

## **Vik Livingston**

The Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge changed my life!

Sitting in the mandatory meeting with my fellow participants I had no clue how this experience was going to be a life-changing event for me on so many levels. Hearing the Chief talk about the reasons for the race, the poverty we would encounter, the lack of clean running water and lack of support for his people, it became so clear for me that this was something I had to do. I was in the right place, at the right time.

I had wanted to go on a long challenge like this for a long time. It was always on my "bucket list" of things to do. The incredible beauty of this land moved me deeply and, as the miles went by, I was constantly inspired by such beauty. I also saw such abject poverty. It was heartbreaking but I was glad to be able to stop and spend money in places like this. I know it helped.

This ride challenged and changed me in many ways – allowing me to accept love and support from complete strangers, to see old and cherished friends and to make new ones. The unknown roads I trusted because the Hoka Hey guides had ridden on them (more than once, no doubt). The new experiences I had and the stories and memories I have to share now are a part of who I am and always will be. It was not just a physical journey for me, but a spiritual one also.

Even though I did not finish the challenge this time, I want to say what an honor it was to meet the Chief of the Lakota People, and what an honor it was to participate in the Challenge.

Would I participate again? There's a finish line in my near future!

Thank you for the honor in being chosen to participate in this life-changing challenge.

~ Vik Livingston