Coastal Route
Explorers from East Asia may have paddled small boats to southern Beringia and down the western coast of the Americas starting as early as 16,000 years ago. The British Columbian coast was rid of ice by then, and migrants would have had access to a bounty of marine mammals and fish. The earliest known site near the coast, Monte Verde in Chile, dates to just 14,600 years ago; however, the thawing of the ice sheets during the last glacial period may have drowned the oldest sites along the ancient coastline.

Land Route: Ice-Free Corridor
According to the Clovis First model, the Cordilleran and Laurentide ice sheets did not part ways until 13,000 years ago, thus barring a pre-Clovis overland migration into the Americas. But fresh geologic data indicate that the corridor opened by 15,000 years ago. Travelers along this route may have hunted birds and brought dogs with them to carry their gear. Trekking 16 kilometers a day, the migrants could have reached the end of the corridor in four months.
THE HORIZONTAL LEVEE