



DIMITRI KIEFFER – AROUND THE WORLD BY HUMAN POWER

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If you think the toughest aspect of circling the world by muscle power is the physical toil, you haven't been to Russia's Far East. French American Dimitri Kieffer is striving circumnavigate our planet with just his arms and legs, but for the past four years he's been wading through a whole lot more than just bogs in Eastern Siberia.



It all began in 2005, when Dimitri decided to trek and snowshoe along the route of the 1770 km Iditarod Trail Race from Anchorage, Alaska to Nome. At this point Dimitri wasn't planning a global circumnavigation - the ultra marathoner simply wanted to challenge himself along the route

of the world's most grueling dog sledding race. After 37 days of leg aching, teeth chattering toil, he reached the shores of the Bering Sea, and the end of the Iditarod Trail.

Dimitri decided to extend his journey a little further and teamed up with extreme trekker Karl Bushby. Several months later, the two successfully walked across the frozen Bering Strait to the Eastern shores of Siberia. This was no small feat considering the 85 km channel is never fully frozen. Strong currents break up the ice, and crossing the Strait involves scrambling over loose pan ice, swimming across vast open leads, and a lot of luck. The duo became the first in history to walk across the Bering Strait from east to west.

COSTA RICA BLOG

- ✦ New Rules for Obtaining a Costa Rica Drivers License March 14, 2013
This post is directed to foreigners interested in obtaining a Costa Rica drivers license. It is not relevant to citizens of Costa Rica. I have been putting off writing this post for a couple of months now hoping that I could write the complete story. Alas, I can only cover part of it, but the [...]

- ✦ Chili Cook Off in Atenas. Worth Going! Charity Event January 17, 2013
This year's Chili Cook Off will be on February 10, 2013 and seems to have become an annual event. I seldom promote this kind of stuff, but in this case, the organizers are honest and the money goes to the Hogar de Vida, a home for abused, abandoned and orphaned kids that houses up to 35 [...]

COSTA RICA AREA NEWS

- ✦ Miami Coast Guard Seizes 1250 Lbs of Cocaine Worth \$19 Million
As part of a multinational program aimed at combating drug trafficking, a huge drug seizure took place following a U.S

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COSTA RICA NEWS

- ✦ RECOPE Ignores The Savings Per Liter with Chinese Refinery
Almost 6 years after it was spoken for the first time with a refinery in China and with 50 million colones invested in studies and consultancies; RECOPE still doesn't say what would be the savings per liter of fuel with the new processing plant. According to the company, the benefit for the final user would be defined in the future by the Autoridad Regulad [...]
- ✦ Conavi Has No Available Budget To Work Short-Term On The Route To San Ramón
The Consejo Nacional de Vialidad (Conavi) has no funds available for works on the 58km

When Dimitri and Karl reached the shores of Russia, they experienced the lingering-Soviet-style bureaucracy still so prevalent in Eastern Siberia. They were immediately arrested and deported for entering the country outside of an official port of call. There was no way they could have obtained advance permissions, as there are no exceptions.

At this point Dimitri had trekked through some of the world's most daunting terrain, from the heart of Alaska all the way to Siberia, and like Forest Gump on a roll, decided to just keep on going. Fortunately, he received permission to return to Siberia, and beginning in 2007 he has been slowly trekking through the enormous roadless expanse in stages. The bureaucratic hurdles faced have been almost as challenging as the long days trudging through vast frozen landscapes.

Dimitri is currently in the U.S., and plans to return to Siberia this February to complete the final leg before reaching the first roads of Siberia near Magadan. Unfortunately, Russia has recently changed the rules for travel visas, and visitors can only stay for a maximum of 90 days at a time. This means that, Dimitri will need to leave Russia yet again, before returning to cycle across Eurasia to the Atlantic Ocean.

There is still a long way to go, but Dimitri almost has one of the toughest legs in his rear view mirror. If he succeeds in completing his circumnavigation he may be the first American to circle the world by muscle power alone.

Follow this expedition on Dimitri's blog.

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Coast Guard interdiction off the coast of Costa ... [...]

- ✦ Films from 10 Latin American Countries in Uruguayan Festival Montevideo, July 2 (Prensa Latina) More than 30 films from various countries participate in the Sixth Sea Film Festival A Cinema of Mercosur, which opens tomorrow in the resort of Punta del Este. Productions of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Paraguay, Venezuela and Uruguay will be screened during the annual event, which will begin with Tues [...]

road between La Sabana and San Ramón. The only budget anticipation in the institution for the Bernardo Soto (route 1) is an intervention to the bridge of the Virilla River. José Luis Salas, executive director of Conavi, pointed out this morning during the interview with A [...]

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