



**Houston father-daughter team
crowned “*The World’s Greatest Travelers*”
following 23-day around-the-world travel adventure competition**

New York, NY (8 May 2017) – Alan J. Ying, and his daughter, Sydney, of Houston, Texas (*aka Team Ying*), were crowned *The World’s Greatest Travelers*™ in New York City on Saturday, May 6th after winning the 13th edition of the 23-day around-the-world travel championships known as *The Global Scavenger Hunt*™.

"We're thrilled, surprised and absolutely gratified," said Alan, a Houston-based businessman, after winning the around-the-world competition. "We worked hard together again, depended on the kindness of strangers in strange lands, and trusted our instincts. It was a challenging 40,000-kilometer event against some great competitors from around the world. And in addition to the awesome trophy, we get to come back again next year *FOR FREE!* I can't wait...only 364 days to go!"

The Global Scavenger Hunt touched down on four continents and visited 12 countries including: Hong Kong, Macau, Viet Nam, Thailand, Sri Lanka Egypt, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, England, Ireland, and Iceland, over the three-weeks between April 14th - May 6th, that took its contestants on their international treasure hunt from San Francisco to Manhattan—*the long way!* The Teams of two were required to seek out and answer cryptic clues that sent them on to other more challenging *sight-doing* and interactive cultural scavenges and on their global quest, ferreting out the answers to locations and extraordinary places, and doing remarkable things, all while eating exotic foods and experiencing bizarre local festivals.

"We felt very lucky to win this event and it was great to succeed against other great travelers," said Sydney a plucking 14-year old Houston area student, "We literally went on a blind date with the world, from riding feluccas in Egypt and water buffalos in Viet Nam, to racing Cambridge and visiting the pyramids—it was truly amazing! And we beat some very hardy and well-traveled international competitors too. I'm amazed and happy, but thoroughly exhausted."

In the spirit of true Indiana Jones (*and Janes*), Sydney and her father Alan, were crowned *The World’s Greatest Travelers* and presented with twin crystal trophies for winning The Global Scavenger Hunt at the Lotte New York Palace in New York City, on Saturday afternoon after completing almost 600 global scavenges. All the Teams participating in this annual travel adventure competition were helping to raise funds towards lauded organizations like: KIVA and Free the Children, among others, to build schools and provide micro loans.

"I am really proud of these folks. They simply outworked, outhustled and outlasted everyone else. They came to win and they did. The true race was for second place and that turned out to be a great global competition among some truly worthy travel adventurers," stated William D. Chalmers the Event Director (*aka Ringmaster*) and recent author of *America’s Vacation Deficit Disorder* and *On the*

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Origin of the Species homo touristicus. "The Global Scavenger Hunt is a true cultural immersion and travel adventure competition that challenges our competitors to solve some really neat cultural puzzles along the way of their international quest. We believe that travel brings people closer together, fosters global understanding and improves compassion for all involved," continued Chalmers, "Going around-the-world on one trip is an exciting prospect and when we add a little Indiana Jones-like scavenger hunt adventure to it, we feel that The Global Scavenger Hunt is a classic travel adventure competition bar none that is just getting bigger and better every year. We threw everything at them this year and the competitors were equal to the task. I'm delighted for Alan and Sydney, I know they will come back to defend their title in 2018!"

The Global Scavenger Hunt has garnered a tremendous amount of global media attention too:

- Outside magazine calls it, "...one of the most amazing trips in the world!"
- NPR's Savvy Traveler thinks it, "...is just such a great idea!"
- Time magazine says, "...would be Indiana Joneses will have a chance to follow in his footsteps...an international event that restores the curiosity and adventure."
- Peter Greenberg says, "Unlike the Amazing Race, this challenge is more about your ability to connect with cultures than speed and agility."
- National Geographic.com says, "...like Survivor, the Amazing Race and the Eco-Challenge all rolled into one except with much more cultural interaction..."

To date, the annual travel adventure has taken travelers from 60 countries who have applied to over 75 countries on six continents over the years making it truly an international global travel competition that combines a treasure hunt with the style of the 19th Century Grand Tours and the jet-setter reality of 21st Century travel.

Applications are already being accepted for the exclusive 15 Team filed participating in the 2018 event.

Please visit GlobalScavengerHunt.com for additional press information, including: travel photos, contestant bios, video news release (VNR), official e-press kits. To schedule interviews with contestants or event organizers, please contact:

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