



ITMB PUBLISHING LTD.

- **INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MAPS AND BOOKS**
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AXIS OF EVIL MAPPING NEWSLETTER #9 OF 2025 – Early-September

INTRODUCTION

The dog days of summer are behind us, the kids are back at school, and it is time to start planning for that fall trip or off-season cruise. Maps have a season. Maps of Europe are much more popular between May and October, while maps of the Caribbean and Mexico tend to languish. The reverse is true between October and April, when Mexico, in particular, is very popular and cruises to Caribbean island nations really take off. So, if you are a distributor or a retailer, look to the future and build up your inventory of titles for warmer climates!

NEW TITLES AND NEW RELEASES AS OF THE END OF AUGUST

This month, as promised, we have eight lovely new titles for exciting travel destinations around the world. This month, we start in South America with **Bolivia**, then move to Europe with a much-needed map of **Estonia & Tallinn**. Moving a bit further east, we have finally completed our new map of **Georgia & Tbilisi**. This was previously Tbilisi & Georgia, so apart from updating, fits more logically under G. Next, we move much farther east for our new map of **Malaysia**, an up-and-coming economic power. We then have to move north and somewhat west to find our brand new map of **Kazakhstan**. This map was previously published in conjunction with Uzbekistan, but it is a large country, and developing quickly despite being so close to Russia. Next, we hop over to North America, for a new map of **Mexico City & Central Mexico**. Next, we bounce back to Europe for a brand new ITMB map of **Western Balkans**. Finally, we stay in Europe, for a brand new double-sided map of lovely **Switzerland**. Previously, this was a single-sided map on the back side of Geneva, so this expansion really places the country on a par with every other European country we map. Details are in our New Releases section, as usual.

WHY DO WE MAP?

All map publishers get asked the same question – why do you bother mapping, isn't the world already mapped? The simple answer is – No, it isn't, because there are no maps for odd bits of the planet, but the real answer is 'because things are always changing'. New roads, new touristic attractions, new rail lines and dams and airports – the world is always changing. Mapping is a never-ending exercise in trying to keep on top of sometimes massive changes as the world's population increases and mega-projects come on line. For example Site C, a hydro project in British Columbia (see below for details) has now come on stream, creating a huge new lake. This affects ITMB's maps of BC and of Northern BC, and perhaps others. China has built a huge new bridge near Shenzhen and a new highway. This affects our map of China, but also our map of South China and perhaps our map of Hong Kong. The bridge/tunnel between Denmark and Norway will eventually show on maps of Europe, as well as of those two countries, once it is completed. The newly-announced bridge between mainland Italy and Sicily (a much-needed improvement) will change every map publisher's product line of Italian maps, sometime around 2033.

British Columbia is creating a new municipality called Okanagan Falls. Most of BC is lightly populated and no municipal authority is needed. As population builds, the necessity of a municipality becomes evident, and the local residents gather together to petition the provincial government to create a municipality (which is our term for a town, a village, or a hamlet – but not a city). All municipalities and cities in BC are creatures of the provincial government, and when one considers that BC is as large as all of western Europe, try and imagine the complexities involved in persuading people who have always lived in a rural setting that it is time to change! Anyway, the province arranged for a referendum, which was approved by the local residents, and the province is now surveying the boundaries of the future municipality, plus setting in motion the creation of a police district, a school district, a medical district, and all the many features that we take for granted in an urban area. Voter's rolls need to be prepared, property boundaries confirmed, a fire department created etc., ad infinitum. From a mapping point of view, all maps by everyone will have to change to include the new municipality once it comes into existence in 2026. Until it exists, it can't be shown on maps, at least reputable maps, any more than proposed high-speed train lines between Los Angeles and Las Vegas can be. Future envisaged projects rarely come to fruition. However, Okanagan Falls is well on the way to become a reality and will change forever all maps of BC! ITMB is ready!

By the way, Vancouver is not 'a' city, it is 23 municipalities jumbled together, each one fiercely independent. Co-ordinating 23 fire departments and 23 police forces is a tad challenging, but we manage.

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WHY IS ITMB SOMETIMES OUT OF A CERTAIN TITLE?

ITMB is responsible for more than 900 cartographic items, many of which consist of two completely different maps sharing the same sheet of paper. Rwanda and Burundi is an example, but there are just under 500 such titles. Individual titles tend to sell down gradually, some faster than others, but they all reach a point where an updating is required. For three years, between 2020 and 2023, the world was in a state of enforced hibernation, imposed by Covid-19. As parts of the world started re-opening for travel, the process was very uneven, resulting in surges in demand for certain parts of the world and minimal interest in other parts. This is largely sorted out by now, but travel to Africa and South America is recovering more slowly than for other parts of the world. During Covid, we could continue updating, but not printing, as our printers were shut down, as were most of our customers. As a result, we ran out of very few titles until 2024, as we were well-stocked when Covid hit. However, by mid-2024, we were seeing a great number of our titles approaching the updating stage. Ian and her team of cartographers have performed miracles keeping a wide range of titles through the updating and printing process, but some titles have taken longer than others to complete the updating/printing processes.

Despite supply chain difficulties, which have morphed into Trumpian economic supply chain uncertainty, ITMB is receiving between five and eight titles per month from our printers, as is evidenced by the number of press releases being sent out and by our monthly Axis newsletters. Please keep reading these for important ordering information.

However, despite our best efforts, maps have been selling faster than our ability to keep every title in print all the time. At the moment, we have five titles in Vancouver, awaiting delivery, another six en route from the printers, and a further 18 at press, going through the various stages of printing and folding. Some of these have already run out of copies in our warehouse. Sorry, but there isn't much that we can do to speed up the process. Updating is a time-consuming process of checking thousands of points of cartographic reference, and there is only one way to do it – carefully. The printing process is subject to paper availability, press time availability, and folding equipment availability – none of which are controlled by ITMB. Ditto shipping time to Vancouver; ditto trucking time to our warehouse. Every day a shipment arrives, it is like Christmas as we pore over the new treasures.

Maps also have a seasonal aspect to their popularity. During the spring and summer months, we have to concentrate on Europe and North America, during the fall, on Asia, and as winter progresses, on Mexico and the Caribbean, simply because we sell more maps during certain seasons of different parts of the world. Travel to Africa, South America, and most of Asia has, very unfortunately, not recovered to the same extent as travel to Europe, but sales are picking up. Since January, travel to the USA has become increasingly unpopular, but American titles remain very popular within the USA, so our sales remain robust for that country. Seasonal travel places ITMB in a very difficult position in deciding which titles to prioritize when doing updating. Naturally, the most popular titles have the highest priority, but slower-selling titles still have a market and need attention. In other words, maintaining an inventory of 600 map titles is a juggling exercise! We do our best to keep all titles in print, but we also live in the real world, where priorities have to be set, and delays occur, so sometimes a desired title is between editions and is unavailable. Sorry, but we can't change the world, just map it.

We are also developing cartography for brand new maps, such as the folded map of the world that was released last month. ITMB's Faroe Islands artwork is coming along steadily, and a very different map of Asia is in the early stages of cartographic production, so we're still expanding. So much to do; so little time!

HOW DID ITALY GET ITS FLAG?

Italy, as a country, only came into existence around the same time Germany did, which means around 1871 or 2. Before that, it was a pot-pouri of fiefdoms formed in the Middle Ages and was constantly fought over by powerful royal families. The tri-colour flag first flew during the short-lived Cispadane Republic in 1797 of northern Italy. Napoleon soon put a stop to that non-royal entity, by occupying northern Italy, which was later conquered by the Austrians in 1814 and added to the Hapsburg Empire by the Congress of Vienna. The world went through catastrophic times following the final defeat of Napoleonic Europe, but eventually, Cavour and Garibaldi patched together a workable coalition that resulted in the Italy we know today. I'm obviously leaving out a LOT of history to focus on why the flag is the flag it is today. That's the story. Like many modern flags, it has a ton of history surrounding it.

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A TOURIST SITE YOU CAN'T SEE – YET

Canada, or specifically British Columbia, has been building one of the most massive hydro-electricity facilities in North America for the past ten years. The sixth and final generator came on-stream this month, and as a result, BC has reliable and affordable electricity for the next twenty years. So what does this have to do with travel? Site C, which is the name of this huge construction project, is in a remote part of northern BC, which at the moment is rather inaccessible. However, the dam is so large it can be seen from outer space, and now that it is completely filled we will have to add it to our maps of BC and Northern BC. Once construction is complete, the roads leading to Site C will be upgraded and probably paved, recreational offshoots will lead campers to scenic spots around the lake and the current construction housing will form the nucleus of a future town, as yet unnamed. So, be patient. This is a massive project that, in itself, is a game-changer for northern BC, but over time, will become a touristic attraction of significance. This is likely the last mega-dam project that will be built in North America, as we're running out of areas of land suitable for building huge hydro-generating plants, so as our economy develops, we'll have to use other ways to generate electricity.

INTERNATIONAL CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

The ICA held its 2025 convention in Canada in Vancouver in August, with about 750 delegates attending. This is big news for travel, as cartographers are those funny people who make maps, and maps are essential for travel. Vancouver is, of course, a significant travel destination, but is also a significant site for conventions and trade shows. It is also the busiest cruise ship terminus in North America, at least during the warmer months, with an average of 48,000 people arriving or departing weekly, mostly for Alaska, but also for Japan, Hawaii, and the American west coast cities. Travel to Canada is up this year, with more Americans coming to Canada than vice-versa (sorry, but we're still as mad as anything about the vicious and unfounded attacks from the USA, so travel to the USA is way down). Like cartographers from around the world, Vancouverites recognize that we happen to live in one of the most scenic places anywhere on Planet Earth. Come along and see for yourself!

TITANIC

One place that is off-limits to travel at the moment is the wreck of the RMS Titanic, the ship that hit an iceberg on its maiden voyage in 1912 and sank, killing some 1,500 passengers and crew. The tragedy ensured that the ship became a legend, with numerous accounts by survivors being published and an excellent film being made, starring Leonardo di Caprio. What is little known is that one of the victims was travelling using a stolen identity and was taking his two infant sons to America to escape his wife, who was suing him for divorce. Michael Navratil stole the passport of a business associate, Louis Hoffman, and used it to buy tickets from Nice, where he lived, to Southampton, and onwards to New York City, in order to abduct his two sons and take them from their mother, as sometimes happens in troubled marriages. In those days, passports did not contain photos of the person, so he was able to travel fairly easily using someone else's passport. Children did not require passports. Incredibly, by today's standards, no documentation was required for them, and a man's word was taken as his bond, so his unverified claim that their mother had died was accepted without question.. By chance, he booked a second-class cabin on the Titanic, a name that meant nothing to him.

When the tragedy struck, he thrust Michael, age 4, and Edmond, age 2, on to a departing lifeboat. They survived the ordeal and were taken aboard the rescue ship the Carpathia, in the morning. Their father was not as lucky. In jumping for a different lifeboat, he fell in to the ocean and drowned. The boys, of course, were too young to understand what was happening, and as they spoke only a patois dialect of French that was peculiar to Nice, they could only be understood with difficulty. A young American woman, Margaret Hays, another survivor, bonded with them and took them home with her when the Carpathia finally docked in NYC. Amazingly, she just walked off the ship with them and met her parents at the dock, then got into a car and off they went – no passport inspection, no Customs clearances, no questioning who these two children were - nothing. Granted, it was a chaotic situation and normal processing was erratic, but still – incredible!

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The story might have ended there were it not for the publicity that pursued all the survivors, including Margaret Hays, whose story about 'saving' two orphans was carried around the world, including, incredibly, to Nice, where their distraught mother, not knowing where her husband had taken the children, read an account of two orphans whose names for themselves were LoLo and Lump, and were obviously her children, as those were the childish nicknames used by her until they could master their proper names. Of course, authorities discounted her claim of motherhood, because they were travelling under the name of Hoffman, from the stolen passport. After many adventures and mishaps, she was finally re-united with her children, returned to France with them and they lived out normal lives, with LoLo (Michael Roger Navratil) becoming the last male survivor of the Titanic tragedy to die, in 2001, at age 92.

There is a corollary to this saga, and it is just as amazing. The body of Michael Navratil washed ashore some months later, in Nova Scotia. Naturally, he was identified as Louis Hoffman, due to papers that he had on him, and this corresponded with the documentation held by the White Star Line as being a passenger on the doomed ship. He was subsequently buried under that name in the Halifax cemetery holding some 300 recovered bodies from the tragedy. Incredibly, the authorities of the time refused to accept that the man travelling as Louis Hoffman was, in reality, Michael Navratil, even after the real Louis Hoffman testified under oath that he had been a business partner of Navratil and that Navratil had stolen his passport. Navratil's headstone in the Jewish cemetery in Halifax still bears the name Hoffman to this day. Considering that Navratil was neither Hoffman nor Jewish, this bizarre detail is just one of many associated with the sinking of the Titanic.

As a corollary to the corollary, the children's mother was never able to complete her divorce petition, as Navratil was deemed to be missing, not dead, by French courts, since there was no record of his death. She could never re-marry (she was 21 at the time the Titanic sank). She was, apparently, a caring and loving mother and raised her two sons to adulthood in Nice. As a last aside, the band on the Titanic never played the hymn Nearer, My God, to Thee as the ship sank. This is pure fiction. The band played calming music, hoping to prevent a panic, until the ship broke in two and rapidly upended in opposite directions. No band member survived.

THE MYTH OF KRAKATOA AND THE SUMMER THAT NEVER WAS

Following the final defeat of Napoleon, Britain fell into an economic depression as it adjusted to having tens of thousands of troops being demobilized, with little for them to do and having a government that didn't care. At about the same time, in 1815/16 specifically, the entire world suffered an enormous natural disaster, where thousands of people died, crops failed, endless rains descended, and general misery ensued. At the time, no one knew why. Nowadays, we would blame climate change, but the actual root cause was a massive volcanic explosion in what is now called Indonesia, but was then the British-occupied Dutch East Indies. Mount Tambora was 100 times more powerful than the Mount St. Helen's catastrophe in the 1980s. More than 90,000 residents in the immediate vicinity died, the monsoon season was disrupted, causing multiple crop failures, and created an outbreak of Cholera, which returning British soldiers brought to Britain and killed thousands of individuals. The ash spewing from Tambora created an ash cloud in the upper atmosphere so dense that the sun almost was invisible for over a year.

Crops failed in the USA as well, prompting thousands of destitute Americans to migrate westward and create new farming land in the American prairies. It also flooded large parts of Switzerland and created starvation conditions in much of Europe. 60,000 Irish starved to death; 200,000 more starved in continental Europe. Such matters were poorly understood at the time, with the end of the world being feared by many.

So, what does all of this have to do with Krakatoa, another volcanic island in the Dutch East Indies? No one who saw Tambora erupt survived, but a British ship witnessed Krakatoa erupting, and as a result the British audience gained a mistaken idea that it was Krakatoa's eruption that caused the Summer That Never Was. It's eruption no doubt made things worse, and was probably triggered by Tambora's eruption, but was only a tenth the size of the enormous explosion of Tambora.

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Regardless, it became part of popular mythology that 'Krakatoa, east of Java' was the cause of the summer of 1816. In the first place, Krakatoa is west of Java, not east, and secondly, it is still believed to this day as having created the massive ash cloud that changed world history. Cruise ships regularly sail by the island and thousands of tourists snap pictures. Yes, it was a massive volcanic eruption in 1815, but it was Tambora that created the ash capable of blocking the sun for the better part of a year and wreaking havoc around the world.

The Summer That Never Was did result in at least three significant pluses. The first is that a self-made geologist, William Smith, realized that mineral deposits in Britain followed a pattern. This was unknown science at work in 1815. He published the first-ever geological map of Britain, the first such map in the world, and is now known as being the father of geology.

The second advance relates to literature. Several literary inclined individuals took shelter from the storms and cold on the shores of Lake Geneva and entertained themselves by writing dark stories and poems. One of them was Mary Shelly, who wrote Frankenstein. Another was Lord Byron, who composed an epic poem Darkness. A third was John Polidori, who wrote Vampyre, which was later developed by Bram Stoker into Dracula.

The third development was the creation of the Metropolitan Police Force in London, although it took many years of argument to bring it into force. In the immediate post-Napoleonic era, policing in London, and in Britain generally, was regarded as something each parish would deal with as it saw fit to do. However, reformers kept pressing aristocratically-oriented governmental officials to 'do something'. Ultimately, history was on their side, and once Robert Peel was finished with his attempts to subdue the Irish, he supported the concept and became the first Commissioner, hence the name Peeler, for 'cop'. And such is why we travel – to see Bobbies, the modern version of Bobbie Peel's Runners. And so ends travel for another month!

NEW RELEASES AS OF MID-SEPTEMBER, 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**

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. The offshore islands of Saaremaa and Kõrge are easily reached by ferries. The map includes numerous capsule comments related to Estonia and its historic heritage. **AVAILABLE**

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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. Note: It is NOT possible to cross from Georgia into Russian-occupied territory. The second side shows Tbilisi, the capital, in excellent detail. The city is oriented north-south along both banks of the Kura River. There are only a few bridges across the river and vehicular traffic is strong, so congestion is always a problem in the city. Also, the downtown part (on the west bank) was well-developed before cars were invented and the locals have not yet figured out how to park, so driving is a bit of an adventure. The old town is famous for its cobbled streets and wooden houses and is a touristic mecca. The 'dry bridge' flea market is a holdover from the Soviet era, but a great place to visit. This is a country and a city that everyone should visit! **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. Today's border with China is only a short distance from the capital. This is a country best seen on a group tour, but that may just be my old bones talking! As an aside, this edition is the 3rd one for Kazakhstan, not the 4th as printed on the map. **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. Inset maps of Kuching, Bandar Seri, and Kota Kinabalu are also included.

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. This is the heart of Mexico and is loaded with old Spanish towns full of historic buildings. It also includes major travel destinations, such as Teotihuacan. **AVAILABLE**

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Switzerland Travel Reference Map 4th Edition 2026 1:301,000 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. Switzerland may not be a large country geographically, but it is packed with fascinating places to visit. **AVAILABLE**

Western Balkans Travel Reference Map 1st Edition 2026 1:900,000 ISBN 9781771299022 UPC 817712990228 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – The region stretching from Trieste to Sophia that used to be known as Yugoslavia is now called the Western Balkans, consisting of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia, and parts of Albania, Hungary, and Bulgaria. Slovenia and Croatia are now part of the EU, and the other countries are aspiring to join. As a result, the region is becoming a popular touristic destination, easy to reach from Italy or Austria. Side 1 fronts on to the Adriatic Sea, showing the many ferry routes to Italy, the coastal motorway to Greece, and cities such as Ljubljana, Zagreb, Split, and Dubrovnik. Side 2 concentrates on the mountainous interior, essentially from Lake Balaton south to the Greek border and Thessalonica. This is a developing part of Europe, with names like Belgrade, Sarajevo, Pristina, Podgorica, Tirane, and Skopje, that are exotic and different, and therefore exciting to visit. It also includes several new national parks as the region gears up for an influx of tourists. **AVAILABLE**

NEW RELEASES AS OF MID-AUGUST, 2025

Andalusia and Gibraltar Travel Reference Map 1st Edition 2025 (2nd for Gibraltar) 1:530,000/1:80,000 ISBN 9781771293303 UPC 817712933034 \$14.94cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – Andalusia is the regional name for southwestern Spain, essentially the provinces of Huelva, Granada, Cordoba, Jaen, and Almeria. It was under Moorish control until the late 1400s, when Ferdinand and Isabella forced the Moors to capitulate at the city gates of Granada. The magnificent palace of Alhambra fell to the conquering Spanish monarchs, it remains today a wonderful place to visit. This map covers southern Spain from the Portuguese border eastward to east of Almeria and north from the Mediterranean to somewhat north of Cordoba on side 1 and includes a new list of Top Attractions. Side 2 shows the Strait of Gibraltar, with ferry routes across to Morocco and the Spanish enclave of Ceuta (also known as Sebta) and the British overseas possession of Gibraltar. A large inset map of Gibraltar City at 1:10,000 is also included. The ITMB map of Gibraltar is replaced by this map. **AVAILABLE**

Bangkok & Southern Thailand Travel Reference Map 3rd Edition, 2026 on waterproof paper 1:10,000/1:750,000 ISBN 9781771291163 UPC 817712911636 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – Bangkok is one of the most-visited cities in Asia, and a wonderful place to see, loaded with palaces and temple complexes. It is also easy to travel around, thanks to its elevated transit system, which is currently undergoing a massive upgrade of new lines. Side 1 covers the city from Thonburi to the Queen Sirikit Convention Centre and from Line 2 north to Victory Monument, showing dozens of hotels, all the temples and Wats, the transit lines, shopping areas, schools, and embassies. Side 2 covers all of the southern peninsula of Thailand to the Malaysian border with a detailed inset map of the resort area of Pattaya. To assist end users, we have added the region surrounding Bangkok, showing the new international airport southeast of the city. The old airport still exists, but not for international flights. **AVAILABLE**

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Great Lakes Travel Reference Map 5th Edition 2026 1:850,000 ISBN 9781771293280 UPC 817712932808 \$11.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – The largest lakes in the world are the five North American lakes known as the Great Lakes. Combined with the Saint Lawrence Seaway, they bring ocean-going ships to the middle of the continent, but they are amazing natural wonder in their own right. All are shared by Canada and the USA except Lake Michigan, which is wholly inside American territory. Lake Superior is so large that all of Great Britain would sink into it if one were able to lift the isles and transport them to America. They are so large that it takes three days just to drive around them. Duluth, Chicago, Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland, Buffalo, and Toronto are all included, as well as surrounding countryside. This map is truly America's heartland of industrial strength and prosperity. It is also the historical centre of Canadian/American expansion westward after the Revolutionary War, and the site of numerous battles, forts, and historic sites. **AVAILABLE**

New Brunswick Travel Reference Map 3rd Edition 2025 1:360,000 ISBN 9781771295994 UPC 817712959942 \$13.95cdn/us E/GBP 9.95 – The Canadian province of New Brunswick sits just north of Nova Scotia and is joined to the island province of Prince Edward by the 30km-long Confederation Bridge. It borders on the American state of Maine and on the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec. The area was first settled by Bretons from Brittany, in France, and was known as Acadie. The British seized control of the colony during the Seven Years War and resettled many of the Acadians into French-controlled Louisiana, much to their displeasure. The area became the site of massive resettlement following the American Revolutionary War, with tens of thousands of refugee settlers fleeing the fighting that engulfed the rebellious colonies. The sudden growth in population, combined with returning Acadian settlers, persuaded the British to create a new colony, called New Brunswick, with its capital at Fredericton, a new interior city deemed to be less likely to be attacked by Americans (keep in mind that the residents tended to be virulently anti-rebel). The colony prospered and joined with other colonies in the 1860s to create Canada as a country in 1867. As a result, NB is full of history, and is easy to access from Maine and eastern Canada. Surprisingly, to this day the interior of the province is largely uninhabited, similarly to Maine, with most urban areas close to water. As a tidbit of trivia, Miscou Island is the site where the most advanced aircraft in the world, the USSR's Moskva, ran out of fuel and landed in 1939, while en route to be displayed at the World's Fair in New York City. This was during an era where Russians held great distrust of the USA and the pilots exited the plane with guns drawn, expecting to have to fight their way to safety. Being met by a couple of bemused fishermen did little to reassure them! Eventually, the plane was dismantled and shipped back to Russia, where it disappeared, never to fly again. Pity. **AVAILABLE**

World, The/Flags of the World Travel Reference Map 1st Edition 2026 1:43,000,000 ISBN 9781771299053 UPC 817712990532 \$14.95cdn/us E/GBP 10.90 – As a worldwide mapping firm, ITMB has, of course, published wall maps of the world, but until now, we have not been able to offer a convenient folded version of the world. This map portrays the world politically, with large countries showing provincial/state boundaries, as well as a good selection of cities. A map of the world involves a certain amount of political juggling in order to be acceptably accurate while noting areas of political sensitivity. Thus, Ukraine is shown with its traditionally accepted borders, despite Russia's incursions, Gaza is far too small to show, but we do name Palestine. Taiwan is in a different colour than mainland China, Western Sahara is noted by colour but not named as it doesn't exist except in the fevered imaginations of certain countries, and the Gulf of Mexico has its normally-accepted name. Antarctica, unfortunately, does not show well. Basic time zone clocks are noted at various parts of the margin, and Spitsbergen is noted by its Norwegian name of Svalbard. Apologies for any inadvertent errors, but it is extremely difficult to prepare a map of the entire world that doesn't offend somebody. Suggested improvements are welcomed. Side 2 is very interesting, in that it shows the flags of all accepted countries in the world, alphabetically arranged, with the location of each entity noted as to where it is on the map side, along with basic information as to area, capital city, and population. This last aspect is as good as census information can provide, but might be dated. India remains the most populous nation on earth, with China a close second and the USA a distant third. Canada, as usual, is the largest country in the free world, with a population density that is one of the lowest in the world. **AVAILABLE**

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