

# Word of mouth

What's hot in ★ Budapest ★ Abu Dhabi ★ Philippines ★ South Africa ★ Marrakech

EDITED BY LISA JOHNSON

**WHO ED STAFFORD**  
EX-ARMY CAPTAIN, 33

**QUEST** To be the first man to walk the entire length of the Amazon.

Stafford is already three-quarters of the way there  
**LOW** Being held hostage by members of the Asháninka tribe in northern Peru

**HIGH** Being befriended in the same region by an old woman and her granddaughter. 'Some of those who live in this hostile area believe white people will steal your face while you sleep'

**PEARL OF WISDOM**

'Don't listen to people who tell you horror stories'

[www.walkingtheamazon.com](http://www.walkingtheamazon.com)



**WHO ALISTAIR HUMPHREYS**  
MULTI-FACETED ADVENTURER, 32

**QUEST** See Ben Saunders, below left. Humphreys has already cycled around the world, and his books include *Ten Lessons from the Road*

**LOW** Breaking his foot during the Marathon des Sables in the Sahara Desert. He finished as one of the top 10 UK runners

**HIGH** Reaching Cape Town on his 46,000-mile round-the-world cycle trip

**PEARL OF WISDOM**

'The hardest part is summoning the courage to begin. Things are relatively easy after that'

[www.alastairhumphreys.com](http://www.alastairhumphreys.com)

## THE NEW ADVENTURERS

AS THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY PREPARES FOR ITS 33RD ANNUAL 'EXPLORE' CONFERENCE, WE SALUTE THE STOUT-HEARTED BRITS GOING WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE. BY LAURA DIXON

**WHO BEN SAUNDERS**  
LONG-DISTANCE SKIER, 31

**QUEST** To finish what Scott started and lead the first return expedition to the South Pole, on foot, with Alastair Humphreys, above right

**LOW** Being attacked by a polar bear. His gun jammed five times before firing

**HIGH** The start of his 2004 solo expedition to the North Pole. 'I've never felt such an intoxicating combination of excitement, happiness, anticipation and raw fear'

**PEARL OF WISDOM**

'The word "impossible" is rarely more than someone else's opinion'

[www.bensaunders.com](http://www.bensaunders.com)



**WHO OLLIE HICKS**  
TRANS-ATLANTIC ROWER, 27

**QUEST** To row solo around the world, after failing at his first attempt. Hicks is already the first person to have rowed solo eastbound across the North Atlantic, from New York to the Isles of Scilly

**LOW** The two weeks he spent in the Tasman Sea, stuck in a vortex

**HIGH** Surfing Atlantic swells in his boat, *The Flying Carrot*, with hundreds of dolphins for company

**PEARL OF WISDOM**

'Enjoy the highs, roll with the lows and try to take something good out of adversity'

[www.virginglobalrow.com](http://www.virginglobalrow.com)

**EXPLORE** takes place at the Royal Geographical Society in London, 13-15 November, and will include contributions from more than 100 experts, among them Ben Saunders, Alastair Humphreys, Paul Rose and Hilary Bradt. It costs £100 for the weekend (020 7591 3030; [www.rgs.org/explore](http://www.rgs.org/explore))