

This Is

How you

Letting it
rip at Utah's
Bonneville
Salt Flats
(see page 74)



Do

It

↓
THAT MENTAL LIST YOU KEEP OF ALL THE FUN THINGS YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE? WE WROTE IT DOWN. THEN WE CAME UP WITH A CHRONOLOGICAL PLAN FOR MAKING IT ALL HAPPEN—IN THE NEXT 365 DAYS.
BY
KATE SIBER



There's no fun like four-G fun

SLED LIKE AN OLYMPIAN

LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK

NOVEMBER–APRIL

\$85 PER RUN

Lolo Jones, the Olympic hurdler turned bobsledder, has described careening down the icy track as similar to being kicked off Mount Everest in a trash can. That's only a slightly hyperbolic way to describe

what it's like to rocket through 12 banked turns going 55 miles per hour at up to four G's. The Olympic Sports Complex in Lake Placid, where American sled teams captured two gold medals, a silver, and a bronze in 1932, is our favorite venue to get a taste of the action, with veteran athletes up front steering while you hold on really, really tight. "A lot of people scream," says Joey Allen, one of the track's regular drivers. whiteface.com

TRIP OUT ON THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

ICELAND

NOVEMBER–MARCH

\$719

A cycle of more intense solar activity has caused the aurora borealis to be at its peak for the past few years, and this winter offers another ideal chance to catch it. Still, you'll need a lot of darkness in a far-north



Icelandic fireworks

locale—plus a little bit of luck—to witness the spectacle. One of the best spots is Iceland, where Icelandair is offering northern-lights viewing packages that include nonstop flights

FACE YOUR GREATEST FEAR



HEIGHTS

It doesn't get scarier than a **slackline over a 400-foot-deep chasm**. During Thanksgiving week, a group of Utah highliners and BASE jumpers host an event known as Gobble Gobble Bitches Yeah, in Mineral Bottom Canyon, near Moab. Warm up on a line close to the ground, then don a harness and inch your way across the canyon.

FLYING

The trick is putting yourself at the controls. Kitty Hawk Kites, a school in Nags Head, North Carolina, offers demo flights in hang gliders over the dunes of Jockey's Ridge State Park, where newbies **soar 15 feet off the ground**. \$99; kittyhawk.com

CONFINED SPACES

South Dakota's Jewel Cave National Monument, the third-longest cave in the world, is a trove of geological formations. On a ranger-led spelunking tour, **crawl through passages scarcely wider than a basketball**. \$600; nps.gov/jeca

HUNGRY BEASTS

The **great white sharks** that gather in the Farallon Islands, off San Francisco, are up to 20 feet long, thanks to a diet of 5,000-pound elephant seals. See them in their element on a daylong cage-diving trip. \$775; greatwhiteadventures.com

ENTER THE ULTIMATE RACE

These are the most talked-about events in their respective sports for a reason.

SKI MOUNTAINEERING

Grand Traverse; Crested Butte to Aspen, Colorado, March 25–26

Teams of two set off at midnight on a 40-plus-mile backcountry route that climbs over 7,800 vertical feet and ends with a 3,200-vertical-foot groomer. ▶ \$400 per team; elkmountains Traverse.com

ROAD BIKING

Death Ride; Sierra Nevada, California, July 9

Roughly two-thirds of the 3,500 riders who set out to do the Death Ride every July finish the 129-mile route, which climbs 15,000 feet over five passes. ▶ \$135; deathride.com

OPEN-WATER SWIMMING

Trans Tahoe Relay; Lake Tahoe, Nevada and California, July 16

Some 1,400 racers compete in teams of six in this ten-mile crossing of 60-degree-plus Lake Tahoe (no wetsuits allowed), which has become one of the world's largest open-water swims. ▶ \$600 per team; transtahoerelay.com

TRIATHLON

New York City Triathlon; NYC, July 24

Swim in the Hudson, bike up and down the West Side Highway, and run through Central

Park in the most urbanized tri in the country. ▶ \$310; nyctri.com

TRAIL RUNNING

Cranmore Hill Climb; North Conway, New Hampshire, July 10

Compete with elites at a race that often serves as the U.S. Mountain Running Championships but is open to athletes of all abilities. The course changes every year, but you can expect more than 2,000 vertical feet over about eight miles. ▶ \$25; whitemountainmilers.com

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Leadville 100; Leadville, Colorado, August 13

This infamous endurance event follows 100 miles of mixed trails and tops out at 12,400 feet. Too much? Consider the new three-day stage race, which follows the same course at a saner pace. ▶ \$345; leadville raceseries.com

OBSTACLE RACING

World's Toughest Mudder; Las Vegas, November

In the rolling desert outside Sin City, Mudders have 24 hours to make their way through as many laps of the five-mile course as possible, stumbling up wall climbs, off cliff jumps, and through fire lines in pursuit of \$160,000 in prizes. ▶ \$554; toughmudder.com

from nine North American cities, four nights' lodging, a visit to the mineral-rich Laugarvatn Fontana geothermal baths, and a nighttime boat tour, so you can check out the lights from the North Atlantic. icelandair.us

SKI WITH THE BIRDS

SILVERTON, COLORADO

DECEMBER–APRIL

\$179 PER FLIGHT

The epicenter of heliskiing is British Columbia, where a weeklong trip easily costs \$7,000. But you can get a single glory run at Silverton, in the San Juan Mountains of southwest Colorado, for less than the price of a couple of lift tickets at Vail. A chopper offers rides to the top of the area's 3,000-foot lines, where a guide leads four skiers

down. When you're done, lap Silverton Mountain's double chair (\$139 guided), which accesses secluded hike-to chutes, bowls, and glades that hold powder for weeks after a storm. silvertonmountain.com

OWN THE GRAND CANYON

ARIZONA

APRIL–MAY, SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER

\$74 FOR A FOUR-NIGHT PERMIT

In the spring and fall, when the hiking highways on the South Rim are mobbed with tourists, the trails on the relatively undeveloped North Rim are blissfully empty. Temperatures in the shoulder seasons hover in the mid seventies, making your lonely descent to the Colorado River even more pleasant. Apply for a back-

country camping permit up to four months in advance for the 11-mile (each way) Nankoweap Trail. It traverses a ledge along a thousand-foot cliff, down steep rock bands, into a canyon, and finally to an ancient granary in an amphitheater on the riverbank. nps.gov/grca

FLOAT YOUR BOAT

MAINE, UTAH, OR OREGON

JUNE–SEPTEMBER

\$125 PER DAY

The number-one reason to put the energy into a DIY river trip instead of opting for an outfitter? "You get to control who you go with," says Mark Singleton, executive director of American Whitewater. A great river to start with is the Allagash, in northern Maine. The section



Guide-free on Maine's Allagash

GO IT ALONE



"A solo camping trip is wonderfully peaceful, and it's one of those opportunities we so rarely have to confront our thoughts and anxieties. If it's your first time, pick somewhere that isn't super far off the beaten track. You want trails that are easy to follow, and better signed, so it's harder to get into trouble. Before you set off, seek out people who have some experience, ask them questions, talk through your plans, and make sure you're leaving a detailed itinerary with somebody, so they know if you're overdue. There's a big temptation to do high miles, to bring guidebooks, to identify wildflowers and get into other fun and distracting projects, but personal reflection comes when you're just sitting with nothing to do." —Jack Haskel, information specialist for the Pacific Crest Trail Association

Telluride's
via ferrata

between Chamberlain Lake and Allagash Village winds 60 miles, with Class II rapids, tree-crammed banks, and an abundance of moose. Nicatou Outfitters will rent you a canoe and supply meals for five days for \$625 (mainecampingtrips.com). Two more challenging DIY options we like: the Grand Ronde, a Class II–III river in Washington and Oregon that slides through basalt cliffs and evergreen forest (raft rentals, \$125 per day from minamraftrentals.com), and the Class III Desolation Gray section of Utah's Green River, for classic

high-desert canyons (raft rentals plus shuttle service, from \$65; riverrunnerstransport.com).

LIVE ON THE EDGE

TELLURIDE, COLORADO

JUNE–SEPTEMBER

FROM \$150 FOR A GUIDED TRIP

Via ferratas—climbing routes with metal rungs and cables, first developed by Allied forces in World War I—enable nonclimbers to safely access steep, exposed peaks. Arguably the best one in the U.S. is the via

ferrata in Telluride. Hire a guide from Mountain Trip to show you the way. Or bring your own harness and quickdraws, drive up the Black Bear Pass road from town one switchback past Bridalveil Falls, and locate the well-worn path on the west side of Ajax Peak. The mile-and-a-quarter route leads across airy expanses of rock that in some spots plunge over 400-foot cliffs. Below, a verdant valley dotted with tiny Victorians unfolds, flanked by waterfalls and some of the most rugged peaks you'll find anywhere in the lower 48. *mountaintrip.com*

PLAY JOHN MUIR

BLUE RIVER, OREGON

JUNE–SEPTEMBER

\$400

Muir famously spent hours atop a tree during a winter windstorm in the Sierra Nevada, calling it one of his most exhilarating experiences in the wild. You can have an adventure that's just as powerful, but much more enjoyable, by spending a night in one. Guides from the Blue River-based Pacific Tree Climbing Institute will instruct you on how

TAKE OVER AN ISLAND

Three gems you can have all to yourself.

SPRUCE ISLAND

Maine

• The ultimate New England escape: an 80-acre island, 20 minutes by motorboat from the bustling lobster harbor of Stonington, featuring two stone homes that sleep 18 people and include kayaks, horseshoe pits, beach campfires, and, of course, lobster pots.

► From \$416; homeaway.com

EAGLE ISLAND

Georgia

• Tucked into a marshy coastline, this ten-acre homestead feels remote, but you'll hardly be roughing it. The three-bedroom main lodge has a king-size loft, an outdoor shower and fireplace, and a hot tub. Fill your days touring the marsh by kayak and catching blue crabs off the dock.

► \$600 per night; privateislands.org

DEEPWATER ISLAND

Ontario

• A three-bedroom luxury home with a huge deck, a gas grill, a kayak, and two canoes, located on a three-quarter-acre speck of granite in the ultra-clear Georgian Bay, surrounded by the Massasauga Provincial Park. In a word: perfection.

► \$2,500 per week; vrbo.com

CATCH A BUZZ IN THE BACK OF BEYOND

It tastes better when you earn it.



PHANTOM RANCH CANTEN

Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

• Take a 7.8-mile, knee-busting hike down 2,546 vertical feet on the South Kaibab Trail to Phantom Ranch, a collection of 1920s stone and wood cabins. The Canteen sells snacks, first-aid supplies, and, most important, ice-cold Tecate. Warning: last call is at 3:30 P.M.

EBENEZER'S PUB AND RESTAURANT

Lovell, Maine

• Lovell isn't on the way to anything except a few White Mountain trailheads, but beer connoisseurs make the pilgrimage to this northern outpost, about 90 minutes by car from Portland, to sample the selection of 35 drafts and 90 bottles, including rare Belgian brews.

GOLDEN SALOON

McCarthy, Alaska

• After a week in the bear-thick wilds of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, this watering hole in end-of-the-road McCarthy serving hard-living locals and hard-charging backpackers can seem downright civilized.

to ascend a rope into the upper branches of an old-growth Douglas fir in the Western Cascades. Your bed is a canvas hammock strung between branches, where you'll drift off to the hooting of owls. *pacifictreeclimbing.com*

ROLL THROUGH THE BACK-COUNTRY

COLORADO AND UTAH

JUNE–OCTOBER

FROM \$670

Supported hut-to-hut mountain biking gets you into serious wilderness on sensational trails—without the burden of packing all your supplies. The best route in the U.S. is the 215 miles between Durango, Colorado, and Moab, Utah. By day, travel light with only your clothes, snacks, water, and repair kit, choosing between intermediate fire roads and expert singletrack. There are plenty of challenges, from stream crossings to 12,000-foot passes to steep slickrock. Evening brings you to a hut stocked with water, beer, food, sleeping gear, and unobstructed views

of snow-covered peaks. "There's a lot of long-distance riding in the U.S., but this is the only time I felt this level of remoteness," says Sandra Musgrave, a former pro racer from Austin, Texas. The final leg features one of the most celebrated stretches of trail riding in the country—the Whole Enchilada, a forearm-pumping, 7,000-foot technical descent from the top of the La Sal Mountains, down over requisite slickrock, to the Colorado River. *sanjuanhuts.com*

SHUT THE HELL UP

BARRE, MASSACHUSETTS

YEAR-ROUND

FROM \$210

Meditation has become so hip recently that the incessant hype has drowned out the simple fact that learning to sit in calm silence is a transformative skill. Skip the apps and get trained with a crew that's been at it for 40 years. The Insight Meditation Society runs one of the oldest and best centers in the country on a wooded property in central Massachusetts.

Retreats range from two nights to three months, with fees on a sliding scale. *dharma.org*

GET INTIMATE WITH A GRIZZLY

ADMIRALTY ISLAND, ALASKA

JULY–AUGUST

\$475 FOR FLIGHT, \$35 FOR CABIN

Any number of Alaskan outfitters offer day trips to sandbars to watch bears fishing. But you'll have a more memorable

experience if you get two friends to go in on a floatplane charter with Ward Air from Juneau to Admiralty Island, which harbors one of the state's greatest concentrations of brown bears. The six-bunk Admiralty Cove Cabin, one of many simple shelters in the region operated by the U.S. Forest Service, is near a creek overlooking a huge tidal meadow. Bears pack the estuary to gorge on salmon, so they're easy to spot—and decidedly carefree about your presence. *wardair.com; reserveamerica.com*

Alaskan greeting party



TAKE AN UNPLANNED ROAD TRIP



"You need to give it enough time—at least a week. Use your phone only as a camera and music source. I always have a print atlas and the *Gazetteers* for whichever states I'll be in. And when you pack your clothes, cut the pile in half—extra stuff complicates things. Ignore websites and just get on the road and talk to people. You're going to meet a guy in a convenience store who tells you to go to the coolest place, and that'll change your trip. Say yes to absolutely everything. This is about wandering. It's about sitting in the front seat and talking with your best friend—or just staring out the window and doing some thinking. It's about getting a sense of the scale of the country and creating the mental space that you don't have at any other time in your life."
—Brendan Leonard, author of *The New American Road Trip Mixtape*

DANIEL SOHNER

DESIGN PICS/OFFSET

GO ALL IN

Sometimes blowing your savings or vacation days (or both) is worth it.

LOCK EYES WITH A MOUNTAIN GORILLA

• Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda is easy to access and home to more groups of habituated mountain gorillas than anywhere else on earth. Africa Adventure Consultants leads four-day trips out of Kigali.

► \$1,880; adventures in africa.com

CIRCLE NEW ZEALAND'S SOUTH ISLAND

• A sparse population, alpine peaks, world-class whitewater, paddle-perfect fjords, stunning cycling, and a "freedom camping" ethos that allows you to park your luxury RV rental almost anywhere makes the South Island the premier road-trip destination on the planet.

► \$1,500 for a two-week camper-van rental; mavi.co.nz

CROSS THE OCEAN

• The right way to do it: as part of a sailing crew. Online hubs list openings for sailors on boats making crossings. Many captains don't require extensive experience, and they're happy to offer passage if you're willing to work hard for it.

► Free; oceancrew link.com and float plan.com



Chamonix beckons

SKI CHAMONIX

• This Swiss mountain town has long been the proving ground for the world's best skiers and mountaineers. Get the most out of it by hiring a guide from the exclusive Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix.

► From \$394 for up to six people; chamonix-guides.eu

GET LOST IN THE AMAZON

• It takes a flight from Cusco, Peru, over the Andes to Puerto Maldonado, followed by eight to ten hours in a motorized canoe, to get to the Tambopata Research Station, a spartan 18-bedroom lodge that houses both travelers and

scientists. The payoff: outside your door is a vast, uninhabited stretch of forest teeming with macaws, capybaras, caimans, and monkeys.

► From \$788 for four days; perunature.com

CHASE SHACKLETON

• Brave the turbulent Southern Ocean on a ship bound for the planet's most remote continent to see spectacular mountain ranges, bizarre ice formations, thousands of seals and penguins, and a landscape legendary for its mesmerizing white enormity.

► From \$7,050 for a ten-day voyage; polar cruises.com

SOAK IN SOLITUDE

📍 FRANK CHURCH RIVER OF NO RETURN WILDERNESS, IDAHO

JULY–SEPTEMBER

FREE

A general rule about hot springs: the harder it is to get to them, the fewer sketchy naked dudes you'll encounter in the water once you get there. Idaho has an abundance of both geothermal activity and remote wilderness, resulting in unsullied spots like Shower Bath Hot Springs in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. To

find them, you'll first need to negotiate the four-wheel-drive-only Sleeping Deer Road, northwest of Challis, then hike 4.5 miles on the steep, occasionally washed-out Mahoney Trail, past the 1910 ranger station, and up a canyon that narrows to the width of a hallway. Stumble through the fast-moving, thigh-high waters of Warm Springs Creek until you arrive at the hallowed place where it rockets out of the hillside and over the canyon lip, creating hot, deep, clear pools of varying temperatures. Chances are, the only sketchy naked dude around will be you.



Photograph by
**PEGGY
SIROTA**

Fanning at
Dana Point,
California, in
September

PUNCH THE SHARK

TAKE IT FROM
WORLD-CHAMPION
SURFER MICK
FANNING: THERE'S
A RIGHT TIME
FOR WORKING,
COMPETING—AND
FIGHTING FOR
YOUR LIFE

THERE'S NO shortage of life advice these days. Some of it is even valuable. What's harder to find are honest lessons from people who've learned the hard way how to achieve success and happiness no matter what's thrown their way. Take Mick Fanning, current number two on the World Surf League rankings. At 34, the Australian has already lived through more than most. In 1998, he lost his older brother, Sean, to a car accident. Six years later, he ripped his hamstring from the bone while surfing in Indonesia, nearly ending his career before it had really launched. And recently—you and the entire Internet have seen the footage—he fought off a great white shark at Jeffreys Bay, South Africa, on live TV. Through it all, he only seems to get better. He turned a teenage reputation for hard partying into one for maniacal training. During the peak Kelly-Slater-comeback years, he won three world titles, completing dramatic late-season charges at Pipeline for two of them. And yes, he punched a shark. In short, he's a man worth listening to. —MATT SKENAZY

You can plan out so many different things in your life. When something like that shark happens, you wonder, **Am I really into this map that I'm following? Or do I just want to wing it?** I think it was a sign for me to wing it.

Afterward, we had a barbecue at the place I was staying in Jeffreys Bay. I had a lot of good friends around. It was sort of like a wake. **But I was still there.** There would be moments where everyone was laughing, then everyone would be crying.

I lost my brother at an early age, then had a pretty bad injury where I didn't know if I was gonna still have my career. I don't like sympathy. I always think, **It happened, so get on with it and keep moving forward.**

Yeah, I was a bit wild when I was young. **I still enjoy having a good time, it's just more about picking when to do it and when not to do it.** It all changed when I had my injury and had to sit for six months on the sideline. I watched some heats from previous events, and I realized that if I was a little bit more spot-on, then I could've put myself in a better position for a world title. That was the big turning point. Sort of like, OK, you're there to work, so just go to work. You can always play when you're not in work mode.

The 2 A.M. jitters. The little things that keep you up at night and don't let you sleep. These are why you go that extra yard to be a little bit better.

When I was going for my first title, former world champion Mark Richards was giving me advice. He's a hero of mine, and when I was stressing about the competition, he'd always tell me, "Concentrate on yourself. **If you're doing the right job, then you don't have to worry about anyone else.** Let them worry about you."

You just gotta go with your gut.

When you're younger, you base everything around results. Titles aren't the biggest thing in the world anymore. Sometimes we think that our jobs are the most important part of our lives. To tell you the truth, jobs are just something that we do. The main thing is fun. **The smartest people are the ones who give everything up and go hiking or take a long trip.** They always seem to land on their feet.

I see a sports psychologist named Michael Gervais. His motto is "Everything you need is already in you." **You don't have to be superhuman, just be open to searching for what you've already got.**

We spend so much time working on ourselves. **It's sort of stupid if you don't pass the knowledge on to someone.**

My birthday this year was during the event in Fiji. The waves weren't that great, so we thought we'd have a sports day. We played bocce ball and darts and Ping-Pong. **It was good to get rid of the whole competitive-surfing side and just have fun with a whole bunch of mates you don't go out to dinner with every day.**

You need someone pushing you. Joel Parkinson and I have been sparring partners since we were 13. He'd always beat me, and it fired me up. I wouldn't be where I am without him.

Regrets? Not really. You make mistakes. Everyone makes mistakes. **If you don't make the same mistake twice, then you're learning.**

You can be serious, but is it fun learning? **Is it fun getting better?** Is it fun going through what you need to do to reach different goals in life?

If you're living and breathing, then you've still got a chance. If you've got a chance, you've got to back yourself.

SWIM WITH A MONSTER

📍 BAJA, MEXICO

AUGUST–OCTOBER

\$200 BOAT CHARTER

There's a reason that swimming with whale sharks is on every scuba nerd's bucket list: it's the easiest, safest way to get up close and personal with a creature the size of a school bus. Divers seek out the docile leviathans in tropical waters worldwide, but one of the best spots to see them is Bahía de Los Angeles, just 300 miles south of San Diego down the Baja peninsula. (Schedule two days for the drive—this is Mexico.) Stay at

one of the handful of basic inns or managed campgrounds in town. In the morning, when the water is glassy, hire a local fisherman to bring you and up to seven friends out in a skiff, spot the sharks, and tell you when to jump in. *discoverbajacalifornia.com*

LAND A LUNKER

📍 CENTRAL OREGON

AUGUST–NOVEMBER

\$550 PER DAY

Steelhead are like trout on amphetamines. These famously clever, hard-fighting fish are extraordinarily difficult—and a hell of a lot of fun—to catch.

The Columbia River watershed is a mecca for steelhead fishermen when the fish make their way up rivers to spawn in the winter months. The best way to boost your odds is to hire a

local guide. “We have fish that are so aggressive, they’ll chase a fly for 60 or 80 feet,” says Jeff Perin, owner of Fly Fisher’s Place, an outfitter that runs float trips on the Lower Deschutes

River. Once you hook a fish, it’ll take everything you’ve got to land it. An eight-pound steelhead could easily feel like a 15-pounder as it twists out of the water. *flyfishersplace.com*



In pursuit of Oregon steelhead



Eye to eye with a whale shark

FROM TOP: JUSTIN BAILE; CHRISTIAN VIZU/TANDEM

THROW AN OFF-THE-GRID RAGER

New Belgium Brewery, in Fort Collins, Colorado, knows a thing or two about producing outrageous outdoor parties. We asked Jesse Claeys, one of the company's event planners, to share his party-planning tips.

LOCATION IS EVERYTHING

• The ideal spot is bike friendly with a gorgeous view.

GET AHEAD OF THE WEATHER

• We look at average rainfall as well as sunset and sunrise times for certain dates, then plug those into a spreadsheet to find ideal party times.

ACCESSORIZE

• Habitat for Humanity's ReStore (habitat.org) is amazing for cheap furniture and decorations.

DON'T OVERDO THE PLAYLIST

• You just want classic songs that create good background ambience—Budos Band, Sam Cooke, Jimmy Cliff.

ADD A SURPRISE

• We do something called "portaoke"—a karaoke booth among the Porta-Johns. Those kind of strange, unexpected, and interactive moments are what people talk about when it's all over.

Gassing it at Bonneville



DRIVE AS FAST AS YOU CAN

📍 BONNEVILLE
SALT FLATS, UTAH

SEPTEMBER

\$210

Just once, stomp on the gas pedal and hold it there. The World of Speed event, held every September on the Bonneville Salt Flats, a 46-square-mile expanse of featureless salt crust on the western edge of Utah's Great

Salt Lake Basin, invites regular people in regular vehicles to let 'em rip alongside tricked-out racing cars. You get one mile to go as fast as you possibly can. "There's no reference point, and above 100 miles per hour, speedometers

aren't very accurate," says Dennis Sullivan, president of Utah Salt Flats Racing Association. "But you can feel how fast you're going!" Chicken out on your first go? No worries—you get five more tries. saltflats.com

CLIMB A RANDOM MOUNTAIN



"This is not a trophy summit that you can brag about at a cocktail party. You're not getting a feather in your cap. This is the essence of climbing—you're doing it because you love the process. It starts with a search for a beautiful mountain that's going to call out to you. You don't always find these things on the Internet. Sometimes it's a little mention in a climbing publication that catches your interest. You go, Oh wow, look at this place that no one goes to. Once I pick a mountain, I do initial research on Google Earth, then figure out how much time I'll need and make a detailed trip plan. Don't let anyone tell you the golden age of exploration is over. There's still a huge supply of peaks that are rarely climbed or have never been climbed."

—Mark Synnott, professional climber and owner of Synnott Mountain Guides