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- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
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## **AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #9 OF 2024 – Mid-September**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Lan and I have just returned from an exciting trip to the Faroe Islands, a part of the world that is difficult to reach but fascinatingly off the beaten path for travelling! Tourism to this part of the world is increasing, as are ways to reach the islands. This could be a future ITMB map! We also gathered useful information on Iceland, Reykjavik, and southern Scotland to help future editions of those titles. Add that to the data we gathered while in Japan and South Korea during July and the future looks pretty bright. Now, we will be spending the next three months updating an increasing number of map titles that are close to depletion and sending them off to the printer. We have 15 titles at press at the moment and are preparing to send the next five during September.

### **NEW TITLES**

ITMB maps are selling faster than we can produce updated new editions. Sorry, but the list of 'work in progress' is longer this month than usual, despite the fact that we are releasing eight new maps this month. That is two per week, so we are trying! However, twelve more titles ran out of copies during our two-week time in Europe. This is regrettable, in that we do try and anticipate those titles running low on inventory, but we are experiencing unexpected surges of interest in some titles, and this means that we run out of inventory of certain titles faster than expected. The good news is that we are receiving fresh inventory on a regular basis, so most titles will be available again shortly. This month, we are releasing two brand new titles, England's East Coast from Dover to Lincoln at an improved scale, and of the Pacific Coast Trail in the USA. We are also releasing a sort-of new title of Luzon Island combined with an updated map of Manila. As far as I know, this is the first time Luzon has had its own map. We are also pleased to present updated versions of Alberta, Cameroun (now spelled with a U), Gabon, Kilimanjaro, Melbourne (with a new map of Victoria State added), and Scotland (one of our most popular titles). We are expecting half a dozen more to arrive within the next month. Descriptions can be found under **NEW RELEASES**.

### **LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES**

Most countries have direct access to oceans or seas. There are probably more that don't have seaports than most people realize. This came up in a trivia question on board the ship we were recently on as passengers. Europe has 14, Africa 15, the Middle East/Caucasus three, South America 2, and Asia has 10, for a total of 44. It could be argued that Turkmenistan should be included, as it only fronts on to the Caspian Sea, which has no outlet, but the Caspian does give both Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan access to a significant water route to move goods and people. One could spend an interesting lifetime just visiting all these countries! Can you name them?

### **SUMMER RESEARCH**

Although Lan is swamped with too many updating projects, we have to travel occasionally to gather information for future maps. This past summer, we undertook two major trips – one to Japan and South Korea, and the other to Scotland/England, Iceland, and the Faroe Islands. Without boring you with details, we updated our information for half a dozen different maps and decided to develop new maps of Busan, Hiroshima, Glasgow, Manchester, and the Faroe Islands, as time permits. We are often asked why we continue to seek out future mapping projects. We believe that the world is not as well mapped for travel as most people believe and that paper maps are a valued resource for most travelers. Amazingly, we continuously find fellow travelers stumbling around major cities, lost and asking directions. Even grandson Johnny (age 14) helped some tourists find their way around Osaka, Japan. Amusingly, they complimented him on his grasp of English, which is when he realized that they had assumed him to be a local Japanese boy and not a fellow tourist on his first solo trip in Osaka, having arrived just four hours earlier! Now we are back in harness and dealing with numerous updating projects for the rest of the year, so any new mapping areas will have to wait in line. Hopefully, 2025 will see sufficient time to complete a few brand new titles.

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### TRIVIA

Quiz contests are very popular on cruise ships and attracted large crowds of passengers on our Fred Olsen ship to Iceland. There were 998 Brits (almost all of whom were from Yorkshire, speaking a version of the King's English that taxed our ability to understand) and two Canadians on board, so I had to hold up national pride by participating. Here are a few examples:

1. Which country is the next most-populated after China? Ans. The USA (China is now the second most-populous country in the world, after India).
2. How many sides does a crystal of snow have? Ans. 6
3. Who first said "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn." Ans. Clark Gable in *Gone With the Wind*.
4. When did boxing first become an Olympic sport? Ans. 1904
5. Which country has the most lakes? Ans. Canada, with 12 million.

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

ITMB, as of early September, 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. It has been replaced by **Africa East Coast and Africa Central & South** which are available.

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

**Andorra/Pyrenees** is now out of print. An updated edition is at press, no ETA.

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

**Chicago** has suddenly run out of copies due to a surge in demand. An updated edition is being prepared.

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

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

**London/SE England** is now out of print. A fresh edition at an improved scale has been printed. No ETA. Continue to order using the existing ISBN for now.

**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.

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

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

**Norway** is almost out of print. A fresh edition has been printed and should be available in early October.

**Nunavut** is now out of print and discontinued. It is now combined with **Northwest Territories** and is available.

**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.

**Saskatchewan** is out of print. It has been replaced by a new map, **Southern Saskatchewan & Manitoba** at a better scale and with more information.

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

**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 December.

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**Sumatra** is now out of print. A new edition has been sent to press and is expected in December.

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

**Tokyo** is now out of stock. A fresh edition has been sent to our printer; no ETA at the moment.

**Uganda** has run out of copies. A fresh edition has been printed and is expected shortly.

**Uruguay** is now out of stock. A fresh edition has been printed and should be available in late December.

**USA South Atlantic States** is out of print and discontinued.

**Wells Gray Provincial Park** is now out of stock. A fresh map is being prepared for release in 2025; no ETA.

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

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

**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 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** – The Canadian province of Alberta is a perennial favourite map title, and we are very pleased to see the updated 4<sup>th</sup> edition being released. Containing both Banff and Jasper national parks and the fabulous dinosaur museum as Drumheller, Alberta is a tourism magnet. Calgary is a major point of entry into Canada for those wishing to explore the Rocky Mountains, and camper rentals (with drop-offs in Vancouver) are very common. This double-sided map includes insets of Calgary, Edmonton (the provincial capital), Banff, Jasper (recently damaged by a wildfire), and Lake Louise. **AVAILABLE**

**Cameroun & Gabon Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2025 1:980,000/1:1.300,000 ISBN 9781771291880 UPC 817712918802 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – Africa is blessed with many diverse countries. Cameroun and Gabon are two of the stable, tourist-friendly countries, with easy access from Europe by air. This map has two covers, so can be displayed cover-outwards to focus on each country. Cameroun emerged out of the German colony of Kameroun after WW1 and was jointly administered by Britain and France until the 1960s. An inset of Yaoundé, the capital, is included, as is an inset of Douala, the country's major port city. The second side concentrates on Gabon, a former French colony that shares a border with Cameroun. This side includes two inset maps – one of Libreville, the country's capital, with the other detailing Bioko Island in Equatorial Guinea. Mainland Equatorial Guinea is also included on this side of the map, at the same scale as Gabon. Thus, one gets three countries for the price of one! This is the only map of Equatorial Guinea that I am aware of being in print. **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** – The United Kingdom may be geographically small, but it is so packed with touristic sites that it needs to be broken down into logical units to be manageable. This is the first of several maps we will be publishing of England at 1:250,000 scale, and covers Southeast England from Dover to Southampton north to Luton on Side 1 and from Colchester to Coventry north to Sheffield and Boston on side 2; essentially all of SE England from the Channel north to Derbyshire and west as far as the Isle of Wight. Even at this scale, there is only room to show major attractions without creating clutter. Both road and rail routes are clearly shown, with rapid-rail routes shown in red. This latter feature is not included on most other maps, and one notes with a bit of surprise that this part of England has more such rapid routes than is generally believed to exist. We travelled on one of these trains during our recent visit to the UK (albeit from Newcastle to Edinburgh) and they are quite an improvement! Whether by train or by road, all options are shown. Whether one wishes to visit Hever Castle in Kent or Winchester cathedral, or the university cities of Cambridge or Oxford, this is an ideal map for exploring one of the most touristic corners of Europe. **AVAILABLE**

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

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**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** – Tanzania is blessed by having Africa's tallest mountain. This is a very popular travel destination, being updated for the 7<sup>th</sup> time. Side 1 concentrates on Kilimanjaro itself as a mountain, showing the climbing routes to Uhuru Peak and Mawenzi Peak. A Top Attractions list is also included. The second side covers all of northern Tanzania and a fair portion of Kenya, showing game parks such as Serengeti and Ngorongoro, and the southern half of Lake Victoria. Inset maps of Arusha, the main jumping-off point for climbing Kilimanjaro, and Stone City, in Zanzibar, a UNESCO World Heritage site, are included. This map covers one of the most touristic areas of Africa. **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** – The Philippines has bounced back from the Covid era remarkably quickly. Manila, the capital, has always been under-rated as a touristic destination, but it is the principal access point to the country and has a lot to offer visitors. It is, of course, a huge city, with hotels concentrated south of the Pasig River, adjacent to the historic Intramuros, a former fortress. The new part of this map is the first-ever travel map of Luzon Island, the principal island of this country of islands., combined with surrounding islands. Americans are particularly drawn to the Bataan Peninsula and the small island of Corregidor as a result of WW2. Tourists are drawn to the beautiful beaches of Palawan and Boracay or to Mayon Volcano, or the rice terraces on Banaue. This is a far more detailed map, due to its scale, than one covering the entire island nation. **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** – Australia has been slow to remove entry requirements for visitors and this has reduced tourism. However, maps continue to sell, and visitors pay fees to gain entry. Melbourne is the country's second largest city and its surrounding State of Victoria is very scenic. The city occupies Side 1 and covers the urban area from St. Kilda to Parkville, in the north. The main tourist attractions are in the city centre, surrounding the Flinders Street Railway Station, located on the Yarra River. A list of Top Attractions and a regional rail map are included as insets. All the tram lines are shown. The other side is new. Melbourne is located in the State of Victoria, so we have added a detailed map of the state and extended the coverage to include Sydney, Canberra, and Adelaide. Rail lines are shown, although most people travel by car. There is a motorway to Sydney, but almost all others are two-lane tarred. The coastal highway going west is particularly scenic. Australia's highest mountain is also on this map. **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** – The USA has several long-distance hiking trails, of which the Pacific Crest Trail is probably the longest. Stretching from just east of San Diego northward through California, Oregon, and Washington states to the Canadian border, this hiking trail is not for the faint of heart! It follows the crest, or high portion of various mountain chains, passes through several national parks, and ends up in Canada's Manning Provincial Park. This is an over-view map, not a practical day-to-day usable map, but is the only map to show the entire trail. There is a proviso. For security reasons, the trail portion between Canada and the USA has been blocked. This is a shame, because one of the most interesting segments is the portion of the trail just south of the Canadian border, with elevations exceeding 6,000 feet. This means that anyone hiking this portion of trail can start at Hwy 20 in Washington State, but must return to their starting point. Similarly, those starting at Manning Park Lodge can head south to the border area, but must return to their starting point. Furthermore, there is no convenient legal crossing point; the closest being the Sumas crossing to the west. Regardless, this 1,600 mile/2,000km long trail is an unparalleled adventure in outdoors experience. **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** - What can anyone say about Scotland that hasn't been said many times before? This is one of ITMB's most popular travel maps, now into its 5<sup>th</sup> edition. It covers the country from Carlisle north to John O'Groats, with inset maps for the Orkney and Shetland Islands. The Western islands, known as the Hebrides, are included. There are a few motorways in the Glasgow region, and one heading south to Manchester, but there are several twinned roadways as far north as Aberdeen. We visited Braemar and Glamis Castle on our recent visit. It is easy to see why Scotland is so attractive to tourists, so we are pleased that this edition follows closely on its predecessor. **AVAILABLE**

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### NEW RELEASES DURING JULY, 2024

**Borneo & Kalimantan Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2024 1:100,000/1:1,400,000 ISBN 9781771291118 UPC817712911186 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – The island of Borneo is divided between Malaysia and Indonesia. Our map concentrates the northern portion of Sabah, Sarawak, and Brunei on Side 1, with detailed insets of Kuching, Kota Kinabalu, and Bandar with a portion of the Indonesian province of Kalimantan. This is a very unusual and interesting part of the world to visit, so we are pleased to be releasing an updated version showing road improvements. The second side is the rest of the island, called Kalimantan. It is much less developed, but has recently opened a motorway between Samarinda and Balikpapan. A good road exists along the eastern and southern coastal area to Pontianak, but tourism is at an early stage in Kalimantan, so this is very much a travel adventure zone! **AVAILABLE**

**Cuzco & Peru South Travel Reference Map 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2024 1:90,000/1:1,400,000 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771291866 UPC 817712918666 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95** – The Cuzco/Inca Trail/Manchu Picchu region of Peru is extremely popular. Our map shows the City of Cuzco, the Inca Trail (on a series of sectional map insets), an inset of the interesting town of Aguas Calientes (which is the jumping off place for all visits to Manchu Picchu), and a separate inset map of the fabulously interesting Incan city in the middle of nowhere. This is yet another of those 'must see before you die' places. We went by train from Cuzco to Aguas, which was an adventure in itself, sat in the back of a lorry for the climb up to Manchu, and spent a wonderful day exploring the World Heritage site. One can do the trek along the Inca Trail as well, but that's the only alternative. No road or airport. Side 2 covers the southern half of Peru, essentially from Lima to the Chilean border and inland as far as Lake Titicaca (another wonderful place to see). Peru existed long before the Spanish arrived, and the country is filled with amazing places to see – Arequipa is full of colonial architecture. Ticlio Station, near Morococha is the most elevated railway station in the world (4,758 meters above sea level). This is a map for explorers! **AVAILABLE**

**Japan North & Hokkaido Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2024 1:700,000 ISBN 9781771293914 UPC 817712939142 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – Japan is a very interesting country to visit. It divides naturally into northern, central, and western regions. This map concentrates on the far north island of Hokkaido, which is very different than the rest of Japan, and includes a detailed inset map of central Sapporo, its main city. The best way to tour the island is by train, and Hokkaido is now joined to the main island of Honshu by a very long undersea rail tunnel. The second side of the map is equally important, covering the main island of Honshu from Tokyo north to its northern tip and the northern coast from Toyama to Aomori. The best way to travel around Japan is by using a rail pass. Shinkansen trains are high-speed and great for travelling distances, but local trains are more fun and get you to destinations not covered by the faster trains, such as the north coast. This map also includes a fair-sized inset of the Tokyo region from Narita to Yokohama and a very detailed map of central Tokyo. This is a really useful map for anyone visiting Japan to have! **AVAILABLE**

**Munich & Southern Bavaria Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2025 1:10,000/1:350,000 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771294904 UPC 817712949042 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95** – This is a brand new map for ITMB, but it isn't. The former edition was named Bavaria, which as a province of Germany is less well-travelled than we expected, so we have reversed gears and placed Munich front and centre, with a more detailed map of the southern portion of Bavaria on the reverse side. Munich, or München in German, is a very old city and the second largest international airport from America in Germany (after Frankfurt). Much of the Altstadt (old town), based on the former Roman city, is now pedestrianized and is a great place to walk. The cathedral, of course, is wonderful to see. The U-Bahn suburban trains and S-trains make getting around the city easy, but I prefer the trams. The Hauptbahnhof (main railway station) is on the western edge of the city centre and is huge! The map covers from the Olympic Park in the north to the ring road in the south and has both a regional inset map of the hinterland of Munich and a map of the tram lines. The back cover has a very convenient schematic map of the U and S train lines. The other side of the sheet is a very detailed map of southern Bavaria., from the Bodensee at Linden to Passau and as far north as Regensburg. Stuttgart is just off the map. This is our favourite part of Germany and we have explored it many times. Of particular interest are the ancient market town of Biebrach, the old Roman encampment that is now Augsburg, and the cathedral city of Ulm, but the region is so full of exciting places to visit that there isn't enough space to name them all. Just as a hint, the place where Sherlock Holmes allegedly fell to his death, taking the arch-fiend with him, is on this map! **AVAILABLE**

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**Orlando & Southern Florida Travel Reference Map 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2024 1:10,000/1: 600,000 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771295963 UPC 817712959638 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95** – Florida is one of the most travelled-to parts of the world, and with Orlando in its centre, a map is necessary as well as inevitable. The big attraction, of course, is the Walt Disney World resort area, which is yet another must-see destination. The resort is so large that it requires its own inset map and has eighteen hotels at last count, its own monorail, and too many attractions to note here. Disneyland is for everyone young and old, so enjoy it. Naturally, Orlando has attracted an enormous number of other theme parks like Sealand, Gatorland, Museum of Illusions, a Titanic exhibition, and an amusement park called Fun Place, so the whole city is one big entertainment centre, like Las Vegas, but without the gambling. I mean, this is America at its most outlandish, so accept it or don't go! The other side of the sheet is a very detailed map of the southern half of the State of Florida, from Daytona Beach to the Keys and every segment of the state has its own attractions, which are all noted in text blocks on our map. Whether you want to see Cape Canaveral, or enjoy a beach, or see an alligator, Florida is the place to be! Southern Florida is also home to some of the most important cruise ship terminals in the USA, with extensive sailings to the Bahamas and the Caribbean.  
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**Ukraine Travel Reference Map 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2024 1:1,000,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771298568 UPC 817712985682 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90** – Ukraine is the largest country in Europe. Russia doesn't count because it is mostly in Asia and is generally disliked by everyone. At the moment, Ukraine is holding its own against a concerted attack by Russia to decimate it and make it part of Putin's Russia. Under normal circumstances, no one should be publishing a map of Ukraine in the middle of a devastating war, but surprisingly, it is one of our best-selling maps for Europe and has gone through three editions over the last three years. The reason is not tourism per se, but information, which is needed by policy makers, aid groups, and armchair followers of developing events. It is also interesting to see an evolving pattern of place name changes as Ukraine gets rid of Russian-imposed names. Bakhmut, location of a famous battle a year ago, is a case in point. All maps, until now, show the old Russian name; only ITMB's map shows the new Ukrainian name. With each new edition, we find more names that have changed. So, this map is not important for showing road conditions or power lines because such matters are in the hands of the gods of war. This map is essential for everyone because we are all affected by what happens in Ukraine. ITMB is fortunate in having a cartographer whose passion is Ukraine and is always coming up with yet another place that has changed its name, but nobody noticed. We show the country as it should be, with eastern regions and Crimea being a legitimate part of the country. Maps have to show legitimacy as well as accuracy and this is a country map, not a war map. One day, Ukraine will be free, be a member of NATO, and hopefully a member state of the EU. Its future is being forged by fire, but that only makes it battle-hardened. This is one of the most important maps that ITMB publishes. **AVAILABLE**

### **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 – AVAILABLE**

**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 – 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 – 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 – AVAILABLE**

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