

# 4 Nations One Goal



16,000 km  
Korea to Ireland

April 2009

# The Mission

**Seoul to London: 10 hours on a jet; a few comfortable days by train, and for four intrepid adventurers, a hell of a long way by bike.**

In April 2009, the four members of the Braking Boundaries team will attempt to ride unsupported between these two cities, a total distance of over 16,000km - almost the entire breadth of the Eurasian landmass. Each member of the team has his or her own personal objectives which they will be hoping to fulfill by journey's end, but we all share some common goals.

First and foremost, there is the desire to prove to ourselves that with the right attitude, proper preparation, and careful planning, a few determined friends can take on the world. Discovering our limits, both physically and mentally, will be a very practical exercise in self-discovery; the answer to both questions will determine the duration and even the very outcome of the trip. Trust, teamwork, and mutual support are vital to our success.

Doing this independently, without the crutch of a benevolent sponsor or family trust fund, has been a source of great pride for the team members. We've relied largely upon our own grit and hard work to get us this far, just as we will rely on it on to get us through the long days and miles ahead.

The desire for independence raised a very valid question: what to do with offers of help and financial assistance? Why not, we concluded, pay it forward to those who really need it: people struggling to achieve their own dreams and ambitions, people for whom that helping hand, that timely gesture, might mean all the difference.

It is with this in mind that we have settled on the micro-lending organization Kiva as the official team charity. Their stated aims dovetail nicely with our own can-do spirit: like-minded folks helping others to achieve wonderful things. Their work has enabled thousands of enterprising individuals and groups to make their dreams a reality. And because of the nature of their development program - repayable loans rather than one-off donations - it is a gift that will keep on giving for many years to come.

# The Charity

Kiva is the world's first person-to-person micro-lending website, empowering individuals to lend directly to unique entrepreneurs around the globe.



<http://www.kiva.org>

Our lending team: [http://www.kiva.org/team/braking\\_boundaries](http://www.kiva.org/team/braking_boundaries)

<http://www.brakingboundaries.org>

# How Kiva Works

1) Lenders like you browse profiles of entrepreneurs in need, and choose someone to lend to. When they lend, using PayPal or their credit cards, Kiva collects the funds and then passes them along to one of our microfinance partners worldwide.

2) Kiva's microfinance partners distribute the loan funds to the selected entrepreneur. Often, our partners also provide training and other assistance to maximize the entrepreneur's chances of success.

3) Over time, the entrepreneur repays their loan. Repayment and other updates are posted on Kiva and emailed to lenders who wish to receive them.

4) When lenders get their money back, they can re-lend to someone else in need, donate their funds to Kiva (to cover operational expenses), or withdraw their funds.



# Kiva Facts & Statistics

Total value of all loans made through Kiva:	\$66,854,835
Number of Kiva Lenders	472,765
Number of loans that have been funded through Kiva	95,705
Percentage of Kiva loans which have been made to women entrepreneurs	77.85%
Number of Kiva Field Partners	94
Number of countries Kiva Field Partners are located in	44
Current repayment rate	97.94%
Current default rate	2.06%
Average loan	\$422.75
Average total amount loaned per Kiva Lender	\$141.68
Average number of loans per Kiva Lender	3.92

*Statistics last updated: April 8, 2009  
For latest Stats visit <http://www.kiva.org/about/facts/>*



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# The Team

## David Glashan

David Glashan was born in 1970 and his hometown is Morin Heights, Quebec. It's only fitting that David should provide the spark of inspiration for this grand scheme. With an 8,000km cross-Canada trek (2006) already under his belt, he is no stranger to long-distance cycling. His experiences of life on the saddle will no doubt be an invaluable advantage over the days and weeks to come.

“My first big solo ride was to cycle to a landmark in Seoul (63 building)... 25 kilometers, I was over the moon. I went to a 100... wanted more... so he started to dream about cycling Canada... a dream inspired by my father... several had their doubts... but I planned, prepared, quit everything and did it. It took 63 days of cycling and I loved every minute of it. It was wonderful to be reacquainted with my home country, and when it was done I felt a little lost. Even though I returned to normal life as I know it, the love of biking never left.”

## Jared Mitchell

Jared Mitchell was born in 1979 and his hometown is Dunedin, New Zealand. Jared is going to be the one kicking down the tents at daybreak and ensuring that the team is up from their bed untimely ripped. And he'll do it with a smile on his face.

“Ever since I left university I've been looking for the next adventure. It started with teaching English in South Korea which gave me the opportunity to travel to a bunch of places around the world. That was over 5 years ago and my life has become a little too comfortable. So when my good friend Dave first floated the idea of the bike trip, I knew there and then that this was going to be the adventure I was looking for.”

## Tom McCloy

Tom Mc Cloy was born in 1981 and hails from near Maghera, Northern Ireland. He has been teaching English in Seoul for 4 1/2 years, and took up cycling as a leisure activity to get in shape and spend more time with his friends, two things he'll definitely get a chance to do over the next 6 months. Tom says he is riding because we simply nagged him until he agreed to come.

“The trip is going to be a mammoth undertaking and, for all my blathering, I fully realize how tough it's going to be. I'm sure as hell going to try my damndest, and I know that Jared, David, and Katie will do the same. There isn't a group of people I'd trust more to accompany me, or anyone I'd rather do this with (even my own lovely Ruth).”

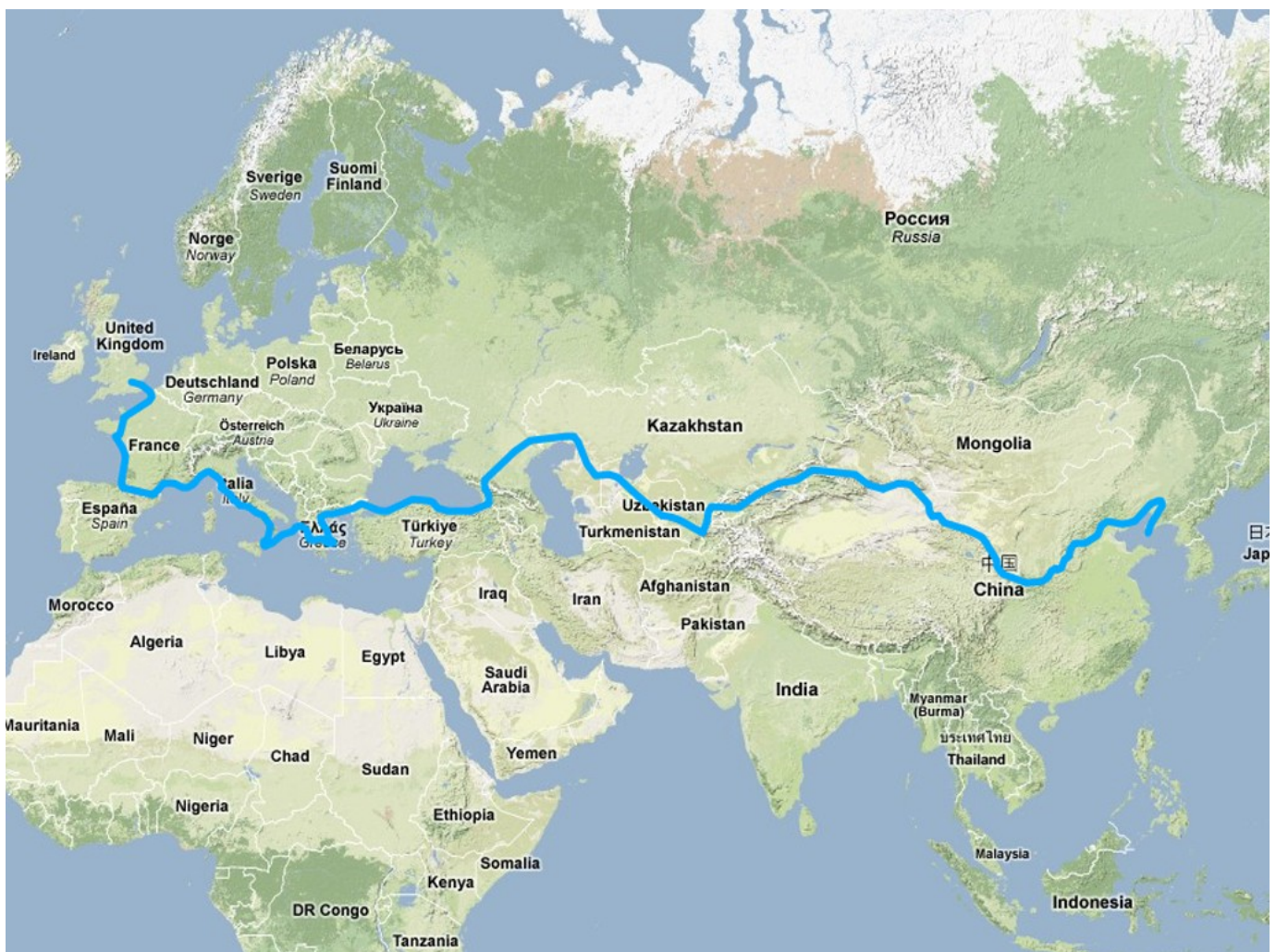
## Katie Tibbetts

Katie Tibbetts was born in 1981 and her hometown is Middletown, CT, USA. As the team's sole American and female of the species, Katie will of course be subjected to absolutely no jokes whatsoever. She recently decided that Sunday mornings were much too nice for lie-ins and that triathlons would be a more sedentary alternative.

“There are always a thousand reasons not to do something, but none of them hold a candle to the desire to do it. Some things in life just take a hold of you and become too big to reason with. And at these moments, in my experience, I have learned that life is there for the taking. In my case, I decided to grab it and ride with it for a while.”

# The Route

Across Eurasia. We will travel from Seoul, South Korea to Belfast Ireland. Over 16,000 kilometers of terrain covered on 3 fully-loaded Surly Long Haul Trucker bicycles and one grasshopper recumbent.



Our proposed route takes us through countries such as South Korea, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, England and Ireland.

# Contact Details

## Website:

<http://www.brakingboundaries.org>

[http://www.kiva.org/team/braking\\_boundaries](http://www.kiva.org/team/braking_boundaries)

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