

# The "Blue Flag" programme

# Criteria of the Programme



The "**Blue Flag**" is a programme of environmental awareness, protection and sustainable management which is implemented every year in 45 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 oldest 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, even 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.





## 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 Special Secretariat for Water of the Ministry of Environment and Energy is responsible for implementing the "Bathing Water Monitoring Programme".
-  No disposal of industrial and urban effluents close to the beach, without proper treatment.
-  Sufficient rubbish 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 accident, 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 with sensitive natural environment, flora or fauna.
-  Activities that promote awareness of the natural environment of the beach and the need to protect it.







# BLUE FLAG

A guarantee for proper management and care for people and the environment



# BLUE FLAG

*for eco-friendly  
management  
and sustainability  
in tourism*

## What you, the visitors, can do

Enjoy this beach with the «Blue Flag», but also help us preserve it in good condition. If the beach deserves its Blue Flag, please let us know.

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

The beach managers, the visitors, and we at the HSPN, must all strive together to make Greek beaches ever better.



[www.blueflag.gr](http://www.blueflag.gr)

[www.eepf.gr/blueflag](http://www.eepf.gr/blueflag)

[www.blueflag.global](http://www.blueflag.global)



**Hellenic Society  
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AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE "BATHING WATER MONITORING PROGRAMME":  
**Ministry of Environment & Energy**  
Special Secretariat for Water



Members of the **National Committee**: • Ministry of Environment & Energy • Greek National Tourism Organisation  
• Ministry of Tourism • Ministry of Interior • Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy • Ministry of Health  
• Central Union of Municipalities of Greece • Hellenic Red Cross • Archelon, The Sea Turtle Protection  
Society of Greece • Volunteer Inspectors of Beaches and Marinas

**FEE**  
FOUNDER  
OF THE  
PROGRAMME  
**Foundation  
for Environmental  
Education**

NATIONAL OPERATOR



**Hellenic Society  
for the Protection  
of Nature (HSPN)**

UNDER THE AUSPICES  
OF THE



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
Ministry of Tourism