

# Everest: 50th anniversary of the first ascent

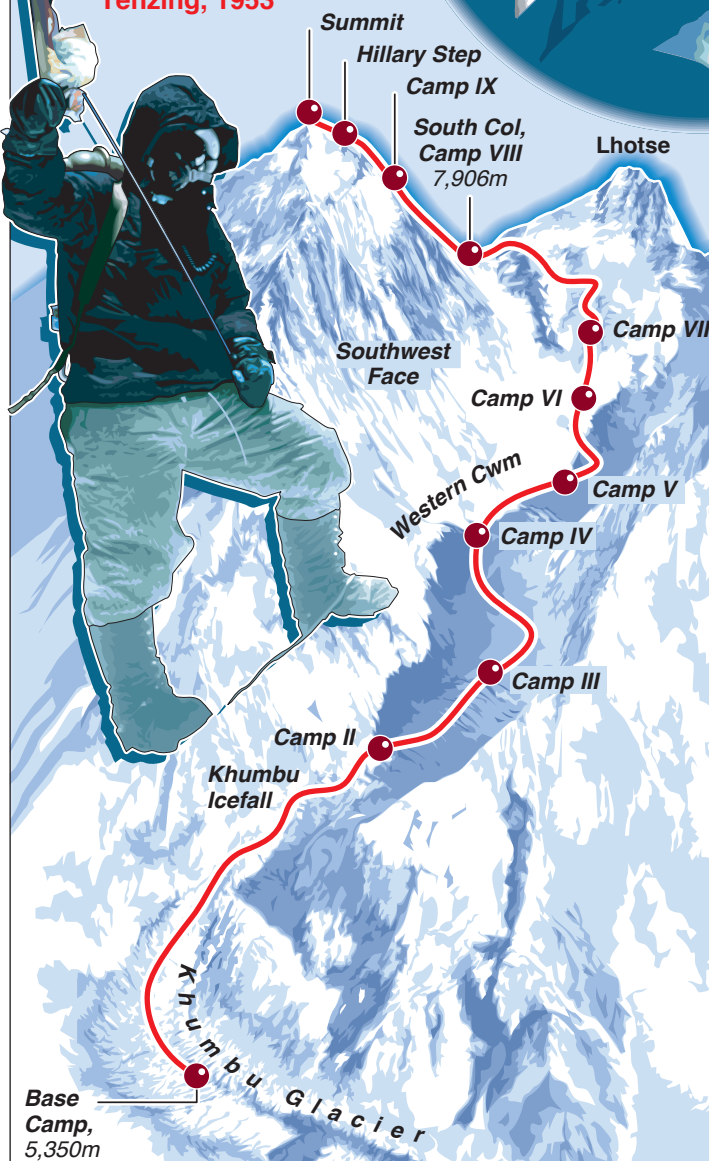
**1924:** Debate continues as to whether British climbers **George Mallory** and **Andrew Irvine**, last seen "going strongly to the top", reached the summit. If Irvine's body is ever found, photographs in his camera may solve the mystery

**1953:** New Zealander **Edmund Hillary** and Nepalese Sherpa **Tenzing Norgay** reach the summit. They ascend via the **South Col**, today's most popular route to the top

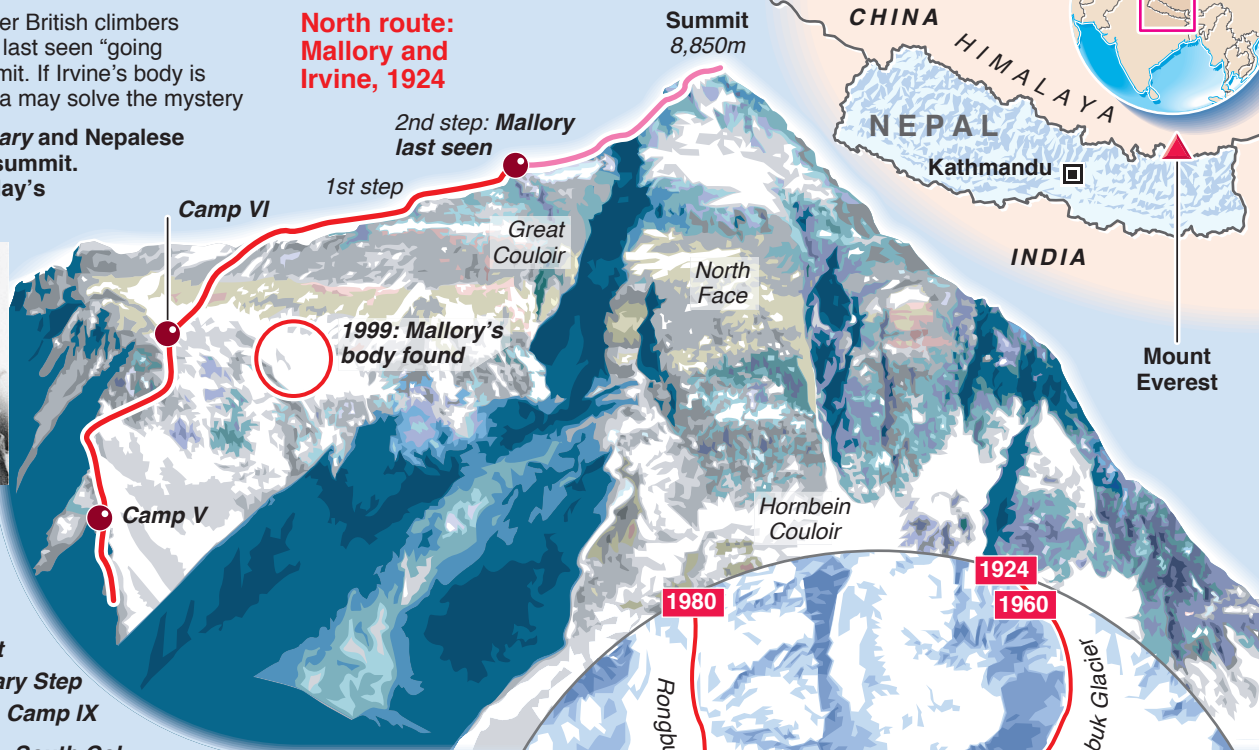


"We knocked the bastard off" says Hillary after achievement

**South route:**  
**Hillary and Tenzing, 1953**



**North route:**  
**Mallory and Irvine, 1924**



**1960:** Chinese climbers make first ascent from north side

**1963:** U.S. expedition makes first ascent by **West Ridge**

**1975:** Japanese climber **Junko Tabei** is first woman to reach summit. British team climbs **Southwest Face**

**1978:** First ascent without bottled oxygen by Tyrolean climbers **Peter Habeler** and **Reinhold Messner**

**1979:** Yugoslav expedition makes first ascent via entire **West Ridge**

**1980:** Japanese climbers make first full ascent of **North Face Great Couloir**. Polish expedition ascends **South Pillar** on **Southwest Face**. **Messner** returns for first solo ascent, also without bottled oxygen

**1982:** Russian climbers reach summit via **Central Pillar** on **Southwest Face**

**1983:** U.S. team climbs **East Face**

**1984:** Australian climbers summit via **North Face** without oxygen

**1988:** Briton **Stephen Venables** climbs new route on **East Face**

**1995:** First ascent of **Northeast Ridge** by Japanese expedition

**1996:** First ascent of **North-Northeast Couloir** by Russian team

**1998:** Amputee **Tom Whittaker** is first disabled person to reach summit

**2000:** Sherpa **Babu Chiri** climbs from **Base Camp** to summit in under 17 hours – a record

May 29, 2003: 50th anniversary of ascent by **Hillary and Tenzing**. Celebrations include ceremony at **Tengboche Monastery** (right) where climbers stop for blessing en route to **Base Camp**



Mount Everest

