
UTRB 2018: The 5th edition strikes a high note

The 5th edition of Ultra Trail Raidlight Beachcomber was a massive hit, with a thrilling intense weekend last 28 and 29 July. This unique ultra-trail event in Mauritius attracted over 1,300 competitors this year, including around 200 Beachcomber Artisans. There were also some of the biggest names in trail running, such as Maxime Cazajous and Marion Delas from France, who were the patron and guest star of the 2018 edition respectively.

The trail runners set off on four different tracks offered by Beachcomber Events: the "Trail des 7 Couleurs by Raidlight & Beachcomber" (100km), a major race that can be tackled solo or in pairs, the "Trail de la Perruche by Air France" (47km), the "Trail du Naufle by Transcontinents" (25km) and the "Trail du Souffleur" (10km), which closed the event.

Maxime Cazajous from France took the crown in the marquee event, the 100km race in 12:53:08, succeeding the Nepalese, Sange Sherpa, who won the 120km run in 2017. Vishal Ittoo from Mauritius won the 47km race in a time of 04:11:52. In the 25km race, the Mauritian, Dhavind Custnea crossed the finish line first in 01:42:24. Finally, another Mauritian runner, Nitish Jhugursing completed the 10km course in 00:39:00.

This year's event featured a host of surprises, including a return air ticket from Mauritius to Paris for the winners of the 100km and 47km races. A draw also took place after the Trail de la Perruche by Air France with a chance for one finisher in the 47km run to win an air ticket. Moreover, with Beachcomber's quest to combine sport with nature conservation, a token amount of Rs50 will be donated to the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) for each participant registered in UTRB. The MWF is the only NGO in Mauritius that is focused exclusively on the conservation and preservation of the country's fauna and flora.

"In addition to the sporting challenge, UTRB has, over the years, become a real celebration of trail running throughout all the courses, from start to finish. It is an invitation for all trail runners and hikers to discover a different aspect of Mauritius," says Beachcomber Resorts & Hotels' Leisure & Events Manager, Arianne Devienne-Bellepeau.

"Every year, our teams make it a point to offer a truly 5-star experience to participants, from the hospitality to the supervision and of course, the food and drinks. We are glad to have stood up to the challenge. Congratulations to all the participants who had a nice race as well as the Artisans who surpassed themselves in organising the event. I am also grateful to our sponsors for their support," she adds. Save the date for 2019 !

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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 Silver accreditation for their ongoing commitment to environmentally responsible practices.