

EXPEDITION NEWS

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Celebrating our 27th year.

EXPEDITION NEWS, founded in 1994, is the monthly review of significant expeditions, research projects and newsworthy adventures. It is distributed online to media representatives, corporate sponsors, educators, research librarians, explorers, environmentalists, and outdoor enthusiasts. This forum on exploration covers projects that stimulate, motivate and educate.



Still from video of Vanessa O'Brien's journey above the Karman Line aboard Blue Origin's sixth space tourism mission.

BUZZ WORDS

Explorers Extreme Trifecta

This is another one of those made-up records, like Seven Summits, but in this case, popularized by Guinness World Records. The first man – as well as the first person overall – to reach extremes on land, sea, and air is the American Victor Vescovo, who summited Mount Everest (the highest point on Earth) on May 24, 2010, dived into the Challenger Deep (the deepest point on Earth) on April 28, 2019, and ventured to space (crossing the 100-km-high Kármán Line) as part of the Blue Origin NS-21 mission on June 4, 2022.



This month, British-American explorer Vanessa O'Brien was aboard Blue Origin's *New Shepard* suborbital vehicle NS-22 along with five others, thus making her the first woman to complete the EET.

O'Brien summited Mt. Everest on May 19, 2012, reached Challenger Deep on June 12, 2020, and joined Blue Origin's NS-22, passing the Kármán line into suborbital space to reach an apogee of 351,232 feet (107 km) on August 4, 2022. O'Brien achieved this Explorer's Trifecta over 10 years, 2 months, and 16 days

O'Brien apparently paid her own way to space, but it's unclear how much it cost. Blue Origin has not revealed New Shepard ticket prices, according to *Space.com*. O'Brien tells *EN*, "*Blue Origin* has NDA's in place so the price is not released. One-third of our crewed capsule, however, was sponsor-funded and Space For Humanity just released that it is sponsoring its third seat on Blue Origin with applications open now." (spaceforhumanity.org)

She added, "A rising tide lifts all boats, so let this Blue Origin spaceflight, the first carrying two women, serve to inspire all of us to dream bigger than our current circumstances, and remind us of the work we have left to do as we continue to fight for women's and girls' rights to education and health, to decent work and safety, and to justice and peace," said O'Brien who carried the UN Women's flag aloft.