



# Iditarod National Historic Trail System

- Historic Trail (Seward to Nome)
- Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Route
- Connecting Trails
- Town or Place Name
- Abandoned Town
- Race Checkpoint

## What's In a Name? Place Names Along the Iditarod Trail

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| <p><b>Seward</b><br/>For Secretary of State William Seward, who arranged the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867 for \$7.2 million, or around 1.9 cents per acre.</p> | <p><b>Portage</b><br/>Named for a bay on the Prince William Sound side of a mountain pass covered by a glacier of the same name.</p> | <p><b>Girdwood</b><br/>For Colonel James Girdwood, who found and formed a number of mines in Glacier Creek valley.</p> | <p><b>Anchorage</b><br/>First known as Ship Creek, the waters off the creek were charted as "Knik Anchorage." The U.S. Post Office later shortened the name to Anchorage.</p> | <p><b>Wasilla</b><br/>Named for a respected local Dena'ina Athabaskan chief.</p> | <p><b>Ophir</b><br/>Named by miners for the lost country of Ophir, the source of the King Solomon's gold in the Old Testament.</p> | <p><b>Ruby</b><br/>Named after the red-colored stones found on the riverbank, which were thought by prospectors to be rubies.</p> | <p><b>Iditarod</b><br/>Originally 'hidehod' or 'Haiditarod', meaning a "distant place" in the Ingalik Native language, or "clear water" by the Shageluk Natives for the river of the same name.</p> | <p><b>Unalakleet</b><br/>Means "from the southern side."</p> | <p><b>Nome</b><br/>Town name created as a result of a spelling error. A government draftsman noted a prominent unnamed point on Norton Sound as "name?" The map engravers mistook the "a" for an "o", thereby naming the landmark Cape Nome.</p> |
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