the Museum of Science and Nature. Larimer Square is the focal point for entertainment, and Coors Field for sports. Our map shows a wide-ranging number of accommodations and eateries, and notes all points of interest. The State of Colorado map fills the reverse side of the sheet and, due to the positioning of the state’s boundaries, nicely fills the 40x28 sheet size of the map. Small portions of neighbouring states show around the edges, but the focal point is definitely north-south Interstate 25 and east-west Interstate 70. Denver is, by far, the largest urban area in the state, but other familiar cities show well – Boulder, Colorado Springs, the ski resort of Vail, Kit Carson’s home town of Burlington, and the old mining town of Silverton. The map shows all motorways and highways and, as far as we can determine, every road going anywhere. Hundreds of wilderness campsites are shown, as well as RV parks, parks, ancient ruins, and natural features. **AVAILABLE**

Western Europe Rail & Road Travel Reference Map 1st ed. 2018 1:2,500,000 ISBN 9781771292603 UPC 817712926036 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – This is a new title for ITMB. It focusses on the western half of the European land mass at a much better scale than would be possible for all of Europe. Even at this scale, showing the rail lines and the major roads results in a map with a lot of information on it, but it meets the needs of those travelling around Europe by rail, which is its primary market. It can also be used by those driving, although it would be better for vehicle users to rely on individual country maps. Side 1 covers the British Isles, the Low Countries, Germany, Denmark, the Czech Republic, most of Poland, and southern Scandinavia. The second side covers the Iberian Peninsula, France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Austria, Hungary, and the southern portion of Germany. Trains tend to be used by travellers in Europe for longer trips, say from Frankfurt to Rome, and for this reason our new map should find a good market. There has not been enough room on this map to show many touristically important sites, but where room exists, we have added UNESCO World Heritage sites, major churches, and most international airports. Coverage includes major ferry routes and includes the islands of Majorca, Menorca, Ibiza, Sardinia, Elba, and Corsica, Sicily, and Malta. As the EU evolves, passenger rail service is increasingly becoming a pan-European reality, but German trains running on French lines and Italian trains going north into Austria. This is a timely map; coming out at the beginning of a truly European rail system. **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASE IN JULY, 2018

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Jersey & Guernsey Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2018 on waterproof paper 1:18,000 ISBN 9781771293877 UPC 817712938770 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – ITMB is pleased to re-introduce the Channel Islands map area after a lengthy hiatus of preparing new artwork. The first version of this part of Europe was licensed artwork by a local firm in Jersey, and upon running out of copies of the printed map, we opted to prepare fresh artwork of our own to continue this interesting corner of the continent to continue to be available. The islands, collectively known in English as the Channel Islands, are one of those anomalies that make Europe so attractive. They are part of Great Britain, but not part of the UK; hence, they are not part of the EU. They are self-governing entities ‘owned’ by the Queen in her role of being Duchess of Normandy. This is, of course, merely a hereditary situation, but the islands were the personal possessions of William the Conqueror in 1066, at the time he led Norman forces into Britain and won the Battle of Hastings. They remained his personal possessions and have been passed on from monarch to monarch for more than 950 years. Located just off the French coast, not too far from St. Malo, the islands were occupied by German forces during WW2, and are now readily available by ferry or airplane from both France and Britain. There are actually five inhabited islands, of which Jersey and Guernsey are the largest. Alderney, Sark, and Herm make up the others. Ferries link the islands, and tourism is a major activity of the islands, along with banking. Most visitors arrive on Jersey, which on our map occupies an entire side. The airport is located near the western end of the island. Ferries arrive at St. Helier I’m very pleased that it is once again available. Accommodations are plentiful and car rentals the best way to explore the island. The map shows all touristic attractions, roads, and rural restaurants/pubs. The reverse side is dominated by Guernsey, naturally, and its historic main town of St. Peter Port, but the shape of the island allowed us to include generous inset maps of Alderney and Sark, while including tiny Herm in the main map. This map has two covers: one showing Jersey and Guernsey, and the other noting Guernsey and Jersey, with two different pictures, to assist with enabling the sheet to show either side.. And in the upper right corner, the flags of each island are shown. This is one of those ‘must see before death’ touristic destinations and is well worth the visit. This is the only modern and up-to-date map of the islands in print.

AVAILABLE

St. Lucia & Martinique Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2018 1:45,000/1:65,000 ISBN 9781771297073 UPC 817712970732 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – At long last, ITMB is finally releasing our updated travel map of St. Lucia. As before, the scale used fills one side of the sheet. We have added some new touristic material, based on our visit to the island last December, but little changes on most Caribbean islands. We have included an inset map of Castries, the capital, noting, among other things, the cruise ship terminals (there are two) and the inter-island ferry terminal. That is important because St. Lucia is now linked to neighbouring Martinique by a scheduled ferry service and it is very convenient for visitors wishing to enhance their visit by adding a day trip to Martinique. For this reason, we have added a full-page map of Martinique to the reverse side of the sheet. The ferry goes to Fort-de-France, the capital, and the map includes an inset of the city, showing where the ferry docks. Martinique, with its French heritage, is more exotic than most English-speaking Caribbean countries, but is friendly and somehow different. It is considered an extension of France and thus of the European Union, so uses the Euro. Although the common language is French (or a variety of it), English is well-understood. Cars are readily available for hire and road conditions are good. The island even boasts a motorway, going to the island’s south coast. Both islands are important Caribbean travel destinations, with resort hotels concentrated on Marigot Bay and Rodney Bay in St. Lucia and in the Pont du Bout peninsula of Martinique. The map has a double-sided cover for ease of marketing.

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