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AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #6 OF 2020 – April to June–(released mid-July). For all New Titles: please see below for details.

INTRODUCTION

ITMB is open for business. Through all these days of lockdowns, shutdowns, shuttering, and phased openings, we're all learning a new vocabulary. Covid-19 is certainly changing our world, and not for the better. Still, despite the negative effects, life carries on, so if life throws you a pile of lemons, make lemonade! We all bemoan the loss of revenue over the past four months, but it's past history, and we're all in the same boat, so why grouse? In this newsletter, I'd like to explore positive ways we can still sell maps and make money.

IS THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY DEAD?

To listen to news broadcasts which, face it, tend to be fairly negative at the best of times (good news doesn't sell, but bad news certainly does!), the corona virus is decimating society at a great rate. No it isn't. Yes, the virus is the greatest health crisis the world has experienced in a century, and yes, it is extremely troubling, but by following basic hygiene and social distancing measures, the risk of becoming infected is greatly reduced. In the worst-infected nation on earth – the USA – somewhat more than 3,000,000 people are known to have been infected out of a population of 330,000,000 (CDC estimates 20,000,000 people infected). This is very serious, but look at the percentages; they are still relatively low, though far higher than they should be.

First, where are the most likely places one can become infected, apart from attending a Trump rally? Current thinking is indoors activities where a large number of other people are present is Numero Uno – work places, concerts, sporting venues, conventions, churches, and restaurants. What are the least likely indoor venues to pass on the virus? Map stores! I have never met anyone who has complained about an over-crowded maps store, have you?

Second, within the travel industry, which aspects are most severely affected? Airlines have suffered grievous losses, but by the nature of the beast, are so vital to our overall economy that governments around the world are supporting them by handouts, loans, and opportunities to raise capital. Some may fail eventually, but travel by air will rebound. The hotel industry has also suffered badly, but in most countries, sufficient assistance has been provided to laid-off workers and to the industry itself to ward off the worst of the catastrophe. As far as I know, no hotel chain has declared bankruptcy, although some smaller independent motels may have shuttered forever. People are still travelling by road and will continue to patronize sleeping accommodations. The cruise ship industry has continued operating throughout the virus crisis, albeit at a reduced capacity, but is suffering a severe loss of reputation. Restrictions by governments on allowing ships to dock will continue into the spring of 2021 (for example, in Canada), but the cruise companies are already huge conglomerates, so will likely survive.

Let's be blunt. We're all in the business of making maps, distributing maps, or retailing maps. If it isn't safe to travel, or if the perception exists that it isn't safe, people won't travel. It's all a matter of how much risk one is prepared to endure. People are still travelling, or buying maps in preparation for a future trip, so the industry is still viable. Resorts and cruise ships are busily booking reservations, airlines are adding flights and destinations. Travel as an activity is still very much growing in demand.

The most likely portion of the travel industry to re-open successfully will be local recreational activity, starting with outdoor parks and playgrounds and probably wilderness park-like environments (in America) or hiking trails in Europe. This encourages travel by motorhome or a vehicle suitable for camping. I hasten to add the word 'responsible' recreational activity in parts of the world having a low level of infection and by following social distancing. Do not, please, travel to a highly contagious part of the USA, like Alabama, Florida, Texas, California, or Arizona. This virus is insidious, so travelling in some sort of recreational vehicle will not protect you from becoming potentially infected, but as a generality, recreational travel in some form of campervan is likely to be popular this summer.

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That means that there will be a demand for hiking maps, trail maps, marine charts, topographic maps, hiking guides, and Backroads map books. For those areas having cycling routes, maps will be an essential ingredient enabling travel in a local area. Fishing, and diving maps are going to be popular. Within Europe, as borders re-open, there should be a resurgence of medium distance travel, particularly to destinations reachable by land. I have no particular knowledge of resort vacation travel within Europe, but I believe that it is normally very popular. There are, for example, popular travel beach destinations in Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, and Albania that might prove irresistible to travellers; Greek islands, or coastal areas of Spain are options. However, budget travel by air to destinations normally served by such lines as Condor, Easy Jet, or Ryanair might take longer to recover.

The USA will, for most non-Americans, remain a closed travel destination for the rest of 2020. Americans themselves, as we know from news broadcasts, seem peculiarly ambivalent about the virus. A large portion of the population still appears to be convinced that the epidemic is a gigantic lie perpetrated by whichever group one chooses to support as a conspiracy. Fortunately, a majority of Americans accepts that a terrible infectious disease is working its way through much of the country and although many states are doing nothing to deal with the growing crisis, others are, leading to massive confusion and lack of a cohesive national response. Americans are going to find themselves unwelcome in many other countries, notably Canada, Mexico, China, and Europe. This is a reality that Americans are going to have to get used to, which will be difficult for many to understand, but it is a health reality that will limit international travel by Americans very dramatically for the rest of 2020.

I'M STARTING TO CLIMB THE WALL COVID SYNDROME

We're all getting a little stir crazy these days. Here are some ways noted to date:

1. There isn't any food anymore; just ingredients where you actually have to make things to eat yourself instead of sitting at a table and ordering it and someone cooks it, brings it to you and cleans up afterwards.
2. I just did a laundry full of pajamas so I have enough clean work clothes to last to month end.
3. Raise your hand if you've been drunk for all of Marprilayune and into July.
4. For the second wave of this quarantine, do we have to stay with the same family, or do we get relocated?
5. It takes a village to raise a child. It takes a distillery to homeschool one.
6. My grandkids are starting to understand why pets try to run out of the house every time the front door opens.
7. The arrival of the Amazon delivery man is the highlight of my day.
8. We are not yet frightened enough to eat tofu!
9. If you see Johnny and Kenzie in the front garden picking weeds and crying, keep on driving. They're just on a field trip.
10. Can we all agree that during the second wave barbers are an essential service?
11. How soon after waking up is it OK to take a nap?
12. Everything for 2020 has been cancelled. Can we just put up our Christmas tree now and call it a year?
13. So, in retrospect, in 2015, not a single person alive answered the question "Where do you expect to be in five years' time?" correctly. In fact, that applies to the same question being asked four years ago, three years ago, and even six months ago! No one in their wildest dreams imagined spending the bulk of 2020 at home, vegetating as the economy collapsed around us. Let's ask the same question now! Where do you expect to be in five years' time? Think about that! Things are so uncertain as a result of the virus, that it is hard to look one short month ahead, let alone five years!!!

PORTER HOUSE HOTEL

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Founded in 1855, Boston's Porter House Hotel is the USA's longest continuing-run hotel. It is now owned by Omni, and maintains a reputation for excellence. Boston cream pie was first made here a hundred and fifty years ago by combining pastry, cream, and chocolate into a delicious dessert that has become a mainstay of American life. Massachusetts even officially declared the dessert concoction to be the official dessert of the state. Why is a cake called a pie? In nineteenth century America, cake pans were not commonly available, but pie pans were, so initially, the Boston Cream Pies were baked in pie pans even though they are cakes; hence the name, which has remained long after the era of the dessert being made in a pie pan. As an aside, two famous revolutionaries worked in the kitchen of the Parker House Hotel. Ho Chi Minh was a pastry chef there in 1913, and Malcolm X (then Malcolm Little) was a bus boy there in the 1940s.

WHERE, IN REALITY, CAN ONE TRAVEL THESE DAYS?

The simple answer to the question posed above is "It depends upon your level of risk tolerance." Americans appear to have a tolerance for risk that makes residents of other countries quiver in fear. The virus is rampaging through much of the country, killing a thousand people a day, but many Americans seem to shrug off this reality and carry on as if nothing is happening. Thus, travel within the USA is gathering speed. It is not likely that many outsiders would want to risk visiting the most infectious country on earth, but hey, you only live once! ITMB has recently released an excellent map of Yosemite National Park, and new maps of New England, Oregon, and New York State. As for me, I'm staying just where I am, thank you very much!

In Canada, travel at the moment is concentrated on areas within a province's boundaries to a large extent. Atlantic Canada has opened within the region, but ban Americans and other Canadians. I have noticed a big increase in demand for recreational and topographical maps. The border to the USA remains closed, and for good reason, but the closure must be renewed monthly. There seems to be little desire on either side to re-open. A few Americans have been spotted in Banff, claiming to be Alaska residents on the way home, but with Arizona plates, this seems suspicious. Anyway, the news caused such an outcry that the Prime Minister had to intervene. A loophole exists for Canadians determined to visit the USA – some flights are still open, so one can fly in and rent a car. Anyone doing so would still have to quarantine for 14 days upon returning home. Even Trudeau wasn't prepared to do that in order to meet Trump in Washington, so the big meeting hoped for to introduce NAFTA fell flat.

Travel within Europe seems to be returning to normal, and Canadians and Montenegrins can now fly into EU countries. Russians, Brazilians, and Americans can't. Many touristic attractions in Europe appear to be opening. Travel to Europe is also a bit iffy. Not many airlines are still flying inter-continently, and most home countries have imposed quarantine requirements on returning passengers, such as Canada. I heard that Hong Kong airport was re-opening, but that was before the Chinese Communists imposed dictatorial security restrictions on the territory and the Americans reacted by threatening to discontinue HK's special status. Hundreds are now being arrested under draconian security legislation. Beijing is now shut down once again after a serious outbreak, so travel to China is still risky. Vietnam has experienced very few Covid cases, but if one is in the country when a suspected outbreak occurs, be warned that very strict government regulations apply to everyone, including visitors.

As advice to distributors and retailers, our best-selling titles throughout the virus shutdown have been for Iceland, Scotland's Far North, and Spitsbergen (or Svalbard). Surprisingly, demand for Russia has been fairly strong. Demand for maps of Africa, Latin America, and India has been weak. South Pacific islands seem to be selling well, but not Caribbean island nations.

DMA MAPPING

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One almost has to be my age to remember DMA (Defense Mapping Agency) maps. At the end of WW2, travel exploded. Thousands of aircraft were decommissioned (especially DC-3s) and converted to civilian use. All of a sudden, air travel became affordable. An immediate problem arose that hadn't applied to any extent before or even during the war – how to avoid planes crashing into each other while in the air! During the war, only military aircraft, generally speaking, were flying to any extent, and common sense had created a basic “highways in the sky” to ensure that planes flying east flew at different elevations from those flying west. Remember, radar was only discovered partway through the war, and radio was in its infancy. Computers didn't exist.

I picture in my mind some bright spark sitting in a council meeting of the new United Nations musing aloud about the need to map the world in detail to extend coverage of the “air highways” concept to cover the entire world, something that had never been thought of before. Everyone could agree that it was a good idea, but who had the huge number of planes such a mapping project would require, the trained pilots and aircrew, the money to afford such a massive undertaking, and the logistical ability to organize and complete something completely revolutionary? Not surprisingly, all eyes turned to the American representative, who promptly said “Why are all you guys looking at me?” Of course, in 1946, only the USA had the ability to carry out such a gargantuan project.

The UN divided the project into three parts: the Russians and their Communist allies would create maps covering the entire world at 1:2500,000 scale; Lan worked on some of these maps while employed by the Vietnamese Mapping Office in Hanoi. The Americans were assigned the more difficult job of creating consistent mapping for the entire world at 1:1,000,000 and 1:500,000 scales, assisted by those allies with logistical ability to map certain parts of the world (the Canadians, for Canada; the Aussies for Australia and the South Pacific, and the Brits for most of Western Europe. Naturally, the Russians objected to having American planes flying over their territory taking pictures, but were eventually brought on-line. The point is that vast areas of land had NEVER been mapped at that time. Think of Africa, China, all of Latin America, the vast expanses of ocean, the Arctic and Antarctic. It was the most massive mapping task ever undertaken in world history and was entrusted to DMA to coordinate.

Not surprisingly, some parts of the world tended to be mapped in greater detail and with greater speed than other areas, but eventually the entire world was flown over by planes with cameras, and countless cartographers like Lan and Kevin Healey hunched over light tables for years to create what became the bibles of pilots all over the world – TPCs (Tactical Pilotage Charts) at 1:500,000 scale, ONCs (Operational Navigation Charts) at 1:1,000,000 and JPCs at 1:2,000,000. The Russian maps were closely guarded by the Soviet Union and were never widely used for air traffic control. Please keep in mind that, prior to the mid-1990s, computer-created mapping did not exist. Every pilot in the world used TPCs and ONCs to figure out how to get to wherever the plane was supposed to go.

When I opened ITMB as a retail store in 1980, DMA maps were a popular sell. As practical electronic navigation developed in the 1990s, demand reduced, and by the mid-2000s demand evaporated to next to nothing. Planes now had computers, but pilots were still required to carry charts just in case of a computer failure. We take computers for granted today, and their reliability has improved to the point of making paper aeronautical maps almost obsolete. During this Covid shutdown, I have been going through ITMB's massive inventory and have discarded thousands of DMA maps made in the 1980s that would be perfectly good for those wanting ground coverage, but useless for modern-day pilots. I'm saddened to see so many excellent cartographic creations dumped in recycling bins, but we haven't sold a single copy for years, so why keep them? I can't bear to discard everything, so am keeping one copy of each of hundreds of such charts just in case.

This first generational attempt to map the world in detail took a generation to complete and large portions were never covered adequately due to cloud cover. The second gen happened in 2002; another story!

ITMB MAPS THAT SEEM TO BE SELLING THESE DAYS

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Virus shutdowns are gradually lifting, but it is too soon for much confidence that people will start travelling any time soon. Road traffic within Europe, at least inside of the EU, is picking up, but thus far, little demand for maps of Europe has evidenced itself within North America. The American market will be highly focused on maps of the USA for the foreseeable future, due to travel restrictions, but demand for international titles is growing as people plan trips for next year. The Canadian market seems heavily focused on topographic and recreational maps, although now that some international flights are possible, maps of continental Europe might become demand items! Frankly, I do not have enough data to be able to predict international country/city map demand yet, so for this newsletter, I wish to focus on titles appealing to Americans, specifically, ITMB maps of the USA, its states and cities, and major recreation areas.

ITMB has a surprisingly large range of American travel maps. We have been adding titles on a regular basis since the mid-1990s, and now have most states and major cities covered. Apart from an excellent country map of the USA itself, we publish a regional series of maps covering eastern, central, and western continental USA in better detail. ITMB publishes detailed state maps of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New England, New Mexico, New York State, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington State, and Wyoming, as well as sectional maps of the Great Lakes Region, the Mid-Atlantic States and the Deep South states. ITMB also has recreational maps of Honolulu/Oahu, Big Island, the Pacific Coast, the Great Northwest, the Florida Keys, and detailed maps of the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Park. We also have city maps of Boston, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Miami, NYC's Manhattan, Orlando, Portland, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, DC. We can also supply city and state maps published by Benchmark, GMJ, and Rand McNally. Finally, we have four thematic publications: Alaska's Inside Passageway, the Alaska Highways atlas, the Route 66 atlas, and the USA Rail Map for the Western USA, showing all the Amtrak lines.

You can order these titles by phone or email or go to our web site www.itmb.com for information.

WORK IN PROGRESS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

N.B Please note: during the course of the corona virus epidemic, ITMB is not sending any mapping artwork to press, as we have ample inventory of just about everything. We are open and accepting orders by phone or email, and are able to ship via post, Fedex, DHL, or UPS.

Sri Lanka is almost out of copies. A new edition has been completed and will be sent to press once the current edition is sold out completely.

Surinam is out of stock. A fresh edition is planned for 2021.

Lan and her staff are developing several new ITMB maps, as the virus has resulted in very little updating being required for 2020. I mean, face it, how many new airports or motorways have opened during the virus shutdowns anywhere in the world? However, how we react to the virus and its effects will largely shape the future of travel, so we are using this time period to consolidate updating (mostly done), prepare artwork for a fast turnaround at press (pretty much in place), and investing in brand new artwork for parts of the world we haven't covered yet. Most of these new titles won't come out until 2021, and I don't want to upset Lan by revealing which titles are under development, but we feel that exciting times are ahead of us. Preparing the artwork for a map takes months of effort and thousands of dollars in investment capital. As often is the case, when one has the time, one often does not have the money, and when one is super busy, one usually lacks the time to concentrate on new projects. New maps of US destinations, Europe, Japan, and Cruising are underway. So what did you think we were going to do – lie down and cry?!?

NEW RELEASES JUNE/JULY, 2020

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Barbados & St. Lucia Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2020 1:38,000/1:45,000 ISBN 9781771290937 UPC 817712909374 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – Barbados and St. Lucia are adjacent Caribbean islands and are touristically important in their own rights, but are also frequently visited on the same cruise trip by a variety of cruise ship lines. Saint Lucia fills side 1 as one opens the map, with a comprehensive inset map of Castries, the capital. The interior of the mountainous island is mostly a rain forest and is largely inaccessible. The island has two airports and one cruise ship dock (at Castries) that provides access to inter-island ferries from St. Vincent, Barbados, Martinique, Dominica, and Guadeloupe, so the island is readily accessible internationally. Clusters of resorts abound at Marigot, Rodney Bay, Soufriere, and Vieux Port. A good highway links the far north to the far south. The other side of the sheet covers Barbados in fantastic detail, with an excellent inset map of Bridgetown, the capital. The island's airport is east of the capital, and the focus for resorts is at St. Lawrence Gap, on the south coast, with another along the west coast, at Hometown. This island is more gently rolling countryside, with several scenic routes through and around the island. We have also included a Ten Top Attractions, including Sunbury Plantation (1660), St. Nicolas Abbey (1658), and Gun Hill Signal Station (1818). Both islands are loaded with history, attractions, and wonderful weather. **AVAILABLE**

TURKMENISTAN (and AFGHANISTAN) TRAVEL REFERENCE MAP 4TH Ed. 2020 1:350,000/1:650,000 ISBN 9781771297998 UPC 817712979988 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – The world is changing as a result of a global pandemic, and ITMB has to change with it. We wish to keep all of our artwork available, but at a time of greatly reduced travel, we have been forced to combine two different countries that share a common border in order to justify printing either one. The two countries, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan, do share a common heritage, but a very different history. Fiercely independent Afghanistan has been the bane of those wishing to dominate it for centuries. The British finally blockaded themselves in Peshawar and left the Afghans pretty much to do whatever they wanted, as long as they stayed away from the then-British Indian sub-continent. The Russians invaded next and became immersed in a non-winnable war that almost destroyed the USSR. The Canadians tried next, in the peace-keeping effort so commonly associated with past efforts, and quickly became bogged down and devastated as a fighting force. The Americans came next, and are still trying to disengage after many years of futility. Thus, Afghanistan, lovely though it is as a country, is a failed state and unattractive to tourism. ITMB Publishes a separate map of the country, and a map of Kabul. The reason for this map is that it is our first ever map of just Turkmenistan, a former part of the USSR that broke away in the collapse of the Russian empire in 1990. The country has, however, not emerged from the Soviet way of thinking, and is authoritarian in its attitude. It is, fortunately, open to travel, and is slowly improving its facilities, so is to be encouraged. The map includes a very good inset map of Ashgabat, the capital. The country stretches from the Caspian Sea to the Uzbek border and from Russia south to Iran and Afghanistan. We have also added eight Top Attractions, ranging from the World Heritage site of Konye to the ancient ruins of Nisa. We previously published this titles as part of a regional map of the 'Stans', but growing demand has justified its own map. We have also published a separate map of Uzbekistan and a separate three-country map of the other three countries, all of which are showing strong signs of touristic development. Turkmenistan is a country emerging as a future travel Mecca. **AVAILABLE**

ISSUED IN MAY/JUNE, BUT REPEATED FOR THOSE SHOPS JUST RE-OPENING

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Egypt & Cairo Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2020 1:1,000,000/1:12,500 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771292658 UPC817712926586 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – Following the so-called Arab spring of a few years ago, northern Africa experienced much turbulence. Egypt experienced the overthrow of the government, the installation of a radical religious-oriented replacement, and the overthrow of that government and the installation of military governance. Tourism plummeted. Most map publishers discontinued their maps of the country. Five years later, Egypt has stabilized and tourism is growing. We feel that the time is right to re-introduce our ITMB map of Egypt. This version focuses on the portions of the country that have been re-opened for tourism, which means from the Mediterranean coastline south to the Aswan Dam. The portion further south remains closed for the moment, as is the border crossing with Sudan. We have also been forced to leave off the Great Sand Sea and the Western Desert portions for the same reason of unrest, as the border areas with Libya remain very unstable. However, we have provided a large inset map of all of Egypt, covering everything, in an area of desert. We have also added a listing of Egypt's Top Attractions, which wasn't hard to prepare, as Egypt is loaded with 5,000 years of temples, pyramids, and tombs. The other side of the sheet is a detailed map of Cairo, with an inset of the Giza Pyramid complex just to the west of Cairo, and another inset of the Cairo region showing all the known tombs west of the Nile River south to Helwan. The back cover is a schematic map of the rapid transit system of Cairo. There is a third inset, showing Alexandria and other associated urban areas along the coast. The map is printed on stone paper, which is waterproof, durable, and long-lasting. It is also biodegradable. **AVAILABLE**

Italy South and Central Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2020 1:600,000 ISBN 9781771293686 UPC 817712936868 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – Earlier this year, ITMB released its original-artwork map of Italy. We had previously issued a map of Italy North at this same scale to provide more detail than is possible on a country map. This map continues the process of showing Italy to advantage. Side one covers from Umbria Province north of Rome to below Naples and east to the Adriatic between Ancona and Brindisi. An inset map of Sardinia is also included. The second side covers the 'toe' of Italy, the island of Sicily, and several small islands in the Mediterranean. Italy is densely populated and has a complicated road/rail system. This map expands the southern half of the country into a comprehensive whole, showing motorways in blue, main roads in green, and connecting roads in red. Important touristic sites are noted, as well as parks, museums, beaches, World Heritage sites, castles, and major churches. Italy is rich in history and marvelous attractions and is the type of country where one wanders, rather than travels, in exploration. ITMB also publishes a more detailed map of Sicily as a separate title, and hopes to publish one of Sardinia later this year. We also publish an excellent city map of Rome. Earlier in 2020, we spent a week in the Naples/Pompei/Amalfi area. There was so much to see that we never got south of Potenza. **AVAILABLE**

NEW ITMB TITLE!

Scotland Far North & Islands Railway & Road Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2020 1:300,000 ISBN 9781771297233 UPC 817712972330 \$13.95 E9.50 8.95GBP - Great Britain, by its shape, is difficult to map. The population is dense, the road network intense, and the coastline convoluted. Scotland needs more than one map to show its treasures in sufficient detail. ITMB previously issued Scotland Central and South, and now extends its coverage at 1:300,000 to the sparsely-populated highlands and the isolated Western, Orkney, and Shetland island archipelagos. This double-sided map covers the area from Loch Lochy south of Invergarry to John O'Groats in the north, and from the Western islands of Uist and Lewis to the Moray Firth and Craigellachie in the east. The second side has to duplicate part of the first side in order to extend the artwork further eastward to include Aberdeen and northward to include the wonderful island chains known collectively as the Shetlands and Orkneys. This map instills a sense of history, of adventure, and of being 'off the beaten path'. It is the Islands and Highlands part of Scotland where Gaelic is still commonly spoken and castles abound, where one can lose oneself traversing single-lane roads across barren moors, or enjoy fishing villages such as Ullapool, or re-visit momentous events in history at Culloden. This is the heart of Scotland. **AVAILABLE**

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South Australia & Northern Territory Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2020 1:1,900,000 ISBN 9781771290272 UPC 817712902726 \$13.95 E9.50 8.95GBP – Australia was one of the first countries ITMB published, back in the 1980s, albeit a licensed version. Our own original artwork was completed in the mid-1990s, but until recently, we have not focused on sectional maps of the country based on individual states. In 2019, we published Brisbane and Queensland, and Sydney and New South Wales. Now, we are issuing the ‘middle’ states of South Australia and Northern Territory to provide better coverage of these important parts of Australia at a better scale than a country map could provide. South Australia can be thought of as having two parts; the fertile farming economy surrounding Adelaide in the south and the much more arid northern portion. The road network in the south tends to be well developed, with paved roads going more or less east-west to NSW and WA. Northerly roads tend to be gravel or dirt, such as the Birdville Track, and the north-westerly roads tend to pass through land ceded to aboriginals and require permits. Northern Territory occupies the second side. It is state-like, if not legally a state, and occupies a huge area. The north-south highway from Darwin through Alice Springs to SA is the main transportation route of the territory, with one highway going to NSW and a partly-paved one to QLD. There are no inset maps on this map, but ITMB can supply maps of Adelaide and Darwin by other publishers. **AVAILABLE**

NEW ITMB TITLE

Western Australia Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2020 1:1,900,000 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771290166 UPC 817712901668 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – The State of Western Australia occupies the western third of the continental country of Australia. The main city is Perth, in the southwest portion, and this is the part of the State with the best land and the most people. Much of the interior is arid desert-like grassland with shallow lakes that often dry out. The road network in the south is generally paved highways and secondary roads, with one road and one rail line heading east to SZ and the rest of the country. Roads in the north tend to be dirt, with the exception of the highway going towards Darwin in NT. There are no roads through the Great Sandy Desert, but the Canning Stock Route crosses the eastern fringe, going north-south. One needs an expensive permit to drive this hazardous track. Most of the attractions of the State are to be found fairly close to the coastline. Most of the larger urban areas tend to have been named after British places, such as Albany, Exmouth, and Port Hedland, but many names have been adopted from aboriginal sources, such as Kalgoorlie. This is a state of vast distances and varied terrain. It is, however, the friendliest state and well worth spending more time in than most visitors designate. There are no inset maps on this double-sided sheet, in order to provide a good scale to expand information vital for travellers. ITMB can provide a separate map of Perth by another publisher. **AVAILABLE**

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Yellowstone National Park & Wyoming Travel Reference Map 1st Ed. 2020 on waterproof stone paper 1:60,000/1:900,000 ISBN 9781771299190 UPC 817712991904 \$13.95cdn/us E9.50 8.95GBP – The USA is a vast and wonderful land to explore. ITMB is steadily increasing our coverage of this important travel destination and this month concentrates on the State of Wyoming, with a detailed travel map on one side, including small portions of adjacent states of Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana, and Idaho. The state is lightly populated, with Cheyenne as its capital and main city. Interstates 80 and 90 both traverse the state, with Interstate 25 being the only north-south motorway. Yellowstone National Park occupies the northwest corner of the state and also occupies the second side of the sheet with an extremely detailed map. Yellowstone is the first area in the world to be proclaimed as a national protected area (Banff was second), and Yellowstone remains the paramount preserved wilderness environment in the world. There are several small urban areas within the park for accommodations and servicing, such as West Thumb, Canyon City, and Mammoth Hot Springs. The main attraction of the park are the geysers such as Old Faithful. All of these are enhanced by having detailed inset maps to assist visitors. The map also includes most of the adjacent Grand Teton National Park. This is one of those must-see-before-I-die places; truly wondrous! Printed on biodegradable waterproof stone paper for durability. **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES RELEASED DURING FEBRUARY to APRIL, 2020

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