

media release

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The Maltese Islands boasts of 12 Blue Flag Beaches

The Malta Tourism Authority welcomes with satisfaction the announcement by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in which twelve beaches in Malta and Gozo were awarded the coveted Blue Flag status for this year. These include three beaches in Gozo, two of which: Hondoq ir-Rummien and Marsalforn Bay, were previously Beaches of Quality.

The Malta Tourism Authority, together with the Ministry of Tourism, provides the financial support necessary to the Ministry for Gozo to manage all the beaches in Gozo and those managed by Gaia Foundation. This support amounts to more than €250,000 per annum.

The list of beaches that have obtained this prestigious eco-certificate are as follows:

Malta

- Fond Ghadir Sliema managed by the Malta Tourism Authority
- St George's Bay St Julian's managed by the Malta Tourism Authority
- Westin Dragonara Beach Club St Julian's managed by Westin Dragonara Resort
- Qawra Point Beach managed by the Malta Tourism Authority
- Bugibba Perched Beach managed by the Malta Tourism Authority
- Mellieha Beach managed by the Malta Tourism Authority
- Golden Sands Beach Mellieha managed by the Malta Tourism Authority
- Ghajn Tuffieha Bay Mgarr managed by the Gaia Foundation
- Islands Edge Beach managed by Paradise Bay Hotel

Gozo

- Ramla Bay Xaghra managed by Gaia Foundation
- Hondoq ir-Rummien Bay Qala managed by the Malta Tourism Authority
- Marsalforn Bay Marsalforn managed by the Malta Tourism Authority

Commenting on this announcement the Malta Tourism Authority CEO, Mr Paul Bugeja, said “Having so many beaches which boast this Blue Flag status is a mark of quality that can be used in our promotional efforts overseas and demonstrates that the beaches which are on offer have reached a certain standard”.

Mr Bugeja explained that this is an ongoing process, “For example, in order to improve accessibility at some of these beaches, the Malta Tourism Authority has invested in various facilities, such as beach wheelchairs, access ramps, hoists and walkways”.

Mr Bugeja continued by thanking all the stakeholders involved in the management of beaches including Nature Trust Malta, the local representatives of FEE International, the Cleansing Services Directorate that provides personnel for the cleansing of beaches, as well as the Ministry for Gozo and all local councils involved in the various regions for their collaboration and support. Mr Bugeja also congratulated the Westin Dragonara Resort and the Paradise Bay Hotel for their confirmation of their commitment towards this award.

Mr Bugeja concluded by saying “The Blue Flag Awards are not just an exercise in public relations but a true commitment towards the environment and sustainable tourism and the Malta Tourism Authority remains solidly committed towards this initiative for the benefit of the community and our visitors”.

