

Marathon Paddling Race History World Wide

by Clark Eid

Longest Continuous Paddling Races

- 1) **3,800 Miles.** “Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge” is a long-standing non-stop rowing race.
- 2) **2,348 Miles.** “2001 The Great Mississippi River Challenge for Rett Syndrome” at 2,348 miles.
This non-stop, against the clock, multi-team canoe and kayak race was sanctioned by the ACA and the USCA. This one-time event had insurance coverage, medical officer, timekeeper, judges, race officials, and was coordinated with both the Corps of Engineers and Coast Guard. Detailed rules were established and published prior to the race. Five teams each paid \$2,500 donations to a Rett Syndrome research organization as entry “fees” to participated in the race. There was no prize money.
Website: www.BeyondTheFinish.org
- 3) **750 Miles.** “Race to Alaska” is a multi-boat continuous race, involving canoes, kayaks, rowboats, SUPs, and sailboats.
Website: r2ak.com
- 4) **650 Miles.** “The Great Alabama 650” is a continuous race.
Website: [GREAT ALABAMA 650 | THE WORLD'S LONGEST ANNUAL PADDLE RACE! | Events | ASRT \(alabamascenicrivertrail.com\)](http://GREAT ALABAMA 650 | THE WORLD'S LONGEST ANNUAL PADDLE RACE! | Events | ASRT (alabamascenicrivertrail.com))
- 5) **340 Miles.** “Missouri River 340” continuous race.
Website: rivermiles.com/mr340/
- 6) **300 Miles.** “The WaterTribe Everglades Challenge” continuous race.
Website: watertribe.com/Events/EvergladesChallenge/
- 7) **275 Miles.** “Tour de la Riviere Rouge” continuous race.
Website: tourduteche.com/races/tour-de-la-riviere-rouge/
- 8) **260 Miles.** “The Texas Water Safari” continuous race.
Website: texaswatersafari.org
- 9) **250 Miles.** “Kentucky River 255” continuous race.
Website: kr255.com
- 10) **230 Miles.** “Suwannee River 230 Ultimate Challenge” continuous race.
- 11) **160 Miles.** “The Campus to Coast 160” is a continuous race.
Website: msuoc.org/calendar-2/campus-to-coast/
- 12) **124 Miles.** “K2O Kingston to Ottawa” continuous race
Website: kingston2ottawa.ca
- 13) **120 Miles.** “Au Sable River Canoe Marathon” continuous race.
Website: ausablecanoemarathon.org
- 14) **100 Miles.** “Colorado River 100” continuous race.
Website: coloradoriver100.com
- 15) **100 Miles.** “California 100” continuous race.
Website: riversforchange.org/california-100/
- 16) **70 Miles.** “General Clinton Canoe Regatta” continuous race.
Website: canoeregatta.org

Longest Non-Continuous Paddling Races

- 1) **3,291 Miles.** “1967 Centennial Voyageur Canoe Pageant” is recognized by Guinness World Records as the longest canoe race ever held, but this was a non-continuous, segmented event with rotating paddlers. (104 days in all, spanning more than 5,200 km on water and another 96 km of portages...and a number of sprint races along the way.)
- 2) **1,230 Miles.** The WaterTribe Florida Coastal Challenge (FCC) has two stages and then merges with the “Ultimate Florida Challenge” noted in the next entry.
Website: [WaterTribe Florida Coastal Challenge](#)
- 3) **1,200 Miles.** The WaterTribe “Ultimate Florida Challenge” with five multi-day stages.
Website: watertribe.com/Events/UltimateFloridaChallenge/
- 4) **1,000 Miles.** “The Finlandia Clean Water Challenge” was first run in 1993 was the first running of the 1,000-mile race from Chicago to New York City. In 1995 it added a 744-mile solo race category. The race had scheduled breaks in route for resting. Not sure how many years the event was held.
- 5) **1,000 Miles.** “Yukon 1000” started in 2009 and ran yearly until 2012, when it changed to bi-annual format. The race has restricted entry and runs for nine-day. Non-continuous requiring a 6-hour layover each day.
- 6) **450 Miles.** “Aquatennial Itasca to Minneapolis Mississippi River Canoe Race’ or “Aquatennial Canoe Derby” was held from 1940 through the early 1960s, with a few years missed in between. The longest of the varied formats ran between Bemidji to Minneapolis at 450 miles with 10 overnight, checkpoint stops where teams got off the water and celebrated.
- 7) **440 Miles.** “Yukon River Quest” in three legs with two required layovers.
Website: yukonriverquest.com
- 8) **255 Miles.** “Lowcountry River Rats Savannah Challenge” in three stages over 7 days.
Website: lowcountryriverrats.com
- 9) **250 Miles.** “Massive Murray Paddle” staged over 5 days.
Website: massivemurraypaddle.org.au
- 10) **152 Miles.** “Berg River Canoe Marathon” over four days in stages.
Website: berg.org.za
- 11) **137 Miles (220 km).** “11-Cities SUP Tour” staged race over 5 days in Holland. (Note that there is a corresponding ice-skating marathon on the same canals when they freeze over that is continuous!)
- 12) **135 Miles.** “Tour du Teche 135” over three days in stages.
Website: tourduteche.com/races/tour-du-teche-135-2/
- 13) **120 Miles.** “James River Run” staged over two days.
Website: jamesriverrundown.org
- 14) **100 Miles.** “La Classique Internationale Canots Race” over three days in stages.
Website: classiquedecanots.com
- 15) **77 Miles.** “The Dusi Canoe Marathon” over three days in stages.
Website: dusi.co.za