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## Scavengers descend on city

By Robin Kwong

Twenty-two travellers arrived in Hong Kong on Sunday and visited different parts of the city.

Okay, before the chorus of "So what?" rings out, we should probably point out that these aren't your average tourists. The 11 two-people teams are part of the 3rd Annual Global Scavenger Hunt and they were in town to kick off the competition, which lasts 23 days and covers four continents.

The event was founded in 2003 and organised by traveller and author William Chalmers (pictured), and the basic idea, like that of any scavenger hunt, is that teams are given a long list of tasks to do, and gain points for completing them. The team with the most points at the end of the competition wins. The catch? The tasks have to be completed in various cities around the world.

The first stop this year is Hong Kong, which Chalmers chose because, as he told CitySeen yesterday, "it's a wonderful gateway, it's very efficient, the people are wonderful, and it's a safe city".

Some of the tasks, like doing tai chi in Victoria Park or placing a few bets at the Sha Tin racetrack, were relatively easy, but others stumped even CitySeen: For 50 points, they had to find the Temple of 10,000 Buddhas in Sha Tin (that we can do) and figure out how many Buddhas there actually are in the temple (no idea).

The teams were given a deadline of 5pm yesterday to complete as many tasks as possible, and were then immediately flown off to New Delhi to complete a fresh set of tasks. The winning team was originally entitled to a cash prize, but organisers and team members have decided to donate all proceeds to charity.