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AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #2 OF 2026 – FEBRUARY

INTRODUCTION

2026 is starting off as a tumultuous year, with Trump claiming sovereignty over Venezuela and Greenland, which he keeps calling Iceland. Canada, rather concerned about such developments, is cozying up to Greenland, with a visit by our head of state (who is Mary Simon, not Mark Carney), and by a break-through visit by our political head of Parliament (who is Mark Carney, not Mary Simon) to China, which has resulted in a significant trade relaxation. It appears that Canadians, at least, will soon not need a visa to visit China for the first time in years. Truly a remarkable benefit for travel! More later. Lan was in Hanoi for much of January, updating our artwork.

NEW TITLES TO THE END OF JANUARY, 2026

ITMB is pleased to introduce some brand new titles to our product line this month, as well as some updated editions of popular titles. The newest edition of our **Canada** map begins a long list of new releases, followed by an updated version of **Canary Islands**. First among the new titles is **Faroe Islands**, a series of Danish islands as yet unnoticed by Donald Trump in the far north of the Atlantic. Lan and I visited the islands a year ago and were enticed into preparing a map simply because these remote islands accommodate about 20,000 tourists per year, but lack any sort of a map. So, here it is, and on waterproof paper, no less! The reverse side is an updated map of **Denmark** itself, as the normal way to reach these islands is from Denmark. **France**, an ever-popular travel destination, follows, then a surprisingly popular title, **Muscat and Oman**. Our second brand new map is of **Madeira**, a largish Portuguese island in the Atlantic, off the coast of Morocco. It is one of the most-visited islands in the world, so is extremely touristic. We note **Oslo & Bergen**, which was actually released months ago, but has never been noted. **Romania & Moldova**, an increasingly popular travel destination, is also now available as a new release. Finally, the third, newish, title is our new double-sided map of **Uzbekistan**, which was previously only available as part of our ITMB map of Kazakhstan/Uzbekistan. Tourism to this part of the world is exploding, so we decided to create two brand new maps. Kazakhstan came out a few months ago, and now Uzbekistan joins it.

MICHELIN MAPS IN NORTH AMERICA

ITMB has been the principal North American distributor of Michelin maps for many years. Recently, the firm that warehoused their product line in the USA shut down, as the owners wished to retire. This left Michelin in a difficult position, compounded by the extremely volatile American position regarding tariffs, which can be imposed or increased at a moment's notice, whether a tariff makes sense or not. Michelin had to decide on short notice whether to abandon marketing in North America completely or not. It decided to continue, at least for now, but in the short term, their most popular titles are unavailable. The situation should improve in the near future, as shipments arrive, but won't be back to normal until economic stability returns to the USA. As we all know, this is unlikely to happen as long as Trump is calling the shots. All we can hope for is to fly under his radar and carry on. In the meantime, please continue ordering Michelin titles and we will do our best to supply what we can.

CANADA AND CHINA AND THE EMERGING NEW WORLD ORDER

For the past quarter century, Canada opted to merge its economy with that of the USA through such mechanisms as the North American Auto Pact, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the Trump-negotiated Canada/Mexico/USA Agreement that he signed into law only five years ago. However, Trump has also shown himself to be extremely anti-trade and isolationist in his second term, unless he personally benefits, imposing huge tariffs on staunch former partners Canada and Mexico quite illegally, and threatening to cancel all trade agreements with both trading partners. This has alienated both partners, who are both moving quickly to disengage from all sorts of partnerships with the USA. Canada has re-set its relationship with China, which it moved away from at American insistence, resulting in a lowering of mutual tariffs and the beginning of a more normal business relationship. Canada has been actively soliciting military and economic security relationships with Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America, including Mexico.

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This includes a provision to eliminate, for Canadians, what is a costly and difficult-to-obtain visa to visit China. While details are unclear at this point in time, in the near future, Canadians should be able to visit China without obtaining a prior visa for tourism, opening up a huge tourism market for Canadians, and apparently, for the UK, which has also moved away from reliance on the USA and cozied up to China. As China is one of the world's great treasure troves of exciting and different places to visit, this agreement also opens the door for other nations to negotiate similar access to China. This is a development of extremely high importance for the travel industry and indicates a major shift in Chinese policy. One can only hope that its promise lives up to expectations!

ON HOCKEY PUCKS AND THE WINTER OLYMPICS

The winter Olympic Games are upon us, yet again, this time in Milano-Cortino, which one presumes is in the general vicinity of Milan, Italy. This is a commendable athletic series of events that happens every fourth year, involving skiing, skating, bob-sledding, and such crowd pleasers as ice hockey. Here is a small story of trivia. Ice hockey requires hockey pucks, small rubber-like objects that players 'shoot' around an ice rink in teams, trying to score goals on opposing teams, using long sticks called, appropriately, hockey sticks. Where do hockey pucks come from? How are they made? Well, since 1998, almost all the hockey pucks used in the Olympic Games are made by a tiny firm called Grifex, in the equally tiny village of Katerinice, in the far east of the Czech Republic.

The pucks are made of a rubber compound that is poured into a mold and baked for twelve minutes to create the hardened puck. This is then left on a sheet to cool for twenty-four hours, then individually 'buffed' by a smoothing machine to ensure perfection, then labelled with the Olympic logo. Each winter Olympics requires an amazing 20,000 hockey pucks, half of which get used by the athletes in the men's division, the women's division, and the Paralympic division and the other half are sold as souvenirs to the general public, presumably on site. That seems to me to be a huge number of pucks, but even more amazing is that this small firm produces a truly incredible one million hockey pucks per year for use in ice hockey games all over the world. Now, you know!

OUR CHANGING WORLD AND WHY MAPS ARE ALWAYS BEING UPDATED

The world is going through rapid change as a result of the breakdown of the sense of order that we have enjoyed since 1945. Some of these changes relate to the evolving way people wish themselves to be called, and map makers have to be sensitive to those desires within reason. For example, the Czech Republic has officially changed its name to Czechia, so our next edition of our ITMB map of that country will reflect that change of name, albeit with Czech Republic included in brackets as a transition. Turkey has expressed a strong desire that everyone calls it Türkiye, with two dots over the u. Although this would not normally be done in English, our computer can accept this, so our various titles related to Turkey will be altered as new editions are released to reflect the new spelling. Our ITMB map of Lesotho and Swaziland will reach the end of its print run in 2026 (not immediately) and the head of state of Swaziland announced some time ago that he was changing the name of the country to Eswazi, or something similar. At the time of updating, we will be changing the country name to what is considered correct. During the updating process for our map of Tibet, the government of China insisted that we have to show the 'Chinese' name for this entity, which in the Latin alphabet is Xizang. We have no objection to including this name, which is utterly unknown outside of China, so for marketing reasons, the name on our new edition is Tibet Xizang, although on our locality map on the back cover, it remains as just Tibet, as it does on the map itself.

There are other possible changes looming. The government of Moldova is toying with the idea of merging the country of Moldova with neighbouring Romania. This is only surprising in that it seems to be motivated by unrelenting pressure from Russia, not by any particular love of Romania. While comments made to date are encouraging, no actual steps have been taken to unify the two countries, but it is something to take note of and monitor. Apparently, Great Britain has quietly transferred several islands in the western Indian Ocean to Mauritius. One of these islands is Diego Garcia, a name that doesn't familiarly fall into dinnertime conversation, but is important because it contains a very large American military base, which I knew about even if you didn't, and apparently one Donald J. Trump didn't either, so he has been grumbling that the Brits should have ceded the title of ownership to the USA, not to Mauritius. Well, the whole point of transferring the islands was to de-colonialize yet another portion of the British Empire (which still exists), not to continue colonialization by transferring these minuscule islands from one imperial power to another.

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We are all aware of the controversy Trump has unleashed by demanding that Denmark cede 'title and ownership' of Greenland to the USA, as if Greenland was a hotel or a golf course. That little situation will work itself out in due course now that he has very publicly announced that he won't use military force to seize the island, but his megalomania is unlimited, and includes all of Canada and now, apparently, Iceland. That's right, he wants the independent island country of Iceland to become the 52nd state of the USA, after he magically absorbs forty million Canadians into his grasp. Perhaps he dreams of changing the name of Greenland to Trumpland! Who knows what goes on inside his mind? We will no doubt see more bombast regarding the future of Greenland as 2026 develops, but thus far, we have no plans to make any alterations to our ITMB map of Greenland – except one. Canada has just opened an official consulate in Nuuk, the capital, and is reassuring upset Greenlanders that they have an ally in Canada. Over a hundred Inuit leaders from northern Canada attended the opening ceremony, as well as one of our Canadian coast guard vessels.

A TRAVEL DESTINATION YOU HAVE PROBABLY NEVER HEARD ABOUT

Hidden in the Parana Delta of Argentina is a floating circular island. It consists of densely-packed plant material and broke away from the land mass several years ago to create an island, albeit one not anchored to anything. It rotates in a clockwise manner and has gradually worn the nearby shoreline into a near-perfect circular shape. It is fairly large, at 387 feet (or 118 metres) in width. It has a name, El Ojo, and is a tourist attraction, although it doesn't actually do anything except slowly rotate; an unusual feature of nature!

THE BATTLE OF THE RIVER NIVE

Historically, most people have difficulty imagining the relatively recent Allied invasion of Normandy in 1944, but that was not the first invasion of France in modern times. That honour belongs to the southwestern tip of coastal France in 1813, as Arthur, Duke of Wellington, forced French military forces out of Spain at the end of the Peninsular wars. Napoleon's army had finally been forced north of the Pyrenees mountain chain as Wellington's army fought their way through the mountains to emerge south of Biarritz, close to St. Jean de Luz, which became their port of supply for the army. Wellington commanded 36,000 British troops and 23,00 Portuguese troops. He also had 4,500 Spanish soldiers, but he had to send them back to Spain, as they brutalized the French civilian population. The landscape of this part of France at that point in history was very weak on bridges, with only an unstable pontoon bridge over the River Nive close to Villefranque. There was no bridge over the River Adour at the fortress town of Bayonne, and hence, no way to proceed north to Bordeaux except by boat – unless one built bridges, which was difficult to do considering that Bayonne was in French hands and heavily fortified. This was accomplished by creating floating bridges at the mouth of the Adour, a task perfected by the Royal Engineers and the Royal Navy, working together. They consisted of a series of flat-bottomed barges laid side by side, holding them in place by steel cables, then placing planks to create a roadbed strong enough to support the weight of cavalry regiments and cannons to cross, thereby enabling an attack on Bayonne from the north.

The problem facing the British was not so much the French, who also couldn't maneuver without bridges, but Mother Nature. This was late winter of 1813, and snow was melting upstream, rushing down to the ocean. The first bridge at Villefranque was washed away in an unexpected flash flood, leaving half the British army on the north shore and half on the south. Marshall Soult, commander of the French army, saw his advantage and attacked the troops on the north shore, outnumbering the British three to one. This type of situation could have happened on D-Day in Normandy in 1944 as well, if the allies hadn't fooled the Germans into believing that the landings in Normandy were a feint, with the real attack coming from the Calais region. Wellington had no way of knowing that an unexpected flood of water would destroy his plan, and possibly his army. All the British could do was re-build the bridge as fast as possible (it took one day), fight off the massive French attack, and re-establish one British army. This they did, but only by suffering very heavy casualties. Marshall Soult was defeated, and Wellington eventually conquered Bayonne, moved north to Bordeaux, and after several more dramatic battles, eventually reached Paris, capturing Napoleon and ending what everyone believed at the time to be the Napoleonic era. It wasn't, as we now know, but that's another story. However, modern history would be very different if Wellington had been defeated at the River Nive in the far south of France. Such is history!

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A little-known anecdote to this entire campaign is that Wellington needed money to pay his troops and provision them. Whitehall was notoriously slow to provide funds (keep in mind the modern-day complaints by President Zelensky about actually getting money and munitions to support Ukraine from Europe and the USA). Anyway, Wellington came up with a unique way to pay for provisions – he made counterfeit French francs, using soldiers who had been forgers in civilian life, and confiscated silver seized from wealthy landowners. Essentially, he created his own mint, which travelled with him wherever his army moved, and melted down silver ornaments and cutlery to make French francs that were of quite good quality, if entirely counterfeit. He then used this completely bogus money to purchase foodstuffs and drinks from the local farmers, thereby making them into reluctant collaborators, if not friends. The counterfeit money remained in circulation for many years, and the local population remained reasonably quiescent about the British invaders. After all, they had been British subjects in previous centuries. And that's how France became the country we love to visit today, thanks to the iron Duke and his disregard for economic niceties!

OUT OF STOCK TITLES AS OF FEBRUARY, 2026

ITMB regrets that the following titles are unavailable at the moment:

Hong Kong and Region, which is at press and expected in May

Indonesia, which is on its way to our warehouse from printing and should be available during May.

Japan, which is at press for a fresh edition, and should be available again in April.

Marrakesh, which has been reprinted and should be available later in April.

Muscat & Oman, which already has a new edition and should be available later in Mar.

Turkey West, which is now in update stage, so won't be available again until May.

Vietnam, which also has a new edition and should be available very soon, during April.

NEW RELEASES DURING JANUARY, 2026

Canada Travel Reference Map 2026 Edition Scale 1:6,000,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771291958 UPC 817712919588 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Canada is a vast geographical entity, the largest country in the free world, and very popular with visitors. Due to its size, changes have to be massive to show up on a map of this scale, and frankly, such changes are few. There is the Site C dam in northern British Columbia and a few place name changes, but the big change is in the copyright. The artwork used for this map was prepared by the Canada Map Office and modified by ITMB – in the name of whoever is the monarch theoretically ruling Canada. That's right, it is not copyright Government of Canada, but copyright by His Majesty the King, in Right of Canada, further copyrighted as a result of modifications by ITMB Publishing Ltd. That might seem to be a bit of legal jargon, but it is important for libraries that need to note the copyright of the map for their archives. The basic map was issued by the Government of Canada in 2014, when Queen Elizabeth was the monarch. ITMB has modified the artwork to keep it up to date as of 2026, but we have to maintain legal rights as well, hence, we've noted the rights of King Charles III. That said, Canada, as a country, is very popular touristically, and this is a very good map. It is also a very big country, so ITMB also publishes detailed maps of each province and territory (thirteen in all), several parks, and most major cities. In 2025, Canada experienced a surge in demand by people wishing to visit (partly as a response to the USA and its belligerent leader) and demand is expected to be even higher in 2026, thanks to that same leader, so this title is coming out at a good time! **AVAILABLE**

Canary Islands Travel Reference Map 26 1:130,000 ISBN 9781771291965 UPC 817712919656 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Ever since the Canary Islands were first discovered by early Spanish explorers, they have been popular. Located off the coast of Morocco, the islands of La Palma, Gomera, and Tenerife are loaded with holiday vacation sites. There are actually seven significant islands to explore, and this map shows each one in exacting detail, showing beaches, resort hotels, things to see, and heights of land. To assist visitors, the map also includes 11 inset maps of major urban areas, including Santa Cruz (there are no less than three such urban areas on various islands), Arrecife, and Las Palmas. This is a map everyone can enjoy, whether one is concentrating on one island, or touring the entire area. **AVAILABLE**

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Faroe Islands & Denmark Travel Reference Map 1st Edition 2026 1:115,000/1:450,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771292931 UPC 817712929310 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Denmark's Faroe Islands are one of Europe's hidden treasures. This small archipelago is situated in the far north of the Atlantic, between Iceland and the European mainland. Several months ago, Lan and I visited these remote islands, which aren't particularly easy to reach, and discovered that the Faroes hosts about 20,000 tourists per year. That enticed us to make a map of the Faroes. The islands are normally reached by air or ferry from Denmark or Iceland, and by the occasional cruise ship that makes the effort to stop by. The islands are quite modern and up-to-date, with an amazing road network that includes the longest undersea road tunnel in Europe; in fact, they have several long undersea roadway tunnels joining together most of the islands. They also have an excellent bus system joining Torshavn (the capital) to all parts of the country, with, and I love this, a helicopter network providing service to outlying islands, as well as a ferry service to the southernmost island of Suduroy. This really is a very nice travel destination! We rented a car and driver to explore and had a wonderful time discovering a part of the world relatively little visited. We had no problem coming up with an extensive list of Top Attractions. The reverse side of the sheet of waterproof paper is a detailed map of Denmark, simply because the Faroes ARE Danish and the easiest jump-off point to reach the Faroes is from Denmark. The country, although not large even by European thinking, is very developed and sophisticated. It is connected to continental Europe by a fairly narrow peninsula just north of Flensburg, Germany, and consists of a series of islands mostly joined together by bridges, motorways, and train lines. Ferries to the Faroes leave from the northern port city of Hanstholm. An inset map of central Copenhagen is included. **AVAILABLE**

France Railway & Road Travel Reference Map 4th Edition 2026 1:1,000,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771292948 UPC 817712929488 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – As a country, France is fairly large, so is attractive for those wishing to concentrate on the best-known attractions and for those wishing to explore the smaller villages and byways of an ancient land. France is steadily extending rapid-rail transport to more outlying parts of the country, and we have updated the map to show what is current. The road network is changing more slowly, but there are a few motorway extensions that we have added. We also spent last summer exploring Normandy and Brittany, so this part of France has been extensively researched for this map. Due to the size of the country, only major points of interest can be shown, but there are so many that the map is full of interest. Side 1 shows the north half of the country, and side 2 the south. **AVAILABLE**

Madeira & Southern Portugal Travel Reference Map 1st Edition 2026 1:60,000/1:450,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771295017 UPC 817712950178 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 - Madeira is a Portuguese-associated island in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Morocco. Volcanic in nature, the island is in the warm Gulf Stream, making it an ideal resort destination throughout the year. The capital is Funchal, and the airport is at Santa Cruz, to the east. The island has ferry connections with the Canary Islands and Morocco, but the usual way of reaching the island, and neighbouring Porto Santo, is by air. The road network is excellent and well-maintained. The reverse side of the waterproof sheet is an up-to-date map of southern Portugal, along with a detailed map of central Lisbon. **AVAILABLE**

Muscat & Oman Travel Reference Map 2nd Edition 2026 1:25,000/1:300,000 ISBN 9781771295000 UPC 817712950000 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – ITMB first introduced this interesting country in 2023 and found demand so high that we are already introducing an updated second edition. Oman is a very interesting portion of the Persian Gulf states that has kept itself separate from the United Arab Emirates conglomeration of filthy rich oil states and maintained its separate identity. It is actually two identities, in that the northern tip of Oman Musandam is physically separated from the rest of the country by Fujairah Emirate of the UAE, while Muscat itself is further along the coast. The country has managed to stay out of conflicts in both nearby Iran and its neighbour Yemen and is a haven of peace and responsible government in a region known for its volatility. Most of the touristic attractions are concentrated in the Muscat Region, with excellent road networks making visiting easy. Access to the country is also easy, and the country is very tourist-friendly. Access to Dubai and the UAE is also easy, but travel to Yemen is not recommended. **AVAILABLE**

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Oslo/Bergen & Southern Norway Travel Reference Map 4th Edition 2025 1:8,000/1:800,000 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771295932 UPC 817712959324 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The southern portion of Norway is the most-visited part of the country. As a capital, Oslo is attractive, functional, modern, and full of popular attractions. It is also the transportation hub for the country, with a cruise ship terminal conveniently located close to the city centre, ferries to nearby destinations, and an excellent rail network. The city also has an extensive tram network, which is highlighted on the map. Bergen, a much smaller urban entity, shares side 1, along with a regional map of the Oslo area and a special map showing the train and ferry connections in the Oslo/Bergen region. Needless to say, this is Norway, so everywhere is very scenic! Side 2 covers the southern portion of Norway in great detail, going as far north as Trondheim a feature of this side is its ability to show coastal ferry routes, which is a fascinating way to explore the country affordably without renting a car. Norway is also riddled with tunnels for those exploring by car or train. This is a fascinating country to explore! **AVAILABLE**

Romania & Moldova Travel Reference Map 2nd Edition 2026 1:850,000/1:445,000 ISBN 9781771296755 UPC 817712967558 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – In eastern Europe, Romania is emerging as a lovely country to explore. It suffered horribly during the German and then the Soviet occupations, then fell under the control of a brutal dictator who was overthrown in a revolution. After joining the European Union, corruption eased and the economy improved. Mostly, peace, order, and reasonably good governance turned the country into a model of what can happen in Europe when countries help each other. Touristically, Romania has much to offer and has invested heavily in restoring castles, churches, and manor houses to their former glory. The road network is much improved, and access is easy. An inset map of central Bucharest, the capital, is included on side 1. Side 2 is dominated by the smaller country of Moldova (formerly known as Bessarabia) and the breakaway portion known as Transnistria. This is an exceptionally interesting corner of Europe, simply because it exists. In the early post-Soviet era, the people living in what had been a province of Russian-dominated Romania fought for their own country, and achieved it, placing their capital at Chisinau. A Russian-dominated military movement occupied the easternmost portion, on the Ukrainian border, and set up their own country, which nobody recognizes, called Transnistria. Of course, modern politics being what it is, Moldova finds itself caught between never-ending pressure from Russia via Transnistria, and resentment against the rest of Europe for not taking them seriously. Recently, the head of the government of Moldova has suggested merging with Romania as a bulwark against Russia. The war in Ukraine complicates matters, but this would make sense. For the moment, it is easy to enter Moldova and, surprisingly, Transnistria! The map includes copious notes explaining this part of Europe. **AVAILABLE, with a double-sided cover.**

Uzbekistan Travel Reference Map 2026 5th Edition 1:1,500,000 ISBN 9781771298643 UPC 817712986436 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – During the early days of the Soviet Union, Stalin organized the amorphous mass known as Central Asia into a series of 'stans', or homelands, to better control these large geographic areas. Once the Soviet Union collapsed, all of these 'stans' threw off the yoke of Russian control, reinstated place names in their own languages instead of Russian, and even moved capital cities around. It was a chaotic time for cartographers, but reasonable stability emerged over time, and the home of the Uzbeks has become a shining light of tolerant tourism. Names such as Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara have resonated over the centuries as major centres along the Great Silk Road from China. Today, Uzbekistan is emerging as the epitome of all the 'stans', with the northwest portion being Kazaks, the region south of Bukhara being Turkmens, the region just south of Tashkent being Tajik, and the region just north of Namangan being Kyrgyz. Tashkent itself is very close to the Kazak border, so the country is a melting pot of various nationalities. This leads to diversity, but also to compromises that need to be carefully navigated. ITMB has had a map of Uzbekistan for several years, but usually as a part of Central Asia, or combined with Kazakhstan. Lan and I spent two weeks exploring Uzbekistan and it became quite clear that this large country needed its own map, including insets of Tashkent and Samarkand. **AVAILABLE**

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NEW RELEASES DURING DECEMBER, 2025

Alberta Southern (or Southern Alberta) Travel Reference Map 3rd Edition 2026 1:850,000 ISBN 9781771297455 UPC 817712974556 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Alberta, like all the western provinces of Canada, divides naturally into two parts – a fairly densely populated south half and a much less developed north half. This is due to that ever-present Canadian reality, the tundra, which is boggy, mosquito riven, and not as attractive to tourists as the agriculturally interesting south. Thus, for those not intending to travel north of Edmonton, we have a detailed easy-to-read map of the southern portions of the province, at a better scale than our companion map of the entire province. I also hasten to add that Alberta is VERY large, geographically, so a detailed map merely makes it easier to explore while driving for hours between stop-off points! **AVAILABLE**

Algonquin Park & Ontario SE Travel Reference Map 2nd Edition 2026 1:220,000/1:600,000 ISBN 9781771290418 UPC 817712904188 \$14.94cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Algonquin is one of the largest wilderness preserves in North America, founded in 1893 by the Government of Ontario. Named in honour of the local First Nations tribe, it represents everything that preservation is meant to convey. Highway 60 goes through the southwestern portion of the park, and boasts 1,200 campsites along its routes. There are roads going to portions of the vast interior, but large swathes can only be explored by canoe. The park's 7.653kms (2,955 sq/mi) area remains remarkably pristine after 130 years of sustained effort to create and preserve a part of Canada's heritage. Algonquin is unique among North American wilderness treasures in having no major towns, no resorts, and no modern comforts. It is just Algonquin. Our map portrays roads that exist, campsites, hiking trails, major canoeing areas, and Top Attractions. To place the park in its regional context, side 2 is a detailed map of southeastern Ontario, from Lake Huron through the Toronto conurbation to Ottawa and the Quebec border. **AVAILABLE**

Banff & Jasper National Parks Travel Reference Map 5th Edition 2026 1:250,000/1:240,000 ISBN 9781771291132 UPC 817712911322 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Does anyone not know of Banff? Created in 1885 as a site so special that even the rail builders of the transcontinental CPR line revered it and wanted it preserved for all Canadians to enjoy. Today, it is one of the paramount World Heritage Sites and visited by millions from around the world. While reality has forced it to accommodate a townsite and rail station at Banff and at Lake Louise, and the Trans-Canada Highway passes through it, the majesty of Banff remains as pristine as possible, given its overwhelming popularity. Side 2 portrays Jasper National Park immediately north of Banff, with its famous Icefields Highway, historic townsite (much damaged by fire at the moment, unfortunately), and beautiful Lake Maligne. The western portion of Jasper NP is also the site of Canada's highest mountain peak, Mount Robson. This is actually not inside the park, but in BC, but is a magnificent add-on to any visit to Banff and Jasper, which actually exist only in Alberta. **AVAILABLE**

British Columbia Southwest Travel Reference Map 1st Edition 2026 1:750,000 ISBN 9781771291170 UPC 817712911704 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Rarely does Canada get so much attention in this newsletter! Let me note that Canada is a vast country unlike any other on earth. Most provinces are as large as all of Western Europe. The Southwestern portion of British Columbia is as large as all of France, or Germany, and it is the most densely populated portion of BC. To provide space for showing its many attractions, it needs its own detailed map, which is finally available! Side 1 portrays Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland region of Vancouver urban area and hinterland, the roads north to Whistler and Lillooet, and east to Merritt and Princeton, and the border crossings southward to the USA's Washington State. Side 2 covers the more northerly portions of BC that fall within the Southwest – the long road west to Bella Coola, close to where my ancestor, Alexander Mackenzie, became the first man to cross North America by land, in 1793. **AVAILABLE**

Guadalajara & Region Travel Reference Map 4th Edition 2026 1:9,000/1:900,000 ISBN 9781771293747 UPC 817712937476 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Mexico is a fabulous country to visit, so much so that ITMB publishes several regional/sectional maps of the country to assist travellers exploring its many facets. Mexico City is the largest urban area in the Western Hemisphere, and deservedly has its own map. Guadalajara is the second largest city in Mexico, with a population exceeding six million. It also has a very interesting Spanish-colonial city centre, a crafts market six stories in height, and a wonderful cathedral. This constitutes side 1 of the map. The surrounding hinterland of Guadalajara includes the Pacific coastline of Colima State, San Luis Potosi, San Miguel de Allende, Leon, Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, and historic Taxco **AVAILABLE**

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Japan South Railway & Road Travel Reference Map, on waterproof paper 5th Edition 2026 1:600,000 ISBN 9781771293952 UPC 817712939524 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Japan is extremely popular as a country to visit. The main entry points are the airports in the vicinity of Tokyo, mostly Narita, which is where this map begins. The Tokyo urban area is vast, and encompasses dozens of large municipalities, so this map includes two insets – one showing the region from Narita to Yokohama, and the other a detailed map of the Chiyoda district of central Tokyo with the all-important Central rail station. **AVAILABLE**

Spain Travel Reference Map on waterproof paper 5th edition 2026 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771297479 UPC 817712974792 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Spain, as a country, needs to be thought of as the composite of its regions – Basque, Catalonia, Valencia, Castile, and Galicia. Each portion deserves its own detailed map, but travellers also wish a detailed country map, showing everything. This map divides Spain into eastern and western portions, with the east of the country, including the Balearic Islands, on side 1. Side 2 covers the west of Spain from Madrid to the Portuguese border and from the top to the bottom, including Gibraltar, which isn't part of Spain. A generous inset map of the Canary Islands is included. **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES TO THE END OF NOVEMBER, 2025

Armenia and Azerbaijan Travel Reference Map 7th Edition 2026 1:450,000 ISBN 9781771290432 UPC 817712904324 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE

Azerbaijan and Armenia Travel Reference Map – see Armenia, above

Guyana & Suriname, with French Guiana Travel Reference Map 4th Edition 2026 1:850,000 ISBN 9781771293310 UPC 817712933102 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE

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