

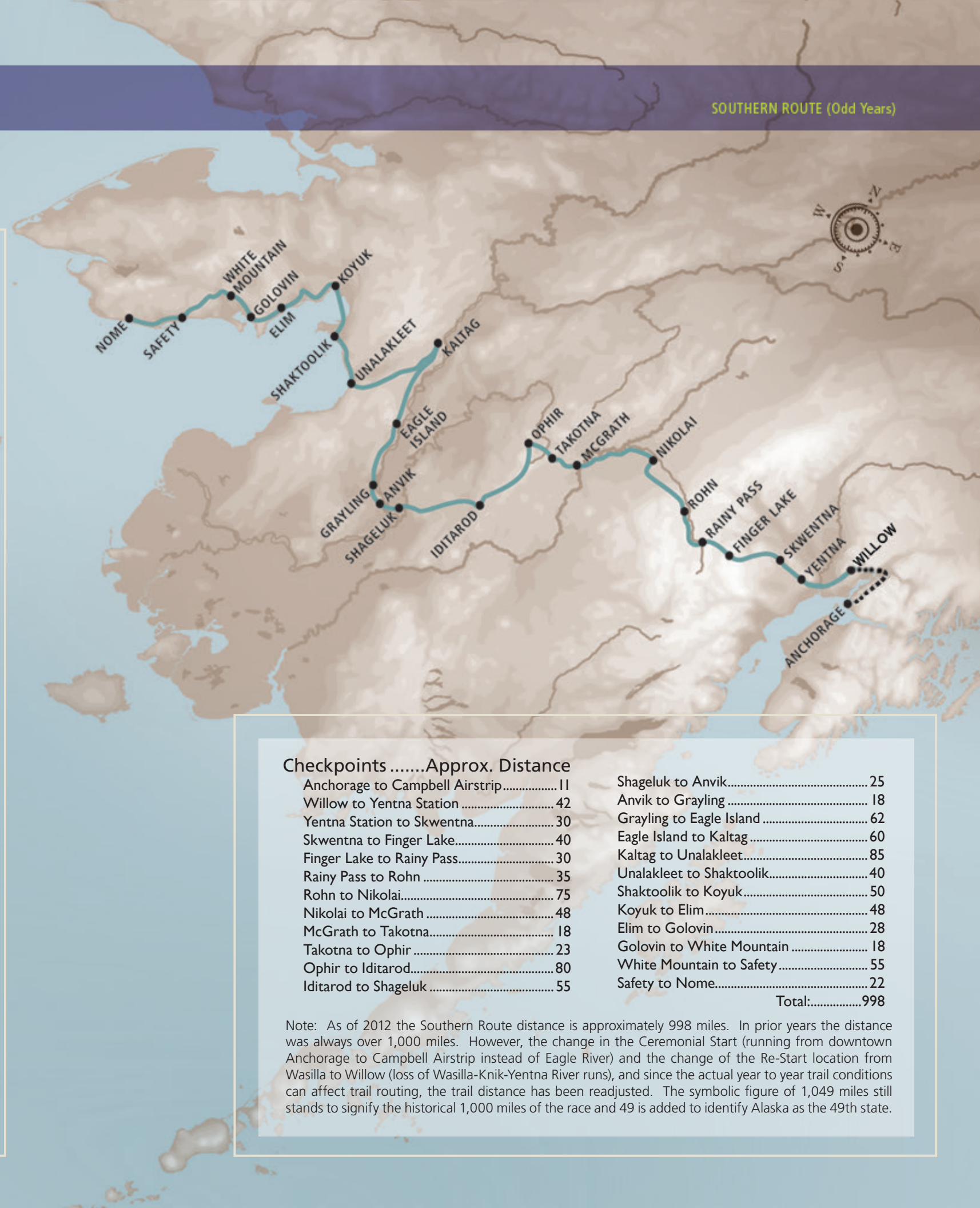
The Official Map of the IDITAROD

SOUTHERN ROUTE (Odd Years)

- 1. Anchorage**
Population 296,197
The race begins on the 1st Saturday in March at 10:00 am on 4th Avenue.
- 2. Willow Lake**
Population 2,156
The race Re-Start begins at 2 pm on Willow Lake at Parks Highway Mile Marker 70.
- 3. Yentna Station (YENT-na)**
Population 8
A roadhouse-checkpoint on the Yentna River.
- 4. Skwentna (SKWENT-nuh)**
Population 30
Located near the confluence of the Yentna and the Skwentna Rivers.
- 5. Finger Lake**
Population 2
In the heart of snow country, this checkpoint on the eastern fringe of the Alaska Range.
- 6. Rainy Pass**
Population 2
The highest point on the Iditarod Trail as it passes over the Alaska Range. Pass elevation is 3,160 feet.
- 7. Rohn Roadhouse (RONE)**
Population 0
This checkpoint is near the remains of one of the old road houses serving the historic Iditarod Trail mail carriers.
- 8. Nikolai (NIK-o-lye)**
Population 101
An Athabascan village located 40 air miles east of McGrath.
- 9. McGrath**
Population 341
At the confluence of the Kuskokwim and Takotna Rivers, McGrath has a small, full-service airport, stores, a restaurant and is the hub of the Iditarod School District.
- 10. Takotna (Ta-Cot-na)**
Population 49
An Athabascan village situated on the banks of the Takotna River, where many mushers take their 24 hr. rest.

- 11. Ophir (OH-fur)**
Population 0
A ghost town named for a nearby creek that supported placer mining. The name is a reference to the biblical Ophir thought to be the source of King Solomon's gold.
- 12. Iditarod (I-DIT-a-rod)**
Population 0
Now a ghost town -- once a bustling community of over 10,000. Official halfway point on the southern route.
- 13. Shageluk (SHAG-a-luck)**
Population 83
The name is an Ingalik indian name meaning "village of dog people," and when Iditarod hits town that is especially true.
- 14. Anvik (AN-vick)**
Population 79
First checkpoint on the famous Yukon River, where the church bell signals the arrival of the first musher.
- 15. Grayling**
Population 189
Last village until Kaltag, 122 miles up the trail on the Yukon River.
- 16. Eagle Island**
Population 0
Tent checkpoint on the Yukon
- 17. Kaltag (KAL-tag)**
Population 205
The Iditarod Trail leaves the Yukon River here to continue overland across Old Woman Pass to the Bering Sea.
- 18. Unalakleet (YOU-na-la-kleet)**
Population 692
Situated on the coast of Norton Sound, just north of Unalakleet River. The Iditarod Trail is now entering the gateway to the Bering Sea and from here on the mushers can expect sudden storms and an ample supply of wind.
- 19. Shaktoolik (shak-TOO-lick)**
Population 258
One look down the street at the snowdrifts tells you this is one of the windiest stretches of the trail.

- From here the trail travels a short distance overland before going onto the ice of Norton Bay, one of the most treacherous segments of the trail.
- 20. Koyuk (KOY-yuck)**
Population 347
Koyuk marks the end of the long, treacherous sea ice travel across Norton Sound.
 - 23. Elim (EE-lim)**
Population 332
The trail turns inland slightly near this eskimo village to head over the Kwiktalik Mountains where mushers descend Little McKinley toward Golovin Bay.
 - 24. Golovin (GOLL-uh-vin)**
Population 171
Back on the coast at Golovin, an Eskimo village, mushers face a short ice run over Golovin Bay. The rest of the race is over land.
 - 25. White Mountain**
Population 199
In this village on Fish River, an 8-hour layover is mandatory here to allow the dogs to rest for the last push to Nome, 77 miles away.
 - 26. Safety**
Population 0
The last checkpoint before Nome just 22 miles away, the trail turns inland for a short distance before mushers drop back onto the shores of the Bering Sea and travel the beaches until they reach Front Street in Nome.
 - 27. Nome**
Population 3,695
The race ends under the burlled arch on Front Street. Originally called Anvil City, after a nearby gold rich creek, it was once home to 30,000 miners.



CheckpointsApprox. Distance

Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip.....	11	Shageluk to Anvik.....	25
Willow to Yentna Station.....	42	Anvik to Grayling.....	18
Yentna Station to Skwentna.....	30	Grayling to Eagle Island.....	62
Skwentna to Finger Lake.....	40	Eagle Island to Kaltag.....	60
Finger Lake to Rainy Pass.....	30	Kaltag to Unalakleet.....	85
Rainy Pass to Rohn.....	35	Unalakleet to Shaktoolik.....	40
Rohn to Nikolai.....	75	Shaktoolik to Koyuk.....	50
Nikolai to McGrath.....	48	Koyuk to Elim.....	48
McGrath to Takotna.....	18	Elim to Golovin.....	28
Takotna to Ophir.....	23	Golovin to White Mountain.....	18
Ophir to Iditarod.....	80	White Mountain to Safety.....	55
Iditarod to Shageluk.....	55	Safety to Nome.....	22
		Total:.....	998

Note: As of 2012 the Southern Route distance is approximately 998 miles. In prior years the distance was always over 1,000 miles. However, the change in the Ceremonial Start (running from downtown Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip instead of Eagle River) and the change of the Re-Start location from Wasilla to Willow (loss of Wasilla-Knik-Yentna River runs), and since the actual year to year trail conditions can affect trail routing, the trail distance has been readjusted. The symbolic figure of 1,049 miles still stands to signify the historical 1,000 miles of the race and 49 is added to identify Alaska as the 49th state.