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Bowers Museum and Royal Geographical Society and Partner for Historic Exhibition, *Everest: Ascent to Glory*



The 1924 Mount Everest Expedition in camp ©Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

January 4, 2022 (Santa Ana, California) – Bowers Museum proudly announces a spectacular new exhibition, *Everest: Ascent to Glory*, open February 12 – August 28, 2022 and free with General Admission. The Bowers is thrilled to continue its partnership with another world-class institution, the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), London, which has co-organized *Everest: Ascent to Glory*. Bowers is also honored to be working with the guest curator of *Everest*, Wade Davis, who is an ethnographer, writer, photographer, filmmaker, and former Explorer-in-Residence at the National Geographical Society.

This exciting exhibition features more than 20 original objects and 60 stunning photographs of Everest's illustrious history. From climbing rope found with the remains of George Mallory, to one of the first oxygen sets ever employed in high-altitude climbing, the exhibition takes visitors on an epic journey reflective of the true triumphs and tragedies intertwined with Everest. Visitors will become further immersed as they view a 3D model of Everest, on loan courtesy of National Geographic Society, Washington, DC; created by Solid Terrain Modeling, Inc. and sponsored by Edward P. Roski, and the beautifully remastered *Epic of Everest* (1924) film by John Noel.

The newest project from Bowers Museum's ongoing partnership with the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), *Everest: Ascent to Glory* combines photographs, films, and artifacts from five expeditions leading up to and including the earliest successful attempt to climb the colossal mountain that the Tibetan people call the "Mother Goddess of the World."

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On the heels of the centennial of the first British reconnaissance expedition to Mount Everest (1921-2021), this holistic exhibition curated by Wade Davis, the award-winning author of *Into the Silence: The Great War, Mallory and the Conquest of Everest*, explores the history, resolute characters, unsung heroes – including Tibetan and Nepalese Sherpas – and changing technologies of the initial attempts to climb the tallest mountain on earth.



Image Left: Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, 1953 ©Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

Humanity has always sought to expand into new frontiers, pushing boldly where others have feared to or could not go. For Great Britain the early 20th century was marred by the Norwegian Roald

Amundsen beating a British expedition to the South Pole and an unspeakable “Great War.” To escape a country that felt unfamiliar to them after the horrors of France’s trenches, the greatest explorers of England set their sights on reaching the summit of Mount Everest.

Each expedition built on the lessons and losses of those before it. The first 1921 reconnaissance of the mountain mapped a path to its summit. The introduction of oxygen the following year seemed promising until two fatal expeditions put efforts to climb Everest on ice. The advent of radio in 1933 made communication on the mountain possible for the first time. It was not until 1953 that Tenzing Norgay and Sir Edmund Hillary would crest the mountain’s final dome to see the world in panorama.

Exhibition-Related Programs

- SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 12: **Now Online** Presentation and Zoom Q&A by Guest Curator Wade Davis
Wade Davis’ lecture is one of a three-part series that he will give during the course of the exhibition. It also marks the inaugural lecture of a new Distinguished Lecture Series made possible by a generous bequest by former Bowers Board Member, Lynda Thomas (1950-2021). [Tickets and details](#)
- SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 13: **Now Online** Everest on Film + Live Q&A with Alasdair MacLeod, RGS Head of Enterprise and Resources at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) [Tickets and details](#)
- SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 19: Full Circle Everest Expedition Virtual Presentation:
Meet the team just before they leave to make history as the first all-Black team to attempt to summit the tallest mountain on Earth. [Tickets and details](#)
- SUNDAY | May 15: Onsite Presentation, *Life Lived Wild: An Afternoon of Stories with Rick Ridgeway*
- SATURDAY | APRIL 2: Onsite Presentation and Book Signing by Guest Curator and Lynda Thomas Distinguished Lecturer, Wade Davis. [Tickets and details](#)

And much more! Visit [bowers.org/everest](https://www.bowers.org/everest) for a full calendar of exhibition-related events, tickets and more.

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