

A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE CHAPMAN'S CHALLENGE AT PANGKOR LAUT RESORT



Pangkor Laut Resort, Malaysia – 10 June 2025 – In a landmark celebration of resilience and legacy, Pangkor Laut Resort—nestled on its breathtaking private island—hosted the 7th and most extraordinary edition of its renowned signature event, *The Chapman's Challenge*, on May 24. This year's occasion held special significance, commemorating both the 80th anniversary of British Colonel Freddy Spencer Chapman's daring escape—a powerful symbol of human endurance—and the 70th anniversary of YTL Corporation, a remarkable journey of vision, perseverance, and growth spanning seven decades. A notable highlight was the participation of 20 employees from various companies under the YTL Group including construction, power and communications whose involvement added a meaningful and personal dimension to the event.

YTL Hotels had the honour of hosting Chris Chapman, son of Colonel Freddy Spencer Chapman, along with his children, Stephen and Hazel—dedicated attendees who return annually to Pangkor Laut Resort to pay tribute to his extraordinary legacy. Also present were two distinguished guests: former Malaysian Olympian Josiah Ng and Singaporean runner (and Lululemon ambassador) Dawn Sim, both of whom demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm for this cherished event.

At daybreak, participants assembled at the Royal Bay jetty starting line, buzzing with energy as they prepared for the challenge ahead. The event began with an invigorating warm-up session led by Dawn Sim, perfectly priming the competitors for the race. Chris Chapman then delivered an inspiring address, honouring the spirit and legacy of the event.

With anticipation building, the official flag-off which sent participants surging forward on their challenging journey. Meanwhile, spectators made their way to Emerald Bay, cheering enthusiastically as they awaited the competitors' triumphant arrival. Each determined participant completed the circuit; their efforts met with roaring applause - a powerful celebration of the indomitable spirit that defines The Chapman's Challenge.

As the race concluded at Emerald Bay, participants and guests gathered at The Chapman's Bar to enjoy a well-earned breakfast spread — recharging with nourishing food and celebrating the joy of completing the challenge together.

Following some well-deserved rest, everyone returned to Emerald Bay in the evening to unwind beneath a breathtaking sunset. Refreshing cocktails in hand and music drifting through the air, guests relaxed before gathering for the awards ceremony to honour the winners of the race.

In the men's division, Matt Pexton claimed the championship title with an impressive performance. Stephen Spencer Chapman secured the first runner-up position, while Alisdair Griffiths rounded out the top three. Demonstrating remarkable sportsmanship, Stephen generously donated his prizes to YTL Construction employee Khairul Anuar Saadon, honouring the latter's extraordinary determination in completing the challenging race.

The women's category saw equally outstanding achievements: Dr. Maddalena Ardissino took top honours as champion, followed by Ms. Alexandra Barrelet in second place and Ms. Zara Chung Shi Ying earning third position.

Both champions were awarded a Norqain timepiece valued at MYR12,000, courtesy of YTL Hotels, along with an MYR1,000 Under Armour gift voucher and a complimentary stay at Pangkor Laut Resort. Male winners also received exclusive Paul&Shark shirts. First runner-ups in both categories received a stay voucher for Gaya Island Resort and an MYR750 Under Armour gift voucher, while second runner-ups were awarded a stay voucher for Tanjong Jara Resort and an MYR500 Under Armour gift voucher.

The day concluded with a spectacular beachfront barbecue dinner, where the aroma of grilled delicacies mingled with the sea breeze – bringing a perfect close to an unforgettable weekend.

[The Chapman's Challenge](#) returns from 22–24 May 2026! Enjoy 10% off when you [book early](#). Be sure to reserve your spot now!

For reservations and enquiries, please contact YTL Travel Centre at +60 3 2783 1000, email travelcentre@ytlhotels.com or visit pangkorlautresort.com.

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About Pangkor Laut Resort

Pangkor Laut Resort is set along the Straits of Malacca, three miles off the west coast of Malaysia, surrounded by the emerald sea. Here, guests discover a piece of paradise two million years in the making. Of the island's 300 acres, only a fraction has been developed to house this peaceful luxury resort and its Estates. This private island resort was declared a paradise by the late Pavarotti and voted 'Number One in the World' by Condé Nast Traveller U.K. in its sixth annual Readers' Travel Awards Top 100 list in 2003. Here, wooden buildings blend seamlessly into the forest, walls curve around foliage, and roofs open up to allow trees to continue on their journey to the sky. Nature is respected here, almost revered and it rewards visitors in ways that simply need to be experienced. www.pangkorlautresort.com

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About YTL Hotels

YTL Hotels owns and manages a prestigious collection of award-winning resorts, hotels, boutique experiences, and Spa Villages, with a hospitality footprint across Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, Australia, France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Notable properties include Pangkor Laut Resort, voted the World's Best Resort in 2003 by Condé Nast Traveller UK and ranked among the Top 20 Best Resorts in Asia in the 2023 Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards US. The Gainsborough Bath Spa, part of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World's prestigious collection, was ranked the 6th Best Hotel in the UK in the 2024 Condé Nast Traveller Awards.

It has also been consistently listed as one of the Top Destination Spa Resorts in the World in both the 2022 and 2023 Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards US. Additionally, both The Gainsborough Bath Spa in the UK and Higashiyama Niseko Village, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve in Japan, have earned the prestigious Michelin Key. The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui was recognised in the 2023 Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards US as one of the Top 15 Best Resorts in Thailand. Furthermore, Monkey Island Estate, Gaya Island Resort, and The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui have been named in the 2025 edition of Fodor's Finest as some of the Most Incredible Hotels in the World.

YTL Hotels' portfolio embodies the brand's promise of "Treasured Places, Treasured Moments" and includes the ownership and management of several Marriott International properties in Malaysia, Japan, Thailand, and Australia. This also encompasses distinctive hotels under the Autograph Collection and AC Hotels banners. Notable properties within the Marriott International partnership include The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur, JW Marriott Kuala Lumpur, and Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur. The collaboration further features prominent hotels like The Ritz-Carlton, Koh Samui, and Higashiyama Niseko Village, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve, which was named one of TIME's World's Greatest Places 2021. As Japan's first Ritz-Carlton Reserve, it plays a key role in YTL Hotels' master plan for Niseko Village.

With each new experience that it presents, the company strives to embrace and highlight the natural essence of culture, character and tradition of its surroundings. YTL Hotels is the hospitality arm of YTL Corporation Berhad. Visit ytlhotels.com for more information and follow us on our social media platforms for #YTLTravels.

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