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**Victoria Beachcomber's dive centre receives PADI Green Star Award**

The dive centre at Victoria Beachcomber Resort & Spa is the first diving centre in Mauritius to receive the PADI Green Star Award.

The PADI Green Star Dive Centre Award is granted to PADI dive centres and resorts that demonstrate dedication to environmentally responsible business practices and commitment to conservation of underwater habitats. This accolade granted by the world's largest scuba diving training organisation identifies dive businesses that care about the environment and are acting to protect it.

Established since 1997, Victoria Beachcomber's dive centre is located right on the beach of this 4-star+ hotel in the north-west of Mauritius. It is very close to beautiful diving sites that include wrecks, drop-offs and magnificent coral reefs. The centre offers exclusive dives to families where children from the age of 10 can experience the wonders of scuba diving with their parents.

Victoria Beachcomber Resort & Spa's dive centre was also nominated in the category Indian Ocean Leading Dive Resort at the 2016 World Travel Awards.

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About Beachcomber

Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels is the pioneer and leader of the Mauritian tourism industry. Since the creation of Park Hotel in 1952, a collection of 11 resorts have emerged over the years, including the mythical RoyalPalm Mauritius in 1985, considered by everyone as the reference in hospitality for luxury holidays in Mauritius.

Beachcomber has exported the tradition of Mauritian hospitality beyond the shores of the island, with the launching of Sainte Anne Resort & Spa in Seychelles, in 2002, and that of the Royal Palm Marrakech in 2013 in Morocco.

The Group is presently expanding its collection, with the integration of the Beachcomber French Riviera Resort & Spa, situated on the Côte d'Azur, in France.

The collection of 11 resorts affords a choice of accommodation options ranging from rooms and apartments to suites and villas. Each hotel is imbued with a particular history and cachet, embodying an image of discrete luxury.

*Social responsibility – Fondation Espoir Développement (FED), by Beachcomber*

Set up and financed by Beachcomber since 1999, with the participation of hotels and employees, this foundation takes care of these main projects:

- *Projet Employabilité Jeunes (PEJ):* professional insertion of school drop-outs through a training programme and industrial attachments.

- Collaboration with NGOs, schools and associations
- Regional projects – youth mentoring: the “Amour et Espoir” NGO; IT initiation; youth monitoring via the “Duke of Edinburgh International Award” programme, participation of regional sports clubs in the organisation of the Beachcomber UTRB Trail 2015

*Social responsibility – Local Hands*

Programme launched in 2006 to support small local artisans by providing them with training and guidance as they embark upon the process of creation, production, marketing and sales.

*Sustainable development – our environmental actions – EarthCheck label*

Sustainable development and environmental protection constitute real considerations within the Group, which has set up, amongst other initiatives, practices that ensure energy savings and favour renewable energy sources. These initiatives in favour of sustainable development have been recognised and rewarded, with two of our hotels recently obtaining the EarthCheck Benchmarked Bronze accreditation for their ongoing commitment to environmentally responsible practices.