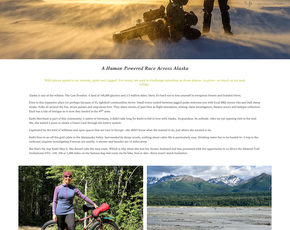
The Iditarod Trail Invitational



A Human Powered Race Across Alaska

Wild places speak to us, esteem, quiet and rugged. For many, we seek to challenge ourselves in these places to grow—as much as we seek refuge.

Alaska is one of the wildest. The Last Frontier. A land of 150,000 glaciers and 3.5 million lakes. Here, it's hard not to lose yourself in overgrown forests and hundred-miles.

Every fall, exceptional place to be exceptional place of all. Eighteen unmarked trailers, hand-pulled sled dogs, and a few bicycles. Sleeping bags, pulks, and pack sleds, sleeping mats. Tuffs of around the bay, around glaciers and along natural lines. They share stories of just those at flight attendants, mining claim investigators, theatre actors and antique collectors. Some are in their 20s, some are in their 60s. Some are in between.

Each this year's goal of the community. A series of harrowing, 1,000-plus-mile, Iditarod-Trail-to-Nome-with-Alaska, the prestigious, the ultimate. After an year starting 14th in the 400 70s, the Iditarod Trail is where Alaska's Last Frontier Trail through the Interior system.

Experiencing the best of wilderness and some spaces that are no longer—we don't know what the wonder is, just where the wonder is.

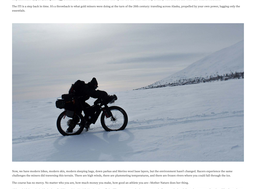
Each Year is an all-out effort to the Matanuska Valley, Surrounded by dense woods, nothing about cabin life is particularly easy. Drinking water has to be hacked. A, A trip to the outhouse requires transporting it from an outside. A shower and laundry are 15 miles away.

But that's the very habit that is. Bike, Kicked-Sled the very trail. Which is why when the race for Summer Solstice and was presented with the opportunity to co-direct the Iditarod Trail Invitational (ITI), I felt, like a 2,000-miler on the Nameless Bay Sled Dog Trail in the Delta, that we also share-based trail-kinship.

Alaska is made up of plant worldwide with massive glaciers jutting out. In the summer, but moving cities, alpine lakes and verdant coastal temperate rainforests. Bike in the winter, all that water freezes. You can travel long distances by ground, with Alaska's biking is expanding.

> "I asked riding in Homer, Alaska, and about and about and about you couldn't see to the mainstream. I was embracing the winters, fascinated by frozen terrain you couldn't access any other time of year."
>
> Kathi Merchant

That passion for the biking is what drew Kathi to help great the ITI. Not an Iditarod Trail just taken over the race and together they teamed up to continue.



The Holy Grail of Winter Ultra Racing

The Iditarod Trail Invitational is the world's longest winter ultra marathon. It's considered the pinnacle of winter racing. The entire journey never crosses a road. Northern ship in the U.S. as you find a place the mountain, this was.

The race begins at Knik Lake, about an hour's drive from Anchorage. The course winds through the vast Alaska interior crossing the Alaska Range. It winds through native villages only accessible by plane, along the rugged coast and Bering Sea. Then it turns back for the 350-mile cross-up to Nome. Nome that sits the 400-mile cross-ski at Nulato.

The ITI is a day-to-date. It's a Bicycle-Sled-Ski-Foot-Dog-Sled-Snowshoe-Ski-Foot-Dog-Sled-Snowshoe-Ski-Foot-Dog-Sled-Snowshoe