



## ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.

- INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS
- ITM DISTRIBUTION

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## AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #11 OF 2024 – Early November

### INTRODUCTION

As winter approaches, at least in the northern hemisphere, travel destinations change. Understandably, thinking about the Christmas holiday season predominates, and for many that includes travel. In our case, it means a rare Christmas-week flight to Cabo San Lucas in Mexico's Baja California for the six of us. The kids will no doubt revel in the resort's swimming pool and their parents will relax in beach chairs. Lan and myself will be busy driving roads and updating information on our Baja California map, which is due for a fresh edition in 2025. ITMB will still be open between the day after Boxing Day and the last day of the year, so feel free to send us year-end orders for shipping out in early January. Remember, shipping times during December are slow, due to holiday parcels and mail, so allow extra time for early December orders to arrive!

### NEW TITLES

We are pleased to announce three new editions for this month. **London** has been updated, with a selection of high-end pubs added, and its companion sheet covering Southeast England has been completely re-done at an improved scale of 1:250,000. **Norway** is a perennial favourite with travelers, and we are pleased to see an updated double-sided new edition. **Panama** is another favoured travel destination, particularly during the winter months, so the release of a new edition at this time is, well, timely! All three maps are printed on durable, waterproof, stone paper. Descriptions and ordering information can be found in our **NEW RELEASES** section below.

### A LIBRARY IN WARSAW

The beginning of September, 1939 changed life in Poland forever. The NAZI invasion was brutal and devastating. Some three million Jews and two million non-Jews were executed, including about 100,000 doctors, lawyers, teachers, and scientists. The entire officer corps of the military was murdered. As much as possible, all cultural heritage material (paintings, music, statues, and books) were destroyed or shipped to Germany in an effort to exterminate the Polish identity. A few brave librarians secreted 10,000 books in the basement of a bombed out and seemingly abandoned Warsaw library building and kept books circulating secretly throughout the war in a remarkable endeavour to keep hope flickering during a terrible time period. The main library in Warsaw was damaged by fighting, but remained open until the Home Army uprising in the last stages of the war, when it was forced to close except for its basement, which became a large bomb shelter. The reason for this story is to encourage travellers to visit Poland and especially Warsaw, which was pretty much levelled by German, then Russian, bombing. The library survived, one of the few buildings to do so, as did the clandestine 'hidden' library that kept the Polish culture alive during decimating times. The city, and the country, has recovered remarkably well. Books don't seem to be as important in 2024 as was the case in the 1940s, which is a shame. However, books remain to this day as the repository of history, as evidenced by Bob Woodward's newly-released study called War. It isn't about the type of war Poland experienced, but recounts the Trump/Biden battle for dominance in the USA in 2020. This war isn't over yet as is evidenced by the insane 2024 election war!

### VISIONARIES

The world needs individuals who can take a concept and develop its potential. Elon Musk may be a very flawed personality politically, but he is a visionary who is revolutionizing our world through electric cars, space craft, satellite communications, and the internet. Henry Ford was another, revolutionizing how we travel. Alexander Graham Bell was another visionary, who transformed communications by inventing the telephone. Guglielmo Marconi was another. He invented the wireless in 1896, which enabled people to communicate electronically, at first by tapping a key (telegraphing), but by 1926 by a marvellous invention called a radio station. The first such station in the world was 2RN, in Dublin, Ireland. Radio transformed the world. It would take later visionaries to develop televisions and computers, but none of these would have been possible without Marconi figuring out what we now call radio waves. The world needs visionaries!

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### A TRULY CANADIAN CRIME

There isn't really anything nationalistic about crime. Murder is murder, no matter where it is committed. This past month, in Gatineau, Quebec, a crime occurred that one can easily imagine happening only in Canada. A twenty-five-year-old inebriated man was driving a Zamboni, clearing the ice during a hockey game. For those of you unfamiliar with ice hockey, a Zamboni is a large rather square-shaped vehicle that smooths out the ice on skating rinks, usually between periods of a hockey game, but also during time-outs when the rink is used for pleasure skating. Needless to say, a Zamboni does not require a vehicular license, as it is never used on public roads (except during Tim Horton ads promoting the sale of hockey cards). In this case, the driver started maneuvering his Zamboni quite erratically, with referees chasing after him, trying to get him to stop. He was having too much fun whizzing around the rink at 5 km/hr., until he crashed into the side wall of the arena, unable to react quickly enough to avoid taking out the entrance door to the rink. The Zamboni stalled and someone was able to climb aboard and capture the driver. The police were called, but couldn't lay a charge as the rink is on private property, and the Zamboni does not register as a 'vehicle' in terms of the Motor Vehicle Act. Furthermore, no one has ever before caused an accident while driving a Zamboni. The police carted away the driver, more for his own safety than anything, someone else drove the Zamboni and smoothed out the ice surface, and the game resumed. The patrons in the stands became quite agitated by the crazy antics, so everyone had a good time at the hockey arena and the episode made the national news. Unfortunately, no one caught the story on camera. It could only happen in Canada!

### ITMB'S ANNIVERSARY

It passed by without our even noticing it, but ITMB began its 45<sup>th</sup> year in business in mid-September. This is noteworthy, especially given the changes besetting the map industry at the moment, but we just keep trundling along, producing map after map, and show no signs of slowing down. We've published 60 new editions thus far in 2024; not bad for a mom and pop family business.

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

ITMB, as of early November, 2024, has ample inventory of almost all of the titles traditionally carried as part of our publishing line, albeit too many are unavailable at the moment. We ask for your understanding if a particular title happens to be unavailable in the short term.

**Africa East and Central** is out of print and discontinued. Please order **Africa East Coast and Africa Central & South**, which are available.

**Albania** is now out of stock. An updated edition is at press; no ETA.

**Angola** has suddenly run out of copies. A new edition is being prepared, but won't be available before 2025.

**Arizona/New Mexico** just ran out of copies. Please order **Grand Canyon & Arizona** until the new edition arrives.

**Chad** is now out of print. A fresh edition is being prepared, but is not expected until early 2025.

**Chicago** has suddenly run out of copies due to a surge in demand. A new edition is being prepared, but won't be available before 2025.

**Congo/Central African Republic** is also out of print. A fresh edition has been sent to our printer; no ETA.

**Dubai** is out of print. A fresh edition has been printed, but is not expected until early 2025. Please continue to order using the current ISBN for now.

**Great Britain** has run out of inventory. A fresh edition is being prepared for release early in 2025; no ETA.

**Guernsey** has run out of inventory. See Jersey.

**Finland** has run out of copies. A new double-sided map of the country will be released in 2025, but for now, please order our ITMB map of **Finland & Sweden**.

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**Helsinki/Southern Finland** is out of print and at press. No ETA.

**Jersey/Guernsey** has run out of copies. This is the most detailed map of the Channel Islands ever made, and is one of those unique titles that ITMB loves to do. A fresh edition has been printed and will be available in early November. Please continue to order using the current ISBN for now. This title has separate covers for the islands.

**Las Vegas** is now out of stock. An updated edition is at the printer; expected in December. Please continue to order, using the existing ISBN.

**Manhattan** is now out of print, having experienced an unexpected surge in demand. An updated map, including a brand new map of the **USA Northeast Corridor**, is at the printer and is expected in early 2025. Please continue to order using the existing ISBN.

**Mongolia** is now out of stock. An updated edition has been printed and will be available during early 2025. Please continue using the old ISBN for now.

**New Guinea** is currently out of stock. A new edition has been prepared and is at press; no ETA.

**Oahu/Big Island** is a popular Hawaiian destination. Unfortunately, we have run out of copies and a fresh edition won't be available until early 2025. Please order our **Honolulu/Oahu** and **Hawaii Volcanoes NP & Big Island** maps for now.

**Portugal**, a brand new double-sided map of the country, has been sent to press; no ETA at the moment.

**Quebec/Ontario Atlas** is out of print and discontinued.

**Sierra Leone** is now out of stock. A fresh edition is being prepared for release in 2025; no ETA.

**Southern Ontario** is out of print. A fresh edition has been sent to press and is expected in early 2025

**Sumatra** is now out of print. A new edition has been printed and is expected during early 2025. Please continue to order using the existing ISBN.

**Tahiti/French Polynesia** is almost out of copied. A fresh edition is at press; no ETA.

**Tokyo** is now out of stock. A fresh edition has been printed and is expected during early 2025. Please continue to order using the existing ISBN.

**Uganda** has run out of copies. A fresh edition has been printed and is expected during early 2025. Please continue to order using the existing ISBN for now.

**Uruguay** is now out of stock. A fresh edition has been printed and should be available in early 2025. Please continue to order, using the old ISBN number for now.

**Venezuela** has run out of inventory. This is a difficult country to update, due to political instability. A fresh edition should be available in early 2025.

**Whistler and Region** is now out of inventory. A fresh edition is being prepared for release in 2025; no ETA.

**Zurich/Northern Switzerland** has run out of copies unexpectedly. A new map of **Switzerland** is being prepared, along with a new edition of **Geneva and Western Switzerland**. This will result in a short-term loss of maps covering this important part of Europe, but will result in three exciting new maps in 2025.

**NEW RELEASES DURING LATE OCTOBER and EARLY NOVEMBER, 2024**

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**London & Southeast England Travel Reference Map 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771294461 UPC 817712946610 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP9.95** – London is one of the most visited cities in the world, with a treasure-trove of attractions. The theatres of the West End are marvellous, and the many churches and cathedrals are well worth exploring. The British Museum is so large that it is impossible to see everything. This is our sixth attempt to map London comprehensively and attractively. With this edition, we have started noting a selection of notable pubs, such as The Old Cheshire Cheese and the Hung, Drawn, and Quartered (which is close to the Tower, and was the site of gruesome executions for centuries). We have increased the scale to make the map more user-friendly, so the coverage is from Paddington to Tower Hill and King's Cross to Vauxhall. A list of Top Attractions has been added, and believe me, it was difficult to limit ourselves to nine! The reverse side covers what the Brits love to call the 'Home Counties' in the hinterland of London. Essentially, this means from Dover west to Salisbury and from the Isle of Wight north to Bishop's Stortford (site of Stanstead airport). Dozens of touristic attractions have been included, as well as a list of Top Attractions close to London. All main rail lines are shown, including the fast-line connections that are becoming dominant in the UK as well as in Europe. The enhanced scale of 1:250T also makes it possible to show most tertiary laneways leading to quaint villages. **AVAILABLE**

**Norway Travel Reference Map 5<sup>th</sup> Ed 2025 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771295857 UPC 817712958570 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – Norway remains one of the most popular countries in Europe to visit. It is, of course, one of the safest countries in the world, which is important, but it is extremely geographically attractive as well as welcoming. It is also a deceptively large country, which is why we have divided it into a north and a south half. The map shows rail lines as well as motorways and main highways. The country also maintains an enormous fleet of coastal vessels, which are a very pleasant way to explore fiords or avoid mountainous roads. Portions of Sweden and Finland also are included, as well as a tiny bit of Russia. Border crossings within Scandinavia are not shown, as they don't apply within the EU, but those to Russia are included. Unfortunately, due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, all land crossings to Russia have been closed until further notice. The map includes a list of Top Attractions. **AVAILABLE**

**Panama Travel Reference Map 11<sup>th</sup> Ed 2025 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771296342 UPC 817712963420 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – Panama is emerging as a major country of touristic interest, with its popularity attested to by the fact that this is our 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. Side 1 covers the country from the Costa Rican border to the Canal region, showing roads and attractions, such as Boquete and Santa Fe. The second side continues east of the Canal to the border with Colombia. It also includes a detailed inset map of the portion of the Canal of greatest interest to visitors and an equally detailed street map of central Panama City, the capital. The city's new Metro rapid-transit line is now shown, as is the improved causeway to the nearby offshore islands. We have not included the transit route through the Darien Gap that is used by desperate families trying to reach safety in America, as we feel that were we to do so, it may encourage even more tragedies. Regardless, Panama, and neighbouring Costa Rica, remain touristically popular. **AVAILABLE**

### **NEW RELEASES DURING LATE SEPTEMBER/EARLY OCTOBER, 2024**

**Cape Town & Garden Route Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2024 1:10,000/1:1,300,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771291873 UPC 817712918734 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP9.95** – Cape Town, as a city, is probably the safest urban area in South Africa for visitors Side 1 shows the city as far south as Camps Bay and as far east as Observatory. Side 2 covers the Cape Town to Port Elizabeth and on to East London highway, which has long been an attractive route for visitors to follow while exploring South Africa. It also goes as far north as Bloemfontein and includes the land-locked country of Lesotho, so all of Cape Province and most of Orange Free State is included. Most of the touristically-attractive parts of South Africa are on this map (Kruger Park excepted), so it is a very useful way to discover Kimberley, the Great Karoo, and the wine estates of Paarl and Stellenbosch. **AVAILABLE**

**Pacific Coast Trail (USA) Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2025 1:900,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771296304 UPC 817712963048 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – **AVAILABLE** (described in the September Axis newsletter) – issued in late September

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**Taiwan & Taipei Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2025 1:386,000/1:16,000 ISBN 9781771298070 UPC 817712980700 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10,90** – Taiwan always reminds me of the “little engine that could”. Despite having to endure an extremely hostile neighbor, the country has prospered, is democratic, and is friendly and welcoming to visitors, despite the fact that most governments do not officially recognize its existence. Side 1 shows the capital city of Taipei, a bustling economic powerhouse on the Damshui River, close to the ocean. The city has numerous hotels and shopping areas, and a well-developed subway network. The second side covers the complete island of Formosa from top to bottom in excellent detail, as well as the off-shore Penghu islands (these can be reached by ferries from Kaohsiung or Dongshih). Most of the country’s development is on the western, or Taiwan Straits, side of the mountainous country, but to me the Taroka Gorge, leading inland from Hualien on the east coast, is one of the wonders of modern Asia. An inset map of Tainan in southeast Taiwan is also included.

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**Yukon & British Columbia North Travel Reference Map 11<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2025 1:400,000/1:900,000 ISBN 9781771299237 UPC 817712992376 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – The northern Canadian territory of Yukon is one of the most popular travel destinations in North America. It was created out of the vast land mass known as British North America as a result of the discovery of gold on the Klondike River in 1898 and later became strategically important during WW2 as the highway to Alaska was pushed through difficult terrain. Nowadays, tourism is the driving force of the economy, as thousands of recreational vehicles bring tourists northward. Apart from flying in, there are two road access routes from British Columbia, and four from Alaska. Most of the highways are paved, with the exception of the Dempster, which takes adventurous travellers far north past Inuvik in the Northwest Territories to the shores of the Arctic Ocean – the only way one can reach the ocean by land. Inset maps of Whitehorse (the capital), Dawson City (gold rush historic town), and Watson Lake (main entry point) are included. The second side is almost as important, as it covers northern BC and the Alaskan Panhandle from Fort Nelson north into the Yukon, from Skagway and Haines north, and from Watson Lake south along the scenic Stewart Highway. Routes followed by ferries and cruise ships through the coastal islands are also shown.

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### **NEW RELEASES DURING AUGUST, 2024**

**Alberta Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2025 1:940,000 ISBN 9781771290340 UPC 817712903402 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – AVAILABLE**

**Cameroun & Gabon Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2025 1:980,000/1:1.300,000 ISBN 9781771291880 UPC 817712918802 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE**

**England East Coast Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2025 1:250,000 ISBN 9781771292726 UPC 817712927262 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE**

**Equatorial Guinea Travel Reference Map, see Cameroun, above, for description.**

**Gabon & Cameroun Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2025 – See Cameroun, above, for description**

**Kilimanjaro & Tanzania North Travel Reference Map 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2024 1:63,000/1:1,300,000 ISBN 9781771294195 UPC 817712941954 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE**

**Manila & Luzon Island Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2025 1:11,000/1:1,000,000 ISBN 9781771294935 UPC 817712949356 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – AVAILABLE**

**Melbourne & Victoria State Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2025 1:9,000/1:1,500,000 ISBN 9781771294911 UPC 817712949110 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – AVAILABLE**

**Scotland Travel Reference Map 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2024 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771297349 UPC 817712973498 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 - AVAILABLE**

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