

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Chapman's Challenge 2026 Reimagined – One Legacy, New Ways to Compete



Photo credit: Anna-Rina Photography

Pangkor Laut Resort, 8 January 2026 – Set on a private island embraced by emerald seas and a two-million-year-old rainforest, The Chapman's Challenge—one of Malaysia's most distinctive endurance events—returns to Pangkor Laut Resort from 22nd to 24th May 2026. Now in its eighth edition, the race honours its storied past, shaped by history, terrain, and the indomitable human spirit, while entering a new chapter of inclusivity.

For the first time, the event evolves beyond its traditional individual format, introducing three distinct pathways to take part. Uniting solo adventurers, relay teams, junior challengers, and groups of family and friends, it transforms into a shared island weekend, all while preserving the integrity of its iconic original course.

At its core, the challenge remains deeply rooted in the landscape of Pangkor Laut Resort. Dense jungle trails, winding island roads, and the open waters of Emerald Bay come together to form a course that demands not only physical stamina, but also mental clarity, adaptability, and respect for the natural environment.

The race draws inspiration from the extraordinary wartime journey of British soldier, Colonel Freddy Spencer Chapman, whose experiences were chronicled in *The Jungle Is Neutral*. In 1945, after his legendary three-year odyssey spent navigating the Malayan jungle, Chapman's epic journey culminated in a daring swim across Emerald Bay to rendezvous with a submarine — a defining moment of resolve, tenacity and survival that continues to shape the spirit of the race today.

Participants will take on a demanding multi-discipline course that mirrors this legacy of endurance. The route begins with a 3.8-kilometre road run around the island, followed by a 2.4-kilometre trek through dense, ancient rainforest, before culminating in a 1-kilometre open-water swim across the historic waters of Emerald Bay, finishing at the iconic Chapman's Bar.

New ways to be part of the challenge

In 2026, the legacy of The Chapman's Challenge sees an extension with the introduction of three new additional formats, broadening access while remaining true to the spirit of endurance.

The Chapman's Challenge: Junior Edition

Designed for participants aged 11 to 17, the Junior Edition features a modified, land-based course that removes the swim component. Carefully structured to be both challenging and accessible, it offers an age-appropriate introduction to endurance racing, allowing young challengers to take part alongside parents and family in a supportive yet exhilarating environment.

The Chapman's Challenge: Relay Edition

This team-based format introduces a collaborative dimension to the race and is often taken on by friends or partners. One participant completes the land segments, while the other takes on the open-water swim. Success depends on complementary strengths, strategic pacing, and shared determination, offering a fresh way to experience the iconic challenge together.

The Chapman's Enthusiast Package

Created for family members, friends, and supporters who wish to share in the spirit of the weekend without competing, the Enthusiast Package offers more than access. From course-side moments to race-day hospitality and post-race celebrations, supporters are placed at the heart of the experience, sharing in the energy and camaraderie that define the weekend.

Beyond the Race

Beyond competition, The Chapman's Challenge is designed as a weekend where participants and supporters come together to recover, reconnect, and celebrate. Post-race gatherings at Chapman's Bar bring together competitors and guests for cocktails and mocktails, a beachfront barbecue at Emerald Bay, and a prize-giving ceremony set against the sea.

The top finisher who surpasses the existing course record will have their name inscribed on the Chapman's Bar leaderboard, securing a place in the challenge's enduring history. In previous editions, outstanding performances have been recognised with rewards that included luxury timepieces, while podium finishers have also enjoyed luxury stays at select YTL Hotels properties worldwide.

Designed as a complete island weekend, The Chapman's Challenge is supported by curated accommodation packages that bring the experience together in one seamless stay. Offered across the Main Challenge, Junior Edition, and Enthusiast Package, each option combines a three-day-two-night accommodation at Pangkor Laut Resort, post-race hospitality at Chapman's Bar, and thoughtfully planned moments to unwind between events.

Whether racing solo, competing as a team, stepping up as a junior challenger, or championing the effort from the sidelines, The Chapman's Challenge 2026 offers a rare opportunity to be part of an endurance event defined by place, purpose, and shared experience.

[Preview of The Chapman's Challenge 2026](#)



For reservations and inquiries, please click [here](#). You can also reach out to YTL Travel Centre at +60 3 2783 1000, Whatsapp +6011 5800 1009, email travelcentre@ytlhotels.com or visit www.pangkorlautresort.com.

###

About Pangkor Laut Resort

Nestled in a two-million-year-old rainforest on a private island, Pangkor Laut Resort is a serene sanctuary of luxury. Set in the Straits of Malacca, three miles off Malaysia's west coast, the resort occupies a small part of the 300-acre island, ensuring an intimate escape. It features elegant sea and hill villas, along with private estates, all designed for breathtaking views and comfort.

Declared as 'Paradise' by the late Luciano Pavarotti and voted 'Number One in the World' by Condé Nast Traveller, the resort's philosophy of deep respect and reverence for the natural world rewards guests with a profound sense of peace and harmony with nature. Visitors can indulge in world-class dining at venues, and rejuvenate at the award-winning Spa Village Pangkor Laut, which draws on ancient Malay, Chinese and Indian healing traditions. Embodying YTL Hotels' ethos of Treasured Places, Treasured Moments, please visit www.pangkorlautresort.com to explore more personalised moments, of this treasured place.

Facebook : www.facebook.com/pangkorlautresort
Instagram : www.instagram.com/pangkorlautresort

About YTL Hotels

YTL Hotels curates a prestigious portfolio of over 35 award-winning resorts, hotels, and boutique villas and more than 8,000 rooms; across Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, the United Kingdom, Europe, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand. The group is dedicated to redefining luxury through authentic experiences, bringing its promise of "Treasured Places, Treasured Moments" to life by embracing the culture, character, and tradition of its surroundings; including through its renowned Spa Village, found across select destinations across the globe.

Its collection features some of the world's most acclaimed destinations. The iconic Pangkor Laut Resort—once voted the 'World's Best Resort' by Condé Nast Traveller UK—is now ranked among the Top 15 Resorts in Asia in the 2025 Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Choice Awards. It is joined by The Gainsborough Bath Spa, a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World, which was listed among the top 15 Hotels in the UK. Further cementing this prestige, both The Gainsborough Bath Spa and Japan's Higashiyama Niseko Village, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, have been consecutively awarded the prestigious Michelin Key in 2024 and 2025.

The accolades continue with The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui, which was not only placed among the Top 15 Best Resorts in Thailand by Condé Nast Traveller but was also voted the 'Best Resort in Thailand' in the DestinAsian 2025 Readers' Choice Awards. Adding to this impressive record, Monkey Island Estate, Gaya Island Resort, and The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui have all been distinguished by their inclusion in the 2025 edition of Fodor's Finest.

YTL Hotels' global footprint is powered by key international partnerships. A long-standing alliance with Marriott International encompasses the ownership and management of distinguished city properties, including The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur; JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur; The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur, Autograph Collection; Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur, Autograph Collection; Moxy Hotels and AC Hotels. This partnership also extends to marquee luxury resorts such as The Ritz-Carlton Reserve in Niseko Village and The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui.

YTL Hotels further solidifies its legacy through a major partnership with Hilton, anchoring its presence in the world-class ski destination of Niseko Village. This alliance is represented by three distinct properties: Hilton Niseko Village, The Greenleaf Niseko Village as part of the Tapestry Collection by Hilton, and Hinode Hills Niseko Village from the Curio Collection by Hilton. The group's collaboration with IHG extends its offering in New Zealand with Hotel Indigo Auckland. In a move that diversifies its urban holdings, YTL Hotels, in partnership with BlackRock Investment, has acquired Singapore's Citadines Raffles Place, which will be reimaged as an Oakwood Hotels and Residences and join the Ascot Hospitality Group portfolio.

YTL Hotels is the hospitality arm of YTL Corporation Berhad. For more information, visit ytlhotels.com or follow #YTLTravels.

Facebook : facebook.com/ytlhotels
Instagram : instagram.com/ytlhotels

X : <https://x.com/ytlhotels>
YouTube : youtube.com/user/ytlhotels

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Samantha Yong
Director, Marketing & Communications
Email: samantha.yong@ytlhotels.com