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- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
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AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #4 OF 2025 – Early April

INTRODUCTION

The uncertainty caused by the USA's declared war on the world continues to unfold. Travel to the USA from Canada has dropped by 23% thus far, as millions of Canadians change travel plans. They're still travelling, just not to the USA as much. This affects map sales for ITMB, as we see a noticeable decline in requests for maps of American destinations. Economically, tariffs are starting to hit all corners of the world, of which I'll say more further into this newsletter. I do not know how individuals in other countries are reacting to American hostility, but I imagine that hard feelings are going to solidify in many countries, Russia, and North Korea excepted. The world is entering a period of great instability, with anti-government protests in Serbia and Hungary, and Georgia, and all over the USA. All ITMB can do is watch helplessly as events unfold and hope that travel will not be impacted too seriously.

NEW TITLES

As spring arrives, so do new map titles! This month, we welcome **Angola, Peaks of the Balkans, Chicago** (with a brand new state map of **Illinois**), **Costa Rica**, **Finland, Helsinki and Southern Finland, Pakistan**, and our famous regional map for **Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia**. This last title was supposed to have been released last January, but due to a printing error, one side was badly out of register, so the printer had to re-do the print run. Anyway, we are very happy to see this important map back in print. Details for ordering are noted in the **NEW RELEASES** section, below. Another half dozen new maps will be released next month!

WORLD WAR 3 HAS NOW STARTED

By now, everyone has realized that the world is engaged in an enormous economic war. Few understand its implications. To punish those countries having a trade deficit with the USA, Trump has declared ruinous tariffs on all goods entering the USA from 185 countries, most of which are impoverished states like Cambodia and Myanmar. The tariffs are illegal, as they have not been approved by Congress. The man born with a silver spoon, who has never worked a day in his pampered life, claims to want to force all companies to move their manufacturing plants to the USA. I seriously doubt that Ford and GM will shut down their auto plants in Germany and move to the USA, but who am I to judge?

One tiny aspect of this war is to tax all imported maps from Europe at 20%. This affects maps published by Borch, Hema, Gizi, IGN, Marco Polo, Michelin, Ordnance Survey, Touring Club Italiano and every other map publisher located outside of the USA, except ITMB (for the moment). This tax applies as of April 11. The actual prices might not rise by 20%, because most maps are sold to distributors/retailers at a trade discount, but prices will rise, to the detriment of individual American customers. At the moment, Canada is not included in these massive tax increases, so maps from ITMB are not affected, and prices will not change, but virtually every other travel map will see significant price hikes.

Remember, this could change tomorrow because Trump is notorious for changing his mind on a moment's notice! Needless to say, this punitive tax applies only to the USA. ITMB customers in Canada, Europe, and around the world (apart from the USA and its possessions) will see no price increases. We regret the fact that the American government is taxing its citizens so heavily, but there is madness afoot in the USA these days, and we all have to sit tight and wait for this era to end. Until Americans rise up in their millions and replace this corrupt governance, the madness will continue. Sorry to have to be blunt, but only Americans can modify the current direction of the USA. We are in uncharted waters in the middle of a hurricane. SOS!!!

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POSTMASTER GENERAL

British North America, and later on, the USA, has always had a Postmaster General managing the movement of mail – until Monday, March 24th, when the current incumbent suddenly and immediately resigned and vacated his office with no explanation as to why he was leaving. As chaotic situations seem commonplace in today's USA, this departure has not resulted in much media coverage, but the post is crucially important. The British set up the postal system that still operates today in the USA, and Benjamin Franklin was the most famous Postmaster General for all 17 American colonies. Throughout the American Revolution, the mails continued to flow, enabling thousands of conversations to occur. After 1783, Franklin became the Postmaster General of the 13 rebellious colonies, and it is largely thanks to him that postal unity enabled the creation of the USA. What is going to happen now? For the first time in 400 years of North American history, there is no Postmaster General to act as a sort of glue to hold the USA together in a non-partisan way. A sign of the times!

MAP TOWN IN CALGARY CLOSES ITS DOORS

I have recently received an email from Terry, the owner of Map Town, in Calgary, Alberta, advising me that he is vacating his commercial premises on April 23rd and moving on-line. Map Town has been a staple of downtown Calgary for as long as I can remember, occupying a very large ground-floor space and creating large-scale maps for the oil industry (which used to be huge in Calgary). Alas, Map Town did not move with the times as the downtown area became a wasteland of empty office towers and shoppers abandoned it for suburban malls with ample parking. While Map Town carried a wide range of international travel maps, its market was the oil industry, which used to number in the hundreds of companies, but is now much smaller in number, thanks to consolidations. Terry hopes that his client base will follow him into electronic obscurity, but I've seen this scenario too many times in too many cities around North America to believe that individuals will follow him. After all, the reason that he is shutting down is because his walk-in trade has moved elsewhere, such as to Amazon.ca. I'm sorry to see Map Town disappear, as I was to see Mapworld Services disappear, and a dozen other stores. This leaves three dedicated map stores and one travel store left in all of Canada – ITMB in Vancouver, World of Maps in Ottawa, Aux Quatre Points in Montreal, and Ulysses Books, also in Montreal. Fortunately, there are numerous retailers still stocking maps, and very fortunately, there is a good, steady base of customers who prefer paper maps over electronic gadgets, so we carry on. Best wishes to Terry and I hope that your on-line business flourishes.

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT ITMB?

No, nothing bad is happening. Lan and her staff are hard at work updating artwork and sending it to our printers. At the moment, we have 22 titles at press, some of them for titles that we have already run out of inventory, others for titles that are selling quickly, and we want to keep stock on hand. There are, however, a growing number of map titles that are nice to have, but sell rather slowly. Much though we would prefer to keep all titles in print at all times, updating can take weeks of time to prepare for printing and the printing process also takes a longish time to complete. We have neither the staff nor the money to do everything as fast as we would like, for which I apologize. Creating accurate and up-to-date maps is a time-consuming task. We do our best to come close to the 'perfect' map (which I think is impossible to attain), but we also have to accept that we live in an imperfect world that includes countries and cities for which there is very little market demand, at least as of this point in time. We do not have enough dedicated cartographers to update 50 different titles simultaneously, sad to say, and yet we have that number queued up awaiting their turn at being updated. We have to concentrate on ensuring that popular travel destinations, like Italy and Spain, receive priority attention. This means that slower-selling titles sometimes have to wait until we have time to concentrate on them. They will all get done; just not as quickly as we would like. We still publish 6 or 7 new titles each month; just check out the New Releases, below.

ITMB is a prolific publisher of travel maps and demand remains strong for what we produce. However, I fear that the world is entering a phase of existence where it will be more difficult, and more expensive, to travel. I am afraid that Trump's tariffs will sour the travelling people of the world to boycott American cruise lines, American web sites promoting travel, and American firms in the travel industry, such as Expedia. There are already signs that this is happening. If what I'm seeing is a trend, downward sales will destroy American dominance of the travel market.

NEW RELEASES AS OF EARLY APRIL, 2025

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Angola Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2025 1:1,430,000 ISBN 9781771290395 UPC 817712903952 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP10.90 – Angola is emerging as one of Africa's growing travel destinations. After a long period of isolation, the country now welcomes tourists, and is investing in improved infrastructure to make it easier to travel around this vast country. New resort hotels are attracting tourists to beach hotels along the coast and inland hotels are being upgraded. The road network is improving, but still is a work in progress. The USA is building a new trans-Africa railway, but its future is uncertain due to Trump's cutbacks. The map includes a detailed inset map of Luanda, the capital, and a list of Top Attractions. Angola is still a developing country, so travel here is more adventuresome than in Kenya or Morocco, but it is growing in popularity. **AVAILABLE**

Peaks of the Balkans Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2025 1:55,000 ISBN 9781771291125 UPC 817712911254 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The Balkans are now a popular European travel destination. ITMB publishes a travel map for the region, but has developed a market for a more specific map focusing on mountain hiking routes through the Balkans. This is one of the few such areas left in Europe and appeals to those energetic enough to enjoy walking through alpine meadows. There are several routes in Albania and Montenegro, and we have marked such trails on our map, along with overnight huts. The concept is spreading, so Side 2 focusses on the southwestern Balkan region, where long-distance trails are being developed. **AVAILABLE**

Chicago and Illinois Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper ISBN 9781771291927 UPC 817712919274 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP9.95 – Chicago is one of the largest cities in the USA and has long been famous for its rail hub joining lines from the east coast to those serving the western regions. It is also the start (or the finish) of famed Route 66, the first paved highway to the Pacific. Side 1 covers the city from the convention centre north to Wrigleyville and from the lakefront west to Western Avenue, with a large inset of Greater Chicago and another of Oak Park (famous for being the home of Frank Lloyd Wright). Side 2 is a brand new map for ITMB, being of the great state of Illinois, of which Chicago is a small part. This side traces Route 66 southwest from its origins in downtown Chicago to somewhat beyond St. Louis, where the national highway continues into Missouri. This map starts on Wisconsin in the north, at Minneapolis, and continues south to western Kentucky, ending at Nashville, Tennessee and is loaded with touristic attractions that are sure to delight visitors. This is a great new map for ITMB. Hope you like it! **AVAILABLE**

Costa Rica Travel Reference Map 12th Ed. 2024 on waterproof paper 1:300,000 ISBN 9781771291804 UPC 817712918048 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP10.90 – We have published a map of this popular travel destination since 1984, and it has proved to be our best-seller for over 40 years. Naturally, we have kept it up to date. Side 1 concentrates on the southern portion of the country, and includes a detailed map of San Jose, the capital. Side 2 concentrates on the more mountainous northern portion and the coastal beaches on the Pacific Ocean. As a country to visit, CR offers a lot – pristine beaches, lush rainforests, interesting volcanoes, and a lifestyle that is pleasant and safe. **AVAILABLE**

Finland Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper 1:750,000 ISBN 9781771292917 UPC 817712929174 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP10.90 – NATO's newest member shares a very long border with Russia, but the border is closed at the moment. The country faces west and welcomes visitors. It is also a very large country, so the map is divided into a north/south configuration. Side 1 shows the southern portion fronting on to the Sea of Bothnia and the strait facing Estonia. The capital, Helsinki, and the western port city of Tartu are shown, as well as ferry routes connecting the country to port cities along the Baltic Sea. This is a country of lakes, which are clearly shown, as are the rail routes joining communities and the highly-developed road network. Side 2 concentrates on the more northerly portions, all the way to Lapland in the far north. Border crossings to Russia are shown, but they are closed due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. A Top Attractions list is included. **AVAILABLE**

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Helsinki & Southern Finland Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper 1:10,000/1:750,000 ISBN 9781771293457 UPC 817712934574 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP9.95 – Co-incidentally, ITMB's map of Helsinki arrived at the same time as the map of Finland. There wasn't room in the country map to include the capital city, so a separate map is required. Helsinki is very focused on the water, being located on a peninsula at the southern tip of Finland. The heart of the city is located just south of the railway station and is full of interesting buildings. This is a city that is easy to get around, thanks to its excellent network of trams, all of which are clearly shown on our map. Naturally, ferry terminals are also shown, although the ones to Saint Petersburg are closed for now. Side 2 covers southern Finland, which is the most visited part of the country, showing ferry routes to Estonia and Sweden, as well as to the very scenic Åland Islands. **AVAILABLE**

Pakistan Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 1:1,200,000 ISBN 9781771296366 UPC 817712963666 \$14.95cdn/us E/GDP 10.90 – Pakistan was created out of the dismemberment of British India as a sanctuary for Muslims displaced by sectional fighting in the immediate post-WW2 era. Relations between India and Pakistan have been testy ever since, although the passage of time has made both countries aware that they need each other. That said, Pakistan is a lovely country to visit and explore. Side 1 concentrates on the southern portion of the country and includes an inset of the main city, Karachi. The south also shares long border areas with Iran, Afghanistan, and India, which are included. We have updated the road network to show recently completed motorway-like roads. The northern portion fills Side 2, continuing the long border with Afghanistan and the ill-defined borders with China and India. There is much to see in this part of Pakistan, such as the city of Quetta in the west, Islamabad, the capital, ancient Lahore, and the Hunza Valley, all of which are noted in our Top Attractions list. The north is truly adventuresome travel, and it is possible to drive the fabulous Karakoram Highway towards China, one of the most amazing road trips anywhere. However, although the contested Kashmir region is shown on the map (because it's there), visitors need to be aware that this is a volatile part of the world and should avoid it. This is a country that is much less visited than it should be. **AVAILABLE**

Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia Travel Reference Map 6th Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper 1:1,230,000 ISBN 9781771298773 UPC 817712987730 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – At one time, Indochina was a French colony. After WW2, it became Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam (admittedly, after much turmoil). The three countries now constitute the heart of South East Asia and are very friendly towards tourism, so much so that all three countries co-operate closely. Cambodia, of course, has Siem Riep and the fabulous temples of Angkor, while Laos has its pastoral countryside, and Vietnam its bustling cities. Side 1 shows the southern portion, dominated by the delta of the Mekong River. An inset of the Saigon portion of Ho Chi Minh City is included. The second side continues north to the Chinese border, and shows the growing network of motorways emanating from Hanoi and leading to China as well as to the south. A detailed inset of Hanoi's old town is included. **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES AS OF MID-MARCH, 2025

Andorra & Pyrenees Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 on waterproof stone paper 1:40,000/1:500,000 ISBN 9781771290364 UPC 817712903648 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – We first mapped Andorra two decades ago, and were the very first publisher to bring out a travel map of that small but interesting country. During winter months, Andorra is a very popular ski resort destination, and in summer is a shopper's delight, with prices much lower than in either France or Spain. Easily reachable from either country, it is one of those off-the-beaten-track that make Europe unique. The reverse side concentrates on the entire Pyrenees mountain chain from both the French and the Spanish points of view, from Bayonne in the west to Perpignan in the east. Did you know that Andorra has a tiny enclave surrounded by France? Look for Llívia, west of Mont-Louis! **AVAILABLE**

Arizona & New Mexico Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771290388 UPC 817712903884 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – Traditionally, the American states of Arizona and New Mexico have been an extremely popular travel destinations. This map shows both states to good advantage, with detailed inset maps of Albuquerque and Flagstaff. Historic Route 66 also passes through the region, which also includes such attractive sites as Santa Fe, Carlsbad Caverns, Sedona, and Grand Canyon. **AVAILABLE**

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Canada's Maritime Provinces Travel Reference Map 4th Ed. 2025 1:535,000 ISBN 9781771291903 UPC 817712919038 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The three Canadian Atlantic provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island have always formed a special sense of unity as sanctuary resettlement areas for the hundreds of thousands of settlers fleeing the turmoil of the American revolution. Nowadays, they are tranquil friendly parts of the world to visit, scenically attractive, with small fishing villages and countless historic sites to visit. The Anne of Green Gables farm site on PEI is one of the most-visited national heritage sites in the world, as is Fort Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island. Historic Halifax is a must-see city, as are Moncton, Charlottetown, and Saint John's. **AVAILABLE**

Miami & Southern Florida Travel Reference Map on waterproof stone paper 2nd Ed 2025 1:12,000/1:600,000 ISBN 9781771294966 UPC 817712949660 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – Miami is one of America's most vibrant cities, thanks to its large Cuban population. Historic Miami Beach is, of course, famous and loaded with art-deco beach hotels. The second side of the map encompasses a detailed map of Florida from the Keys north to Daytona Beach, including such well-known destinations as Tampa, the Everglades, Fort Lauderdale, Cape Canaveral, and Disneyland. **AVAILABLE**

New Zealand South (Island) 2nd Ed. 2025 1:600,000 ISBN 9781771296014 UPC 817712960146 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – New Zealand is a very popular travel destination. ITMB publishes a map of the entire country and two detailed maps at a better scale of the North and the South Islands. South Island is somewhat larger than the more populous North, and includes several offshore small island entities, such as the Chatham Islands and the South Auckland Islands off the coast of Antarctica. The main city is Christchurch, for which a detailed street plan has been included on the map. The ferry route to Wellington (on North Island) is also shown. **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES MID_FEBRUARY, 2025

Fiji and Tonga Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 Scale varies ISBN 9781771292900 UPC 817712929006 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The South Pacific offers a wealth of scenic and interesting countries to visit. Fiji is one of the most popular, consisting of two major islands and dozens of smaller ones. Suva, the capital, is portrayed with a detailed inset map. The southern island of Viti Levu is more popular with tourists, but the more northerly island of Vanua Levu is more relaxing. The second side shows the islands of Tonga. This is less visited than Fiji, just to its west, and consists of dozens of islands and many resort hotels. The capital of Nuku'alofa is small enough to walk everywhere and is the point of embarkation for most of the other islands. Captain Cook landed on tiny Vatoa Island in 1774, and the Bounty visited volcanic Tofua Island in 1789. This is a Pacific paradise! **AVAILABLE**

Geneva & Western Switzerland Travel Reference Map 4th Ed 2025 1:6,500/1:301,000 ISBN 9781771293266 UPC 817712932662 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – Geneva is an ancient Swiss town close to the French border, nestled along the edge of Lake Lemman, and is bisected by the Rhone River. The old town is on the left, or lower, bank and is loaded with shops and restaurants. The 'new' town is on the right, or upper, bank and contains the downtown shopping area and the main railway station. The United Nations complex, the Palais des Nations, is a bit of a walk to reach, so fortunately there is a tram that goes right to the gates. The airport is shown at the top of the page. The 2nd side is a new map for us, covering the western half of Switzerland as far as Basle and Luzern, concentrating on the rail network as well as the roads. For example, it shows the rail line to Zermatt, at the base of the Matterhorn. This is a beautiful part of the world to explore! **AVAILABLE**

Uganda Travel Reference Map 8th Ed. 2025 1:600,000 on waterproof stone paper ISBN 9781771298582 UPC 817712985828 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 - Uganda is one of the most interesting countries in Africa to visit. Side 1 covers the touristic northern half of the country, with Murchison Falls National Park and its many safari lodges dominating. In the far north is Kidepo National Park, wilder and less visited and therefore more pristine. In the east is Mount Elgin. Side 2 is dominated by Kampala, the capital, and is the heartland of the Bugandan people. And Lake Victoria, shared with Neighbouring Tanzania And Kenya. **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES AS OF MID-JANUARY, 2025

Afghanistan Travel Reference Map, with Turkmenistan 4th Ed. 2020 1:1,650,000 ISBN 9781771299988 UPC 817712979988 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – **AVAILABLE**

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Las Vegas and Region Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper 1:40,000/1:800,000 ISBN 9781771294508 UPC 8177129 45082 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE

Manhattan and Region Travel Reference Map 5th Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper 1:11,000/1:750,000 ISBN 9781771294942 UPC 817712949424 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – AVAILABLE

Mongolia Travel Reference Map 8th Ed. 2025 on waterproof paper 1:800,000 ISBN 9781771294959 UPC 817712949592 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE

New Guinea Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 1:1,650,000 ISBN 9781771295864 UPC 817712958648 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – AVAILABLE

Southern Ontario (or Ontario South half) Travel Reference Map 2nd Ed. 2025 1:550,000 ISBN 9781771297363 UPC 817712973634 \$11.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – AVAILABLE

Zurich & Northern Switzerland Travel Reference Map 3rd Ed. 2025 1:8,000/1:301,000 ISBN 9781771299244 UPC 817712992444 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – AVAILABLE

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