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AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #10 OF 2025 – Early-October

INTRODUCTION

This is the time of year when travel starts to slow down. Europe in the fall is still an attractive destination, but the cruise ship industry (which is a HUGE factor in travel) is just starting to re-position its ships for the Caribbean and Asian travel season. Trips to the Mexican Riviera are being advertised, but the season for that part of the world is not yet upon us. The Mediterranean is winding up its season and Scandinavia is starting its winter hibernation. Now is the time to ensure that 'warm spot' travel destinations are well-stocked!

NEW TITLES THIS MONTH

New titles continue to arrive in our warehouse on a regular basis. This month, we are pleased to introduce six new titles. In the Caribbean, we have three new maps on two sheets of paper – **Jamaica, Cayman Islands, and Trinidad/Tobago**. For Asia, we have another two titles: Indonesia's island of **Java** and the lovely principality of **Sikkim**, combined with **Eastern India**. Details are in the New Arrivals section, below.

TROUBLING TOURISM STATISTICS FOR THE USA

Travel to the USA has been declining steadily for several months now, to an alarming degree. The statistics for August (the latest month available) recorded a 25% decline, year over year. This represents a HUGE drop of millions of individuals and is having a real impact on travel to and within the USA. Las Vegas has reported a 12% decline in visitors to Sin City during August, 2025, which is unprecedented. Airlines are raising prices and discontinuing flights due to lack of demand. Hotel prices are, apparently, dropping, but the price of package tours is rising alarmingly. The reason, of course, is politics, both in the worldwide condemnation of illegal tariffs and mostly thanks to repressive policies being adopted by the American government to discourage and deter travel to the USA. This is regrettable, to put it mildly. It is now increasingly difficult for Americans to obtain passports, so international travel is being actively discouraged as well. Repeated reports of abusive behaviour by entry screening personnel have resulted in numerous cases of tourists being abducted and incarcerated without charges for weeks at a time, with access to legal protections denied. Such instances have been widely reported internationally, although I doubt that most Americans are aware of this happening. It may be that Americans don't care whether or not tourists are being grossly abused in the USA, or perhaps they are just unaware how severe and how common the abuse has become. Tourism is a significant contributor to **American** economic prosperity. It is sad to see such a pronounced negative behaviour by many Americans.

TWO USA COUNTRIES

The political divide inside the USA seems to be becoming increasingly tense and intractable. This is an anecdotal comment, made by an outsider, but sometimes someone outside of the country can see things more clearly than those inside a deeply divided society. Notably, there seems to be a growing schism between California/Oregon/Washington and the rest of the USA. Not only has California been leading the opposition to the federal government's attempts to change the mechanisms under which the USA has administered its affairs for 250 years, but the three western states are behaving increasingly independently, but in concert with each other. As an example, the three states are setting up their own disease control agency, separate from the CDC. This type of regional action bodes ill for the survival of the USA as a country, but might just prove to be the solution to the dilemma facing America. What, after all, does California have in common with Alabama or Louisiana? Relatively little. California alone is the fourth largest economy in the world, and generates 50% of America's wealth. Combine its forty million people with those of Washington, Oregon, and perhaps Nevada/New Mexico, and maybe Hawaii, and Western USA would be a realistic country in its own right. Is such a scenario likely? Not immediately, but the first steps have been taken to separate the west coast from the rest of the country. Only time will tell whether or not the USA splits apart, but it is on the path to self-destruction and it is difficult to see any exit plan except complete separation. The New England states are also working more in concert with each other than with the other states; perhaps the southern states are doing the same. At one time, Canadians jokingly discussed absorbing certain states into a United States of Canada, but no longer. That barn door is tightly locked, barred, and nailed shut!

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LONDON: ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW!

No matter how many times one visits London, England, one always encounters something previously unknown. Most tourists concentrate on that part of London north of the Thames River, but the south shore has a fascinating history. Back in the good old days following the Norman conquest, London was important for two reasons: it was the first place where a bridge could span the river (now the Tower Bridge), and William had built his strongest fortress on the north bank of the Thames (now known as the Tower of London). The south shore was more or less uninhabited. Fast forward to the twelfth century and the king was Stephen, who spent much of his reign fighting off his sister, Maud, for control of the kingdom. He, or more correctly, they, had a brother, who was the Bishop of Winchester. To gain his support, Stephen granted him an enormous tract of land on the south shore of the Thames, known for some reason as the Liberty of the Clink. The bishop built a very large palace in this area, which lasted for many centuries and was both very powerful and outside of the jurisdiction of the City of London.

Fast forward again to the time of King Henry VIII, who dissolved the vast property holdings controlled by the Catholic Church, and the Bishop's palace passed into royal hands. However, Henry had no need for yet a further palace in London, so the area deteriorated somewhat, becoming the site for activities banned in London, such as theatres; hence, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, among others. It was also the locale for most brothels (referenced by Shakespeare in King Lear as Winchester Geese), bear-baiting rings, and gaming halls. The palace still remained and was turned into a prison by the Roundheads who overthrew the monarchy under Cromwell. It returned to royal ownership once the monarchy was restored, but was never again used as a palace. The many buildings were converted into warehouses, except for one portion that became the notorious Clink Prison.

Fast forward once again to 1814, when a massive fire destroyed many of the warehouses, but in its progress exposed many of the palace's stone walls, including its Great Hall, which almost everyone had forgotten about. Although the area was completely rebuilt over the next century, the west wall of the Great Hall, with its enormous rose window, still survives to this day. An amazing story of a thousand years of history!

As an anecdotal aside, part of the palace grounds came to be used as the burial site for indigent persons, of whom there were many. It was never consecrated land, but it had a 'Poor Hole', where those without money or status could be thrown into until nothing was left except bones. Hence, it's name of Cross Bones. Believe it or not, this was still in use as a place to throw destitute dead people well into the 1820s. It still exists, albeit as a memorial park for thousands of unnamed Londoners who ended up here. It seems hard to believe, but the London we know today was completely different in attitude in the pre-Victorian era, as was all of Europe.

PARIS: A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Europe is popular year-round as a travel destination, and the fall is a perfect time to explore Paris without the hordes of summer trippers. But Paris has a dark past. It was not always an attractive city. Even under the ancienne regime, the nobility moved out, to Versailles, Fontainebleau and chateaux along the Loire. The 1789 revolution may have been seen as a necessary purge of entitled gentry, but it was also a multi-year-long madness where thousands of Parisians, and many Frenchmen in other cities, were murdered en-masse by summary execution, often using the famous drop-blade guillotine. The famous Place de la Concorde was, in the years of murderous revolution, the Place de la Revolution, where successive guillotines reaped their grim piles of headless bodies and Madame Tussaud sat knitting, taking piles of heads back to her waxworks to make face masks, the bodies being piled on to carts and dumped wherever convenient. Increasingly, that meant dumping thousands of decaying bodies in the mines that underly much of Paris, now known as the Catacombs.

Like most revolutions, the French one soon swallowed most of the leaders advocating the revolution in the first place and was finally stopped by a Corsican with great magnetism, Napoleon Bonaparte. His many wars over the next several years have been well-documented. Lesser known are the truly great accomplishments he created in Paris, such as a safe piped water supply, numerous parks and fountains, the start of paving main streets with cobblestones, emptying Paris of all its ancient cemeteries, creating the city's first central morgue, and 'tidying up' the Catacombs, all while amassing military victories in Italy, Egypt, Spain, and Austria. Peace with England was one of his few failures, and the Peninsular War in Spain eventually defeated him.

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Napoleon was eventually forced to abdicate and was exiled to Elba, an island in the Mediterranean. The Bourbon monarchy was restored and quickly became very unpopular. The Duke of Wellington bought the Hotel de Chorost from Bonaparte's sister, Pauline, and converted it into Britain's embassy in Paris. He paid Pauline in French gold coins, which she promptly sent to her brother, who used it to finance his escape from Elba and begin his march on Paris on the 1st of March, 1815. The Bourbon king fled the city nineteen days later, just before Napoleon's triumphant return, but not before sending the crown jewels to England for safekeeping.

Inevitably, Napoleon's ambitions to rule Europe led to a new coalition against France and to the decisive battle in fields close to a Belgian town called Waterloo a hundred days later. There were actually three battles, the first where French forces routed the Prussians, the second at Quatre Bras, which forced Wellington to retreat and regroup south of Waterloo. The preserved battlefield is well worth a day to visit, with an attached museum glorifying Napoleon and minimizing Britain. Napoleon fled, tried to sail to the USA, was captured and taken to England, but proved to be such a 'hot potato' politically that he was sent into exile on the British South Atlantic island of Saint Helena, where he died a few years later. France's glory days ended. Napoleon has morphed into a legendary French hero, whose tomb can be seen in Les Invalides in Paris and whose Arc de Triomphe was completed long after his death and still dominates the Champs d'Elysee.

The Paris we know today was largely formed by Baron Hausseman late in the 19th Century, following the mass destruction caused by the second French Revolution, known as the Paris Commune (Les Misérables is a popular play about that time). So, enjoy Paris, today a lovely city able to meet every expectation. We were there in July and met by accident an enthusiastic young American who had just arrived and was awestruck by the grandeur of Notre Dame and wanted to spend the rest of his days in Paris – without being able to speak a single word of French. Bonne chance to him!

NEW PROJECTS ARE CHANGING MAPS

Maps are always changing. New subdivisions change urban communities, new rapid rail lines are gradually transforming Europe, China, and South Korea, and various new 'nation-building' projects change the landscape – all of which impact maps. Two such projects have come to my attention recently. In Tibet, the Chinese are apparently building a huge new dam that will eventually flood a large enough area of land to be seen from outer space. It will take a number of years for this project to be completed, so for the moment it will not affect ITMB's Tibet map. The second matter is coming about as a result of the Americans' trade war against Canada that has destroyed the good feelings between the two countries. Rather than buckling under to American demands for capitulation, Canadians have opted for a series of nation-building projects designed to free the country from dependence on the USA, much as Europe has done in the face of Russian aggression. Three such projects have already been completed (Site C hydro-electricity dam and power station, the LNG pipeline to Kitimat, and the Trans-Canada pipeline expansion to Vancouver). Five more such grandiose projects were announced recently, none of which will directly impact maps. A sixth project has been started by the Government of Ontario, which will become a new highway in the northwest part of the province that will eventually enable the development of a large mineral-rich entity known as the 'Ring of Fire'. Stage 1 is already underway, rebuilding an existing roadway to provincial highway standards in the vicinity of the Town of Geraldton. This, in itself, will not change ITMB's map of Ontario, because the road is already on our map, but it is the start of a brand new 500-kilometer-long highway from Highway 11 from a point north of Thunder Bay, Ontario that will change northern Ontario forever. More projects are expected to be announced in the weeks and months to come as Canada moves steadily towards a future separate from the direction being taken by the USA.

THE DEAD SEA

Israel can still be visited, despite two years of fierce warfare. One of its many attractions is a body of water that is the lowest place on the face of the Earth – the Dead Sea, so called because it is so salty that nothing can live in it. It is fed by rivers, but has no outlet, so water can only leave via evaporation, causing the level of the surface to steadily shrink lower and lower. Try actually swimming in it – much easier to just float! By the way, ITMB publishes the only map of the newly-recognized State of Palestine.

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NON-TRAVEL TRIVIA

The plane that dropped the first atomic bomb was a B-29 long-distance bomber that took off from a US aircraft carrier that was steaming north towards Japan as part of a large convoy containing tens of thousands of troops whose goal was to invade Japan and bring an end to WW2 in 1945. President Truman had to make a very difficult decision. He could let the convoy continue on its planned invasion route, which would result in the deaths of tens of thousands of American military personnel (because he knew that the population of Imperial Japan would resist such an invasion fanatically) or he could gamble that a shocking new weapon that would kill tens of thousands of Japanese with one bomb would convince the Japanese to surrender without a military invasion. It was the biggest gamble of the entire war, even more consequential than Stalingrad or the D-Day landings.

The plane picked was the Enola Gay, named by its pilot in honour of his mother. The plane flew through the night and targeted Hiroshima, selected because it was a southerly city and closest to the northward-heading American fleet. World history changed that morning when thousands of Japanese civilians died a horrible death in the world's first nuclear explosion. The Enola Gay did not have enough fuel to fly back to the aircraft carrier, so the pilot flew it to a part of China under Nationalist control and the plane is now part of the Smithsonian collection. It recently became newsworthy once again in Trump's vain attempts to remove all references to homosexuality in American museums, due to the plane's name.

Truman's gamble did not pay off. The Japanese called his bluff and refused to capitulate, hoping that America had only one such bomb, and continuing to fortify Japan against an American invasion. The war continued and the fleet kept heading north towards its destiny.

Truman bluffed again and claimed that the USA had dozens of atomic bombs. It didn't; it had only three, the most powerful of which had already been used. This was brand new technology and America's options were now down to its two remaining bombs, neither of which had been tested. Nobody realized at that time just how devastating these bombs were, as no one yet realized, even the Japanese, how devastating an atomic bomb could be. Truman notified Japan that he would order the destruction of one city every three days until Japan surrendered. This was a huge gamble, as America had only two atomic bombs left. A second B-29, this one called Bock's Car after its pilot's name, took off from the deck of an aircraft carrier destined for an industrial city in southern Japan. Due to extremely cloudy weather, the pilot could not see the target, so dropped the bomb just to the north of the port city of Nagasaki, killing thousands more civilians and causing widespread damage. One has to visit both Hiroshima and Nagasaki today to understand just how devastating these new types of bombs were. The world had never seen such massive destructive power, and hopefully never will in the future.

Truman advised the Japanese government that Kyoto, a cultural heritage treasure that all Japanese citizens revered, would be next, as the American fleet was gradually approaching Japanese waters. The government of the day was convinced by its military advisors to keep fighting, but the emperor intervened in a show of strength that he had never used before to note that the Americans had shown extreme ruthlessness and he was not prepared to see further loss of life and devastation. Little did he know that the Americans had only one atomic bomb left! Very reluctantly, the government of Japan yielded to its emperor and the worst war in history came to an end with the arrival of the American fleet and the signing of a humiliating surrender document that saw Japan transformed completely.

Today, Japan is the Number One travel destination in Asia for tourism, and an economic powerhouse whose products are transforming the world we know. Toyota cars, Mitsubishi trains, Pokemon cards, and all sorts of technological innovations have emanated from Japan, shinkansen trains have revolutionized rapid ground travel, and peace for 70 years has brought a profoundly better life for millions upon millions of Japanese people. A tragic end to a tragic time has brought peace and prosperity to this part of Asia, for which we must feel grateful, but the price was very high. Visit the Peace Park in Hiroshima and the memorial in Nagasaki, please. Lest we forget that the world we have today was created by the deaths of millions of people during WW2.

ITMB publishes maps of Japan, as well as a detailed travel atlas, and several regional maps covering the country in better detail, as well as maps of Tokyo, Kyoto/Nara, and Osaka.

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RADAR

Just about everyone has heard about radar, even if for most of us it is a militaristic term designed to track aircraft and missile-like drones in the air. Radar, which essentially is a radio wave sent from a transmitter into the atmosphere that rebounds a 'ping' if it encounters an object, was secretly developed by the British during World War 2 to provide advance warning of incoming German bombers, providing sufficient advance warning to allow RAF pilots to get into place and cause devastating damage to German aircraft. The Battle of Britain was largely won by the RAF thanks to radar, not to denigrate the incredible bravery of thousands of pilots who flew wooden Spitfires so bravely. A similar system, sonar, was also developed to track submarines. One of the engineers working on the technology that was evolving around radar noticed that the energy created by the transmitter melted his chocolate bar. This sparked the post-war development of a piece of kitchen equipment we all take for granted today – the microwave. Who would have thought that radar waves would also heat up frozen dinners? For that matter, create an entire industry making frozen dinners!?

NEW TITLES AND NEW RELEASES AS OF THE END OF SEPTEMBER, 2025

Cayman Islands Travel Reference Map 4th Edition 2026 on waterproof paper 1:37,000 ISBN 9781771293969

- **See Jamaica & Cayman Islands for description, below**

Eastern India Travel Reference Map 3rd Edition 2026 on waterproof paper 1:1,400,000 ISBN 9781772297431

See Sikkim & Eastern India for description, below

Jamaica & Cayman Islands Travel Reference Map 4th Edition 2026 on waterproof paper 1:125,000/1:37,500 ISBN 9781771293969 UPC 817712939692 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – By the nature of how things are in the Caribbean, this map combines independent Jamaica with nearby colonial Cayman Islands. Both are lovely vacation spots and popular with resort lovers and cruise ship devotees. Jamaica is a largish island, with most of its touristic attractions concentrated on the north coast. The capital, Kingston, is on the south coast and is the island's major commercial centre. Most visitors confine themselves to Montego Bay and Ocho Rios on the north coast. Side 1 shows the entire island, with inset maps of Kingston, Mandeville, Montego Bay, Ocho Rios, Port Antonio, and Spanish Town. Side 2 is devoted to the lovely British colony of Cayman, which consist of Grand Cayman Island and the offshore smaller islands of Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. Most visitors concentrate on Georgetown, the capital, and the many resort hotels north of the town. Much of the main island is a gigantic mangrove swamp, but the island has several notable touristic sites, the most memorable of which is probably Hell, a 24 million year-old salt & limestone formation that is a must-see! The two smaller islands are best accessed by commuter flights from the main island. The map has two covers, so can be displayed in both countries names. **AVAILABLE**

Java Travel Reference Map 2nd Edition 2026 on waterproof paper 1:600,000 ISBN 9781771293976 UPC 817712939760 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The Asian country of Indonesia is the fourth most populous country on earth. The island of Java is so long that it fills both sides of this map. The national capital, Jakarta, is also on this island, but it is the experience of travelling on the island that leads to the most memories. The island's road network is excellent, and passenger rail service is very good. The island is the site of several volcanoes, and the famous island of Krakatoa is now a national park, just west of Java. Naturally, being a nation of islands, excellent ferry services join Java to Bali and other islands. The map also includes several inset maps of major cities, such as central Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, and Surabaya. This island needs at least a week to see properly. Cruise ships also visiting various ports of call on a regular basis. Indonesia is rapidly becoming an economic powerhouse, so it is very nice that it is also tourist-friendly. ITMB also publishes a separate map of the entire country and sectional maps of Bali, Lombok, Kalimantan/Borneo, and Sumatra. Java is a prime travel experience waiting to happen! **AVAILABLE**

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Sikkim & Eastern India Travel Reference Map 3rd Edition 2026 on waterproof paper 1:135,000/1:1,400,000 ISBN 9781771297431 UPC 817712974310 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Sikkim is a self-governing mountainous principality in the Himalayas just north of Bengal State of India. Side 1 shows the entire country, with its capital of Gangtok.. Most of the country's development is concentrated in the south. While theoretically, one could enter neighbouring Nepal or Tibet, both physical and political realities dictate that access to Sikkim depends on one road crossing from north of Darjeeling and a single train line that terminates just inside the border. Thus, Sikkim is a rather isolated, but lovely, travel destination, but is well-worth the effort to explore. Numerous religious complexes celebrate Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism. The country also has one of the highest-elevation roads on earth, being the Nathu La, rising to 14,450 feet above sea level. It is located on the ancient Gangtok-Lhasa trade route. While it might not be a practical access point to Tibet for political reasons, the drive from Gangtok to the peak is enervating, with an alternative downside route via Kupup providing a real travel experience back to Gangtok. Most of the temples are in the vicinity of Gangtok. This is what we like to call a 'developing' country, which really means that it leads a differing approach to happiness; definitely a travel adventure! The second side of the map is a detailed rendering of the east coast of India, from Nepal/Sikkim in the north to Visakhapatnam in the south and as far west as Varanasi/Benares. The western portion of Bangladesh is also shown, but the focus of this side is Kolkata/Calcutta and the Grand Trunk highway westward towards New Delhi, the massive Ganges River complex, and the temples of Orissa State. India ends to be a bit overwhelming as a country, so we have tried to make it a little easier to fathom by noting major Top Attractions, such as Shillong, Tawang, and Bodhgaya. **AVAILABLE**

Trinidad & Tobago & Eastern Caribbean Cruising Map 2nd Edition 2026 1:150,000/1:2,400,000 ISBN 9781771298124 UPC 817712981240 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Located just north of Venezuela, Trinidad is the most southerly of the Caribbean islands and has a history very different from the rest of the Caribbean. It was first settled by the Spanish, after displacing the native residents, and became a British possession only in 1797. More northerly Tobago has a more interesting history, changing hands 30 times in various wars to determine which European power would dominate the region. Nowadays, both islands look to tourism as a major source of revenue, but neither island has seriously developed its resort potential. Most visitors arrive via cruise ship, and this largely means spending a day in Port-of-Spain, the capital. One of the unique attractions of Trinidad is a pool of hot asphalt, first discovered by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1595, and has been caulking ships ever since. Tobago, once a major tobacco-growing island, is now a quiet, respectable community based in Scarborough, the capital, and Plymouth. The two islands were annexed to each other by Britain in 1889. The country has been independent since 1962. Side 2 of the map is a very interesting rendering of the entire Eastern Caribbean region, and is particularly noteworthy for showing the boundaries of various island nations. Some are still colonies or 'overseas territories' and others are very well-known touristic havens. One is apparently contested between Haiti and the USA (tiny, uninhabited Navassa Island). St. Croix's boundaries are apparently completely separate from the US Virgin Islands, to which it is attached. Anguilla is little visited, whereas neighbouring St. Maarten is one of the region's most popular cruise destinations. There are two islands called Bonaire, one in little-visited St. Eustatius, and the other off the coast of Venezuela in the Dutch Antilles. Martinique and Guadeloupe, both French to the core, are separated by English-speaking Dominica. Antigua is joined to distant Barbuda, whereas nearby Montserrat remains a British colony. The Turks and Caicos Islands remains an orphan to the north of Haiti, and who is responsible for Isla Mona? Quite the mish-mash! **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES AS OF END OF AUGUST, 2025

Bolivia Travel Reference Map 7th Edition 2026, on waterproof paper 1:400,000 ISBN 9781771291149 UPC 817712911490 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Bolivia is one of the travel world's better kept secrets. It is a land-locked large country straddling the Andes mountain chain, whose people largely live in the mountainous western half of the country. In the north, it shares Lake Titicaca (the largest lake in all of South America) with Peru. The capital city, La Paz, is at an altitude of just over 4,000 meters above sea level with Peru. The far north is largely an under-populated forest reserve, and the far east a series of national parks. The double-sided map shows the south half, with an inset of La Paz, on side 1, while side 2 concentrates on the north, with detailed inset maps of Potosi and Santa Cruz de la Sierra. **AVAILABLE**

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Estonia & Tallinn Travel Reference Map 3rd Edition 2026 1:385,000/1:6,000 ISBN 9781771292740 UPC 817712927408 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Estonia is probably the most-visited Baltic state, having easy ferry access to Helsinki. Side 1 is devoted to Tallinn, the country's capital, with its double wall enclosing the ancient 'old' town and extending to the lower 'new' town. Both are within easy walking distance of the ferry terminal or railway station. Most of the hotels are located in the lower town. The city has an excellent tram system, but both the old and the lower town areas are largely walking precincts. The country fills the second side. Estonia is a compact country, with a very good road network, and easy to drive around. The eastern city of Tartu is close to Lake Peipus, which is shared with not-so-friendly neighbouring Russia. Being a member of the EU, access is as easy as for any country in the EU, and as a member of NATO, is a bulwark against Russian expansion. **AVAILABLE**

Georgia & Tbilisi Travel Reference Map 2nd Edition 2025 1:600,000/1:6.500 ISBN 9781771293297 UPC 817712932976 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Georgia is a very interesting country of Europeans, which finds itself thought of as being Asian due to its location in the Caucasus region. At the moment, the country has to maintain a discrete relationship with neighbouring Russia, which invaded and seized the western third of the country in 2008 and now has weapons trained on Tbilisi day and night. Life carries on, and Georgia is prospering, with Batumi on the shores of the Black Sea being its major access point for shipping. The Chinese are assisting with building a new east-west motorway, which should be almost completed by now. The northern highway to the Russian border was in the process of being upgraded when we were there, but is largely a truck route. The country retains reasonably cordial relations with Turkey and Armenia, and formal relations with Azerbaijan, so crossing borders is possible, but somewhat bureaucratic. The road network of the country is still being created, so visitors soon learn to navigate around construction sites. We have shown the roads as we found them, so this is a reliable map. **AVAILABLE**

Kazakhstan Travel Reference Map 4th Edition 2026 1:2,300,000 ISBN 9781771294201 UPC 817712942012 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Kazakhstan is one of the many breakaway countries that split off from the Soviet empire when it spectacularly imploded in 1989/90. It is a very large country, and it shares a long border with Russia. Thus far, relations between the two countries seem to be fairly cordial, but Putin is an unstable leader, so the Kazaks have to play a softly-softly foreign policy so as not to arouse the Russian bear. That said, it is a friendly country and well worth visiting. Side one shows the western portion of the country from the Caspian Sea to Zhezqazghan, including the remaining portions of the Aral Sea, which it shares with neighbouring Uzbekistan. This side also includes a very good inset map of Almaty, the capital. The second side covers the eastern portion of the country, including Almaty, which is strategically placed on the ancient Silk Road joining China to Europe and is fairly close to Bishkek, a former trading fortress, now in Uzbekistan. **AVAILABLE**

Malaysia Travel Reference Map 3rd Edition 2026 on waterproof paper 1:730,000/1:1,100,000 ISBN 9781771294980 UPC 817712949806 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Malaysia is a combination country, joining three former British colonies together with a sea keeping disparate segments separated. The Malay peninsula stretches from the Thai border to the strait separating the area from Singapore and from Indonesia. To me, this is the most interesting portion of the country, especially Penang, in the north. An excellent inset map of Kuala Lumpur, the capital, is included. The second side focuses on the island of Borneo, specifically on the northern portion of Sarawak, Sabah, and the wealthy little country of Brunei. **AVAILABLE**

Mexico City & Central Mexico Travel Reference Map 5th Edition 2024 1:12,000/1:900,000 ISBN 9781771294881 UPC 817712948816 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – Mexico City is the largest urban area in North America, twice the size of NYC or LA, with a population somewhere between 28 and 30 million. Naturally, the touristic area of interest is concentrated in the central core, between the northerly bus station and the university, and from Chapultepec east to the massive Bus Terminal East (which is a sight to see, if not use!). The Centro, or heart of the downtown is bisected by the magnificent Paseo de la Reforma, and most touristic hotels are located in this area. The map also includes several restaurants, museums, churches, the cathedral square, and the underground subway network. An inset of the entire rapid transit network is also included. The second side covers an extensive part of central Mexico, and would be ideal for day trips to Taxco, Puebla, or Cuernavaca, or for overnight trips to Guadalajara, San Miguel de Allende, or to beach resorts at Ixtapa. **AVAILABLE**

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Switzerland Travel Reference Map 4th Edition 2026 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771297424 UPC 817712974242 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – ITMB is very pleased to release our first-ever double-sided map of lovely Switzerland. Although we have had a map of the country for several years, combined with Geneva, we felt it was time for a brand new approach to the country. Side 1 shows the western portion from the French border to Luzern and includes a very nice Top Attractions list. It also includes the Matterhorn, one of the world's most famous mountains. Side 2 covers the eastern portion, with the Bodensee (Lake Constance) in the north and Lugano in the far south. As Switzerland is ideally suited for exploring by train, we have placed special emphasis on the network of rapid and regular passenger train routes, although motorways and the road network is shown in great detail as well. This side also has inset maps of Geneva and Zurich. **AVAILABLE**

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