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- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
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### **AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #07 OF 2022**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Summer has begun. The war in Ukraine grinds on, with no resolution in sight and thousands upon thousands of deaths. Covid also continues its relentless drive to infect everyone, and there is no end in sight there, either. On the bright side, Queen Elizabeth celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary as monarch. She is one of the longest-reigning world leaders in the history of the planet, and still carrying on at age 96. Whether one is a monarchist or not, this is an incredible accomplishment and deserves to be celebrated. Travel continues its bumpy road to recovery, with some aspects noted below. Most of us, by now, are resigned to travel in an era where everything is risky. Lan spent two weeks in Hanoi during June, working remotely (another term we have all become familiar with) while spending time with her father. He is 102, and normally spry for his age, so we wish him well. During July, we embark on a grand road trip across Canada with our grandsons; some aspects of which are noted below.

#### **THE BUMPY ROAD CALLED TRAVEL IN 2022**

The world, or at least the so-called developed portion, is gradually emerging from two years of enforced hibernation. Like a grumpy bear, governments are slowly and reluctantly removing travel restrictions that were imposed in a desperate attempt to bring Covid under control and are, generally speaking, doing a miserable job of it. I can only note the Canadian aspects that I am familiar with, but I know that the USA, the UK, and probably most of Europe, are forced to endure travel disruptions.

First, passports: no government on earth has been busy issuing passports for the past two years; in fact, many passport offices have been shut down. However, millions of passports have expired since Covid forced us to stay at home, and millions more are due to expire in the next six months and need to be replaced ASAP. Suddenly, governments have lifted travel restrictions, or foreign governments have blandly announced that they now instantly welcome travel visitors. However, governments have not yet returned to normal staffing levels or to processing times for issuing passports. The result is chaos. Within a couple of months' time period, three years' worth of submissions have poured in to passport offices, with each applicant expecting their new or renewed passport in the same time period as pre-Covid. Sorry, but it isn't going to happen! Expect delays, and news media coverage of a 'disaster'.

Second, airports are experiencing incredible increases of both freight and individuals arriving and departing. After almost three years of very few flights, they no longer have the check-in clerks, the baggage handlers, or the trained individuals that make any airport work at pre-Covid levels. Passengers often do not understand this and become upset at delays in checking in, long lines at security checks, intrusive new forms to fill in, and planes unable to arrive or depart on time, or even worse, finding one's plane stuck in a queue waiting for a boarding gate to open so passengers can deplane after a long flight. The news is full of scenes of frustrated passengers missing flights, or flights being cancelled, or travellers beset by frustrating delays. This will get sorted out over time, but for now, it is a reality we all have to expect. All we can do is be patient, arrive early, and carry a good book to read.

Third, an increasing number of countries are opening up for travel. This will impact on the sale of maps, so take note! Australia is now available for travel, and we are seeing a gradual uptick in the sale of maps of that part of the world as a result; nothing exceptional, but growing. Japan has just announced that it is allowing tourists. Thus far, I have seen an uptick in map sales for Japan, but it isn't back to normal yet. Here's a surprising development that was just noted on the news: the USA is lifting travel embargos imposed by Trump on travel to Cuba. This is long overdue, and I hope that it doesn't become a political football in the forthcoming American election, but it creates both opportunities and short-term problems. It will take airlines and travel agents some time to assimilate this new reality, and Cuban officials to prepare for increased tourism – but it IS coming!

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Fourth, travel is not as inexpensive as it was pre-Covid. We all know this. Fuel is much more expensive, thousands of planes were grounded for two years and need to be re-certified, and all airlines lost a ton of money during Covid. I recently internet-searched flights between Vancouver and the UK and was astounded by \$2,000 to \$5,000 prices per ticket for flights that were only \$700 two years ago. I eventually found one flight for \$1,300cdn before I stopped my search. Nice though it might seem to visit England this summer, it isn't practical for me, but it was nice to spend an hour browsing. This summer, we'll be taking our grandsons on a road trip across Canada, and high gas prices notwithstanding, it will be less expensive than \$6,000 for four tickets!

Fifth, governmental restrictions are gradually being lifted, but not always in a sensible or even understandable way. For example, land border crossings between Canada and the USA are fairly routine now, but the NEXUS system for frequent crossers is not operating yet, leading to ever-increasing congestion and inconvenience. Some countries, notably the USA, have removed mask-wearing on all forms of travel, but Canada hasn't. I accept that we all love the thought of not needing to wear a mask, but mask-wearing and social distancing are still very much alive, at least in Vancouver, and on buses, trains, and planes. Testing for Covid before flights has greatly reduced with regard to travel, but anomalies still exist. For example, one does not require a rapid test to fly from Vancouver to Vietnam via Tokyo, but one does need a rapid test to board a cruise ship in Vancouver's harbour, even if fully vaccinated. Canadian regulations no longer require passengers and staff to wear masks if flying from Canadian airports, but not necessarily foreign lines, if their home countries adhere to mask-wearing. The intrusive ArrivCAN form is still required for air entry into Canada, but not for land entry. Random testing upon arriving has been suspended in Canada, but only for fully vaccinated passengers. The USA has stopped all testing for arriving air passengers, but some countries require testing before boarding. I'm sure that readers could come up with a dozen other illogical intrusions, imposed in the name of health, but having more to do with governmental control than health. It will all get sorted out sometime, but for now, travel is fraught with challenges!

### **TRAVEL ACROSS THE LARGEST FREE COUNTRY IN THE WORLD**

As Russia is, by now, an acknowledged brutal dictatorship hell-bent on self-destruction, I hereby claim Canada as being the largest free nation on earth! Hurrah; I always knew we had a claim to something! Summer is approaching, and our daughter has been pulling her hair out trying to figure out what to do with two active boys for two months of no school. The answer is GRANDPARENTS!!! The month of August will be taken up by carting them off to Hanoi for an extended visit with Linh's parents, which unfortunately also means that we lose Phuong's services at work for a month. July, I decided months ago, would be an excellent time for a cross-Canada road trip. The two boys are old enough to understand the majestic scenery and attractions, and young enough to sit in a car for days on end as we make our way across the prairies to eastern Canada and back. For those of you not from Canada, or familiar with its vastness, the closest big city to Vancouver is 1,200 kilometers east of us. That's the equivalent of driving from London to Moscow. Toronto is 5,000 kms away, and St. John's, Nfld. is almost 10,000 kms by road and ferry, a distance akin to Cape Town to Cairo. Then, we have to drive all the way back. If we don't have car cabin fever by the time of our return, I'll regale readers with some highlights.

On a business note, ITMB publishes excellent maps of each Canadian province and territory, as well as of most major cities in the country (or GMJ Maps does if we don't), so this trip will provide an excellent opportunity for us to review the accuracy of our artwork for a dozen or more of our map titles. Our Canadian map series is our best-selling line these days within our various ranges of maps, so please keep up the good work and order heavily. We need the money for gas!

### **THE MOSKVA**

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I love finding interesting stories to add to the newsletter. This one relates to the 'first' Moskva Russian technological wonder. The most recent one was the flagship of Russia's Black Sea fleet, which sank after being hit by Ukrainian missiles earlier this year. There was, however, a much earlier aircraft, the pride of the Russian air fleet, called the Moskva, in 1939. Most of us have a hazy realization as to the state of Russian technology, but in 1939, Russia not only had the largest air force in the world, but the most advanced aircraft designs. Sorry, but Germany, the USA, and the UK all entered WW2 with very obsolete aircraft designs. The Russians perfected what was, for its time, the most advanced two-engine long-distance aircraft in the world and flew it to America as the showpiece of Soviet technology for the fabulous New York World's Fair – sort of a Sputnik of the 1930s to show off the Soviet ability to outdo America. Unfortunately, the massive USSR pavilion lost its star attraction. Due to heavy headwinds, the plane ran out of fuel, having flown 5,000 miles non-stop in 23 hours (an incredibly long flight even today) and had to set down on an island off the coast of New Brunswick, Canada. Miscou Island was, at that time, quite isolated, but had a manned lighthouse. The crew had no idea where they were and exited the plane with guns drawn. That didn't stop the friendly locals, but conversation proved challenging as no one local spoke Russian and the Russians spoke nothing else. However, the lighthouse keeper had a radio and arranged for someone with a smattering of Russian to travel from Bathurst, NB, to the island by an ice boat, then walk several miles to the crash site. Eventually, the pilots, having been wined and dined on Maritimes fish and chips for a week, were sent to New York City, where they were greeted like heroes. The Moskva plane never flew again, although it was dismantled and shipped by barge to Halifax, then transported by ship to Russia. By the time it arrived, WW2 had started. Nowadays, the island of Miscou is joined to the mainland by an arched bridge and is an enjoyable day trip out of nearby Shippagan, NB.

### **A TRUE STORY ABOUT PASSPORTS**

Canadians love having a passport. I don't know why, but over 65% of all Canadians have one. Of course, with Covid running rampant for two and a half years, and severe travel restrictions in place, hardly any passports were applied for after January, 2020. By May, 2022, hundreds of thousands of passport holders saw opportunities for travel emerging as Covid restrictions eased, and rushed to their local passport-issuing office to renew expired documents – only to find that most had closed due to Covid and lack of demand. This has resulted in amazingly long queues stretching around any building containing a passport processing office, with people camping out overnight and miscreants offering to hold a place in line for a fee. Richmond, BC, can do one better! Our daughter, Phuong, had to wait in line for five hours to submit our grandson's application to renew his passport. While at the counter, staff were laughingly regaling applicants that one lady earlier the same day offered to have sex with any man close to the front of the queue in exchange for taking his place in the long lineup. Surprisingly, she had no takers and had to wait ten hours to be served. Phuong was lucky, in that she arrived at the office at 6:00am, three hours prior to opening, and was already so far from the front of the line that it took her four hours just to get inside the building and be given a number. It took another hour to reach the front of the queue. Johnny now has his passport, so all's well!

### **GREAT NEWS! DENMARK AND CANADA ARE NO LONGER AT WAR WITH EACH OTHER!!!**

Canada and Denmark have been locked in an unholy war for the last several years over the ownership of a dumpy little island in the waters between Greenland and Baffin Island. Troops from both sides have been locked in an unceasing battle for dominance over this nothing place, much like Russians and Ukrainians have been fighting over a stupid city in Donetsk – with one exception: no one has died. Danish forces would invade the island and leave behind a flag and a bottle of wine. Canadian forces would then storm the beaches, plant a flag, drink the wine, and up the ante by leaving behind a bottle of Canadian rye whisky. Just today, both sides drunkenly announced that they have agreed to divide the island more or less down the middle. Both sides can now get on with more important things, like saving Ukraine.

### **WORK IN PROGRESS - all sellers/librarians please note**

ITMB, as of late June, 2022, has ample inventory of almost all of the titles traditionally carried as part of our publishing line. We ask for your understanding if a particular title happens to be unavailable in the short term.

**Abu Dhabi** – We are re-introducing our map of this popular country due to an easing of restrictions on travel. The map is already at press, but I have no ETA at the moment.

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**Antigua & Barbuda** – This title is now sold out, thanks to an unexpectedly large order. A fresh edition is in preparation, but at this stage, I have no ETA.

**Bahamas** – We are almost out of copies of this important travel destination. A fresh edition is being prepared, but won't be available until the fall.

**China** – This title is now out of print. The updating of a fresh edition has been completed and the map is at press; expected in early July. Please continue to order, using the 'old' ISBN, as arrival is imminent.

**China West Half** is out of print and discontinued until travel to China becomes easier.

**Cook Islands/ Eastern Pacific Cruising** – This is yet another brand new title for ITMB, being released as cruising the Pacific returns to popularity. The map is at press; no ETA.

**Florence and Northeastern Italy** – One of the most-visited cities in Europe is Florence. This second edition map is being developed as a double-sided city and regional map covering all of Tuscany and surrounding provinces. The city itself needs no introduction to map sellers, so all I'll say is that it covers the urban area in excellent detail at an incredible 1:5,000 scale, showing all attractions. This map was ground-truthed during December and dozens of improvements noted. The artwork is being modified as a result. The regional side is completed, covering from Venice to Milan to below Sienna. No ETA

**France Riviera/Mediterranean Coast** – The south of France is very popular touristically, but it is traditionally divided into two parts – western Languedoc and eastern Provence (or Riviera). The distances involved are not great, so we are developing a double-sided map to show the entire coastal area. The line work has been completed, but the final touches will probably take another few months. No ETA.

**Honolulu/Waikiki** – Most visitors to Hawaii stay in Honolulu, usually in close proximity to Waikiki Beach, so a detailed city map of the area seems called for. The map is at press and expected in July.

**Indian Ocean** – There has never been a travel map of the Indian Ocean. Ian thinks that the world needs such a map; therefore, ITMB is generating yet another first-of-its-kind maps, focusing on the touristic islands of this part of the great Pacific. It will be a double-sided map, with the Seychelles on the other side. Line work is advancing quickly, but it will take a few more months of effort to complete the artwork; no ETA.

**New Caledonia** – This exotic South Pacific island is about to be added to our range of Pacific island maps. The artwork is at press and expected this summer.

**San Diego** – We are soon to run out of copies of this popular title. A fresh edition is being prepared; no ETA.

**Seychelles Islands** – This will be another brand new title for ITMB. The artwork is progressing well, but there is still a lot to do before this map can go to press. No ETA. (See Indian Ocean, above).

**Strathcona Park** is now out of print and discontinued.

**Tahiti/Cook Islands** is almost out of copies. A new edition is being prepared; no ETA.

**Uganda** – Someone knows something that I don't! Suddenly, demand for Uganda has surged dramatically, and we have run out of inventory much sooner than expected. This forces us to adjust priorities and prepare a new edition, which is underway; no ETA at the moment.

**NEW RELEASES, MAY AND JUNE, 2022**

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**Africa East Coast Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2022 1:3,400,000 ISBN 9781771299234 UPC 817712902344 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – As far as I know, there has never been a map covering the entire coastline of the Indian Ocean portion of Africa, from Djibouti all the way south to Port Elizabeth, in South Africa – until now! This double-sided map encompasses a vast region, including all of Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, and Swaziland (which now prefers to be called Eswatini), as well as an inset map of Madagascar. Large portions of several other countries are included, such as South Africa and southern Ethiopia. This would be an excellent map for anyone travelling overland from Nairobi to the Cape. All road and rail routes are shown, as well as major touristic attractions, national parks and game preserves. A Top Attractions list is included, noting Ngorogoro, Kruger, Victoria Falls, and lesser-known attractions such as the Tuli Block and Sibebe Rock. **AVAILABLE**

**Aruba, Curacao, & Bonaire/Caribbean Cruising Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2022 1:80,000/1:3,200,000 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771290258 UPC 817712902580 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – This is a brand new, double-sided map title for ITMB, printed on waterproof stone paper. The Dutch Antilles islands of Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao are popular Caribbean resort destinations, with pristine beaches, interesting colonial architecture, and even a desert. Settlements like Rincon, on Bonaire, were founded eighty years before Jamestown, in Virginia, and the islands first welcomed Europeans in 1499. As a result, the islands are steeped in a rich history. This map expands our Caribbean series. Each island is shown in detail, filling one side of the sheet. The other side is filled by our first-ever map of the Caribbean from the Florida Keys and the Bahamas south to the coastline of Venezuela and from Central America east to Barbados. Every cruise ship destination is shown on this map, including one that no cruises will visit. Tiny Navassa Island is a speck of land disputed as to who owns it – Haiti or the USA! Naturally, all of the island nations well-known to visitors are included, but also lesser-known paradises of the beaten track – for example, Margarita (Venezuela), Cayo Mayor (Honduras), or San Andres (Nicaragua). This map also expands ITMB's growing range of popular cruising maps. This title has two covers, so can be marketed as a Caribbean Cruising map or as a map of three interesting islands. **AVAILABLE**

**Caribbean Cruising Travel Reference Map, see Aruba for details**

**Dublin & Ireland Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2022 1:10,000/1:500,000 ISBN 9781771292344 UPC 817712923448 \$13.95cdn/us E9.59 8.95GBP** – We are pleased to present our most recent edition of Dublin, combined with a map of the Republic of Ireland (Eire) on the reverse side. The cover notes the Republic of Ireland, which is the focus of attention, but most of Northern Ireland (Belfast area excluded) shows as well. Regardless, one side of the sheet is a detailed map of Dublin, the capital of the Republic and a very popular travel destination. The coverage goes far beyond the norm, extending from the River Tolka in the north to south of the Grand Canal, and from Phoenix Park in the west as far east as Dublin Bay. The River Liffey, of course, flows across the centre of the page. Dublin has two rapid-transit tram lines, both of which are prominently shown, as is the city centre, all parks, as many hotels as we could find reliably (a lot closed as casualties of Covid), shopping areas and restaurants, theatres and educational institutions, embassies, the ferry terminal, and much more. The Top Attractions are also noted. The other side of the sheet presents a very detailed travel map of the Republic, showing all motorways, highways, and secondary routes, as well as rail lines. Touristic attractions, such as Blarney Castle and the Rock of Cashel are highlighted. This would be an excellent map for those touring the Republic by road.

**Ireland/Northern Ireland Travel Reference Map, see Dublin, above AVAILABLE**

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**Mediterranean Cruising Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2022 1:2,200,000 ISBN 978177129 4782 UPC 817712947826 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – We are very pleased to present our very first cruising map covering the Mediterranean Sea. This is a double-sided map covering the eastern portion on side A and the western part on side B. We were presented with a dilemma in designing this map, in that the shape of the sea is such that to include the straits of Gibraltar and the Dardanelles on the same map, a compromise would be necessary. As few cruise ships now go to the North African coast, we concentrated on showing only the portion from Morocco to Tunisia so we could show Spain, France, Italy, Greece, the Balkans, and the Eastern Mediterranean, including the Black Sea. Little did we know that war in Europe would impact so intensely on what should be a pleasurable touristic map. Regardless, almost all of the ports of call for cruise ships in 2022 are shown on this map, including those favoured by smaller liners in the Adriatic Sea. We have also included common ferry routes between Italy and Greece and Marseille to Algiers. This map now joins our growing list of maps focused on cruising – the Caribbean, the South Pacific, Alaska, and the Indian Ocean. **AVAILABLE**

**Nebraska Travel Reference Map, see North/South Dakota, below**

**North/South Dakota & Nebraska Road and Rail Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2022 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771298513 UPC 817712985132 \$11.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** – ITMB is gradually extending its range of detailed travel maps of the fifty American states. This map covers all of North Dakota, South Dakota, and, on the reverse side, Nebraska. A portion of neighbouring Minnesota is included. Although the focus of the map is on its road network, we have emphasized the Amtrak rail network that passes through Bismarck, ND and Omaha, further south. This is prairie country at its best, stretching from the border with Canada's Manitoba south all the way to Kansas City, and from Montana east to well into Minnesota. This portion of the USA is legendary for its role in settling the west, with evocative names such as Topeka, Rapid City, Fargo, and historic Pierre. All motorways and highways are shown, as well as hundreds of secondary roads that connect all the smaller towns within the region. Of particular interest to visitors, Badlands National Park, with its herd of bison, and the Enchanted Highway are favourites, but nothing beats South Dakota's Mount Rushmore as an attraction! **AVAILABLE**

**Richmond & Vancouver Bike and Hike Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2022 1:20,000 ISBN 9781771296694 UPC 817712966940 \$10.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP** - Vancouver consists of 23 municipalities loosely linked together. There is no such thing as Metropolitan Vancouver, but there is a regional council of mayors that co-ordinates water supply and similar features necessary to an overall urban area that stretched for a hundred kilometers and houses two and a half million people. Richmond is an island in the middle of the Fraser River housing the city's international airport, most of its restaurants, most of Canada's blueberry crop, and housing for over 200,000 people – and growing. The city has not had a travel map until now, and while the international market potential may seem low, Richmond is more important than one might think. Its YVR international airport is the gateway to Asia, with more flights than any other North American airport. It is the largest Asian city outside of Asia, hosting over 800 restaurants. The Reifel Island Bird Sanctuary is the winter home of 30,000,000 Siberian Snow Geese. Steveston is the west coast's fishing port and the site of the world's largest cannery (now a national museum). It is also the home of ITMB, the little company that could. This map is double-sided, with Richmond gracing side A and Vancouver City side B. The map focuses on air, rapid transit, road, bicycle, and pedestrian travel. Naturally, the Vancouver side is more intensely developed, having the university, Pacific Spirit Regional Park, the famous Stanley Park, and the downtown area. The Richmond side focuses on the airport, the protected agricultural lands, and its many hiking & biking trails. We are mapping the Vancouver area one portion at a time, because the urban area is far too spread out to fit on one map. We have had a map of the City of Vancouver for some years, and recently added a title covering the Northshore communities of North and West Vancouver, Mapping Richmond proved to be difficult, because no data base existed, but now it has been done. Lan is now working on the municipalities immediately east of the City. **AVAILABLE**

**NEW RELEASES: APRIL, 2022**

**Arizona – See Grand Canyon, below**

**Austria Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2022 on waterproof stone paper 1:380,000 ISBN 9781771290210 UPC 817712902108 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

**British Columbia, North Half – see Yukon, below**

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**Grand Canyon & Arizona Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2022 on waterproof stone paper  
1:90,000/1:1,000,000 ISBN 9781771293211 no UPC code \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

**USA Pacific Coast Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2022 ISBN 9781771298506 UPC 817712985064 \$11.95  
cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

### **NEW RELEASES: MARCH, 2022**

**Africa Travel Reference Map 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 2020 1:4,800,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771290173 UPC  
817712901736 \$15.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

**Guam & West Pacific Cruising Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2022 1:55,000/1:12,000,000 ISBN  
9781771293198 UPC 817712931086 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

**Mexico: Chihuahua & Coahuila States Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2022 1:750,000 9781771294768 UPC  
817712947680 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

**Mississippi River Basin Nap, see New Orleans, below**

**New Orleans & Mississippi River Basin Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2022 1:15,000/1:1,800,000 ISBN  
9781771295758 UPC 817712957580 \$11.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – AVAILABLE**

**Western Pacific Cruising Map, see Guam, above**

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