

Grzegorz Oziminski Close to the Finish Line of the Continental Divide Trail



A long journey from Poland to the peaks of Sierra Nevada in California followed by the evening sun of the Appalachian McAfee Knob and finally on top of Grays Peak in Colorado Grzegorz Oziminski is only miles away from fulfilling his dream of completing three major U.S. trails in three consecutive years. These are Pacific Crest Trail, Appalachian Trail, and Continental Divide Trail. For Grzegorz and his hiking partner Maciej Stromczynski it all started with a dream to complete long distance trails in the United States. At random they picked Pacific Crest Trail first. In the spring of 2016, fully loaded with equipment and adventurous spirit they stepped north past the Southern Terminus of the PCT in Southern California. Two thousand six hundred and fifty miles later they arrived at Manning Park, Canada and proudly touched the Northern Terminus of the PCT. Grzegorz and Maciej had a fully deserved sense of accomplishment.

Long distance hiking is not popular in Poland. It is fair to say that Grzegorz and Maciej blazed the trail for future adventure seekers living in Poland. This adventure is very demanding. It requires strong character, discipline, ability to make decisions and, last but not least, good physical condition.

The following year, 2017, Grzegorz and Maciej ventured the Appalachian Trail. AT was a different experience from the PCT. The trail was not as demanding physically yet it offered a great overview of American history.

Grzegorz and Maciej already had plans for year 2018. Continental Divide Trail. The longest of three trails at thirty one hundred miles, it stretches from New Mexico to Canada. Continental Divide separates water that runs toward the Pacific Ocean from the water that runs toward the Atlantic, Arctic Oceans and the Gulf of Mexico. Some sections of the CDT overlap the path of Lewis and Clark expedition of early 19th century.

Grzegorz and Maciej had much more experience when they started their CDT adventure. They were better prepared compared to two years before. But things never go as smoothly as planned. Shortly after starting the Continental Divide Trail Maciej had to turn around. Personal circumstances forced him to return to Poland. This placed Grzegorz in a difficult position. He could turn around as well or continue to hike alone. Only Grzegorz knows how difficult it was to make that decision. Grzegorz decided to continue the hike alone and follow his dream without his long time hiking partner.

Continental Divide Trail is considered most difficult of the three trails. Climate and elevation changes, water shortages and poor markings in some areas are only some of the challenges facing the hiker. Rewards come with accomplishments that make the hardship a faint memory.

After very arduous hike, full of challenges, adventures and breathtaking views Grzegorz Oziminski is closing in on the Continental Divide Trail. He will touch the Northern Terminus in Glacier National Park by the end of August. His dream will come true. Great job, Grzegorz, and fully deserved congratulations!

Additional resources:

- Facebook site Terra Incognita Project – reports, pictures and videos from the trails.
- <https://www.facebook.com/TerraIncognitaProject/>
- Blog Terra Incognita Project – a journal and more pictures from each trail
- <http://www.terraprojekt.com.pl/>

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