



Photos: Vanessa O'Brien's voyage



If Boston's Vanessa O'Brien gets to the North Pole in April, she will have completed the Explorers' Grand Slam faster than any woman ever has.
(Dina Rudick/Globe Staff)

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She will have climbed the highest peaks on all seven continents in 11 months. Pictured, O'Brien reached Mount Everest on May 19, 2012. (Atte Miettinen)

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O'Brien (pink jacket first row) went 20,320 feet to reach the summit of Mount McKinley on June 19, 2012, with three AMS teams.

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O'Brien made it to the summit of 18,510-foot Mount Elbrus in Russia on July 15, 2012. (Michael Hamill)

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O'Brien completed a Tyrolean traverse on Carstensz Pyramid of Indonesia on the way to the summit in September 2012. (Kurt Wedberg)

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O'Brien on Antarctica's Mount Vinson Massif, where she summited 16,050 feet on Dec. 5, 2012. (Michael Hamill/Michael Hamill)

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O'Brien reached the South Pole in December 2012. (IceAxe Expeditions)

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O'Brien at the top of Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, South America's highest peak, where she finished climbing 22,841 feet on Jan. 20, 2013. (Michael Hamill)

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O'Brien accomplished the 19,340-foot peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest in Africa, on March 10, 2013. (Davina Kalle/Davina Kalle)