

A SCOTS adventurer is about to attempt his most dangerous journey by crossing part of the Bering Strait between Russia and Alaska.

Mike Laird, who made a name for himself in the Castaway 2000 reality series on the Hebridean island of Taransay, will brave polar bears and shifting ice floes to cross 25 miles of open water.

Only eight people have ever crossed the Bering Strait on foot – and Mr Laird hopes to lead the first team to complete a return journey next year.

On Thursday, the Edinburgh-based financial consultant and his co-traveller James Bingham will be airlifted to Little Diomedé island in the middle of the 50-mile wide strait. From there, they will spend two weeks hiking to the Alaskan coast as a recce for the full 2016 expedition.

Mr Laird, 45, who'll face temperatures as low as -60°C , has written letters for his family in the event of his death.

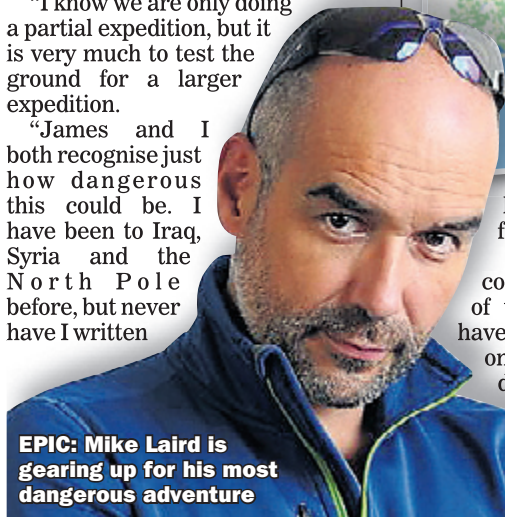
He said: "We are there just as polar bears come out of hibernation. They will be hungry.

"More than 4,000 people have climbed Everest but only eight have ever crossed the Bering Sea.

"I know we are only doing a partial expedition, but it is very much to test the ground for a larger expedition.

"James and I both recognise just how dangerous this could be. I have been to Iraq, Syria and the North Pole before, but never have I written

Scot Bering up well for deadliest trip



EPIC: Mike Laird is gearing up for his most dangerous adventure

letters for my family and friends before.

"We are faced by severe conditions and should one of us get injured we only have the other person to rely on. That means we are dragging almost double the equipment of any other trip.

"It will be tough. Apart

from the polar bears, we face drifting ice. When you go to sleep you have no idea where you are going to wake up the next day should that floe drift away.

"Our plan is to be back on March 15, but I have already told my employer I may not make it back until later if at all."

The smaller trek will cost £20,000, but Mr Laird is still drumming up support for the two-way crossing.