

[The Himalayan Times](#) > [Nepal](#) > Kilian Jornet scales Mt Everest in alpine style for speed record

[Kilian Jornet scales Mt Everest in alpine style for speed record](#)

Published: May 22, 2017 2:42 pm On: [Nepal](#)

RAJAN POKHREL



Spanish climber Kilian Jornet in Mt Everest region on Sunday, May 21, 2017. Photo courtesy: Summits of My Life/Kilian Jornet Facebook

KATHMANDU: Spanish climber Kilian Jornet scaled the world's highest peak from Tibetan side in a single attempt without the help of bottled oxygen or fixed ropes.

The famed alpinist, who already set the speed record for ascending the Mt Kilimanjaro, Mt Aconcagua, Mt Denali, Matterhorn and Mt Mont Blanc, successfully reached the summit via the north face of the world's highest mountain following the traditional route at midnight of 21st to 22nd May, according to a statement issued by the climber.

Jornet, one of the all-time great mountain runners, began the challenge at the Mt Everest Base Camp near the ancient Rombuk monastery (5,100 m) on May 20 at 10:00 pm (local time) while at 12:15 am on May 22, he started descending towards the Advanced Base Camp (6,500 m) from the summit point, the statement read. Jornet claimed that he stood atop the Mt Everest at midnight, in 26 hours after beginning the ascent from the base camp.

After returning to ABC in 38 hours at around 10:00 am on May 22, he explained, “Until I reached 7,700 m, I felt good and was doing according to my plan, but I experienced some stomach problem thereafter and had decided to move slowly to recover. However, I made it to the summit at midnight.”

Under the ‘Summits of My Life’ project, Jornet intended to complete the ascent in one go to set a new speed record (Fast Known Time in his parlance).

Over the past six years, Jornet has travelled around the world setting climbing records on the world’s most iconic mountains. He began on Mont Blanc in 2012 and since then has climbed mountains in Europe (Mont Blanc and Cervino), North America (Denali) and South America (Aconcagua).

The team had planned to travel to the Himalayas in autumn but, unable to obtain permits, decided to bring it forward to the spring season, as Jornet earlier explained: “This year will be different from 2016 as there will be more people in the base camp while last year we were alone. The reason for wanting to try it in August-September is that the temperatures are a little warmer and there is less risk of freezing. In spite of everything, the knowledge we acquired last year will prove vital in this expedition.”

Jornet further said, “We began this challenge together five years ago and with our values and our approach to the mountain we’ve got to this point. Although we don’t know what will happen, I’m clear about one thing: it’s not my Everest, but ours, everyone who has in one way or another contributed to making this project a reality.”

Kilian Jornet Summits Everest in Fastest Known Time

The 29-year-old Spaniard continues breaking speed records on the world's highest mountains

By: [Jay Bouchard](#)

May 22, 2017



Jornet climbed 11,429 feet to the top of Everest in a mere 26 hours. Photo: Courtesy Suunto

[Ski mountaineer and ultrarunner Kilian Jornet](#) set a [new record](#) for the fastest known alpine ascent of the world's highest peak in the early hours of Monday morning, having climbed 11,429 feet to the top of Everest in a mere 26 hours.

The 29-year-old Spaniard ascended via the North Face in a single climb, without using oxygen or fixed ropes, [according to a statement issued by his team](#). He left base camp (elevation 17,600 feet) around 10 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, and summited around midnight on Sunday, technically finishing Monday morning. [Seb Montaz, an experienced mountaineer](#) who is [making a film about Jornet](#), climbed to approximately 24,600 feet, where he filmed part of Jornet's ascent before turning back to report on the situation.

Jornet said he felt strong until he crested 25,200 feet, at which point he began suffering from stomach cramps. ([Any elevation above 26,000 feet is considered the "Death Zone,"](#) where air becomes too thin to adequately support human life for extended periods of time.) "From there I moved slowly, stopping every few steps to recover," he said after descending to [Everest Advanced base camp](#) (elevation 21,326) and rejoining Montaz. "However, I made it to the summit at midnight."

Several speed records have been established on Everest, but Jornet claims to have set the fastest known time without the use of ropes or supplemental oxygen. In 1986, Swiss alpinists [Jean Troillet](#) and [Erhard Loretan](#) ascended Everest via the North Face without the use of ropes or oxygen. It took them 43 hours to go from Base Camp to the summit and back. In 2004, [Pembra Dorji](#), a Nepalese Sherpa, reportedly climbed Everest in 8 hours and 10 minutes, using supplemental oxygen and ropes.

Jornet's record is the latest for an athlete renowned for such feats. He has also [set speed records on Mont Blanc, the Matterhorn, Denali, Aconcagua, and Kilimanjaro](#) as part of his ["Summits of My Life" project](#), in which he's attempting to [establish fastest known time records on some of the world's most notorious peaks](#). Jornet is also one of the world's most accomplished ultrarunners. He is a three-time champion at the [Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc \(UTMB\)](#) race, and he is the reigning champion and current course record-holder at [Colorado's Hardrock 100](#), a race he has won three times.

[Outside profiled Jornet In 2014](#), when he was just setting his sights on Everest. "You need to be humble. This sport is about improving, not winning," he told *Outside*. "You never learn from victory."

Ultra runner smashes Mt Everest climb record

MAY 23, 2017 3:49PM



Kilian Jornet is an athletic freak.

news.com.au

RECORDS for climbing Mt Everest have always been hotly contested and disputed.

There will be no denying ultra-climbing freak Kilian Jornet's place in history after the 29-year-old Spaniard on Monday (AEDT) smashed all previous records to become the fastest climber to ascend to the summit of the world's highest peak without the assistance of oxygen or fixed ropes.

It was simply him versus all of Mt Everest's fury.

It took 26 hours for Jornet to climb from Everest's North Base Camp at 5150m above sea level to the summit at 8848m.

It takes experienced climbers days to reach the summit when climbing with the assistance of oxygen, fixed ropes and guides.

The key point here is that Jornet did it without assistance.

He climbed more than 3480m, including the famous Everest "death zone," without oxygen support.

While other ultra-climbers have claimed to have reached the Everest summit after starting off at the North Base Camp in Tibet, [Jornet's time is the fastest known alpine ascent of the world's tallest mountain.](#)

A statement released by Jornet's team on Tuesday declared he has survived the climb and is resting at the Advanced Base Camp, after struggling to deal with the demands of the descent back to the North Base Camp.

The statement reported Jornet began to feel stomach problems when entering the Everest "death zone" — the final 600m climb to the summit at 8848m.

Air becomes too thin to sustain human life above 8000m above sea level, forcing Jornet to stop to rest every few steps.

"Up to 7,700m I felt really good and was making progress as planned but then I started to feel unwell, probably from stomach virus," [Jornet told his personal website.](#)

"From then on I made slow progress and had to keep stopping to recover. I finally reached the summit at midnight.

"I didn't feel well and I was making slow progress. I had to stop every few metres and I had cramps and was vomiting. In spite of everything, I felt all right at altitude and decided to continue."

He arrived at the summit just after midnight local time — 26 hours after setting off.

Unfortunately he had no time to enjoy the scenery at the top of the world — knowing it was vital to return to the Advanced Base Camp to seek medical treatment.

"Reaching the summit of Everest without fixed ropes isn't something you'd do every day," he said,

"I saw a fantastic sunset and finally reached the summit at midnight. I was alone but I saw the lights of expeditions setting off on their ascent both on the north and south faces. I started to descend right away so as to get to the ABC as soon as possible."

Jornet has previously set a series of speed climbing records across the world's most iconic peaks.

He previously held the speed climbing records for Mt. Kilimanjaro (Tanzania), Mt. Aconcagua (Argentina) and The Matterhorn (Switzerland).

KILIAN JORNET'S ASCENT OF EVEREST

Alone, in a single climb and without oxygen or fixed ropes, Jornet has reached the summit of the world's highest mountain (8,484 m)

The climb, which forms part of the Summits of My Life project, sets a new "Fastest Known Time" of 26 hours from the Everest Base Camp (5,100 m) to the summit at 8,484 m

Due to stomach problems Jornet didn't complete the descent to the Everest Base Camp and is currently recovering at the Advanced Base Camp (6,400 m)

"Up to 7,700m I felt really good and was making progress as planned but then I started to feel unwell, probably from stomach virus. From then on I made slow progress and had to keep stopping to recover. I finally reached the summit at midnight", Jornet said.

Barcelona, 22/05/2017 – Kilian Jornet reached the summit of Everest at midnight local time on May 21-22 and did so in a single climb without oxygen or fixed ropes. With this ascent, Kilian Jornet has established a new "Fastest Known Time" (FKT), which is to say, a new speed record. He completed the climb in 26h from Everest Base Camp at the ancient Rombuk monastery (5,100m) to the summit at 8,484m.

He reached the summit of the world's highest mountain (8,848m) via the traditional route up the north face. Kilian Jornet began the challenge at Everest Base Camp (5,100m) on May 20 at 22h local time (+5: 45 GMT).

At 12h15 local time he was back at the Everest Advanced Base Camp (6,500m) where he confirmed reaching the summit at midnight, 26 hours after beginning the ascent. In general, expeditions take four days to reach the summit from the Advanced Base Camp.

38 hours after beginning the challenge and having returned to the Advanced Base Camp, he said: *"Up to 7,700m I felt really good and was making progress as planned but then I started to feel unwell, probably from a stomach virus. From then on I made slow progress and had to keep stopping to recover. I finally reached the summit at midnight."*

Given his indisposition, Jornet decided to end the attempt at the Advanced Base Camp instead of descending to the Base Camp, located near the ancient monastery of Rombuk, as he'd initially intended.

The climb forms part of the Summits of My Life project which since 2012 has seen Jornet travel around the world to try to establish records on the planet's most iconic mountains. He began with Mont Blanc in 2012 and since then has scaled mountains in Europe (Mont Blanc and Cervino), North America (Denali) and South America (Aconcagua).

During the Everest challenge Jornet was accompanied by the expedition's mountain guide and video cameraman Sébastien Montaz-Rosset.

Summit of Everest in 26h

The meteorologists forecast a window of good weather on May 20-21. Jornet decided to make May 20 the day to begin the challenge and left the Base Camp at 5,100m by the ancient monastery of Rombuk.

The aim was to get to the summit in a single climb, without oxygen or fixed ropes and with minimal equipment. Finally, after reviewing the conditions for the different routes, he opted for the traditional one.

Kilian Jornet set off at 10pm local time (+5: 45 GMT). Ahead of him lay 15.2km of glacial moraine before he arrived at the Advanced Base Camp (ABC) at 6,400m. This part of the climb took 4h35 and he arrived at ABC at 2:35am. He rested for two hours before continuing.

“It’s important to be fresh when you reach 8,000m if you want to reach the summit. I knew that in the first stage I had to conserve energy for the final stretch,” he explained. Jornet left some of the technical equipment at the ABC and set off for the most technical part of the climb at 4:30am.

Leaving the ABC, he climbed to cross Field 1 at 7,000m. It was 6:30am and he’d been on the move for 8 hours. From there he climbed to Field 2, between 7,600m and 7,800m where Seb Montaz was waiting for him and who would film him during the ascent and then return to Advanced Base Camp to report on the situation.

Meanwhile, Jornet continued to climb. At around 7,500m he started to feel weak and had a bad stomach ache. As a result, he decided to rest for 15 minutes in Field 3 (8,300m). *“I didn’t feel well and I was making slow progress. I had to stop every few metres and I had cramps and was vomiting. In spite of everything, I felt all right at altitude and decided to continue.”*

From there, Jornet climbed the highest section and arrived at the summit at midnight, 26 hours after setting off. It was a clear night, without clouds or wind. *“Reaching the summit of Everest without fixed ropes isn’t something you’d do every day! I saw a fantastic sunset and finally reached the summit at midnight. I was alone but I saw the lights of expeditions setting off on their ascent both on the north and south faces. I started to descend right away so as to get to the ABC as soon as possible,”* he said.

However, he rested again in Field 3 before beginning the final part of the descent and arrived at the ABC at 12h15 local time, 38 hours after he began. As he felt unwell, he decided to end the attempt at the Advanced Base Camp rather than descend to Base Camp, near the ancient monastery of Rombuk, as he’d originally intended.

The video cameraman Seb Montaz had followed Kilian Jornet during some of the challenge. Montaz left Advanced Base Camp at 3h20am and climbed to 7,500m to wait for him and film his ascent through the high fields of Everest. Montaz would then climb to 8,020m to film. From there he descended to the Advanced Base Camp to wait for Jornet, climbing up to 7,000m to meet him. It was another handful of hours on the mountain for this guide turned cameraman. Jornet and Montaz are currently at the Advanced Base Camp recovering from this titanic effort.

Everest, the second attempt

in September 2016 Kilian Jornet made his first attempt on the world’s highest mountain. In spite of being in good physical shape and well acclimatised they couldn’t attempt a climb because of adverse weather

conditions. This time around they changed seasons and travelled in spring. Weather conditions have been quite favourable, allowing them to acclimatise and prepare for the challenge.

Rapid acclimatisation to be more efficient

Before Everest, Kilian Jornet had spent two weeks on another 8,000m mountain, Cho Oyu (8,200m). The aim was to be well prepared for Everest and also to try out a new type of acclimatisation, as he explained: *“In four weeks we have reached two 8,000m summits so it seems our acclimatisation has worked. We had been training in hypoxia for a few weeks before and we went to acclimatise in the Alps before coming here. It seems that this type of express acclimatisation works and the body tires less and as a result we’re stronger when it comes to the challenge.”*

Kilian Jornet arrived at Everest Base Camp (5,100m) on May 10. He chose the mountain’s north face, which is not the usual one. The day after he arrived Jornet climbed to the ABC (6,400m) to continue his acclimatisation and on the 11th climbed to 7,600m. When he returned once more to the ABC he said: “I felt good, I had a good feeling at altitude. I believe our acclimatisation is going well,”

Sunday May 14 was a day of rest before beginning on the 15th the last big training day. Leaving the ABC, Kilian ascended and descended from 6,400m to 8,400m in a little over 9 hours. The aim was, on the one hand, to acclimatise, but also to see what state the ground was in. As he climbed he quickly realised that it would not be possible to make the ascent via the Norton or Holbein corridors as he’d originally intended. There was too much ice and it was too dangerous. On May 17 Kilian Jornet returned to Base Camp to rest, having completed the period of acclimatisation. All he had to do was wait for a window of good weather before attempting to reach the summit.

Accumulated time

Everest Base Camp (5,100m) – Everest Advanced Base Camp (6,400m): 4h35

2h rest at Everest Advanced Base Camp

Everest Advanced Base Camp (6,400m) – Summit (8,848m): 26h (15’ rest in Field Campo 3 on the way up and 1 hour on the way down)

Summit (8,848m) – Everest Advanced Base Camp (6,500m): 38h

Everest Advanced Base Camp (6,500m) – Everest Base Camp (5,100m)