



ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.

- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
- **ITM DISTRIBUTION**

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AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #1 OF 2024 – Early January

INTRODUCTION

2024 appears to be starting with a bang and not a whimper, and that is not good for the travel industry. Unfortunately, strife in the Middle East continues to dominate the news and disrupt travel. Yemen has long been on the no-go list of countries to avoid visiting, but now it seems that Israel, Lebanon, and Palestine join that list. The war continues unabated in Ukraine with no end in sight, and civil insurrection in Sudan makes that lovely country a place to avoid for now. The other side of the coin is that other areas continue to open up from Covid-imposed restrictions and are regaining tourists as a result. This is particularly true of New Zealand, which recently abandoned its restrictive visa entry requirements. Europe remains increasingly popular, and the Caribbean appears to be recovering nicely. Travel to Africa and to South America still seems to be less popular, and Asian travel tends to be affected by political situations making travel to India and China unattractive for many, while to Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea, and Japan extremely attractive. So we begin a new year!

NEW TITLES

As always, December is a difficult month for printing maps. However, we start January with several new editions to offer. We are pleased that our updated California map has finally arrived in our warehouse, having survived various printing delays. Toronto, much updated, also returns to our range of titles, as does USA East Coast; all of which are noted in detail in our New Releases section of this newsletter. All will also have press releases during the next few weeks.

As all regular readers know, ITMB publishes three to eight new titles/editions each month. It is necessary to keep artwork fresh. We always update titles as they run out of copies. We try to print enough copies to last three to five years, as maps are not changing as much as they were in the 1990s. During 2024, we expect at least 50, and perhaps 60 titles to run out of copies, which will place an enormous strain on our production team. We are also still experiencing supply chain difficulties and apologize in advance if we run out of something and can't supply an updated version right away. It is frustrating for us as well when we can't supply all the titles you want all the time. We do our best, and ask for understanding that some things are simply beyond our control.

TRAVEL TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC

One of the growing areas of travel interest is the Pacific Ocean region, specifically the portion known as Polynesia. We recently visited Tahiti and various islands of French Polynesia (or the Society Islands, as the French like to call the island area). We also visited Samoa and Fiji, and spent time in New Caledonia, which technically is not part of Polynesia. All these areas are fully open for tourism, are safe, and friendly. All have resort areas for those wishing a longish vacation. We were on a cruise, which suited our purposes in updating artwork through 'ground truthing' and this will be reflected in time on future editions of several maps. There are lots of touristic island states that we didn't visit, of course, and areas such as Tonga, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, and Niue offer future trips of exploration. ITMB publishes the widest range of Pacific Island travel maps of any cartographic publishing house and we will expand our range as time passes.

AUSTRALIA

During December, we also visited the island continent of Australia. As our time was limited, we concentrated on the former colony of South Australia, which kept that name once it merged with other colonies in 1903 to create the country we now call Australia. Starting with the era of great exploration that created great colonial empires, Terra Australis Incognita was somehow missed by every sea-going expedition until one James Cook, then a Lieutenant, 'discovered' a body of land he called New South Wales. No one knows why he called the barren landscape of the southeastern tip of the continent after Wales, but he did and the name stuck. He sailed a thousand kms up the east coast, finally admitting that this was one big hunk of land previously rumoured to exist but never before seen by mariners. No one else visited the land mass for the next seventeen years, when the British looked at Cook's report and decided that this would be a good place to send convicts, considering that their previous choice had been the American colonies, which eventually rebelled.

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A penal expedition was eventually sent to Botany Bay, in NSW, and struggled for years to survive. The descendants of colonists have managed to turn the barren wasteland into a lovely part of the world, which now attracts tens of thousands of tourists each year. We spent most of our time in the former colony of South Australia, which was the only part of Australia NOT founded by convicts, and is now a State of the Union. Unfortunately for us, this was over the Christmas holiday time period, when just about everything was shut down, but this also resulted in minimal traffic, so we spent a week driving around and discovering many more paved roads than we previously realized existed. This information will be reflected on our next map of the State. Christmas dinner consisted of a hot dog at the only open petrol station we found all day. This country REALLY shuts down over the holiday season!

NEW ZEALAND

We also spent almost a week exploring North Island, checking our map data and finding it to be surprisingly accurate. We passed through Auckland, of course, but concentrated on the more rural regions of the northern part of the island, then on the southwestern portion; neither part of which we had visited on previous trips. NZ, named by the indomitable Capt. Cook who explored so much of the Pacific region, is a very green part of the world, with hills and mountains everywhere. Why he named it after the German offshore islands in a mystery. We found the people to be more soft-spoken than Australians. The roads were in excellent condition, although there are still far too many dirt roads for comfort. Still, we explored a large part of the island and stayed with congenial hosts. The country has recently abolished visa requirements for visitors, unlike Australia, and NZ is reaping the benefits

WORK IN PROGRESS - all sellers/librarians please note

ITMB, as of early January, 2024, 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.

Alberta, a popular title, is approaching the end of its current edition. A new version is being prepared; no ETA.

Borneo is close to running out of copies. A fresh edition has been sent to press, no ETA.

British Columbia, another very popular title, is close to running out of inventory. A fresh edition is being prepared; and is due in late June, 2024.

Cuzco and Region is approaching the end of its print run. A new edition is being prepared.

Krakow is now out of print. A new double-sided map is being prepared. No ETA.

Mexico City is close to running out of copies. A new double-sided map is being prepared. No ETA.

Northwest Territories is now out of print. We are preparing a new map that will combine it with Nunavut. **Nunavut** is also getting low on inventory, but is not in any danger of running out of copies at the moment.

NEW RELEASES IN January, 2024

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Toronto & Southern Ontario Travel Reference Map 5th Ed. 2024 1:12,000/1:600,000 ISBN 9781771298056 UPC 817712980564 \$10.95 cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – Toronto is the largest city in Canada and the 5th most populous in all of North America. Strategically located on the north shore of Lake Ontario, it is halfway between Chicago and Montreal and within easy access to NYC and points south. Its hinterland consists of 100,000,000 people, so this is a city worthy of note! Historically, it dates from 1793, but its antecedents go back many more centuries. The name means 'Meeting Place' in indigenous annals, and it grew rapidly as a centre of commerce and industry over the successive decades to dominate Canada. It is also the capital of the Province of Ontario and the centrepoint for most banks and insurance companies operating in Canada. Touristically, it has the largest airport in the country and is the access point for most flights from the USA and Europe, so tends to be where most visitors arrive. The map shows the core of a vast urban expanse that contains almost all of the touristic sites in the city, from the lovely recreational outer harbour islands to tony Yorkville and High Park, in the west. All tram lines are shown (Toronto has the largest fixed rail tram network in the world), as well as the extensive subway system (recently expanded), and an inset map showing all of Metro Toronto. Side 2 concentrates on part of southern Ontario, from Detroit to Kingston and north to Barrie. This would assist visitors driving to Niagara Falls, which is still the Number 1 attraction of North America. **AVAILABLE**

US East Coast Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2024 1:1,500,000 ISBN 9781771298575 UPC 817712985750 \$11.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – This is a new title for ITMB, portraying the Atlantic coast states from Maine to Florida. It replaces our former map of USA East Half, which has been discontinued. Side 1 covers from the northern tip of Maine to partway through North Carolina and west to Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. Side 2 continues south to Key West at the southern tip of Florida and west as far as Atlanta and just short of New Orleans. This is a companion map to our new map covering the central portion of the USA called Mississippi (essentially the Louisiana Purchase territory). The USA seems to fit naturally into north-south components – the Atlantic Coast is the former British colonies with the addition of Spanish Florida, and the central portion covers the lands affected by the Mississippi River basin and the great plains known as the Mid-West. This particular map is one for exploration of a vast portion of the USA from top to bottom. It would be useful for anyone living in this segment of the country to explore and would suit foreign visitors a readable map of an important part of America. Where exactly is Gettysburg, anyway? Well, it's on the map, as well as Disneyworld, the Boone Hall Plantation, and Nantucket. This is a map for exploring! So go explore. **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES DURING NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 2023

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Easter Island & Santiago Travel Reference Map 6th Ed. 2023 1:24,200/1:12,500 ISBN 9781771292696 UPC 817712926968 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – This edition of Easter Island is another example of the disruption caused by the Covid epidemic. It was sent to press at a time when everyone thought Covid would be a six-week wonder. Our printer was locked down by the time this artwork reached him, which we only discovered six months later when we queried why we hadn't received the printed maps. Another six months passed before ships were able to dock in Vancouver, and a further three months delay occurred awaiting Customs clearance, due to lack of staff. The map was released early in 2023, and we are finally catching up on the backlog of things needing to be done, so we're pleased to announce that this new edition of Easter Island is in our warehouse. Whoopie! Being isolated Easter Island, one has to say that nothing much changes, but there is a nice new north-south road across the island, making it easier to reach some of the Moai (stone head statues) on the north shore and this joins the east-west road enabling a visitor to see the moai on the south shore. There are still a number of Moai on the northwest shore that can only be reached via a footpath, which is shown on the map. All the Moai are properly noted on the map. The main and only town of Hanga Roa is also shown on the map. The reverse side of the sheet is a detailed city map of Santiago de Chile. Our rationale is that all flights to Easter Island originate in Santiago and 99.9% of all persons going to or from Easter Island have to spend time in Santiago, so a good map of the city is a bonus. A basic inset map of central Chile is also included on side 2. **AVAILABLE**

Mexico Pacific Coast Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2023 1:1,500,000 ISBN 9781771294805 UPC 817712948052 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – Last month, we noted a new map of the Pacific Coast of British Columbia and the Alaska Panhandle. This month, we introduce another brand new map, this one covering the west coast of Mexico from the American border at Tijuana all the way to Hidalgo on the Guatemalan border. By the shape of Mexico, this means that side 1 is vertical and provides excellent coverage of Baja California and the coast as far as Mazatlán. Side 2 is horizontal and continues south past Puerto Vallarta and Acapulco eastward to Hidalgo. Again, due to the shape of Mexico, this side includes a very large portion of central Mexico, including the Caribbean coast from Tampico to the Isthmus. An inset of central Mexico City, the largest city in North America, is also included. This map can be used with our well-established ITM map of Central America to cover the rest of the Pacific coastline all the way to South America. This has been a massive cartographic endeavour that has, as far as I know, never been done up until now. **AVAILABLE**

Osaka and Western Japan Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2024 1:12,500/1:600,000 ISBN 9871771295956 UPC 817712959560 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – This one of those maps that we love to do. Osaka is one of Japan's liveliest cities, deeply steeped in history, but very modern and vibrantly alive at the same time. Japan is emerging from the Covid era as a prime travel destination. Side 1 depicts the city from north of the main train station to south of the Tennoji Rail Station and includes Osaka Castle and includes two inset maps: one of the Kobe/Osaka urban region and another of central Kobe. Side 2 is a detailed map of western central Japan from west of Hiroshima to east of Nagoya, showing all the rail lines, motorways, and touristic attractions in this part of Japan. It also includes an inset map of the Kyoto/Nara region, so this map is very useful. **AVAILABLE**

Philippines Travel Reference Map 6th Ed. 2023 1:1,100,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9871771296298 UPC 817712962980 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Post-Covid era travel to the Philippines is exploding in popularity! This newly updated map covers the entire country of 7,000+ islands. Side 1 covers the northerly Luzon Island region with an excellent inset of Manila at 1:12,000 scale. Side 2 concentrates on the more southerly Mindanao portion of the country, with insets of central Davao City and Cebu City. As Philippines is a rather humid country, the map is printed on waterproof stone paper for durability. The map is also covered with dozens of capsule comments, pointing out important features of Philippine history and culture. **AVAILABLE**

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Zambia and Eastern Africa Travel Reference Map 5th Ed. 2020 1:1,680,000 ISBN 9781771299213 UPC 817712992130 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – This title has actually been available for many moons. We had sent it to press in 2020, not realizing that the whole world had shut down while trying to overcome Covid, and it languished in the printer's premises for many months because they were shut down as part of the madness we all went through during the Covid era. It eventually arrived at our warehouse and we started marketing it – but forgot to send out a press release! Better late than never, I suppose, so consider it lately launched. Zambia, a nice country in central/southern Africa graces one side of the sheet, along with a very large inset map of Lusaka and two others of Livingstone and Victoria Falls (which is actually in Zimbabwe). The other side of the sheet contains a very useful regional map of eastern Africa from Ethiopia/Eritrea south to Eswatini/Swaziland. Madagascar is also included, as well as the Comoro Islands. While both sides are useful, it is the Zambian side that takes precedence. All the roads and towns are shown, as well as parks, safari lodges, and points of interest. It is possible, though not advisable, to travel to Zimbabwe via either Kariba or Vic Falls, and there is a good crossing into Botswana at Sesheke. Entry to and from Tanzania and Malawi is easy. **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES DURING OCTOBER, 2023

Algeria Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2023 1:600,000/1:2,500,000 ISBN 9781771290319 UPC 817712903196 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP10.90 – AVAILABLE

BC Coast & Alaska Inside Passage Travel Reference Map (NEW TITLE!) 1st Ed. 2023 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771291095 UPC 817712910950 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP9.95 – AVAILABLE

BC Southern & Alberta Southern Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2023 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771297395 UPC 817712972958 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – AVAILABLE

Burundi Travel Reference Map 7th Ed. 2023 1:300,000 – see Rwanda, below for description.

Greece Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2023 1:625,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771293235 UPC 817712932358 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE

Rwanda & Burundi Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2023 1:300,000 ISBN 9781771296724 UPC 817712967244 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE

Sicily & Southern Italy Travel Reference map 1:500,000 on waterproof paper 1:500,000 ISBN 9781771297653 UPC 817712976536 \$14.95 cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE

NEW RELEASES DURING September, 2023

Athens and Peloponnese Travel Reference Map 1:8,000/1:625,000 2nd Ed. 2023 (1st for the Peloponnese side) ISBN 978177129032 UPC 817712903020 on waterproof paper \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP9.95 – AVAILABLE

Canada East Coast Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2024 1:535,000/1:150,000 ISBN 9781771290326 UPC 8117712903264 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP10.90 – AVAILABLE

Ontario Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2023 ISBN 9781771295949 UPC 817712959492 \$11.95cdn/us E/GBP9.95 – AVAILABLE

Route 66 Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2023 (first as a map) ISBN 9781771298544 UPC 817712985446 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP9.95 – AVAILABLE

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