



## **ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.**

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

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## **AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #7 OF 2024 – Early July**

### **INTRODUCTION**

June is traditionally a month of preparing for summer vacations and July for taking them. The kids are ending their school year, the weather is warming, days are becoming longer, and political events seem far away. Inflation is being beaten down, and normalcy prevails. ITMB continues to issue new maps and Jack and Lan undertook yet another trip, albeit a short road trip with the grandkids to Alberta for a family reunion and camping in the Rockies as soon as school let out for the summer. During July, we will also be undertaking a research trip to Japan to update our data covering several maps. This will also introduce Johnny and Kenzie to the joys of updating as well as to exotic Japan!

### **NEW TITLES**

We introduce four new editions that have arrived recently and improve our product line. The first is our popular continental map of Antarctica, which also includes Tierra del Fuego and an excellent inset map of Ushuaia, and a further inset of the Falkland Islands. The outer boundary of Antarctica is shrinking, due to global warming, so our map shows the coastline as it was in 1980 and also as it is now. The second title is a new edition of our map of Newfoundland & Labrador, showing the new Trans-Labrador Highway. The third portrays Canada's smallest province, Prince Edward Island. It is now joined to the mainland by a 30-km-long bridge and has the must-see destination of Anne of Green Gables to show visitors. The final title covers Tanzania. We will be replacing several African titles this year; Tanzania is just one of the first. Details are provided in the New Releases section, below.

### **D-DAY REMEMBERED**

The 6<sup>th</sup> of June commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the greatest invasion of the European continent in history. A million men (including a few women) landed on the beaches of Normandy in a massive effort to establish a new war front in western Europe to take pressure off the Russians, who had been suffering enormous losses in their war against German expansionism. We know now, with historical perspective, just how risky and complicated the undertaking of D-Day was. Southern England was suddenly denuded of hundreds of thousands of troops under cover of darkness and thousands of ships rendezvoused in the English Channel secretly to mount a huge offensive, the largest and most complicated that the world had ever seen, in complete secrecy. At dawn on June 6<sup>th</sup>, German soldiers in forward bunkers along the Atlantic coastline were the first to see a vast armada of more than 5,000 ships. Military might was descending on them. We know what happened. There are now fewer than 10,000 individuals still alive who participated in the riskiest venture in history, and many of them still have vivid memories of that day, of friends dying or drowning before their eyes, of madness, of overcoming obstacles and moving inland, of manning ships raining down death on enemy positions or flying planes. Today, one can visit the beaches where American, Canadian, and British forces landed in five separate areas, overwhelming German attempts to defend their holdings. The Americans focus on Omaha Beach, the Canadians on Juno, and the British on Gold. There are numerous memorials now in place to eternalize the valiant efforts of that day, including the wonderful museum at Caen. The battle for Normandy took 30 days to complete, and Brittany longer still, so there are war memorials and cemeteries all over the peninsula. Today, both provinces of France make a wonderful part of the world to peacefully travel and enjoy. Let us not forget the many valiant soldiers who died to make it so.

It is not well-known, even in Canada, just how vital the Canadian effort was to secure a beachhead and move inland quickly. D-Day was a huge risk. If it had failed, it would have taken the western allies years to develop a further attempt. This could have resulted in Russia and Germany slogging out a massive war that would destroy much of Europe and possibly end with Russian tanks occupying France and all of Europe. Our history of the modern world would have been quite different if Canadians had not developed a battle plan about invading in the Calais region, then leaking the information to Germany. Hitler believed it, and refused to deploy the 19<sup>th</sup> German army to Normandy for the crucial first four days of the invasion. Canada was also charged with taking out Panzer tank battalions and moved inland much more quickly than other Allied forces to be in place when the tanks started moving. We also had an unexpected cultural advantage, because many Canadian soldiers spoke Norman (or Quebec) French, so were able to communicate with local people who, at that time, generally did not speak English.

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### **FRANCE AS A COUNTRY**

Following on the commemoration of D-Day leads one directly to exploring France as a travel destination. In earlier times, France did not exist as a country, but as a series of autonomous principalities, such as Normandy (which was then much larger an entity than it is today), Burgundy, and Picardy being examples. The leader of Normandy, William, successfully invaded England in 1066 and his descendants held on to both England and Normandy for several centuries. This came to a head in the 1400s, with the battles of Agincourt and Crecy, which French forces lost dramatically. The English king of the time claimed the throne of France (which at that time occupied only a portion of present-day France) and was crowned king. This created a growing sense of French nationalism as a people, most clearly articulated by the visionary peasant girl, Jeanne, known in English as Joan of Arc, who was asked once why she fought so vigorously. "France is France" she replied, espousing a sentiment that made perfect sense once it was said and in essence created the concept of the nation state as we understand the concept today as opposed to the fiefdom reality that dominated Europe at that time. Joan, by the way, was eventually captured by the Burgundian forces that were allied with the English forces fighting the French. They sold Joan to the English for 10,000 ducats, which was probably an enormous sum in those days. The English tried her as a witch in Rouen and burned her alive at a wooden pillar placed in front of the cathedral. You can visit this spot today, which is commemorated by a memorial. Reliving history is one of the great attractions of travel. France is a treasure-trove of palaces, squares, memorials, and treasures that reflect its past, its present, and its future. ITMB publishes several maps of various regions of France, as does Michelin, IGN, and various other commercial map publishers. Guide books also cover the many wonders of France, which remains one of the most popular countries in the world to visit.

### **NEW CURRENCY**

The Bank of England is releasing brand new currency notes to replace the ones that were used under Queen Elizabeth II. The 5 Pound note has been released, with pictures of Winston Churchill and King Charles III on the frontside. The 10, 20, and 50 Pound notes should all be in circulation by the end of July. For the moment, the QE notes will still be commonly available, but these will gradually be returned to the Bank of England for shredding. At some time in the future, they will be demonetized, making them useless. Interestingly, this is the first time in the bank's history that it has changed the monarch's face on banknotes. Apparently, prior to 1960, the monarch's face was never shown on paper money, only on coins, so only Queen Elizabeth's image has ever graced British paper money until now. See? You're living history and you didn't even realize it!

### **INFLATION**

The world generally, but Europe and North America in particular, have been grappling with rapid inflation as the world emerged from the Covid era. As the world economy began opening up after disastrous Covid lockdowns, central banks around the world were forced to impose higher and higher interest rate adjustments to try and dampen inflation by dissuading economic spending. This has caused individuals, companies, and governments alike enormous difficulties, which has been most noticeable in the housing market but has actually affected all aspects of economic activity. Higher costs for raw materials and for shipping have forced most map publishers to increase prices, sometimes alarmingly so. Not ITMB, but that is not my point. It is now mid-2024. Canada has become the second country in the developed world to begin lowering what banks call the 'prime rate', which governs how much loans and mortgages will cost. Now I'll grant that 25 basis points does not represent more than a token gesture, but it symbolically represents the beginning of the end for sky-high interest rates. For Canada this means a drop from 5% to 4.75%. If this move does not result in increased inflation, and thus far it does not appear to be doing so, a further quarter percentage point decrease could be a near-future occurrence. The next lowering will probably be the USA, which is still the world's largest economy by far, or the UK. This could happen during July, but is more likely to happen in August. In any case, the time for some downward moment has obviously arrived and it is only a matter of time before we see more and more national economies lowering interest rates. It can't come soon enough!

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

ITMB, as of early July, 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 essentially out of print. A fresh version is at press; no ETA.

**Andorra/Pyrenees** is being updated; inventory still exists.

**Bavaria and Munich** has run out of inventory. A new edition has been printed, but this time around it will be called **Munich and Southern Bavaria**. It is expected during August.

**Borneo** is now sold out of inventory. A fresh edition has been printed. Please order via ISBN 9781771291118.

**Cameroun/Gabon** is now out of copies. A fresh edition is at press; no ETA.

**Cuzco and Region** is out of print. A new edition has been printed. Please order via ISBN 9781771291866.

**Helsinki/Southern Finland** is out of print and being updated. No ETA.

**Japan North & Hokkaido** is out of print. A fresh edition has been printed. Please order via ISBN 9781771293914

**Kilimanjaro/Nthn Tanzania** is now out of print. A fresh edition has been printed and is due in late August.

**London/SE England** is running low on inventory. A fresh edition at an improved scale has been printed. No ETA.

**Manitoba** is now out of print. A new map, **Southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan**, is now available. The entire province will be available again once market demand improves.

**Melbourne** is now out of print. A new map, **Melbourne and Victoria State**, has been sent to press. No ETA.

**Pacific Coast Trail, USA** will be a new ITMB title in the not-too-distant future. No ETA.

**Pakistan** is now out of print. A new edition is being prepared for release in 2025. No ETA.

**Scotland** is now out of print. A fresh edition has been printed. Please order using the ISBN 9781771297349.

**Taiwan** is now out of print. A fresh edition has been printed. Please order using ISBN 9781771298070

**Ukraine** is now sold out of inventory. Please order its new edition via ISBN 9781771298568.

**Yukon**, a perennial favourite, has been updated and printed. It is expected shortly. Please continue ordering.

### NEW RELEASES DURING JUNE, 2024

**Antarctica & Tierra del Fuego Travel Reference Map 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2024 1:7,000,000/1:750,000 ISBN 9781771290357 UPC 817712903570 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP10.90** – Antarctica is a fascinating part of the world. It is difficult to reach, and expensive to travel to, but it should be on everyone's bucket list of 'must-see' travel experiences. The continent is rapidly (in geological terms) changing its shape as global warming eats away at the gigantic icefields that surround the land mass. Thus, our map shows the coastline as it was in 1980 and as it is today. The continent is fairly easy to approach nowadays, but only during the months of December through to end of February. Major cruise lines such as Holland America sail from ports in South America with thousands of passengers on board, so it is not quite the unusual adventure it once was, but is still an exciting and unusual experience. Our map shows not just the continent land mass but is loaded with interesting text blocks that are bound to contain information most people don't know, such as the fact that dinosaur bones have been found here or that Antarctica has three poles (the Arctic has two). The map of Antarctica covers all of side 1 and is very interesting for anyone planning a trip there, but Side 2 is also interesting, in that it covers Tierra del Fuego, the southern tip of South America, with an excellent inset map of Ushuaia, the most southerly city in the world. Among other points of interest, it shows the Beagle Channel, used for centuries by sailors to avoid the more treacherous route around Cap Horn (Cape Horn in English). It also shows an inset of the Falkland Islands, which are visited by many cruise ships. **AVAILABLE**

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**Newfoundland & Labrador Travel Reference Map 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2024 1:800,000/1:1,300,000 ISBN 9781771295833 UPC 817712958334 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP10.90** – The easternmost part of Canada is also its newest part and the oldest British colony. Generations before Jamestown was thought of for colonization, Newfoundland was a valued commercial entity of Britain. Before that, it was a Norse settlement and the only known Norse permanent settlement ever discovered in North America. Today, the province consists of two parts – the island of Newfoundland and the mainland entity called Labrador; hence, the joint name of the map. Side one is the island of Newfoundland, which can only be reached by air or by ship. Ferries operate from Nova Scotia to two destinations on the island, and there is a separate ferry from Quebec to the northern tip of the island. This side also includes the French Overseas Territory of St. Pierre et Miquelon and an inset of St. John's, the provincial capital. Side 2 concentrates on Labrador, a much larger geographical entity. Most of Labrador is inaccessible for the average traveler, but the brand-new Trans-Labrador Highway has recently been paved and makes access much easier than even a few years ago. This paved highway can be accessed from Newfoundland by the ferry from St. Barbe to Aulsebrook, in Quebec. A paved highway leads east and then north to Happy Valley/Goose Bay and then westward to Labrador City, the only significant urban area in Labrador. The trip would take two long days of driving, but is a unique experience. The paved highway then extends into Quebec and, while half of it was still being paved when we drove it, the trip south to Baie-Comeau is a travel adventure. For the first time, a traveler can enter the province from Nova Scotia, drive on good roads all the way to Quebec and continue west to Montreal. **AVAILABLE**

**Prince Edward Island Travel Reference Map 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 2024 1:250,000/1:50,000 ISBN 9781771296328 UPC 817712963284 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP10.90** – From one of the larger provinces of Canada, we move to the smallest one, Prince Edward Island. This is located off the coast of Nova Scotia and was always a separate British colony, due to its island reality. Prior to Canada being formed as a country, it was a series of British colonies that remained loyal to Great Britain during the turmoil that created the United States. For those Americans unaware of their nation's history, there were actually 17 American colonies that participated in the famous Philadelphia Congress of 1775. Well, sorry, but Quebec was as much an 'American' colony as Virginia, as was Nova Scotia, Acadia (New Brunswick), Newfoundland, and PEI. A century later, a pivotal conference held in Charlottetown, PEI, paved the way for Canada becoming a self-governing country. PEI joined six years later. Now, PEI is joined to the mainland by Confederation Bridge, making it easy to visit. Our map is actually two maps of the Canada Map Office. Side 1 is of the island itself and Side 2 is of the central portion, including Charlottetown, the provincial capital, at a much more detailed scale. As this is a survey map, it is extremely accurate, with touristic attractions imposed over it, so it shows contour lines, all sorts of roads, small villages that one misses if one blinks while passing through, and all the many beaches and coves of the shoreline. The two main attractions on the island are Province House (currently under reconstruction) and the Anne of Green Gables farmstead. Although Anne was a fictional character, the author based her novel on Cavendish Farm and on her own life growing up. Novels of Anne's adventures are so popular that the government finally made the farm a National Historic Site, visited by hundreds of thousands of die-hard fans each and every year. This is another 'must see' travel destination for everyone. **AVAILABLE**

**Tanzania Travel Reference Map 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2024 on waterproof paper 1:1,300,000 ISBN 9781771298063 UPC 817712980632 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP10.90** – Africa generally has been slower to recover economically from the Covid era, but is just as fascinating as ever. ITMB is finding that many of our maps of countries in Africa are approaching the end of their print runs and will see new editions through the rest of 2024 and into 2025. Tanzania is one of the first to be updated and refreshed. Printed on waterproof stone paper, Side 1 concentrates on the southern half of the country, from Dar es Salaam (the actual capital) south to the borders with Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia. This is game preserve country, with Selous taking pride of place. Side 2 concentrates on the northern portions, which are more popular touristically. Game preserves such as Serengeti and Ngorongoro compete with Mount Kilimanjaro and Lake Victoria for attention. The islands of Pemba and Zanzibar are easy to reach from Dar. A large portion of Kenya is shown, as well as significant portions of Burundi and Rwanda. Detailed inset maps of Arusha and Stone Town are also included, as are all seven border crossings into Kenya. Tanzania is a very large country geographically, so visitors really need a map to get around. One interesting tidbit of information. Ujiji, on the shores of Lake Tanganyika just south of Burundi, was David Livingstone's last mission station. His heart is buried there. His body was transported all the way across Africa to the Indian Ocean and shipped to London, where it is interred in Westminster Abbey. It was an incredible journey through the wilds of primitive Africa and done completely by loyal Africans. **AVAILABLE**

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### **NEW RELEASES DURING MAY, 2024 (not counting what is listed below)**

**Idaho, Montana, & Wyoming Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2024 1:1,000,000 ISBN 9781771293600 UPC 817712936004 E9.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95** – We are pleased to re-introduce our popular regional map of the northern mountain states. The USA divides naturally into regions, and the three states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming form such a unit. This is a double-sided map, with Idaho and western Montana filling one side and the rest of Montana and Wyoming completing the second side. **AVAILABLE**

**Jordan & Syria Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2024 1:730,000/1:825,000 ISBN 9781771293921 UPC 817712939210 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – Just at the moment, the entire Middle East region is politically unstable, but Jordan remains steady and attractive for tourism. Syria is a very interesting country, and well-worth visiting. This map shows each country on opposite sides of the sheet, with a double-sided cover showing two of the most important touristic attractions in each country. The Jordan side includes a detailed map of Amman, the capital and a list of top attractions. By the shape of the country, Israel is also shown, as well as southern Lebanon and Syria. The second side provides a detailed map of Syria, which is mostly desert-like. **AVAILABLE**

**Mexico Travel Reference Map 10<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2024 1:2,000,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771294874 UPC 817712948748 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – ITMB has been mapping Mexico for 40 years. This most recent update covers the country from A to Z in amazing detail. Mexico is a large and diverse country, with northern plains-like terrain in the north along the American border, a hilly mountainous interior, and coastal regions that have been developed for tourism. The map includes a listing of the country's top attractions and city maps of Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Oaxaca. A small inset also expands the resort-like island of Cozumel. **AVAILABLE**

**Southern Manitoba & Saskatchewan Travel Reference Map 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. 2024 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771294898 UPC 817712948984 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95** – This is a new map for ITMB, joining two others in a series of maps covering the southern halves of the western provinces, in this case the prairie provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Manitoba emerged out of the unsettled west and gained provincial status in 1870, with its capital in Winnipeg. Saskatchewan was settled as a result of the western expansion of the trans-continental railroad (the CPR), with Regina as its capital. The Manitoba side of the sheet includes a detailed map of Winnipeg and roads as far north as Flin Flon. Interestingly, there is only one road joining the province to Ontario and eastern Canada (Highway 1, or the Trans-Canada Highway). The second side of the sheet concentrates on Saskatchewan from the American border north to Prince Albert National Park. This side has two large insets of the two major cities, Regina (the capital) and Saskatoon. While both provinces are generally flat, the prairies are more gently rolling than plain flat, with elevated areas in the south and west as the continental land mass rises steadily to approach the tectonic uplifts known as the Rocky Mountains in neighbouring Alberta. **AVAILABLE**

### **NEW RELEASES BETWEEN EARLY APRIL AND EARLY MAY, 2024**

**British Columbia Travel Reference Map 10<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2024 on waterproof paper, 1:1,350,000 ISBN 9781771291101 UPC 817712911018 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95** – **AVAILABLE**

**Mexico City and Central Region Travel Reference Map 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2024 1:12,000/1:900,000 ISBN 9781771294881 UPC 817712948816 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95** – **AVAILABLE**

**Northwest Territories & Nunavut Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2024 1:165,000/1:2,600,000 ISBN 9781771295840 UPC 817712958402 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – **AVAILABLE**

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