

Greenland 2015



Rarely does the opportunity arise for modern adventurers to use dogs on the major expeditions and in May of this year Mike O' Shea & Clare O' Leary have been afforded the opportunity to cross the Greenland Ice Cap from West to East using dogs.

The duo are continuing their Ice Project of crossing all the major Ice Caps around the world, and this Expedition will provide them with the one opportunity of working with a dog team on their crossing as it is only practical to walk or kite the remaining expeditions.

A team of 6 adventurers will attempt the crossing starting on the 5th of May and hope to complete the journey in under 25 days, Greenland is the second largest ice mass outside of Antarctica, and their journey is just under 600km and gaining a max altitude of 2500m.

The other members of the team hail from the UK, USA and Norway and the team will meet up in Greenland in early May to finalise preparing their equipment and food. As the ice Cap is extremely difficult to access, the team will initially focus on accessing the Ice Cap, which is getting more difficult due to the extreme melting that is taking place each year, this can take between 3 and 7 days on foot before the team will take to Ski's to continue with the rest of the crossing.

Greenland is notorious for its strong winds and devastating storms, temperatures will reach a low of -30, and all of the team have a wealth of experience to deal with all that Greenland can through at it.

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Irish Duo set to tackle 575km Ice crossing of Greenland

This entry was posted in [Greenland](#) on [April 8, 2015](#) by [admin](#).



Irish adventurers Mike O'Shea and Clare O'Leary are again foregoing the mild climes of Ireland for much colder weather. Today the duo announced their upcoming expedition to Greenland – where they plan to cross the Greenland Icecap from West to East over 25 gruelling days . Greenland is the second largest ice mass outside of Antarctica, and their journey is just under 600km and gaining a maximum altitude of 2500m. This expedition is the 6th expedition in an ongoing series of ice related adventures that the pair have dubbed The Ice Project , with the team having previously crossed the North Patagonian Icecap and Lake Baikal and made two attempts to walk to the North Pole. The expedition will begin on the 30th April when O'Shea and O'Leary will fly to Kangerlussuaq in Western Greenland where they will meet the 4 other international members of the team. The other members of the team hail from the UK, USA and Norway and the team will meet up to finalise preparing their equipment and food. As the ice Cap is extremely difficult to access, the team will initially focus on accessing the Ice Cap, which is getting more difficult due to the extreme melting that is taking place each year, this can take between 3 and 7 days on foot before the team will take to Ski's to continue with the rest of the crossing.

This expedition also give the Irish pair a unique chance to work with a dog team on their adventures. The team will use dogs while on the ice cap to pull sleds which will carry some of the teams communal equipment. Greenland is notorious for its strong winds and devastating storms and temperatures will reach a low as -30c on the expedition. The team have a wealth of experience to deal with all that Greenland can throw it and hope to return to Ireland in early June.

Mike O'Shea has said "This is a great opportunity for us to get the chance to work with a dog team which will bring another unique aspect to this trip. It will undoubtedly be an extremely tough expedition but I am looking forward to it , and all the challenges that it will bring. "

The team will stay in contact with their base back in Ireland on a daily basis throughout the expedition , with daily blogs and updates on their website theiceproject.org

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Final Day of Prep

This entry was posted in [GeneralGreenland](#) on [May 5, 2015](#) by [admin](#).

Today is the last day of preparation before Mike and Clare begin their expedition to cross the Greenland Icecap. They have spent the last few days in the small village of Kangerlussauq in Western Greenland. There they have had time to meet the rest of the team and do final equipment checks etc. Also on the list was food shopping – lots and lots of food shopping as you can see from the photos! Tomorrow the team will begin their climb up onto the icecap – this is a gruelling part of the journey with all the kit having to be carried up onto the icecap. You can track the team daily on the [map here](#) and keep tuned to updates on Twitter and Facebook .



Clare doing some food shopping



Just a small bit of food!



Mike sorting and packing food



All the food organised!

Day 1 : Greenland : And so it begins

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This entry was posted in [GreenlandUncategorized](#) on [May 7, 2015](#) by [admin](#).

We ended up with a late start, lots to do with sorting dog food, shipping our clothes etc to the other side, but it was a lovely day and we have started the process of picking our way through the icefall.

There is plenty of snow which certainly makes life easier, but the tug of the sled on the hips is always the first sign that a trip like this has started for real. Everyone is in good form and the process of coming up with systems starts, just so you get a feel of tent life again and find the easiest and most efficient way of doing everything. Time to get into the sleeping bag here, alarm and pee bottle in the bag with me, so sweet dreams – Mike



[Home](#) » Day 2 : Greenland

Day 2 : Greenland

This entry was posted in [GeneralGreenlandUncategorized](#) on [May 8, 2015](#) by [admin](#).

Great weather again today, travelled over 11k which is good for the icefall. Lots of snow so we have managed to stay in the skis all day. Great sleep last night, total quiet, and the exercise certainly ensures the body wants to sleep.

We're back into the camping routine again pretty quickly, it still takes forever melting snow and the pepper spray is right inside the front door. – Mike



Dragging sleds through the icefall.

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Day 3 – All going well

This entry was posted in [GreenlandUncategorized](#) on [May 9, 2015](#) by [admin](#).

Morning

We did 16k yesterday and gained 300m, was a lovely day overall, nice steady 15km wind most of the day. Amazing to just see white in every direction. The snow is very stick so it's balling on the skis, so very little gliding, everyone in good form,
Mike



The whole team sledding across Greenland

[Home](#) » Long overdue update!

Long overdue update!

This entry was posted in [General](#) on [May 25, 2015](#) by [admin](#).

Sorry for the lack of updates here on the blog – we have been slacking back here at base camp! I hope people have been having a chance to follow on Facebook and Twitter and tracking the team on the map.

Below are some updates from the team over the past week or two. Also some of the amazing images that Mike has been managing to send back!.

17th May :

We had a late start Saturday due to dense fog, and started at 12, but still managed a respectable 28km, Clare has done two legs with dogs and agrees it hard work and chaotic but is really enjoying it when they run well, might help if we had more experience.

We have to hit an average of 30km per day to make our rendezvous with our helicopter so a day lost is gonna cost us dear trying to make up the distance . But this is what happens on these trips and we can only go with the journey as it unfolds, but we're all positive and psyched up to complete the journey, it is the second biggest ice cap in the world and Mother Nature will do her thing too!!!

Photo; one of the skiers, Boris from Holland with a windmill charger on his leg, only a Dutch man would.

18th May :

Gonna be tomorrow before we move, just way to bad, so it will be a race for sure to make our Heli flight out. Yesterday we did a communal dinner to celebrate Norwegian Independence Day and shared some special whiskeys brought along by Chris, and he showed us shots of his father

Sledding in Antarctica, so it was a nice evening all round, only difficulty was getting back to the tent. And no one could find the architecturally designed loops in the weather

20th May :

We decided to move and man was it cold with the wind, was blowing 30-50km at us all day, no idea what the temp was but I had my spare down jacket covering my backside and thighs it was that cold. We managed to cover 30km in that wind and whiteout most of the day, long days now, up at 6am cooking and hoping to have all water melted by 10.30pm. 7.86km today, white and wind has escalated in a storm with serious wind. We knew it was time to stop when you couldn't see two sleds, 16 dogs and 4 humans that were only 25 metres behind us. It was some struggle to get the tents up, but only one broken pole and a super quick sewing job to another, and thankfully were all inside now but it blowing hard outside. So we have had 15 days on the move, 21 days food, and we're not half way, some serious rationing on the way, although Sigrid has a stash of food somewhere about 130km from here and that should give us a few extra days. Some crappy weather hitting us from the Canadian side, we hope to move tomorrow, but the day after looks like we're stopped again

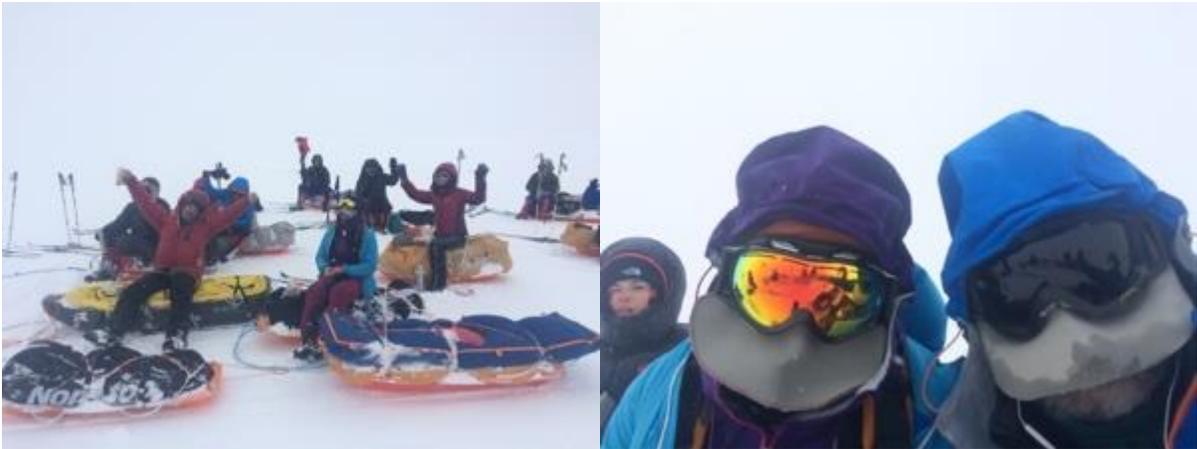
22nd May :

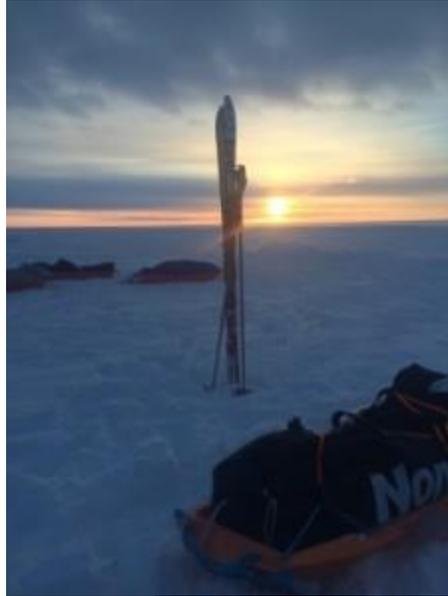
Well what a day!!!! Up at 3am to get ahead of the weather and finally in the tent at 7.15pm. We're at the highest point of our journey 2457m and we covered 38.5km today. It was one of those days you dream about, pristine white snow as far as the eye could see in all directions, a clear Aqua marine blue sky (that was the colour through my goggles) and just about -20 with a slight breeze, it may have been more the water bottles are frozen through. I fell in and out of love twice today, I never know do I want to hug the dogs or choke them, they are amazing animals, but this ain't Disney where they run gallantly through the snow, the smell of their farts is obnoxious and they crap and pee all day so our ski's smell like something from a cess pit and were hoarse from shouting at them to stop smelling every other dogs surprise left in the snow, word of caution never ever take the last sled, when there are 24 dogs ahead there's lots of shouting and frustration as everything that is dropped on the snow must be sniffed as we try to move. To be fair they are really friendly, work hard and are amazing to watch.

24th May :

Well what a few days it has been, the weather has been all over the place and has forced us to travel at night, so Friday night we started stripping the tents at 10.30pm and didn't get back into them till 11am sat morning, then made water and sleep, but we were all up again at 6pm for dinner more boiling water and on the move again by 11.45pm, it's now 11.53am on Sunday and I finally have a cup in my hand, between the two nights we covered 78km and are expecting to be stuck in the tent till sometime late Monday. Last night was so cold -30c with a strong wind, felt worse than -50c, we were all so cold, I had nothing left to put on, so was happy when my turn to ski arrived. All in good form, and trying to figure out our flights, work etc. we have another 190km to our finish point so without anymore bad weather it's at least 5 days, so hopefully the 30th the big wash will begin. The dogs have been amazing and were all still trying to get better at mushing. One of the teams has been nicknamed the Flunkies, it's unknown what direction they will go if they go at all, so it's challenging to say the least. Everyone is in good form but seriously in need of some sleep. A big thank you to JJ Murphy for my insulated mug, I would be

lost without it. Food fantasies are occupying everyone's minds, amazing what isolation makes you appreciate













[Home](#) » Mission 6 : Greenland : Complete

Mission 6 : Greenland : Complete

This entry was posted in [General](#) on [June 1, 2015](#) by [admin](#).

Well as ye know we have made it to Isortoq and completed the crossing. The last 54 hours gave us all a real test, completing over 120km (20% of the total journey) trying to beat a massive storm that was on the way, our last 14 hours were spent trying to drive through the storm and to negeotate the

threatrous icefall in whiteout and with sleds attached to dogs, the only way to describe it was exhilarating (can't mention the other words here) hitting speeds of 30-40km and sliding sideways over ice mounds in a huge storm is an experience we will all remember for the thrills and excitement it caused. I now understand why a lot of groups get both helicopters up and down the icefall, but to us to complete the journey meant starting on land on one side and ending on land on the other side. We hope to get out of here on Tuesday and be home by next Friday/Saturday. Isotorq has a population of 61, no running water, no sewerage, they can't grow vegetables, no roads, no cars, they have a shop, school, community centre and primarily survive by living off the land hunting, also they recieve a subsidy from the Government. It's a tough existence, with Seal being the main food source, some whale in the summer, and Polar Bear, each community has a quota and the meat is shared with the entire community. They are a happy and fun group of people and use dogs and boats as theirs transport, and can get to the bigger towns by helicopter if required. We are eating non stop and trying to dry kit before travelling. So by Wednesday we will have some nice shots and more details online, thanks for the support, the likes and the good wishes.



Mike O Shea and Clare O Leary having successfully crossed the Greenland Icecap



Dog Team



