



American Birkebeiner International Bridge

- The American Birkebeiner International Bridge is an iconic component of the American Birkebeiner, North America's largest cross-country ski race held each February in Hayward, WI.
- The American Birkebeiner (Birkie) is a nearly 35-mile cross-country ski marathon that traverses its way through the north woods of Wisconsin on the Birkie Trail. Since 1973, over 250,000 skiers have completed American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF) races during the February Birkie festival of events.
- The American Birkebeiner International Bridge is used by Birkie skiers to safely ski over U.S. Highway 63 to the snow-covered Main Street of Hayward, WI, and to the race's finish line; one of the most memorable moments of the race experience.
- The American Birkebeiner International Bridge spans 210' from end to end, with a four-lane traffic tunnel measuring 14' 6" high allowing traffic to cross Highway 63. The elevation of the top of the bridge is 16' high and measures an impressive 24' wide. The bridge weighs an estimated 50,000 pounds.
- An estimated twelve dump truck loads of snow will cover the American Birkebeiner International Bridge with 1-foot of snow for use on race day.
- In 2020, an estimated 13,500 skiers, from 47 states and 25 countries, will travel over U.S. Highway 63 atop the snow-covered, American Birkebeiner International Bridge during Birkie week races.
- An estimated 40,000 spectators and skiers will gather in and around the Hayward area for the annual Birkie week of festivities, all within view of the American Birkebeiner International Bridge.
- In 2014, the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, hosted their first-ever capital campaign to build the American Birkebeiner International Bridge which made its first appearance at the 2015 American Birkebeiner Ski Race in Hayward, WI.
- **New in 2020, the only way to cross Main Street is by walking on the pedestrian walkways located underneath the bridge on either side of Highway 63.**
- In 2019, twelve, well-orchestrated semi-trucks delivered the American Birkebeiner International Bridge to Minneapolis where it was the centerpiece of attractions on the Nicollet Mall during the 10-day Super Bowl LIVE festival of events.

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