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## Globe-trotters

For the past couple of years, about this time of year, I've gotten mail from GreatEscape, which sponsors the Global Scavenger Hunt. Today, another press release landed on my desk, touting the third annual hunt, which will take place April 15 to May 8.

What is the Global Scavenger Hunt, you're asking. Well, I've asked the same question, and finally went off to visit its <http://www.globalscavengerhunt.com> to find out more.

Unlike my favorite reality show, "The Amazing Race," the Global Scavenger Hunt is not a race. But it IS an around-the-world rally, in which participants have to do certain things in certain locations and gain points. An example given on the Web site reads: "Item One: (25 points) Ride a four-legged beast around one of the Seven Wonders of the World (Pyramids) wearing a traditional Arab galabyia and headdress purchased in Khan al-Khalili. (Cairo's Grand Bazaar)."

Because this year's hunt is called "A Blind Date With The World," its destinations are not being revealed. But last year, travelers went to Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh City, Cambodia, Indai, Morocco, Spain and Portugal, among others. The press release proclaims: "Teams will travel from L.A. to N.Y. — the long way!"

Travelers will be in teams of two (like "The Amazing Race"). The hunt is limited to 25 teams, and cost is \$7,900 per person for the minimum entry fee. That includes airfare, first-class hotels and 30 percent to 40 percent of meals. Cash and prizes will be awarded to every participant, with one team getting The World's Greatest Travelers crown, and teams have the option of helping GreatEscape Foundation (a nonprofit) raise money for charities such as Doctors Without Borders, CARE, UNICEF and more. There is a disclaimer, however, on the Web site, that if anyone is not a seasoned traveler, he or she should not attempt to participate. "GreatEscape is only for the most savvy globe hoppers and travel enthusiasts. Although not physically demanding, the Global Scavenger Hunt contestants should have experience in dealing with spontaneous travel circumstances, foreign cultures and language barriers."

If this sounds like you, and you've got some extra cash to spend on an around-the-world trip, you still have time to sign up.