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THE GREAT NORTHERN HORIZON



On the Road - 17

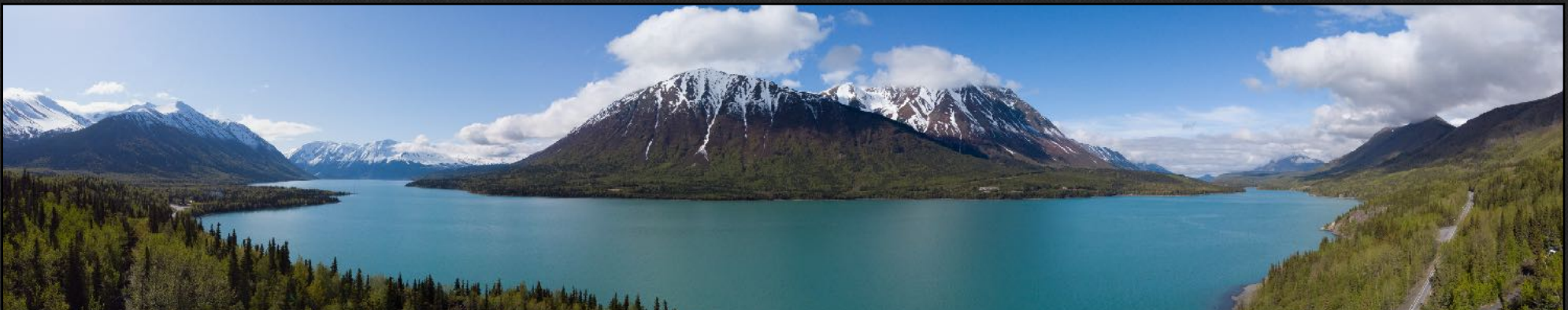
Alaska

May - July 2019





As an echo, its name comes back to us, Alaska, Alaska, Alaska



Whispered in the wind,
this land sings its essence to us

Already at our first encounter, it was there. It took us 9 years to reach it. 9 years to finally vibrate with this land and its sumptuous and dramatic landscapes.

It has kept its power of attraction and also of mystery. Yet it is a world of extremes. It is imprinted in the mind of men as an inaccessible, untouchable and brutal place. It is a land of perdition, a land to hide, a place to be lost..... A land to find oneself!



THE VASTNESS OF A WILD LAND



Alaska is so intense that there is no clear path, sooner or later, this land takes us into its mystery, into its wilderness. To touch and vibrate with this wild territory is to accept to go further and deeper. Deeper, to enter into our inner wilderness, to follow our free and wild being. This land pushes us to recognise the greater part of our being. But it is uncompromising, disconcerting, insatiable. The human being can lose his soul and fall asleep in a long sigh or become alive and vibrant in the heart of his wild immensity. Entering Alaska, you can only be done fully, body and soul, completely immersed in the intense experience you receive as a gift.



WE ARE NOT ALONE

Its whisper brings us the breath and spirit of the animals there. We are not alone, we belong to a world that is beyond us. We only have to be humble in the face of the law of life.



In the habitat of wolves, moose, beavers, otters and caribou, we are also in bear country. Their presence alone leads us to change our routine.

We now have two tents, one for sleeping and one for eating in case of bad weather or as protection against mosquitoes. The latter will prove essential from the very first days.



Welcomed by a blue sky along the Cook Inlet facing the Chugach Mountains, the weather is changing rapidly. We are bathed in freezing rain as we cycle beside the snow, the peaks covered in a mist of white veil.

IN REMOTE AND WILDERNESS AREAS



We didn't know which way to go, of course, we were going to meet Jessie, Pat and Jody. Tears in my eyes to see them again and to share this strong friendship. Yet this land has taken us further than we had imagined. Snow-covered mountains and glaciers plunge into the ocean, into majestic fjords. The landscapes bear this metallic hue characteristic of Alaska. We pass Thompson Pass under a bright sky to enter the interior and join the Denali Highway, a 200 km trail that crosses the sumptuous wilderness, to reach the sight of the highest mountain in North America, Denali. Everything is vast, majestic, intense. We are in remote and wilderness areas. We have to cycle to reach food points, which are sometimes more than 6 days away.

We are amazed, immersed in the song of this land, in the majesty of a nature that transcends us. Little by little, we feel that we are entering the dance. We feel that we are one with this land, we vibrate in unison. We live in its endless light. The midnight sun now illuminates each of our nights. We are filled with boundless energy, with extraordinary vitality.



Taiga, Tundra and Arctic scenery

However, the way is not yet over. It is a land of extremes. The nights are getting shorter and shorter. The girls are so full of energy that they cannot sleep. The distances are getting longer and longer and we now have to cycle 70 km every day. The boreal forests are at times endless, we are submerged in their vastness. Mosquitoes can be an ordeal that tarnishes each of our movements. Hail does not spare us either. Yet we feel vibrant with a tremendous energy that takes us to the heart of the taiga, the tundra, the Arctic scenery, and to the glaciers that calve into the ocean.







FIBIE

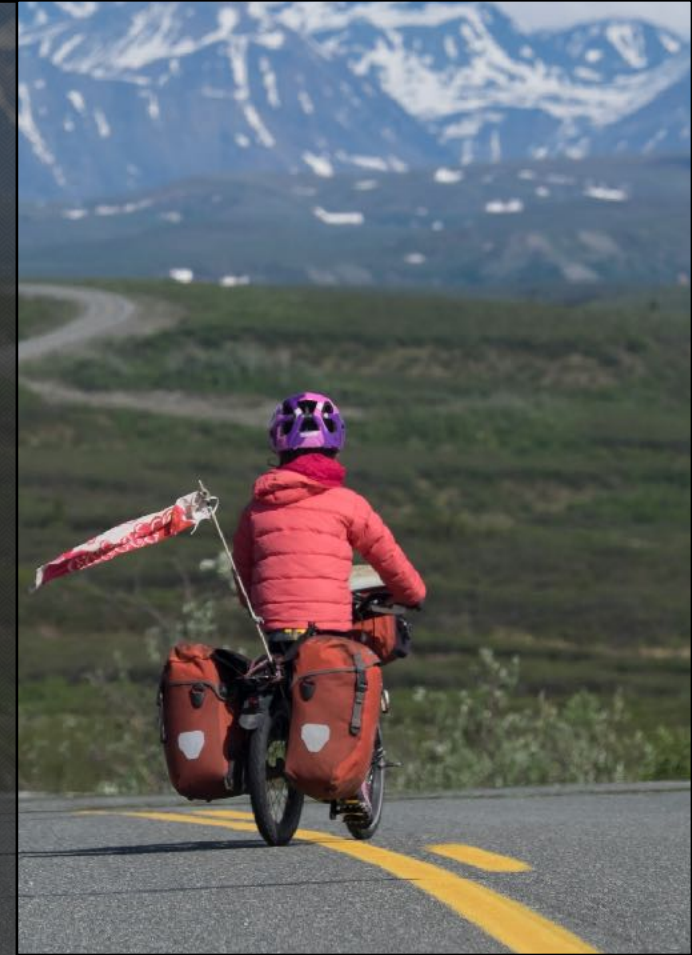
Fibie enjoys every moment to dance and especially to swim. At every opportunity, she jumps into the water. She especially appreciates the small lakes that we discover along the way and in which we swim, despite their freezing temperatures for some of them. She celebrated her second birthday with the singing and breaching of whales. Two humpback whales start a sensational duo in front of the boat that takes us to Canada.





NAYLA

Nayla comes into perfect unison with this land. She celebrates her 6th birthday there and decides that one day she will live in the heart of the forest, perhaps in the mountains, far away, in remote lands and wilderness. There, while living in a cabin, she will take care of animals and bears. She will help them to heal by offering them balms that she will create with wild flowers. Every day, she reminds us of her desire to live alone in the heart of nature, in deep wilderness in harmony with all animals.



JUNEAU, SOUTH-EAST ALASKA



Southeast Alaska welcomes us in a fabulous energy. Under a bright sun, this region radiates an incredible glow. The humid forests are covered with lichen and moss. The gigantic trees reach the sky. The spectacular fjords create a real maze of scenery. The mountains are always rising higher and further, as far as the eye can see. Glaciers plunge into the ocean. I return to Juneau, a place in which I studied anthropology for a year. I instantly come home, I feel at home. I am welcomed by my friends and the earth that sings to my soul.



However, when passing through Alaska, we cannot ignore climate change, the melting of the Mendenhall Glacier, the relative drought in southeast Alaska, the rising ocean temperature, the decrease in the numbers of salmon... and also all the grey whales that have beached on land, as we have seen in Turnagain Arm.

They seem to bring us a message, will we be able to hear it? Will we be able to hear what the earth and animals are singing to us? Will we be able to enter into unison with the earth to create a true harmony among all beings inhabiting our blue planet?

Will we simply be able to open our hearts?





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Thanks to All
our Partners



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