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OUR MAN IN KABUL: The Amazing
Journey of Rory Stewart >

BY PAUL KVINTA



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COOLING OFF
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

THE BIG TRIP:
THAILAND

BIKING 100
HOW TO DO A CENTURY

Breaking the Mold

The folding kayak sets a new flexibility record
BY STEVE CASIMIRO

■ One hundred years after Johann Klepper gave the world its first folding boat, Trak Kayaks gives us the world's best. The Trak T-1600 (\$5,575; www.rethinkkayak.com) has the portability perks of a typical folding kayak (namely, you can take it apart and stuff it in a sack), plus one new sea-shaking innovation: Once on the water, you can adjust the shape of the craft. Press a small lever in the cockpit mid-paddle to increase or decrease the amount of "rocker," which is the curve of the hull from bow to stern. More rocker means easier turns but less speed, while less rocker equals super-fast and stable. Beginners will dig this easy-to-use system; experts will have a field day.

TRAK T-1600
FOLDING KAYAK
\$5,575

THE RATINGS

Tread Water

Sturdy, strappy, soft—which aqua shoe is best for you?

THE CANYONEER

The outsole of the Teva Sunkosi (\$100; www.teva.com) uses stiff plastic under the arch and a grippy heel to ward off shocks from the trail, but the flexible forefoot still affords traction on slick surfaces. Seventeen drain ports and a mesh upper prevent swamp foot.

COMFORT ■■■■■
TRACTION ■■■■■
SUPPORT ■■■■■



THE RIVER RAT

The Keen Zerraport (\$85; www.keenfootwear.com) provides more arch support, toe protection, and under-foot padding than you'd expect from a traditional open-webbed sandal. And with two wide, adjustable straps, it feels like a perfect extension of your foot.

COMFORT ■■■■■
TRACTION ■■■■■
SUPPORT ■■■■■



THE SAILOR

A boat shoe with style, the Helly Hansen Water Moc (\$60; www.hellyhansen.com) is the most comfortable slip-on around and stays snug, wet or dry. But since it's lace free, don't plan on hiking very far in it.

COMFORT ■■■■■
TRACTION ■■■■■
SUPPORT ■■■■■



THE BUZZ

Didn't think you were a knicker's guy? Consider the stretchy softshell Chrome Shins (\$145; www.chromebags.com). They move with you—whether bouldering or yoga-ing. // The Oakley Thump Pro MP3 sports shades (\$250; www.oakley.com) are the best thing in portable music since... ever. // Finally a grocery tote that's strong and cool: the über-sacks from One Bag at a Time (\$26 for ten bags; www.onebagatatime.com).



GEAR GURU

Steve Casimiro, West Coast Editor