

# CHECKPOINTS

**Anchorage** Lat 61.12 Long 149.55

- Population, 260-283 (Alaska's largest city)
- Full range of transportation and accommodations
- Race starts downtown on Fourth Avenue and D Streets
- Lots of interesting side trips (check in the Visitor's Guide)

**Anvik** Lat 62.39 Long 160.11

- First checkpoint on the Yukon River
- Checkpoint in lodge -- minimum accommodations available
- Millennium Alaska Hotel First Musher to the Yukon Award (including a 7 course meal and \$5,00 in \$1 bills)

**Elim** (EE-lum) Lat 64.37 Long 162.15

- Population 313
- Checkpoint at the local fire hall

**Eagle Island** Lat 63.39 Long 159.24

- Tent checkpoint on the Yukon

**Finger Lake** Lat 61.59 Long 152.40

- Population 2
- Not uncommon to have 10 feet of snow on the ground
- Tent checkpoint on the lake

**Golovin** (GULL-uh-vin) Lat 64.32 Long 163.50

- Population 127
- Checkpoint located at checker's house

**Grayling** Lat 62.55 Long 160.40

- Population 208
- Checkpoint in community center
- Last village until Kaltag, 130 mile further up the trail

**Iditarod** (I-DIT-a-rod) Lat 62.38 Long 155.05

- Population 0
- GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway Award is presented to the first musher to the checkpoint receives a trophy and \$3,000 in gold nuggets

**Kaltag** (KAL-tag) Lat 64.19 Long 158.45

- Population 230
- Relief from driving Yukon River winds the mushers have been traveling through
- Official checkpoint and gathering spot is at the community hall
- Home of Virginia Kalland, widow of 1925 serum musher, Edgar Kalland

**Koyuk** (COY-uk) Lat 64.56 Long 161.10

- Population 297
- Checkpoint located at the City Office Building

**McGrath** Lat 62.57 Long 155.36

- Population 401
- Located near the confluence of the Kuskokwim and Takotna Rivers
- Last chance to buy aviation gas, except for Galena, until you reach Unalakleet
- Some lodging available
- PenAir award present here
- Checkpoint located at the Cap'n Snow Center (Community Hall)

**Nikolai** (NIK-o-lye) Lat 63.02 Long 154.22

- Population 109
- First of many Native villages along the trail
- Limited lodging available
- Checkpoint located in the Community Hall

**Nome** Lat 64.30 Long 165.24

- Population 3505
- End of the Iditarod Trail
- When gold was discovered on the beaches, it became a boomtown, home of 30,000 gold seekers
- Gold rush atmosphere still abounds when "Iditarod fever" hits town and the city welcomes visitors to see the end of the Race
- Numerous restaurants, gift shops and bars line famous Front Street, but lodging is limited
- Check with Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau for availability of B & B accommodations

**Ophir** (OH-fur) Lat 63.08 Long 156.31

- Population 0
- Now a ghost town, named for the lost country of Ophir, the source of King Solomon's gold
- Many items and artifacts still remain untouched
- Checkpoint is at the Forsgren cabin

**Rainy Pass** Lat 62.10 Long 152.43

- Population 2
- Located on Puntilla Lake and the highest point of the Iditarod Trail
- Steve Parrin's and Bucky Winkley's guiding operation working from here
- Checkpoint is in one of the cabins that are Rainy Pass Lodge

**Rohn** (RONE) Lat 62.35 Long 153.21

- Population 0
- Located near the confluence of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim and that Tatina Rivers
- Area served as location for one of the original Iditarod Trail Roadhouses used by dog teams carrying mail

**Safety** Lat 64.27 Long 164.49

- \* Population
- \* Checkpoint is the Safety Roadhouse, which opens up during Iditarod time
- \* Last checkpoint before Nome

**Shageluk** (SHAG-a-luck) Lat 62.42 Long 159.24

- Population 139
- Ingalik Indian name meaning "village of the dog people"
- Checkpoint in community hall
- Adolph Hamilton, resides here. He helped race organizers find the original trail to the town of Iditarod even though he had been over it once, as a small boy, with his father

**Shaktoolik** (Shak-TOO-lick) Lat 64.20 Long 161.10

- Population 230
- One of the windiest stretches of trail.
- Checkpoint is in the armory

**Skwentna** Lat 61.55 Long 151.11

- Population 111
- Located near the confluence of the Skwentna and Yentna Rivers
- Checkpoint located at Joe and Norma Delia's log house
- Store there and limited lodging nearby

**Takotna** (Ta-COT-na) Lat 63.00 Long 156.04

- Population 38
- Situated on the banks of the Takotna River, this town as a store and restaurant
- One of the smallest towns with one of the biggest welcomes

**Unalakleet** (YOU-na-la-kleet) Lat 63.53 Long 160.42

- Population 747
- Located on the coast of Norton Sound, north of the Unalakleet River
- Largest community on the Iditarod Trail between Anchorage and Nome
- Stores, restaurants and limited lodging available
- Checkpoint at the Bingo Hall
- Wells Fargo award presented here

**White Mountain** Lat 64.41 Long 163.24

- Population 203
- Located on the Fish River
- Checkpoint located at the City Office Building
- Mushers have mandatory 8 hour layover here

**Willow** Lat 61.45.25N Long 150.03.10W

- Population 1,658
- Restart location on Willow Lake at Mile

**Yentna Station Roadhouse** (YENT-na) Lat 61.46N Long 150.41W

- Population 8
- Checkpoint at the home of the Gabryszak family

The race route goes from Anchorage to Nome and crosses two mountain ranges, including North America's largest mountain range, the Alaska Range. It runs along Yukon River and over the frozen Norton Sound and into Nome, Alaska