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360Cities.net Releases Largest 360 Degree Photo

18-Gigapixel Spherical Photo of Prague Skyline Shatters Current Record

PRAGUE, Czech Republic, 18 December 2009 - 360Cities.net, home of the most extensive collection of interactive, spherical panoramic images on the web, announced today it has released the largest known spherical panoramic photograph in the world. The image is a 360-degree view over the city of Prague, Czech Republic. The image, created as part of a virtual tour of the Žižkov district of Prague for the Prague 3 Town Hall to mark its 125th anniversay, can be viewed in full size, in an interactive, zoomable format on this page: http://www.360cities.net/prague-18-gigapixels

In 2007, a 13-gigapixel photo of Harlem, NY, became the world's largest known panoramic image. Today that record was obliterated by a margin of 40% as a team of international photographers and innovators led by an American, Jeffrey Martin, unveiled the 18-gigapixel image of the Czech capital.

How did they do it?

The record-setting photograph was created from 600 individual exposures stitched together into a single image measuring 192,000 pixels in width by 96,000 pixels in height, or 18.4 billion pixels altogether. When printed, it will be sixteen meters (54 ft.) long at standard photographic quality.

Not only is the subject matter of this new panorama arguably more picturesque than the previous record-holder, the road to its creation is one that has spanned continents. Mr. Martin, 33, is a photographer and father of two who grew up in Chicago before moving to Prague in the Czech Republic in 1999 and developing an interest in panoramic photography. In 2007, he founded 360Cities.net, a unique map-based panorama publishing platform used today by panoramic photographers from all over the world.

360Cities.net also announced today a <u>treasure hunt contest</u>, in which clues will be provided on its website to the location of 30 things within the Prague gigapixel image. The first contestant to locate and provide screenshots of all 30 items will win USD 1000.

About 360 Cities

<u>360 Cities</u> is dedicated to promoting geo-referenced, interactive panoramic photography by providing the bestanywhere platform for publishing panoramic photography. Through its content partnership with Google Earth, the world of high-resolution, immersive imagery is introduced to an even wider audience of visitors. 360 Cities is a Netherlands limited company with a wholly owned subsidiary in Prague, Czech Republic.

Contact: Steve Hercher <u>steve.hercher@360cities.net</u> www.360cities.net