



→ Azeem Ridge. It required a 50-mile (80-kilometer) hike to get to the base and more than 7,283 vertical feet (2,220 meters) of climbing done in 4.5 days. Four years later, Argentinian Rolando Garibotti and American Colin Haley traversed the entire Cerro Torre massif in Patagonia, establishing the Torre Traverse, with 7,220 feet (2,200 meters) of vertical gain spread out over four major summits. With differing strengths within climbing disciplines, Haley led the pitches of pure ice and rime (unstable, soft ice common to Patagonia) up to a difficulty of WI6, and Garibotti led the dry-rock pitches and rime-covered rock pitches up to a difficulty of 5.11 free climbing and A1 aid climbing.

These ascents are just two of dozens that demonstrate the crossover of all climbing disciplines being applied in big mountains. Combining elements of aid, free, trad, ice, big wall, and mountaineering into massive multiday efforts, these climbers often get their start by trad or sport climbing. Mountaineering is the foundation of all types of modern climbing: sport, trad, bouldering, and big walls. But now, those newer disciplines are the bricks with which modern alpinists build their own foundation. Even gym climbing, which Balmat and Paccard could never have dreamed a possibility, is a necessity for modern alpinism. Mountain climbing is the starting point and the end game. →

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← Left page Perhaps one of the most well-known alpine routes in the world: *Arête des Cosmiques* in Chamonix, France. ↑ Top Chris Cox heads toward the big mountains in Patagonia. ↑ Above Ines Papert on the approach to an alpine climb in Norway.