



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.
- Normally, 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.
- Twelve, well-orchestrated semi-trucks delivered the American Birkebeiner International Bridge to Minneapolis where it will be one of the key centerpiece attractions on the Nicollet Mall during the 10-day Super Bowl LIVE festival of events. The bridge began to arrive on Tuesday, January 9, 2018.
- The American Birkebeiner International Bridge spans 198' from end to end, with a two-lane traffic tunnel measuring 14' 6" high allowing traffic to cross the Nicollet Mall at 9th Street. 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.
- Twelve dump truck loads of snow will cover the American Birkebeiner International Bridge with 1-foot of snow for use during demonstration activities during Super Bowl LIVE, with even more snow extending down the Nicollet Mall. The snow will be groomed with a Piston Bully groomer throughout the festival.
- The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation's International Bridge, through a partnership with the Loppet Foundation, will allow visitors to witness cross-country skiing, skijoring, and fat tire bike racing on the bridge.
- In the last American Birkebeiner ski race, 13,500 skiers, from 48 states and 23 countries, traveled over U.S. Highway 63 atop the snow-covered, American Birkebeiner International Bridge during Birkie week races.
- This is the first and only time the American Birkebeiner International Bridge has been outside of Hayward, WI, where it is normally assembled once per year for the American Birkebeiner "Birkie" week of festivities.
- The bridge will make its third ever appearance at Super Bowl Live, with its fourth at the 44th Annual American Birkebeiner week of events, February 22-25, 2018, only weeks after Super Bowl LIVE.
- The American Birkebeiner ski race is steeped in Nordic history and recreates the dramatic journey and rescue, by two Birkebeiner warriors, of the infant prince who would one day become king of Norway.
- 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.



About the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation

- The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Hayward, Wisconsin.
- The ABSF Mission is to promote and conduct the finest international cross-country ski competition and healthy, active lifestyle events; to serve as good stewards of the American Birkebeiner Trail; and to support healthy and active lifestyles among people of all ages and abilities.
- 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.

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