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- INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS
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AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #3 OF 2026 – MARCH

INTRODUCTION

During February, Linh and Phuong were in Asia, but maps kept arriving and orders kept being filled. Lan was hard at work on updating cartography, and I filled in wherever needed. The situation regarding illegal governmental actions in the USA tended to top the news cycle, but importantly, for the travel industry, tended to create massive uncertainty. Cuba appeared to be the weak country being picked on by the US government for 'punishment' at the moment, with the Americans having eased off on Greenland for the moment, then Iran caught the attention of Trump and this has significant consequences for travel, as well as for legality. War never goes as expected and this one is no exception. Although this war started without warning, more and more countries are being drawn into the conflict, just as happened at the beginning of World War 1. We never learn!

NEW TITLES TO THE END OF FEBRUARY, 2026

We are pleased to introduce seven new titles this month. In alphabetic order, the first is **Egypt & Cairo**, always a popular destination. The next appears to be a brand new title, **England South**, and counts as a first edition, but what it actually is, is a re-worked update, at a better scale, of our former England South and Wales, which is discontinued. Next up is **Lima and Peru Pacific Coast**, again with a slight change of name to reflect what it should have been called in the past, as not all of Peru is included. Then, we hop over to **Marrakesh & Northern Morocco**, before moving on to our excellent regional map of **South East Asia**, then to **Tibet**, which also has a change of name to include its Chinese name of Xizang. Finally, we're especially pleased to see the newest version of **Vietnam**, a country that is changing quite quickly into a sophisticated travel destination.

CUBA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN GENERAL

Travel to Cuba in particular, and to the Caribbean in general, has suffered badly due to American belligerence in the region. The raid on Caracas may have succeeded in abducting the President of Venezuela and forcing him into imprisonment in the USA, but it also closed air space over Venezuela, making it extremely difficult for commercial planes to fly to Brasil, Argentina, or Chile, causing enormous problems for tourists and legitimate travellers for a while. The follow-up embargo on Cuba is not only causing enormous harm to the well-being of the residents of that island nation, but also to its tourist industry, which has been caught in the cross-hairs of Trump's ire. Some hotels have been forced to close, as fuel became scarce. Airlines serving Cuba can no longer refuel upon arrival, so several airlines have been forced to refund fares to passengers expecting to vacation at a resort in Cuba and send empty planes to the country to recover passengers who found themselves trapped on the island by this sudden and unexpected move. There are about 4,000 Russian tourists in Cuba at the moment with no way to get home. You may not care about Russians, but there are also thousands of innocent Canadians, Americans, Mexicans, and Europeans also caught up in this mess. Airlines are suddenly forced to suspend service to an important travel destination and re-schedule aircraft and crews to other destinations on short notice. This makes normal planning impossible. Trump's plan seems to be to starve Cuba into submission and absorb it into the USA in the same way as the colony it once was. The only question left unanswered is – who's next? Read on.

MEXICO AND TRAVEL

Recently, the Mexican government located the head of the largest and most violent drug cartel in the country. In trying to arrest him, shots were fired and this wanted criminal was killed. His supporters went on a rampage of property destruction, burning dozens of cars and buses, firing weapons into the air, and fire-bombing over 100 stores (mostly local convenience shops, brand name OXO). The violence was NOT directed against tourists or, particularly, local people. As far as I can see, the cartel thugs allowed customers to vacate stores and buses, and only burned empty vehicles. Of course, it was alarming for vacationing families from various parts of the world, mostly Canada, and all airlines suspended service to affected areas, mostly Puerto Vallarta and Guadalajara. This lasted only a day, some 75 drug pushers were shot dead, and the violence stopped. Unfortunately, such activity always proves to be off-putting to vacationing tourists.

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Everybody sensible sheltered in place for a day and then resumed their normal routine. However, airline schedules were thrown into mass confusion, with dozens of cancellations, and it disrupted the arrival of thousands of tourists and the return of thousands more. Some 58,000 Canadian families in Mexico registered with the Canadian government in case the disruption lasted, but eventually all flights resumed on Tuesday and things are now back to normal, albeit with a certain amount of trepidation by many who had booked for a vacation.

ITMB is heavily invested in mapping **Mexico**, which is a prime travel destination. Our map of the entire country has been available since the early '90s, as has our map of the **Yucatan Peninsula**. **Mexico City** is a lovely travel destination, as is **Guadalajara**, **the Pacific Coast**, **Baja California**, and the **Oaxaca/Chiapas** region. All are available from ITMB, and will be joined later in 2026 by Mexico's Northern States. Mexico is normally a friendly and touristically popular travel destination. The situation that occurred recently is an unfortunate aberration of normalcy.

IRAN AND WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

On February 28th, the United States began a war, in conjunction with Israel, allegedly to overthrow the government of Iran, or to prevent an imminent nuclear attack on the USA, or to take out guided missiles, or just for the hell of it. Take your pick! War can never be justified, as it only results from naked aggression on behalf of the attacker. Needless to say, Iran is not another Venezuela, but is an armed camp, loaded with missiles and drones. It is heavily armed and no pushover. Of course, the Americans assume that Iran will collapse, but at time of writing, Iran is striking back, attacking targets in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Israel. As usual with war, it all goes according to plan until the first shot is fired, then everything goes wrong. Flights to Israel, the UAE, Dubai, Riyadh, and other countries in the Middle East have all been cancelled, oil ports have been shut, missiles are raining down on neighbouring countries, Israel is under constant bombardment, air traffic to Asia and Australia is disrupted, and people are being killed. It's a mess. As usual, Trump has given himself no off-ramp, so the fighting will continue indefinitely, and the risk of an even wider war predominates. France and Britain are sending military power to the region, Azerbaijan has declared war, and Qatar is very upset. This will have an immediate effect on the travel plans of millions. All I can say in mitigation is that ITMB publishes an excellent map of Iran, as well as of Iraq, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and every other country in the Middle East, so retailers should stock up, as armchair warriors will no doubt be wanting copies of conflict zones. Sad to say, but it's true.

CHANGING TRAVEL PATTERNS

As travel to the USA becomes increasingly unpleasant for a larger percentage of the travelling public, airlines need to discontinue flights to more and more American destinations. After all, airlines have to fly where passengers want to go, not to where governments say they should go. Air Canada is cutting its flights to Florida to two destinations, starting this summer. Incredible! West Jet is diverting planes from American destinations to fly to more attractive destinations in Mexico. Porter, an up-and-coming airline, is increasing the size of its fleet by 25 new planes, none of them made in the USA. Air Transat is cancelling all flights to the USA. On the other hand, Air Canada has just started regular flights to Sapporo, the capital of Hokkaido province in Japan, from Vancouver. That gives Air Canada access to four major international ports of entry to Japan, more than any other airline. It is also increasing flights to India and China. West Jet has inaugurated flights to Liberia, Costa Rica, from Vancouver, to develop the market that used to go to Florida. These are real, long-term, changes, representing just a fraction of the ways that the world is telling the USA that the decisions being taken in Washington have real-time consequences.

NEW TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

Britain has activated a new 'authorization' that is required before anyone can enter the UK. This electronic Travel Authority is mandatory for all Canadian and American passport holders wishing to enter the UK at any point of entry, and presumably to all non-British passport holders around the world. This is very important news for everyone in the travel industry because it changes everything for North Americans, who have never experienced a problem flying to London or catching a ferry from Calais to Dover. It applies to tourists as well as business people and for those intending to study in the UK and must be obtained prior to travel. It costs 16 Pounds Sterling (about \$30us), is valid for a two-year time period, and **MUST** be shown prior to boarding a flight or a ferry destined for any port of entry into the UK. It is **NOT** a visa, so does not guarantee that entry will be granted. Citizens of countries that already require a visa to enter the UK will still need a valid visa as well as the ETA. Apply via gov.uk/eta and good luck.

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TRAVEL TO CHINA

As of Feb. 17th, Canadian and UK passport holders no longer need a visa to enter China/Hong Kong for either touristic or business purposes, provided the stay is for less than 30 days. Visas will still be necessary for longer visits. This is great news for the travel industry, as up until now, it has been necessary to undergo a lengthy, complicated, and expensive application process to enter China even for a short stay. This move, while subject to review at the end of 2026, opens a huge travel potential for two very important countries as China positions itself to replace the USA as the world's dominant power. This visa-free entry is apparently being extended to other countries on a selective basis by China, notably NOT to passport holders of the USA. It applies to short-term 'visiting' purposes only, so those wishing to study in China or work in China will still need to apply for the appropriate visa. China has enormous touristic appeal and it is to be hoped that this move by China becomes permanent. Lan and I will be flying to Hong Kong in January, so this move reduces our expenses by \$300. It is also experimental, and China may not extend this privilege beyond the end of 2026, but this is still good news. Needless to say, ITMB publishes a variety of travel maps related to China and Hong Kong.

TRAVEL TO EUROPE

Americans are apparently reducing their plans to travel to Europe during 2026. Bookings to date are 15% lower than for the same time period in 2025. The explanation seems to be economic, as the USA goes through a period of what is being called 'an affordability crisis'. Job growth in the USA is at close to zero, wage increases are minimal, and the price of everything seems to be increasing, with inflation being unacceptably high at an average of 3% and food inflation at over 4%. This reduces the amount of disposable income individuals can devote to travel. While 15% might not seem to be a large decline, it represents tens of millions of fewer passengers on airlines, in hotels, and on tours. How is Europe coping? Simple. Travel from China to Europe is up 26% and from India by 9%. This, in a nutshell, is what the changing fortunes of power represent. As America declines, someone else benefits. Travel to the USA from Europe is also recording record declines of 17% year over year. Why? The Euro is strong, and people can afford to travel. The unmistakable conclusion must be that this is due to lawless behaviour by US governmental officials in carrying out Trump's policies. Putting it bluntly, in a country where 5-year-old children are abducted and imprisoned in concentration camps in Texas, and American citizens are gunned down in cold blood in Minneapolis by masked thugs who Trump has ordered to brutalize Americans, people in other countries react with revulsion and decide not to visit such an immoral country. Like it or not, the USA is rapidly becoming a pariah nation. This bodes ill for America. Canadians, on the other hand, are flocking to Europe, Asia, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Alaska cruises from Vancouver are breaking records for the number of ships leaving for points north or returning with happy customers.

ASSAYE

We are trained to think of the Great War 1914-1918 as the first World War, but it isn't, nor was that conflict as bloody and devastating as the true first worldwide war between 1795 and 1815, which we call the Napoleonic Wars, preferring to see individual aspects as separate entities instead of as a collective whole. Think for a moment. Napoleon burst out of the carnage of the French Revolution, subdued the mobs, and established order and purpose to France. Had he stopped there, he had already accomplished a miracle, but he was ambitious. Without going into the details, over the next decade and a half, the entire world was at war. Think of the Battle of the Nile in 1798, or the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, the purchase of Louisiana in 1803 in order to fund his invasion of Russia, the War of 1812 that led to the defeat of his American ally and the setting of all of North America on a new footing, the Peninsular War that liberated Spain from French control over a series of bloody battles, the Battle of Austerlitz, the retreat from Moscow, and of course, the Battle of Waterloo. This went on for fifteen long years and involved islands in the Caribbean changing hands, battles being fought in places no one had ever heard of, and much of Europe falling under French control. It also led to the metric system replacing a wide variety of measurements, so I guess it wasn't all bad.

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Lost in all this bombast was the British consolidation of power in India, which was occurring at the same time, and involved French military officers commanding local Indian armies, in opposition to the British. Today, India is a large and increasingly powerful country, but in 1803 it was just a conglomerate of competing rulers, with the East India Company controlling much of the east coast and Bombay, the British Raj controlling parts of the south and interior, and the rest dominated by powerful maharajas who were united in wanting the British to leave. The British appointed Lord Wellesley to manage the areas they controlled, and he appointed his younger brother, Arthur, to command his military forces. Arthur Wellesley, the future Duke of Wellington, gathered about 15,000 troops and moved to confront the formidable confederacy of Mahratta forces of the Rajah of Berar and the Emperor of Gwalior, a combined force of over 100,000 men and 102 cannons.

The battle was fought at a tiny insignificant village called Assaye, and it turned into one of the most significant battles of the century, with heavily outnumbered, mostly Scottish, soldiers overcoming armed forces seven times larger, and consolidated British rule in what would become India. Wellington was only young at the time, and untested, but his victory convinced Whitehall to place him in charge of British forces in Portugal, in what became a five-year mini-war to oust the French from Spain. That lay in the future, but it is all part of the same global reality.

First, the British needed to consolidate their control over the Indian subcontinent, including modern-day Pakistan and Bangladesh, which tied up a considerable number of British troops for the duration of the Napoleonic era. The result was the creation of a huge British-controlled territorial land mass, stretching from Afghanistan to Nepal to Burma to Ceylon. It made Queen Victoria Empress of India and funded the British Empire for a century, only coming unstuck by the Winds of Change that swept over the world following World War II – but that's a story for another day.

Assaye still exists as a backwater village, with its battlefield virtually unchanged. There is no memorial commemorating the massive battle, but the villagers are rightly proud that this was one of the turning points in world history. Surprisingly, when one considers that 100,000 men confronted 15,000, the casualties were relatively small. Sindia's massive army, under the control of a Hanoverian mercenary, lost 1,200 men and 102 cannons. The British suffered 456 dead and 1,200 wounded, so percentage-wise suffered more grievously, although they were victorious. The outer walls of the village are still fortified with ramparts, and bones and bullets are being routinely plowed out of the ground by farmers. You can visit the village and walk over the battlefield. If you do, spare a thought for the two hundred kilted Scottish soldiers who died charging a hundred massive cannons, wearing bearskin headwear, regimental kilts, and being piped forward by bagpipes. Their ferocity terrified their opponents, as was proper. After all, they're Scots. The world of today is based on actions that took place in the past. If it weren't for Assaye, India would not exist today as a country.

MAPS ARE ALWAYS CHANGING

The aspect of marketing maps that I like best is the fact that every time one of our titles depletes in inventory sufficiently to enter the updating process, we always find things needing change. It may be a change in spelling of a city name, or even a country name, or it may be a street extension alteration or a new name for a school. The world is going through a stage of massive infrastructural improvements – rapid train line extensions in various European countries, new urban rapid-transit lines in many cities around the world (Toronto has just completed two such lines, and Hanoi has recently opened a part of its second line). Norway has started construction on a massive project to drill a hole through a mountain large enough to sail a cargo ship or a massive cruise ship through it. This is to avoid a treacherous part of that country's coastline. This will improve safety, but will also require us to update our map of Norway as it is completed. Changes significant enough to change maps occur slowly, but steadily. We are reluctant to include projects 'under development' on our maps until we are sure that completion is imminent. I'm still awaiting the actual move of Indonesia's capital from Jakarta to somewhere in Borneo before showing it on our map. Our detailed map of Vietnam shows the growing complexity of motorways in that country. We won't put things on our maps that are 'proposed', or even underway in their early stages, but every time we update we find something needing to be changed.

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OUT OF STOCK TITLES DURING FEBRUARY, 2026

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

BC/Alberta Travel Reference Map is also expected to return in April.

Colombia Travel Reference Map should be back in print in late May.

Guangzhou and Southern China is at press and due in May.

Japan South is at press and due in late April or early June.

NEW RELEASES DURING FEBRUARY, 2026

Egypt & Cairo Travel Reference Map 3rd edition 2026, on waterproof paper 1:1,000,000/1:12,000 ISBN 9781771292764 UPC 817712927644 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Egypt has been attracting visitors for many centuries. For modern-day tourists, the appeal of the pyramids, the temples of Luxor, and the massive museum in Cairo is overwhelming. Side 1 covers all of Egypt as far as Aswan, with a very large inset showing the entire country in relation to its neighbours. Side 2 covers Cairo, with insets of the Giza pyramids and the immediate hinterland of the city, showing a wide range of hotels, museums, shopping areas, and public buildings. Although Egypt itself is an attractive place to visit, it needs to be noted that it's borders with Libya, Sudan, and Israel are closed, so one must fly in and out of the country. **AVAILABLE**

England South Travel Reference Map 1st Edition 2026 1:270,000 ISBN 9781771292757 UPC 817712927576 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The United Kingdom of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales is so densely covered with castles, manor houses, battlefields, and touristic attractions that it needs to be divided into parts in order to provide enough space on a map sheet to show its attractions. ITMB has a map covering the entire country, and separate maps for Ireland, Scotland and Wales. England, by its shape, divides naturally into north and south. This map covers England from Bristol/Colchester south to the English Channel, with Cornwall, Devon, and Somerset on Side 1 and the Southampton/London/Kent portion occupying Side 2. The scale is detailed enough to show all rail lines, motorways, primary highways, secondary roads, and most tertiary-level roadways in the area of the map, with sufficient space to include road names/numbers for all the A and M roads. It also shows most castles, abbeys, cathedrals, and National Trust properties (apologies for any left out). A new addition is the inclusion of long-distance Euro bike routes that are becoming increasingly popular. This is an incredibly detailed map at an excellent scale, covering the most-visited part of England. **AVAILABLE**

Lima & Peru Pacific Coast Travel Reference Map 2nd Edition 2026 1:11,500/1:300,000 ISBN 9781771294539 UPC 817712945396 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Peru is one of the most-visited countries in South America. Lima is an ancient city that was the capital of an empire long before the Spanish arrived. This map covers most of Peru, from Chiclayo in the north to Mollendo in the south, and goes as far inland as Cuzco and Manchu Picchu in the east, so is perfect for most usage in the country. Side 2 concentrates on Lima itself, with an emphasis on the historical centre, but covering a much wider area to the east. Today's Lima dates from the Spanish conquest, with straight streets in a grid pattern. The main sites are noted in our Top Attractions listing. **AVAILABLE**

Marrakesh & Northern Morocco Travel Reference Map 2nd Edition 2026 1:7,000/1:1,100,000 ISBN 9781771295024 UPC 817712950246 – Morocco is one of the safest and most-visited countries in Africa. It has several cities of renown, and the most attractive is Marrakesh, just north of the Atlas Mountains. Side 1 shows the old city, or Medina, and the new, or French, city that Europeans created outside of the ancient city walls. Most of the old city walls still exist, and are noted on the map. Hotels tend to be located in the New Town, for convenience, and are noted. The Medina can be confusing to walk through, so we have included an inset showing the main walking areas, as well as a Top Attractions listing. Side 2 covers all of the northern half of Morocco, including Tiznet, Agadir, Casablanca, Rabat, Tangier, Fez, and Meknes, all the way to the Algerian border, which is unfortunately closed. This is the portion of the country that most visitors want to see. We show the Atlas Mountains and the western edge of the great Sahara (I'd add Desert, but the word Sahara means desert, so it would be akin to saying desert desert). **AVAILABLE**

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South East Asia Travel Reference Map 8th Edition 2026 on waterproof paper 1:4,000,000 ISBN 9781771297448 UPC 817712974488 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Asia is too vast a land mass to fit on to a mapping sheet, although one day I hope Lan will do so (if anyone can, it's her!) South East Asia consists of the portion of Asia south of China and east of India – essentially Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar/Burma, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, and the Philippines. This, in itself, is a vast and densely populated part of the world. As a regional map, we are attempting to provide travel assistance to those seeing several countries on one trip, usually a tour, or increasingly a cruise. For example, Lan and myself are taking a cruise from Hong Kong to Singapore via Vietnam, the Philippines, and Malaysia. This map will be ideal for our purposes. Cruising Asia is the fastest-growing area of travel, so this newly-updated map is very useful. **AVAILABLE**

Tibet Xizang Travel Reference Map 3rd Edition 2026 on waterproof paper 1:1,680,000 ISBN 9781771298148 UPC 817712981486 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Tibet, until recently, has been rather difficult to reach. However, China is relaxing its grip on travel, and it is now practical to consider visiting Tibet. One can fly there from various locations in China, or go by train from Chengdu to Lhasa, the capital. Side 1 covers the western half of the country, with an inset of central Lhasa showing the Potala Palace and the walking areas of the historic centre. The ability to travel to other centres is limited at the moment, but improving. Side 2 shows the eastern half of the country and improving road access to the region. Again, travel is still limited by wary Chinese officialdom, but is gradually relaxing. Border crossings to Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, India, and Myanmar, are all closed. Tibet is a political minefield for the Chinese. ITMB has been able to source this map with the co-operation of Chinese authorities, but much of the detail has been provided by the Chinese government and is not independently verifiable. The name on the cover, for example includes the Chinese name for Tibet equally with the name known traditionally for this part of the world. Xizang may not be well-known outside of China itself, but it is necessary to show on maps from now on if one hopes to encourage tourism. China is in the early stages of re-opening the entire country to tourism after years of self-imposed semi-isolation. This map is a tribute to better relations with China. **AVAILABLE**

Vietnam Travel Reference Map 9th Edition 2026 on waterproof paper 1:920,000 ISBN 9781771298780 UPC 817712987808 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Although Vietnam is extremely popular as a travel destination, it is also a society caught between two worlds. On the one hand, visitors want to enjoy the traditional culture of the country, but on the other hand want modern hotels, clean streets, improved roads, and all the mod-cons of modern civilization. This is placing an enormous strain on Vietnam, whose citizens also want all the benefits of modern life, which is very destructive of traditional life. KFC is now quite popular in Vietnamese cities, as are, increasingly, McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Holiday Inns, and other aspects of 'normal' life outside of Vietnam that have never existed in their society. Nonetheless, as Vietnam modernizes, it does its best to keep traditions and heritage sites alive, within reason. As a result, the country is extremely popular with visitors and this is the most detailed map of the country in existence. The motorway development is nothing short of astounding. We have included two new routes under construction leading to China from Hanoi, and show the growing ring road around Ho Chi Minh City. The motorway joining Hanoi to cities in the south is showing definite signs of progress side 1 includes an inset map showing the many administrative districts of Vietnam as well as an inset of central Hanoi. Side 2 concentrates on the more populous south, with insets of the Saigon section of HCM City, another of the increasingly resort area of modern Danang, and a third of historic Hue, the former royal capital. Phu Quoc Island, a rapidly-growing touristic destination of resort hotels, now has its own inset map. **AVAILABLE**

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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. **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**

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. **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**

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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. Most of the touristic attractions are concentrated in the Muscat Region, with excellent road networks making visiting easy. **AVAILABLE**

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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. **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. **AVAILABLE**

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