



**For Immediate Release**

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**California Couple win  
The World's Greatest Travelers™ Crown  
Following 23-Day Around-the-Globe Travel World Championship**

**Los Angeles, CA (5 May 2018)** – The third time proves the charm for a California couple, Tom & Paula Patterson (aka the SLO Folks), were crowned *The World's Greatest Travelers™* in Miami on Saturday after winning the 14th edition of the world travel championship event, known as [The Global Scavenger Hunt™](#) that took them to 11 countries on 4 continents over 23-days!

"We're thrilled and absolutely gratified," said Tom, a retired real estate broker, after winning the 23-day around-the-world travel adventure competition after placing third in the 2017 event. "We worked our butts off and really wanted to win this one after placing third in last year's event. We really wanted to win this event!"

Together, Paula and Tom, depended on the kindness of strangers in strange lands, while trusting their formidable combined *travel IQ's*, situational awareness and gut instincts. It was a challenging 44,000-kilometer event against some great competitors from around the world.



As revealed on The Global Scavenger Hunt event blog, teams touched down in 11 countries on the 2018 event, including: Taiwan, India, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa, Argentina, Uruguay and Peru, over the three-week event that ran between April 13th - May 5th. The 14th annual world travel championship event took its contestants from the starting gate in San Francisco, California to the finish line in Miami—*the long way!* The Teams of two were tested hourly in the competition by overcoming language, cultural and logistical obstacles, along with dealing with team dynamics (we all know what it is like traveling with someone else), the steep international competition and by maintaining physical stamina for the 23-day marathon-like event. Their tasks were to seek out and answer cryptic clues that sent them on to other more challenging *site-doing* and interactive cultural scavenges 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...even safari in Zambia!

"We felt very lucky to win this event," said Paula, also a retired real estate agent, "This event is pure genius and takes you literally on a blind date with the world, from riding camels in remote Indian villages to visiting

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ancient Ethiopian souks—it is always truly amazing! But this year, we beat some very hardy travelers, including the five-time defending champions and other well-traveled international competitors. I'm amazed and happy, but thoroughly exhausted. We need a relaxing vacation from our so-called vacation!"

In the spirit of true *Indiana Jones*, Paula and Tom were crowned *The World's Greatest Travelers* and presented with twin crystal trophies for winning The Global Scavenger Hunt at the InterContinental Miami on Saturday afternoon after completing almost 400 global scavenges.

"I am really proud of Tom & Paula. They simply outworked, outhustled and outlasted everyone else from beginning to end. They almost swept the event—except for an American team winning a South American leg and another winning the last leg in Florida. Like all competitions, physical endurance is the key. It turned out to be a great global competition among some truly worthy travel adventurers," stated William D. Chalmers the Event Director (aka Ringmaster) and author, "The Global Scavenger Hunt is the true annual world travel championship along with being a cultural immersion for our participants. 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. We threw everything at them this year and the competitors were equal to the task. I'm delighted for Tom and Paula and they deserved to win...I hope they will come back to defend their title in 2019!"

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

- **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 event has visited over 85 countries and travelers from over 60 countries have applied to join the annual adventure 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.

Please visit [GlobalScavengerHunt.com](http://GlobalScavengerHunt.com) for additional press information, including: travel photos, contestant bios, (VNR), event e-Media Kits. To schedule interviews with contestants or event organizers, please contact:

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