Beach Newsletter 2017
International year for Sustainable Tourism for Development
Two new Blue Flag beaches for Gozo: Hondoq ir-Rummien and Marsalforn.

For 2017 the Islands are again celebrating a record of Blue Flag Awards for sustainable beach management. Hondoq ir-Rummien and Marsalforn are being managed by the Ministry for Gozo assisted by the Malta Tourism Authority. Well Done to the team!

Blue Flag International celebrates 30 years.

The Federation for Environmental Education (FEE) this year is celebrating it’s 30 years of operating the Blue Flag Programme. More than 4,000 beaches were awarded last year around the globe and 12 of them were won by the Maltese Islands.

This is the 10th year that the MTA started to implement the Blue Flag’s beach management criteria. The first prestigious award was won by St George’s Bay in 2009. It has been awarded every year ever since.
A new effort in making the beaches accessible for all was again a priority for MTA. During winter new beach carpets, wooden walkways and ramps were installed so that more access points of beaches can be used by the elderly and mobility impaired persons.

An additional hoist at Ta’ Fajtata Marsascala

Ta’ Fajtata in Marsascala is also being made accessible with the introduction of a chair hoist that assists people into the water. This chair is the forth one that will be operated in Malta during this summer.
Beaches fit to host new comers – Newly born turtles!

For the first time in many years, hatched baby turtles were seen dashing to the sea at Golden Bay. When the turtle crawled to lay its eggs in the sand during the night, the area was immediately cordoned off and protected for the full incubation period. As from this year, all beaches will be monitored early in the morning in search of fresh turtle tracks.

Every year, Nature Trust Malta cures turtles that get entangled in fisherman’s nets and after the healing process they are released to gain their freedom, once more. This year is no exception and a small number of cured turtles will be returned to the sea.

For 2017, the MTA will continue its effort for litter-free beaches. Colour coded bags will be in waste separation bins on all beaches, clay ashtrays will be deposited on beach access points and different cigarette ashtrays will be available for smokers at the beach supervisors’ office.
BEACH SAFETY FLAGS

- **YELLOW FLAG**: MEDIUM HAZARD
- **RED FLAG**: HIGH HAZARD
- **RED OVER RED FLAG**: WATER CLOSED TO PUBLIC USE
- **BLACK AND WHITE FLAG**: WATERCRAFT AREA
- **RED OVER YELLOW FLAG**: SWIMMING AREA WITH LIFEGUARD SUPERVISION
- **GREEN FLAG**: CALM WATER
- **PURPLE FLAG**: MARINE PESTS PRESENT
“The contribution of the tourism sector to the three pillars of sustainability – economic, social and environmental...as the international community embraces the new Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), approved by the UN General Assembly last September.”
Source UNWTO

BEACH ACTIVITIES 2017

• VISIT TO THE GHADIRA NATURE RESERVE AND VISITOR CENTRE
• OZONE LAYER AND BEAT THE BURN ACTIVITY
• CREATING SALT ART
• BOAT TRIP TO UNDERSTAND THE ECOLOGY OF THE ISLAND OF COMINO
• BEACH NEWSLETTER AND BROCHURE
• SNORKELLING WITH SHARKLAB AND MARINE EXHIBITION
• VISIT TO MAJUSTRAL PARK VISITOR CENTRE AND GOLDEN BAY CLIFF TREKKING
• TEARS OF ST LAWRENCE ASTRONOMY ACTIVITY
Malta’s Managed Beaches & Quality Awards

Code of Conduct for Maltese Beaches

- All beach staff and lifeguards are there for your assistance and safety and are to be treated with respect.
- Swimmers are requested to remain in the swimming zone.
- Never swim under the influence of alcohol or medications. Swimmers with a medical condition are advised to swim with a friend.
- Children are their parents’ and guardians’ responsibility and are to be accompanied by an adult when in the water.
- Impromptu beach games of very small groups are tolerated provided that they do not cause nuisance to others.
- Organised beach games of any kind require a permit from MTA and the Local Council.
- It is advisable to make use of protective sun creams.

IT IS PROHIBITED TO:

- Litter, throw cigarette butts in the sand, bury waste material or BBQ charcoal, or dispose of litter in the sea.
- Allow animals (except guide dogs) on managed sandy beaches. Dog friendly beaches in the Criminal Code are listed on the notice boards.
- Distribute free samples, promotional items or leaflets. A permit from the Local Council and MTA is required.
- Sell anything including food or give free services on the beaches without a written permit from MTA.
- Dig holes of a dangerous size in the sand.
- Make any form of fire on the beach.
- Drive motorized units on the beach.
- Erect tents or attach sheets or towels to umbrellas.
- Play loud music, create loud noise or use foul language that effect the enjoyment of others.
- Damage any beach or promenade items or furniture; offenders will be prosecuted.