BLUE FLAG

Promoting accessibility for all coastline destinations

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Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE)

- A non-profit, non-governmental organisation
- Promoting Sustainable Development through Environmental Education worldwide
- Five environmental education programmes:

What is Blue Flag?

What is Blue Flag?

A very good tourism product…

(UNWTO recognized it as one of the best awards for beaches)

What is Blue Flag?

...but in essence an environmental education programme

What is Blue Flag?

- Framework for sustainability in the public & private sector

- Third-party verification for excellence in sustainability practice

→ **annual award-renewal**

4554
Beaches, Marinas & Eco-tourism Boats

45
Countries

What is Blue Flag?

International voluntary eco-label

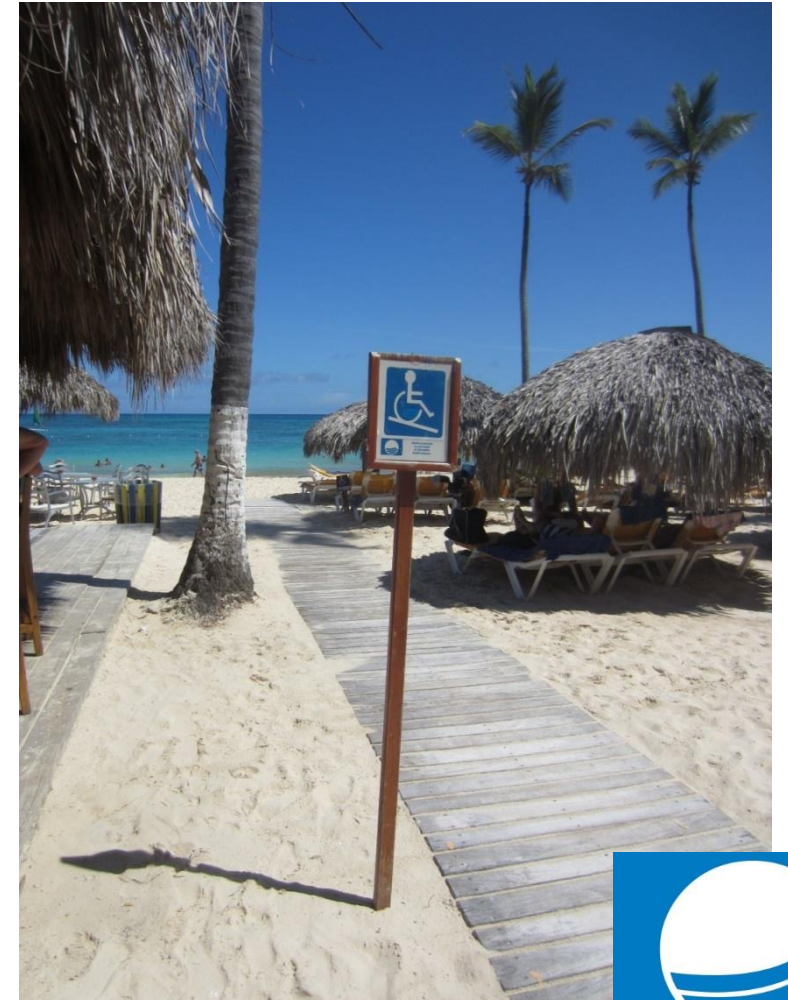
Beaches

Marinas

Boats

Awarded Blue Flag sites

Implementing accessibility

Imperative international minimun Criteria

- A minimum of **one beach** per Blue Flag municipality:

    -National regulations compliance

    - With access to:

        -the beach

        -surrounding buildings

-restroom facilities

-parking

-a pedestrian route from the parking lot to the wet sand

Implementing accessibility

Imperative Criteria SPAIN

Law VIV/561/2010-Urban beaches must be accessible.

• If a municipality does not have an awarded urban beach, Blue Flag requires that at least one of the awarded beaches provides a minimum of accessibility elements (BF imperative): reserved parking spaces, a pedestrian route from the parking lot to the wet sand and accessible toilets.

Implementing accessibility

- **Information** on access points and accessible services on the municipal **website** and panel.
- Reserved **parking** spaces (1 in 40).
- **Accessible pedestrian route:**
  - Pavement.
  - Recesses on sidewalks.
- **Ramps:**
  - minimum width of 1.80 m
  - maximum section length of 10 m
  - maximum slope of 10%.
- **Walkways**: minimum width 1.80 m, up to wet sand, contrasting color.
- **Accessible point:**
  - Horizontal stay area of at least 1.80 x 2.50 m, with shade.
  - Fresh water point with flexible hose.

Implementing accessibility

• **Accessible toilets:**
- o following the regulations regarding measures and support elements.
- o less than 100 m from the beach.
- o Signposted.
- o Floor with continuity with the exterior (at the same level or saved with a ramp).
- o Free space of 1.50 m both inside and outside.
- o Sliding or folding door to the outside with a minimum width of 0.80 m.
- o Toilet with a seat at a height between 0.45 and 0.50 m.
- o Toilet with lateral transfer space on one or both sides and support bars.
- o Accessible washbasin with empty space under it, located at a maximum height of 0.85 m and with an easy-to-use lever tap.

• In case there are **changing rooms** and showers on the beach, at least 1 in 10 must be accessible.• Bathroom support elements: chair and amphibious crutches.

Implementing accessibility

Expert and International Jury member

- Ensuring universal accessibility and inclusive tourism opportunities for all visitors

- Contributing its expertise on accessibility policies, standards and best practice.

Implementing accessibility

BEST PRACTICES

SPAIN

Implementing accessibility

BEST PRACTICES

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

All Blue Flag beaches must have facilities for people with disabilities

- National Council for Disability (CONAIDS) in National Jury

- Blue Flag incentive to invest in facilities for people with disabilities

Implementing accessibility
BEST PRACTICES

SOUTH AFRICA

Public - Private partnership

- WESSA, National Council for People with Disabilities and Ford Motor Company Fund donated four amphibian wheelchairs to Cape Town Municipality, Overstrand, Bitou and Kouga.

Implementing accessibility

BEST PRACTICES

CANADA
Blue Flag local communities

- Burlington Blue Flag marina

- Able Sail organisation

a disabled sailing program open to any

person of any age (7 and up) with a physical

or cognitive disability.

Implementing accessibility

Implementation in new countries

- ALBANIA
- ARGENTINA
- GEORGIA
- USA
- AND MORE…

Blue Flag's Partners

- European Environment Agency (EEA)
- **European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT)**
- The Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC)
- International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA)
- International Lifesaving Federation (ILS)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)
- World Cetacean Alliance (WCA)

Thank you very much for your attention!

BLUE FLAG

www.blueflag.global