

### **Sports Challenge – The UTRB rebrands as the Beachcomber Trail**

The UTRB, a race eagerly anticipated by Mauritian and foreign trail-runners alike, is rebranding as the Beachcomber Trail. The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of this 5-star sports event, organised by Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels on a yearly basis, will take place from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020. It will unveil new concept this year, offering participants a captivating 100 km physical challenge that will take place over three days at the heart of some of Mauritius' most exceptional landscapes.

"We wanted to add a new dimension to our trail event this year. We are therefore giving trail runners an opportunity to participate in a 100 km challenge via three races – two 25 km circuits and one 50 km circuit – which will be held over three days. Runners will accumulate points throughout the challenge's different stages," explains Arianne Devienne Bellepeau, Leisure & Events Manager at Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels.

Having taken place in the southeast of Mauritius for the past six years, the competition is now being held on the southwest coast for the first time. One of the race's stages will start from Paradis Beachcomber, which will also host the Beachcomber Trail village. Participants can expect stunning panoramic views, a unique environment and a 5-star Beachcomber welcome.

Day 1 of the competition: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July. The first 25 km race will start out from the Chassé de Yemen in the afternoon. Trail runners will discover the estate's beautiful grounds and immerse themselves in its varied and exotic flora.

Day 2: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July. The Beachcomber Trail's second race – set over 50km – will set out from Chassé Maingard. Trail runners will run through the Black River Gorges and ascend the Piton de la Rivière Noire before making their way back down towards the stage's finish line at Paradis Beachcomber hotel.

The third stage of the challenge, a 25 km race, will take place on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July. The stage will begin at Paradis Beachcomber before taking participants through the villages of Le Morne and Case Noyale in the southwest, then across the finish line for the final time at Paradis Beachcomber.

In addition to these three races, the Beachcomber Trail's classic 10km run will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> July. This race is open to those who are not taking part in the Challenge, as are the 50 km race on Saturday and the 25 km race on Sunday.

Registration for the Beachcomber Trail are now open. For more information, please visit the 'Beachcomber Events' Facebook page or website on the following address [www.beachcomber-events.com/beachcomber-trail](http://www.beachcomber-events.com/beachcomber-trail).

"If you love the great outdoors, make sure to sign up for this event. The Beachcomber Trail 2020 is not only an athletic challenge but also a nature trek and a huge amount of fun", promises Arianne Devienne Bellepeau.

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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 all of our hotels recently obtaining the EarthCheck Benchmarked Silver accreditation for their ongoing commitment to environmentally responsible practices.