

Stefan Ivanov is a motivational speaker focused on **achieving seemingly "impossible" goals**

*He has rowed on tiny boats across the **Atlantic, Southern, Arctic and Indian Oceans** on **world-first** expeditions*



Row across the Atlantic

The “Atlantic crossing” (2020):

Stefan Ivanov and his son Maxim Ivanov built an ocean rowing boat in their garage in Sofia. They named it NEVEREST which for them mean "NEVER REST until you reach your EVEREST". In the summer of 2020, amidst a coronavirus sticker world and the most active hurricane season in the Atlantic since records started being taken in 1851, they set off from Portimão, Portugal and after 105 days on water they managed to cross the ocean reaching Barbados, Caribbean Islands.

🏆 NEVEREST became "The first rowing boat to cross the Atlantic east to west entirely within the hurricane season"

🏆 Maxim became the "Youngest person to row any ocean" (16 years and 293 days old upon departure)



Row across the Southern Ocean

The “Shackleton Mission” (2023):

In 2023 Stefan Ivanov, together with Fiann Paul (Iceland), Jamie Douglas-Hamilton (United Kingdom), Lisa Farthofer (Austria), and Brian Krauskopf (USA) rowed across the Southern Ocean a distance of 407 nautical miles from King George Island, Antarctica to Laurie Island, Antarctica between 11 January and 17 January 2023 onboard ocean rowing boat Mrs. Chippy, achieving the following Guinness World Records:

- 🏆 [First rowing expedition from the Antarctic](#)
- 🏆 [First rowing expedition on the Southern Ocean South to North](#)
- 🏆 [First rowing expedition entirely within the Southern Ocean](#)
- 🏆 [First human powered expedition on the Scotia Sea](#)
- 🏆 [Southernmost start of a rowing expedition](#)
- 🏆 [Fastest row on the Southern Ocean](#)
- 🏆 [Fastest Polar row](#)
- 🏆 [Longest distance rowed on the Southern Ocean](#)

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Row across the Arctic Ocean

The “Full Arctic Row” (2024):

In 2024 Stefan Ivanov rowed across the entire Arctic Ocean, starting from Haugesund, Norway, which lies at 59°24' N and reaching Svalbard, which is the northernmost land north of Norway. His partner rower during the first 7 days was Vladimir Tabutov (Bulgaria), then Cameron Bellamy (South Africa) during the next 6 days and finally his son Maxim Ivanov (Bulgaria) in the last 20 days.

🏆 This was the first recorded row across the entire Arctic Ocean

🏆 [Maxim became the "Youngest person to row the Arctic Ocean" \(20 years and 360 days old upon departure\)](#)



Row across the Indian Ocean

The “**UNTAMED**” Expedition (2025):

In May 2025 rowed across the Indian Ocean together with Ralph Tuijn (Netherlands), Evgeniy Sudyr (Ukraine, Germany) and Liu Yong (China).

The expedition achieved the following records (not confirmed yet by Guinness World Records):

🏆 First row across the Indian Ocean by a team mainland Australia to mainland Africa

🏆 Fastest row across the Indian Ocean



The Southern and Indian Ocean expeditions were carried out under the flag of the Explorers Club

Stefan Ivanov is as a Member of The Explorers Club founded in New York in 1904.

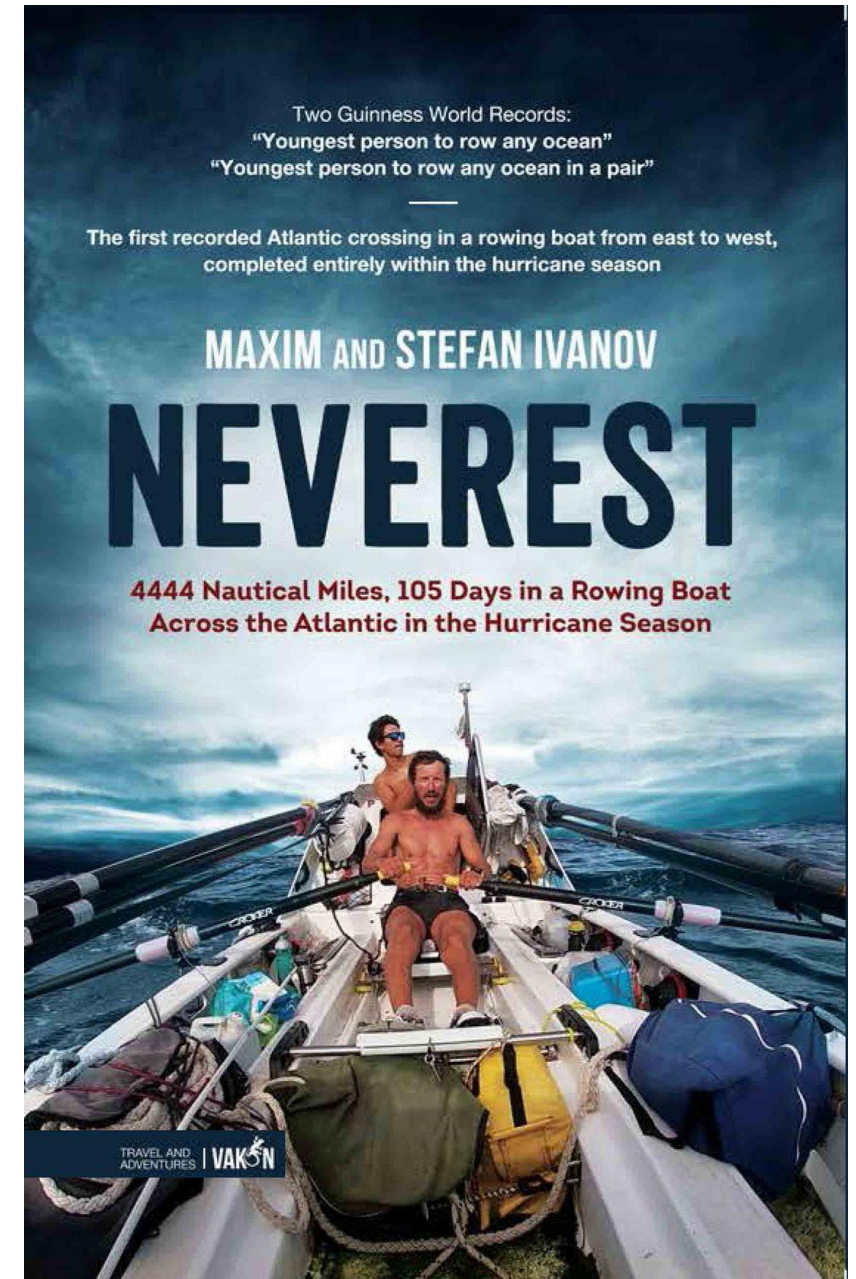
Under the flags of The Explorers Club were completed other legendary expeditions such as:

- 🏆 In 1909 Robert Peary and Matthew Henson became the first to reach the **North Pole**
- 🏆 In 1911 Roald Amundsen and his team were the first to reach the **South Pole**
- 🏆 In 1953 Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary first reached **Mount Everest**
- 🏆 In 1960 Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard set a record for the deepest descent to about 10,911 meters below the ocean's surface reaching the bottom of the **Mariana Trench** in the Pacific Ocean.
- 🏆 In 1969 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin became the first people to **walk on the Moon**



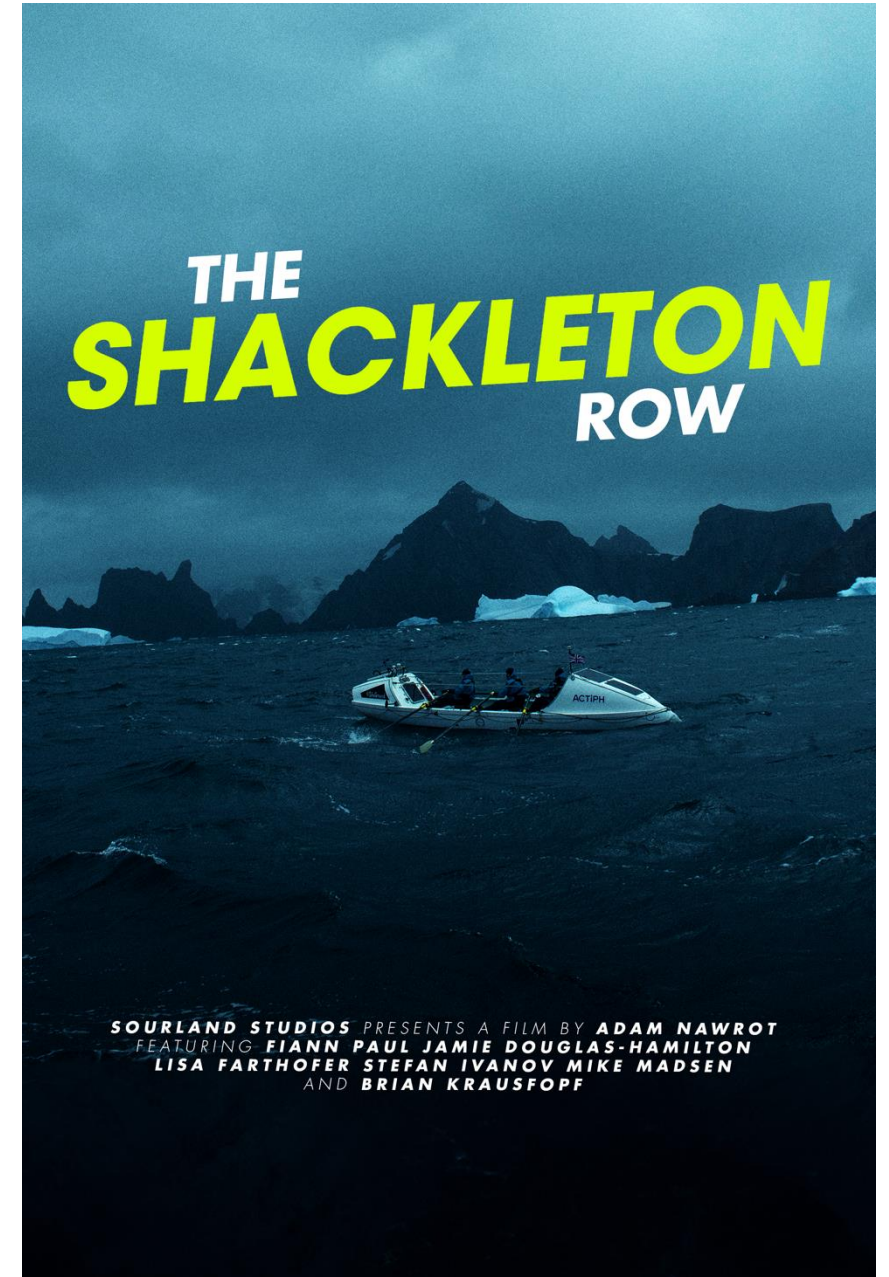
The book "NEVEREST"

- Authored by Maxim Ivanov and Stefan Ivanov
- Narrating the building of the ocean rowing boat NEVEREST by Stefan and Maxim in their garage and their row across the Atlantic
- Published by VAKON
- Available in English on most sites of [Amazon](#) around the world as paperback and eBook
- Available in Bulgarian on [Storytel](#) as audiobook and eBook
- NEVEREST: play of words coined by Maxim, meaning: "Never rest until you reach your own Everest"



The documentary "The Shackleton Row"

- Created by: Adam Navrot, Sourland Studios
- Narrating the story about the crossing of the Southern Ocean by Fiann Paul (Iceland), Jamie Douglas-Hamilton (United Kingdom), Lisa Farthofer (Austria), and Brian Krauskopf (USA) and Stefan Ivanov (Bulgaria)
- As of November 2025, the film is being featured on festivals around the world. Subsequently it will be made available on streaming platforms.



For more information:

See the blogs of all expeditions of Stefan Ivanov:

- www.facebook.com/NeverestOceanRow or
- www.instagram.com/NeverestOceanRow

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