



BLUE FLAG



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THE "BLUE FLAG" PROGRAMME

The «Blue Flag» is a programme of environmental awareness, protection and sustainable management which is implemented every year in 50 countries around the world by the national members of the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)**.

It aims at improving management and visitor safety at the beaches, while at the same time protecting their natural environment, so that we may always enjoy them.

The **Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature (HSPN)** is the national operator of the programme in Greece. It is the first environmental NGO in the country and has been active in environmental education and nature conservation since 1951.

It is not easy for a beach to be awarded the **Blue Flag**. It must meet **33 strict criteria**, concerning cleanliness of the sea and beach, beach facilities, visitor safety, the protection of nature and environmental awareness. When a beach is awarded the **Blue Flag**, it can only raise it for a year and must prove that it still deserves it for the following year. Inspectors from HSPN and FEE visit the beaches throughout the bathing period and note any problems or shortcomings. Usually a short period of grace is allowed to correct them, but a beach may temporarily, or even permanently, lose its flag for serious deficiencies.



625 BEACHES 18 MARINAS 9 TOURISM BOATS WERE AWARDED BLUE FLAGS IN 2024

CRITERIA OF THE PROGRAMME

Cleanliness of sea and beach

- Excellent bathing water quality that is verified by regular sampling carried out throughout the bathing season (1/6-31/10), according to the European Directive 2006/7/EC. The General Secretariat for Natural Environment and Water of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy and the Regional Water Departments are responsible for implementing the Bathing Water Quality and Beaches Monitoring Programme for Greece.
- No disposal of industrial and urban effluents close to the beach, without proper treatment.
- Sufficient waste bins, which are emptied at regular intervals, as well as regular removal of all waste from the beach.

Beach facilities and visitor safety

- Information for the public about bathing water quality, regularly updated.
- Emergency plans to cope with a pollution incident, including immediate notification of the public.
- Prohibition of automobile and motorcycle access to the beach.
- Prohibition of free camping.
- Sufficient toilet facilities, with a controlled system of waste disposal.
- Trained lifeguards on duty, or immediate access to lifesaving and first-aid equipment and a telephone in case of an emergency.
- Care and facilities for people with disabilities.
- Ensuring that unattended pets do not have access to the beach.

Protection of nature and environmental awareness

- Printed information and Code of Conduct for the beach and surrounding areas for the protection of sensitive natural environment, flora or fauna.
- Activities that promote awareness of the natural environment of the beach and the need to protect it.



www.blueflag.gr

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What can we do for our beaches;

Let's enjoy this beach with consideration for people and the environment!

Please adhere to the Code of Conduct and to the guidelines for the beach users.

If you notice shortcomings, please contact the beach manager, whose name is displayed on the Information Board near the Blue Flag.

If their answer does not satisfy you, please contact the HSPN and provide relevant information (blueflag@eepf.gr, tel. +30210 3224944, +30210 3314563). Relevant photos would be very useful.

Let's all take care of the beaches so that they remain beautiful and enjoyable!



for eco-friendly management and sustainability in tourism

Members of the **National Jury Committee:**

- Ministry of Environment & Energy
- Ministry of Tourism
- Greek National Tourism Organisation
- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Maritime Affairs And Insular Policy
- Ministry of Health
- Primary Education Directorate of East Attica
- Central Union of Municipalities of Greece
- Hellenic Red Cross
- Archelon - The Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece
- Volunteer Auditors of the Programme



AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COORDINATION OF
«BATHING WATER QUALITY AND BEACHES MONITORING PROGRAMME FOR GREECE»

Ministry of the Environment & Energy
General Secretariat for Natural Environment and Water
www.bathingwaterprofiles.gr



UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Tourism