



SIBERIAN



EXPRESSES



FOR



WATER



i2P
impossible2Possible



2010 i2P Siberian Express for Water:

Fresh off the heels of an incredible record-breaking traverse to the South Pole in 2009, i2P Founder Ray Zahab and i2P Ambassador Kevin Vallely will be teaming up with one of Asia's premiere endurance athletes Kevin Lin for another epic impossible2Possible expedition. The three adventurers will travel to the far reaches of frozen Siberia and the remote shores of Lake Baikal, the oldest, deepest lake in the world, to journey some 650km down the length of its frozen (and sometimes not so frozen) surface. The **2010 i2P Siberian Express For Water** team is venturing out in an effort to inspire and educate young people while at the same time pushing the boundaries of endurance and what's deemed possible. Throughout this expedition, the team will interact and share the adventure daily with thousands of students from across North America in a hope to challenge them and their schools to raise awareness and funding for water projects in Africa. Where better to stage such an effort than atop the frozen surface of Lake Baikal, the world's most volumous fresh-water lake? Only a handful of expeditions have ever succeeded on a traverse of this natural wonder.

The **2010 i2P Siberian Express For Water** team plans to push their limits and make this winter traverse in 10 days or less, running an exhausting daily mileage while pulling sleds that will contain everything the team needs to survive the length of the expedition. The expedition is unsupported and, like the World Record i2P South Pole Quest expedition, brings the notion of "alpine style" travel - the notion of traveling fast and light - to the world of extreme adventure travel.

The **2010 i2P Siberian Express For Water** website will go live in early January 2010 and will demonstrate once again why the i2P education resource program has been touted by Apple Distinguished educators as "21st Century learning", and "truly ground breaking". The i2P web-team will be introducing a streaming video component to the expedition - expanding the boundaries of interactivity - allowing students to communicate directly with the adventurers as they traverse the frozen barrens of Siberia. i2P's Educational Coordinator, Dr. Ewan Affleck, will again team up with educators, scientists, and advisors to create the captivating i2P education resource modules which have proven extremely successful for teachers and students alike. The i2P Educational Resource Program will give students the experiential learning much desired by modern educators, truly bringing the classroom to the outside world as it unfolds before them.

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Lake Baikal, the world's oldest lake (25 Million years old), holds more fresh water than all of the Great Lakes combined. It is also home to an incredible amount of biodiversity, environmental sensitivity, and social significance.

In short, it is the perfect backdrop for this inaugural i2P Extraordinary Acts Expedition.

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expedition details

High on the frozen steppe of eastern Siberia, locked away from the rest of the planet, lies the largest lake in the world. Lake Baikal, or The Sea of Siberia, straddles a huge continental rift and at a staggering 1,637 meters deep - that's a mile! - is the deepest lake in the world. It contains over one-fifth of the world's total fresh water, more than all the Great Lakes of North America combined and is the Grand Daddy of them all at an astounding 20-25 million years old. It's important to understand how unique this is: most lakes fill up with silt after 10-15,000 years but Lake Baikal, straddling a huge tectonic rift that is literally tearing it open, is getting deeper every day.

Due to its remoteness, 60% of the plant and animal species found in Lake Baikal are endemic to the area including the only fresh water seal in the world - the nerpa - and the indigenous omul fish which is absolutely exclusive to this lake. It has more unique species than the Galapagos Islands. It's a UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE and the jewel of Siberia. It's a true wonder of the world.

Leading up to the **2010 i2P Siberian Express For Water** there will be an engaging challenge for schools in Canada and the USA to raise awareness and funding for water-specific projects in Africa. What better stage to undertake this discussion than on the frozen surface of Lake Baikal, atop the world's most volumous freshwater lake? The **2010 i2P Siberian Express For Water** website will provide students and teachers with a social networking platform where students will be able to check progress, communicate with fellow students, blog, see the people and communities they are helping, and much more! Funds raised by the campaign will go directly to *GivingWater.org* in the USA and *Ryan's Well Foundation* in Canada - both organizations are well respected and leaders in the fight for clean water in developing countries around the globe. The i2P Extraordinary Acts program will see schools from Canada and schools from the US fund the construction of two clean drinking water wells in Africa.

The **2010 i2P Siberian Express For Water** expedition will be a unique educational experience for students across North America, allowing them to engage in, and learn about, one of the planet's most critical social and environmental issues, clean drinking water.

“ I learned more over the 2 weeks with i2P than I ever learned in any 2 weeks in my life; whether it was stories and advice from outstanding athletes and adventurers, practicing media exposure, surviving in a harsh and unforgiving environment, or thought-provoking discussion amongst members of the expedition.

-Thomsen D'Hont ”

