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- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
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AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #08 OF 2022 – July and August

INTRODUCTION

What can I say? We're leaving the month named after Julius Caesar and about to enter the month of Caesar Augustus, neither of whom could have made heads or tails out of the modern world! We're back in Vancouver, having survived a 20,000 km trip across the continent and back (details below). The travel industry continues to be in turmoil, and I think that, by now, we're all getting a tad fed up with on-going lost luggage, cancelled flights, and long processing lines. More later. Let's enjoy the rest of summer and sort out the world in Septum (that's September for those of you who were staring blankly out of the window during Latin class).

NEW TITLES

As the world adjusts to the realities of a post-Covid reality, travel is resuming, countries are opening up, and demand for maps is increasing. We all know this, but how many map publishers are exploring new opportunities? This month, ITMB introduces four brand new travel maps, which are so new that press releases have not yet been prepared! First, we note Abu Dhabi/UAE with an extremely detailed city plan combined in a double-sided map with the world's most recent version of a rapidly-changing region. Then there is the lovely Caribbean island of Antigua, with St. Kitts Nevis on the second side. Third is a lovely regional double-sided map of the Balkans, covering from Budapest south to Greece, noting several new motorways and rail improvements. Finally, we move to the Pacific, with a double-sided map of New Caledonia and the Oceania region, for cruising. Details are below, but before we move on, there will be at least four more new releases in the next Axis newsletter, coming in September – maybe five! It's in the hands of the gods at the moment. We are also including two well-known chestnuts of the ITMB range, Costa Rica and Mexico.

THE STATE OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY

News media reports notwithstanding, travel is still possible, and is growing rapidly. The overall industry is working to sort out the difficulties that have beset air travel over the past couple of months. No one likes delays and lost luggage, least of all the airlines, so why is such chaos seen so often in airports around the world? Well, the simple explanation is Covid. The travel industry was largely shut down during 2020 and 2021, and for the first quarter of 2022, with tens of thousands of staff laid off. With all of us having cabin fever after a long period of inactivity, quite a few of us really wanted to get back to exploring the world and visiting distant relatives by March. Very understandable. The airline industry, after two years of relative inactivity, was also dead keen to get back to work. Enthusiasm is great, but everyone got carried away with hope and soon realized that the fundamentals enabling easy international travel had largely come unstuck as a result of Covid. In 2020, airlines all over the world were urging senior (i.e. the most experienced) pilots to take early retirement. Many did; ditto with flight attendants, check-in clerks, and senior administrators. Junior staff could handle the minimal number of passengers able to fly. Airports down-sized, not needing all the support staff who work behind the scenes to make complex airports run efficiently.

We all know this, so why are we surprised and angry now? Every industry from travel to accommodation to food supply essentially shut down for two years and retired or laid off tens of thousands of experienced staff. Let us not forget that many of these same people subsequently died or were severely incapacitated by Covid. All countries suffered far too many deaths and hospitalizations from Covid. So, two and a half years after the world's governments applied the brakes to stop travel, Covid is more or less under control, and countries are cautiously opening up again for travel. We seem to have forgotten the meaning of the word "cautiously". It does NOT mean that every single person can suddenly travel anywhere they want or that everything is just as it was in 2019. I think we all got carried away by enthusiasm and overloaded the travel industry unrealistically. Time to chill, eh?

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We didn't appreciate the complexity of suddenly ramping up check-ins when we lacked adequate trained staff. We didn't realize that airports no longer had thousands of baggage sorters. Security check-points were grossly understaffed and unable to handle the mobs that suddenly descended on them. Covid is still very much a severe health problem, and screening passengers takes time. Hotels were suddenly inundated with reservations, as were car rental firms, and it took a while for executives of all sorts of firms to realize that the huge surge in business was more than they could handle. This includes airlines, restaurant chains, gasoline suppliers, internet booking services, and just about every aspect of the travel industry. You can't double in size overnight. At least, not if you are a major airport, or a major airline or a major car rental firm. All the problems of the travel industry will get sorted out, but it took fifty years to build the industry to 2019 standards of efficiency and it is going to take more than a couple of months to train thousands of new staff how to manage complex requirements. Be patient!

TRAVEL BY LAND ACROSS CANADA

During the month of July, Lan and I took our two grandsons (8 and 12) on an epic road trip, covering 19,890 kms and visiting all 10 provinces of Canada, from west coast to east and back. The stated reason was to introduce them to the immensity of Canada, but it developed into a giant research trip, gathering updating information for a dozen ITMB map titles – a very exciting time for us, as we haven't been able to do much travelling over the past three years! Needless to say, we're now exhausted and glad to be home with little more than numerous mosquito bites.

I have no intention of boring readers with our adventures; suffice to say that we found enough enjoyable attractions to entertain the boys, so that they were rarely bored. I do, however, wish to reflect on certain aspects of our trip, as we are all in the travel industry and need up-to-date information to function effectively. First, travel within Canada is unexpectedly easy. Covid restrictions have pretty much disappeared, mask wearing is a matter of personal preference, and gas/petrol is normally readily available, if expensive. Roads are generally paved and in good condition. We found that many independent restaurants had gone out of business, leaving us struggling to find non-fast-food eateries. McDonalds is fine now and again, but not three times a day for a month! We were travelling in a van (Mercedes Metris), and fortunately had no mechanical difficulties.

We booked motels whenever possible, using Expedia, as we couldn't risk showing up late at night in a strange city with two tired youngsters in tow and no place to stay. I have to note that all booking internet sites appear to have abandoned independent motels/hotels in favour of large chains, because all internet booking sites showed no accommodations available when in fact there were several motels almost empty everywhere we went. We also paid a heavy price in most cases for a night's accommodation by booking on-line, as only expensive options were listed. We were always able to discover sites on-line for less than \$150, but if it weren't for relatives and the occasional couch surfer host, we would have over-spent our budget even more than anticipated! It became obvious to us that all web sites need to gear up again to show a wider range of options than the Hiltons of this world!

We drove 19,890 kms in 30 days (the equivalent of London to Cape Town) and still managed to fit in such world-quality sites as Fort William (Thunder Bay), Fortress Louisburg (Cape Breton), Ottawa (Parliament buildings), Quebec City's old walled city, Fort Henry (Kingston), and the great dinosaur museum at Drumheller, Alberta, as well as play days at West Edmonton Mall and swimming in lakes and rivers. Nice though it was to experience great touristic sites and fun experiences, it came at the cost of long hours of driving. The boys got used to waking up at 6:00am and sitting for four hours before brunch while I tried to cover huge distances at 120 kms/hr between stops. We ate in some unusual off-the-beaten-path cafes as a result, and often drove past dark to reach the night's pre-booked accommodation, but the boys fell into the life of travel remarkably well. A month of being nomads was enough for them, however, so my repeated hints that a side trip to the Yukon would be nice fell on deaf ears and screams of protest. One can only hope that the accomplishment of having done what few individuals have ever done sinks in and that they will retain fond memories of one of the Grand Treks of the world.

TRAVEL INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO ALL

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1. Alberta – I wish we could have worked in time to attend the Calgary Stampede, one of the truly great rodeos in the world, but we did at least experience North America's largest shopping mall, in Edmonton, which includes an indoor Play land, with dozens of rides, a swimming pool larger than any Olympic venue, and, being Canada, a full-sized ice hockey rink, with teams playing each other all day long, even during summer. The Tyrrell Dinosaur Museum in the badlands of Drumheller was amazing, and well-worth the admission price. Kenzie was a pretend Tyrannosaurus for the rest of the trip! Hotels and restaurants were plentiful and road conditions excellent. The national park sites in Banff were completely overwhelmed with visitors, but Jasper was comfortably laid-back.
2. Saskatchewan – Roads were very good, gas a little more expensive, and the vast farms a marvel to see. Canola seems to be the crop most favoured. We traversed the province twice and saw very few vehicles and fewer towns. We did, however, note several beaver homes, scared a moose into running in front of our vehicle instead of moving into the bush, and saw a herd of bison grazing in a farmer's field.
3. Manitoba – we were fortunate to spend a day in Riding Mountain National Park and to see a herd of bison (please note, they are NOT buffalos, a creature that exists only on American five-cent coins). We also toured the provincial legislative building in Winnipeg, newly re-opened after the Covid scare.
4. Ontario, Canada's largest province, takes two days to cross at a minimum. We went east via the northern route through Cochrane and west via the southern Great Lakes route. Road conditions were excellent. The highlight was the polar bear sanctuary, where we could see these marvelous animals up close. Exploring Fort Henry was a winner with the boys, and Niagara Falls is a wonder, no matter how many times one visits.
5. Quebec – Interesting though it is to spend time in a French-speaking part of the world, the provincial government's insistence on French-only is forcing some businesses and individuals to move out. We found road conditions here the worst on our trip, with pot-holed highways everywhere. However, road repair signs are everywhere. A Louer (For Rent) signs dominated every town, and empty store fronts were commonplace. Restaurant menus were in French only, which hurt Lan's ability to order (Johnny translated). We paid courtesy visits on two map stores in Montreal, walked through the walled city called Quebec, and drove around the Gaspé peninsula on a road that desperately needs upgrading. The road north to Labrador is being upgraded, but with hundreds of kms still to complete is a mess at the moment.
6. New Brunswick/Nova Scotia/ Prince Edward Island – We drove through NB, saw only the Cape Breton portion of NS, and enjoyed visiting Green Gables on PEI. Confederation Hall is closed for a major rebuilding. So are the legislative building in Edmonton, and Parliament, in Ottawa, for that matter. The Maritime Provinces are our best-selling maps, and well-worth more time than we had. For us, fortress Louisburg, at the southeastern tip of Cape Breton was a highlight of our entire trip.
7. Ferry to Newfoundland – Book well in advance. The service has not yet resumed sufficient sailings to meet the surge in demand. We took the shorter ferry route to Port aux Basques (6 hours) and found embarking and disembarking slow in comparison to BC Ferries. This also applies to the shorter ferry from northern Nfld. To Quebec/Labrador. The longer (16 hour) ferry route to Argentia definitely needs to be booked well in advance, especially cabin space. The TCH, as the province's only east-west road is called, was quite good. We found a Vietnamese restaurant in Cornerbrook for lunch, and a hotel in a small fishing village called Harbour Grace. We enjoyed visiting St. John's, with its uniquely brightly-painted houses, and Anse aux Meadows, the Viking outpost from the first European settlement in the New World. This last attraction takes lots of time to tour, but is so unique that everyone visiting the island should make the effort to see it.
8. Labrador – One can now drive all the way across Labrador on a newly-paved road. Hooray! Warning: hotels, restaurants, and gas stations are still few and far between, but the scenery is magnificent. This is Adventure! Don't try it without preparation, though. One sign I saw said No gas for 410 kms; imagine seeing that anywhere in Europe! Hotel prices are very high, reflecting the low number of patrons in pre-highway times. That is bound to change, but at the moment Churchill Falls has only one hotel, Labrador City, two; Goose Bay three. We stayed in Goose Bay after a drive of 600 kms from the ferry. This drive is going to become hugely popular, but touristic facilities are not yet in place to meet a surge in demand. Anyone with a camper van/RV can do the crossing easily!

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9. In conclusion, driving across Canada from coast to coast is able to be done but doing so in a month is too short a time period. Nevertheless, we had only a month because the boys needed to be back in Vancouver to prepare for their next adventure – flying to Hanoi two days later! Will they remember their great trek in years to come? I hope so. I doubt that I'll ever do it again. After grand treks through Asia and Africa in my youth, and later grand treks across South America, this was the last one to do.

A LIGHTHEARTED BREAK IN THE NARRATIVE

Time to stop being serious and time to relax with some humour! Do you know why ants never get sick? They have little anty bodies (read it out loud; you'll get it). Here's an intellectual joke. What is the difference between ignorance and apathy? I don't know and I don't care. Here is another: a juvenile spray painted on a wall "Everyones a critic!" He became annoyed with the first person to see his comment, who noted that he had left out the apostrophe that made the comment make sense. Finally, here are some sentences that drive non-English-speakers mad:

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was full and had to refuse refuse.
4. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
5. As all were present, it was time to present the present.
6. The startled dove dove into the bushes.
7. I do not object to that object.
8. Excuse me, but there is no excuse for this nonsense to carry on.

WORK IN PROGRESS - all sellers/librarians please note

ITMB, as of early August, 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.

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 soon. Please continue to order, using the 'old' ISBN, as arrival is imminent.

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; due in September.

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.

Galapagos Islands – This title is now out of print. A fresh edition is already at press and expected in September.

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 September.

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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.

Nepal – This title is now at zero inventory. A fresh edition has been completed and is at press. Due to continuing pressure on supply chains, at the moment we cannot predict when this title will arrive. We hope for October.

Qatar – We are almost out of copies of this Gulf country. We have re-worked the artwork to create a double-sided map; Due this fall.

San Diego – We have run out of copies of this popular title. A fresh edition is being prepared; due in December.

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).

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 title is expected in September.

NEW RELEASES, JULY, 2022

Abu Dhabi & UAE Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2022 1:10,000/1:800,000 ISBN 9781771290289 UPC 817712902894 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – We are pleased to release this brand new ITMB title. Abu Dhabi is one of the leading Emirates that are rapidly becoming vacation heavens for Europeans who don't want the long flights to Asian destinations. The city is so modern it almost squeaks. The palace is a world-class wonder, the seafront Corniche is a marvelous beach, and the central shopping area offers everything from hamburgers to Gucci bags. Motorways now connect the city state to nearby Dubai and to Oman, with a recently-completed one along the coastline to the Saudi border. The reverse side of the map is an updated edition of the entire United Arab Emirates and most of Oman, with new motorways seemingly everywhere. A large inset map of central Dubai is included, along with a good one of Muscat. We docked at Abu Dhabi's cruise ship terminal during our visit and were impressed by the extent of urbanization of the city. **AVAILABLE**

Antigua, St. Kitts, Nevis Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2022 1:32,000/1:35,000 ISBN 9781771290241 UPC 817712902412 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – Our latest version of Antigua is also a new title for ITMB, in that we are combining the Caribbean island nation with nearby St. Kitts and Nevis, with a small inset map for the lovely island of Barbuda. Side 1 is a very expansive and detailed map of Antigua, with a good inset map of St. John's, the capital. At the southern end of the island is Nelson's Dockyard, a historical remnant that serviced British naval ships for centuries, and is well-worth a visit. We also include an inset map of the attractive island of Barbuda, which can be accessed by ferry from St. John's. The reverse side consists of two separate maps for St. Kitts and for Nevis, both in great detail. There is a ferry from Basseterre, the capital, to Charlestown, on Nevis, and regular short air flights between the two islands. Each side of the map includes a Top Attractions list and shows touristic sites, resorts, and road conditions. **AVAILABLE**

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Balkans Rail and Road Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2022 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771291040 UPC 817712910400 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – The region of Europe known as the Balkans is normally restricted to the area that used to be Yugoslavia, but it is geographically much larger and needs to be seen in its expanded format that includes Hungary, Romania, Moldova, and Greece, with that portion of Turkey that has had so much influence on the region over many centuries. Side 1 is dominated by the great land mass of historic strategic importance that has been fought over for centuries. Nowadays, conflict is still threatening, with Kosovo and Serbia always at each other's throats and Romania warily watching Russia's aggression next door in both Ukraine and Moldova. Attitudes are shifting towards closer integration with the EU in the region, with Albania, Northern Macedonia, Kosovo, and Montenegro clamouring for admission and NATO being looked at to provide security against further Russian aggression. As a result, the region retains huge geopolitical significance, but it also offers touristic opportunities that are difficult to find in crowded European countries. Names like Zagreb, Brasov, Sofia, Tirane, and Skopje may not resonate as well as London or Paris, but the entire region offers a distinctive unique attractiveness that will strongly influence all of Europe in the decades to come. Besides, it's a lovely part of the world – a road less travelled! **AVAILABLE**, finally

Barbuda, see Antigua, above

Costa Rica Travel Reference Map 10th Ed. 2021 1:300,000 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771291699 UPC 817712916990 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – This is an ITMB title that is so popular it needs no explanation. This is the most recent edition of a tried-and true title that has been a mainstay of our Central American line since the early 1980s. It was actually prepared just prior to Covid hitting the world with a sledge hammer and devastating travel in the process. Costa Rica shut down, as did the entire world, and several months later, the map we had sent to press unexpectedly arrived after several months at a printer that had been locked down by governmental decree. Travel conditions were so slow at that time that we only introduced this version six months ago. The reason for announcing now something that happened months ago is that we wanted our customer base to have time to sell through inventory. Travel to Costa Rica is now back to normal, and map sales are brisk, but we wanted to publicize this newish title, even if half the print run has already sold. For those of you ordering regularly, you will already have this edition. We still need to do a press release for those who don't. **AVAILABLE**

Mexico Travel Reference Map 9th Ed. 2022 1:2,000,000 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771294775 UPC 817712947758 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – Mexico is a fascinating country, and as travel re-opens, is proving to be very popular. This most recent edition was recently printed, and is now the current edition. There isn't any significant change from the previous edition, as little road work was completed during Covid. This is another chestnut in the ITMB line, and sells well. The cover picture is new, as is the ISBN. Mexico is a very large and diverse country, and very popular with Americans. Again, there is little one can say that is news about such a tried-and-true map, except to say that it is extremely popular. **AVAILABLE**

Nevis, see Antigua, above

New Caledonia/Oceania Cruising Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2022 1:530,000 1:12,000,000 ISBN 9781771295925 UPC 817712959256 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – The South Pacific island complex known as New Caledonia, or Nouvelle Calédonie in French, consists of a main island and half a dozen smaller islands (collectively called the Loyalty Islands). It is an overseas possession of France and uses the Euro as its currency. It is located about halfway between Australia and Fiji and is south of Vanuatu. The main island is one of the larger land masses in the Pacific, with a reasonably well-developed road infrastructure linking the capital city of Noumea with other urban areas. There are resort hotels at various locations along the coastline, but this is a territory that one would have to regard as being adventuresome. Most of the attractions are concentrated in the vicinity of the capital. The islands were important surveillance zones during WW2, and the territory is popular with Australians and New Zealanders. The reverse side of the sheet portrays the South Pacific for cruising, covering from Hawaii to the Marianas, down to New Guinea, and includes the eastern half of Australia, all of New Zealand, American Samoa, Fiji, and Tonga in the centre, with Tuvalu, Kiribati, and the Marshall Islands to the north and the Cook Islands and Tahiti to the east. This is an increasingly popular part of the world for cruise ship activity, as it combines affluent population areas in Australasia and the USA with exotic, but safe, travel destinations that are expensive to reach by any means except cruise ships. This is a brand new title for ITMB and expands our coverage of both the southern portions of the Pacific with yet another first-time map. **AVAILABLE**

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Oceania, see New Caledonia, above

St. Kitts, see Antigua, above

United Arab Emirates, see Abu Dhabi, above

NEW RELEASES, MAY AND JUNE, 2022

Africa East Coast Travel Reference Map 1st 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 1st 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. 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 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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 coordinates 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.

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