

Mauritius Tour Beachcomber 2018: The Tour's new tracks unveiled

The third edition of the Mauritius Tour Beachcomber (MTB) is looking promising, both in terms of the athletes taking part and the scenery it is set to offer contestants. After announcing South African rider James Reid as the patron of the MTB's 2018 edition, Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels now unveils the four stages of this year's race. The MTB, which is open to riders aged 17 and above, has attracted mountain bikers in search of a challenge and a change of scenery for the past three years. This year, it will take place on May 17th, 18th and 19th. Here are the stages of the race – undoubtedly one for the diary!

The starting gun for the Mauritius Tour Beachcomber will be fired on Thursday, May 17th 2018, at the Victoria Beachcomber in Pointe aux Piments, on Mauritius' northern coast. During the first 65km leg, participants will cross the island and make their way to the Shandrani Beachcomber in southeastern Mauritius. This diagonal track will take riders through sugar cane fields and the island's famed pineapple plantations, offering them breathtaking views of the northern islets. After this rolling terrain, the track will become steeper, more rugged and technical until it reaches the small village of Valetta. The competitors will then tackle the Piton du Milieu, the undergrowth at Chemin Français, and Le Val. Thereafter, they will follow the river at Riche-en-Eau until they reach the airport and make their way towards the finish line at Shandrani Beachcomber.

The second leg of the MTB is scheduled for May 18th 2018 and will very much be a southern affair. It will start at 7:30am at the Shandrani Beachcomber and set a course for the village of Trois Boutiques, then for the mysterious pyramids of Plaine Magnien, whose origins are lost to history. On this gentle terrain, the race is expected to be a fast one.

Having completed the second leg of the race in the morning, MTB participants will enjoy a few hours of rest before tackling the race's third leg, scheduled to kick off at 5:30pm the same day at the Shandrani Beachcomber. The riders will cover 22.5 km during this stage (that is, five times a 4.2 km track). The leg will consist of a race around the Shandrani through sugar cane fields and the Omnicane rainforest. This face off will take place in the soothing, almost magical atmosphere of the tropical dusk.

The MTB 2018's final 63km leg is scheduled on Saturday May 19th in Mauritius' southeast. Riders will start from the Shandrani Beachcomber at 7:30am and make their way to Riche-en-Eau, Falaise Rouge, Sans Soucis, Chemin Français, Saint-Hubert and Le Val. They will then reach the airport and make their way to the finish line back at the Shandrani Beachcomber.

"The MTB's objective is to promote mountain biking as a sport and to allow participants to discover Mauritius' landscapes and priceless heritage," explained Arianne Devienne Bellepeau, Leisure & Events Manager at Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels. "In addition to the new tracks we've created this year, the MTB will also feature a race for children aged 5 to 12. A number of fun activities will also take place after the race at the Games Village at Shandrani Beachcomber. Riders can register online at www.beachcomber-events.com until the 7th May 2018," she added.

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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 9 resorts have emerged over the years, including the mythical Royal Palm Beachcomber Luxury Mauritius in 1985, considered by everyone as the reference in hospitality for luxury holidays in Mauritius.

The Group recently expanded its collection, with the integration of the Beachcomber French Riviera, situated on the Côte d'Azur, in France.

The collection of 9 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.