

Outside

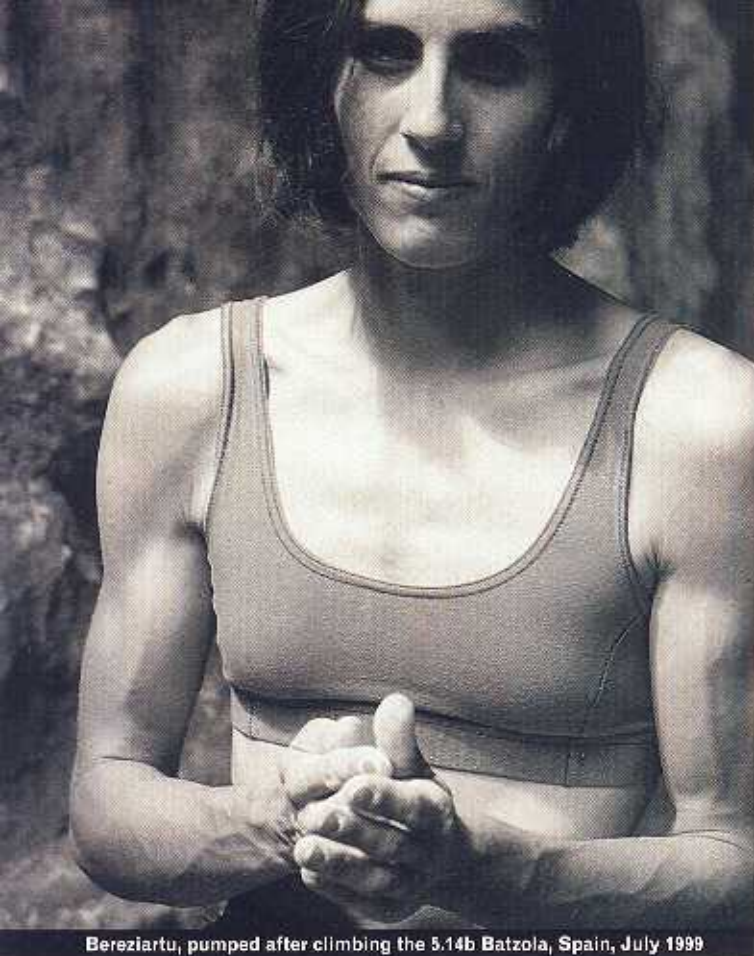
SUPER



HEROES

Number 1 has been up and down Everest five times. Number 25 published the best sports autobiography of the year and won the Tour de France for the second time in a row. Number 9 walked across Antarctica, alone. Number 23 sailed 200 miles back into the teeth of a deadly Southern Ocean storm to rescue a fellow competitor. In assembling our list of today's 25 most extraordinary adventurers, outdoor athletes, and explorers, it was the existential question—the big “Why?”—that made the nomination and selection process such a blast. Ours is a roster of supreme equals: remarkable men and women who excel in sports that aren't played between lines, inside domed stadiums, or under artificial lights. Hype is anathema to these elite spirits; freedom and humility are absolutes in their world. Best of all, these folks challenge us to go out there and do it ourselves—even as they redefine our notions of the possible. Meet our Dream Team: Where they go, we follow.

Roll call: mountaineer Ed Viesturs, rock climber Tommy Caldwell, paddler Shannon Carroll, skier Francine Moreillon, snowboarder Jeremy Jones, and whitewater paddler Eric Jackson (in the red shorts).



Bereziartu, pumped after climbing the 5.14b Batzola, Spain, July 1999

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Josune Bereziartu

ROCK CLIMBER

Age: 28 Specs: 5-foot-9, 119 pounds

Home: Ordizia, Spain

THE CASE: The tight-knit rock-climbing community in northern Spain's Basque country presented a new international star in June with the news that Josune Bereziartu had redpointed Honky Mix, a 100-foot limestone route near Oñate, thereby becoming the first woman ever to climb a 5.14c. The feat was no surprise to European climbers, who'd seen her tick off three 5.14b's with an efficient, controlled style. A ten-year veteran of the rock, Bereziartu herself stands in something less than awe of the accomplishment. "It's nice that this was the first 5.14c climbed by a woman," she says, "but for me the most important thing is that it was the *second* overall ascent of a route that's been a project for several strong climbers."

SECOND OPINION: "Watching her do her first 5.14b, I couldn't believe how calmly she moved," says American climber Eric Fagan, who recently returned from a two-year stint in Spain. "It looked like she was climbing vertically, but the route was 55 degrees overhanging."

MOST HARROWING MOMENT: Last spring, nightfall caught Bereziartu and husband Rikardo Otegi halfway up an eight-pitch route near Riglos. They finished in the dark and hiked to their car only to realize they'd left their keys 600 feet up the cliff.

WHAT'S NEXT: Brief tastes of American crags such as Colorado's Rifles are bringing Bereziartu back for more. "The look of the American West is so different from the forests of Europe," she says. "You have incredible national parks!" —Bruce Barcott

Johan Reinhard

ARCHAEOLOGIST/EXPLORER

Someone once asked Johan Reinhard how many close calls he'd survived. When he finished tallying them, the total came to 34. "I haven't been broken up too badly," says the 57-year-old Illinois native, "but I've been nearly killed almost every way you can think of." To thrive as the world's foremost high-altitude archaeologist, it helps to be both lucky and wise. When an avalanche wipes the slope you just exited—that's luck. When a Nepalese tribe of hunters orders you, upon pain of death, to stop shadowing them, and you beat feet—that's wisdom.

For two decades Reinhard, who holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Vienna, has scoured remote Andean mountaintops seeking clues left behind by ancient South American civilizations. His discoveries have blown minds in the science world: In 1995 he recovered the famous 500-year-old Incan "ice maiden," the most well preserved body from pre-Columbian times. Last year he and his team battled 70-mph winds and snow to unearth three more mummies on the summit of Argentina's

22,000-foot Mount Llullaillaco. "The DNA samples we sent to George Mason University were as intact as a living person's," says Reinhard.

The archaeologist, who's been climbing mountains since college, has bagged more than 100 South American peaks over 17,000 feet, making him

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one of the world's most prolific Andean climbers—a record he didn't consciously seek. "What keeps me going up is that

[those high mountains] have the world's best-preserved mummies," he says, "and they're soon going to be destroyed." Earlier this year Reinhard scrambled up to a burial site on an Argentinean peak to find that thieves had gotten there first. With dynamite. "All we found were remains of blown-up textiles and bones," he says.

Now funded as a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, Reinhard retreats to his home near Franklin, West Virginia, to sift through his findings when he isn't in the field. "I've had to give up a lot for this life," he says. "But I've always had the freedom to go out and explore." —B.B.



Reinhard hunting mummies on Nevado Ampato, in the Andes, in 1995

DAVID ROUQUILLZ (TOP), STEPHEN L. ALVAREZ