

BLUE FLAG



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



WHAT IS BLUE FLAG?

On 25-27 September 2015, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Heads of State, Government and High Representatives agreed upon the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2015-2030. They nominated 2015 as a landmark year for sustainability, as the transformative agenda for people-centred targets for the coming years is set to face contemporary global challenges. The economic, social and environmental dimensions of the SDGs seek to address poverty, hunger, disease, fear and violence, education, healthcare, social protection, sanitation, safety, sustainable habitats and energy.




Blue Flag is a world-renowned award trusted by millions around the globe. The mission is to promote and participate in environmental education programmes for the users of beaches, marinas and eco-tourism boats to reduce the environmental footprint and commits to partnerships and collaborative action to promote the sustainable development of tourism. Blue Flag also campaigns against disparity, inequality, unemployment, health threats, depletion of natural resources, environmental threats, pollution and general environmental degradation. This document constitutes Blue Flag's engagement and contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Blue Flag works in cooperation with the following partners:



Connections between the criteria of Blue Flag awarded tourism boats and the Sustainable Development Goals

<p>1 NO POVERTY</p> 	<p>Criterion 42. Materials, equipment and furniture that are no longer used are collected and donated to charitable organisations</p>
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3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Criterion 18. Smoking should be prohibited on the tourism boat. If smoking is allowed on the boat, it must have special facilities for the disposal of cigarette butts.

Criterion 29. Noise pollution from the tourism boat must be minimised.

Criterion 31. Adequate and well-signposted lifesaving, first-aid and fire-fighting equipment must be present on the tourism boat. Relevant national authorities must approve this equipment.

Criterion 32. Emergency plans for different possible kinds of accidents must be produced. The crew must be trained on these emergency plans regularly.

Criterion 33. Safety precautions and information must be presented on the tourism boat.

Criterion 34. If the tour operator offers alcohol on its tourism boats, it has to be done responsibly.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Criterion 1. Information relating to local eco-systems and environmental phenomena must be available to tourists. The tour operator must also provide a map and information about the area of operation and, if applicable, about the protected area they are operating in.

Criterion 3. Information about the Blue Flag programme and the Blue Flag for tourism boats must be displayed on the boat and in the ticket office.

Criterion 4. The boating operator is responsible for offering at least one environmental education activity to the tourists, employees or local community within the Blue Flag awarded year.

Criterion 5. All staff must be trained on the environmental undertakings of the operator.

Criterion 6. The staff of the tour operator must receive training on the local environment and/or other environmental and sustainability issues at least once a year.




Criterion 7. The tour operator must provide a qualified guide who is in charge of the safety instructions and the environmental education onboard for each tour.

Criterion 8. Tour operators that transfer tourists to land-based excursions, or that offer ferry services next to other tourism activities must provide information about the environment at the destination and inform tourists about their possible impact on the local eco-systems.

Criterion 10. Each boating operator must have an environmental policy and an environmental plan which includes concrete environmental goals. All employees must be informed and educated about the plan.

Criterion 37. Adequate signage indicating the location of the different facilities must be posted on the tourism boat.

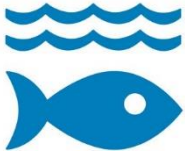



	<p>Criterion 50. The tour operator should be open to cooperation with research institutions. The company's boats might function as a research platform, and collected data of wildlife sightings should be made available to researchers.</p>
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> 	<p>Criterion 38. Discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, origin or religious affiliation should not be accepted within the tour operator.</p>
<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p> 	<p>Criterion 19. If bilge water pumping facilities are available in the harbour, the tour operator should make use of them. Untreated bilge water must not be released into the water.</p> <p>Criterion 20. Sewage disposal must be controlled and directed to a licensed sewage treatment facility. Untreated water from toilets must not be released into the sea or freshwater bodies, nor close to sensitive areas.</p> <p>Criterion 21. When selecting products such as paints, paint remover, detergents, cleaning products etc., the tour operator must source environmentally friendly versions, where available and effective. Special precautions must be taken when using detergents on the outer sections of the tourism boat. Cleaning products that enter the greywater produced on the boat must be biodegradable.</p> <p>Criterion 22. Repair and painting work on the tourism boat must be limited to specifically designated areas in the harbour or locations where there is no danger that toxic substances might enter the water or the ground.</p> <p>Criterion 23. The tour operator must provide to employees and tourists only environmentally friendly toiletries. All toiletries on the tourism boat must be biodegradable.</p> <p>Criterion 35. Sanitary facilities must be available to the tourists. They must be clean, well signposted, and the access must be safe. Drinking water must be provided on the tourism boat.</p>
<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> 	<p>Criterion 16. 50% of food and beverages offered to tourists must be or contain local products, organic products, eco-labelled products or fair-trade products.</p> <p>Criterion 40. The tour operator should support the local economy by choosing to buy and use local products.</p> <p>Criterion 41. The tour operator actively supports local sustainability activities or initiatives of environmental/social organisations or other groups in the local community.</p>



<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p> 	<p>Criterion 24. Sustainable means of transportation must be promoted whenever advising tourists and staff as to how to get to the tourism boat or the ticket office.</p>
<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> 	<p>Criterion 36. Facilities for people with disabilities should be in place</p> <p>Criterion 38. Discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, origin or religious affiliation should not be accepted within the tour operator.</p>
<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p> 	<p>Criterion 24. Sustainable means of transportation must be promoted whenever advising tourists and staff as to how to get to the tourism boat or the ticket office.</p> <p>Criterion 30. Best environmental practice should also be adopted in the tour operator's buildings and facilities that are not open to the public.</p> <p>Criterion 40. The tour operator should support the local economy by choosing to buy and use local products.</p> <p>Criterion 41. The tour operator actively supports local sustainability activities or initiatives of environmental/social organisations or other groups in the local community.</p> <p>Criterion 42. Materials, equipment and furniture that are no longer used are collected and donated to charitable organisations</p>
<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p> 	<p>Criterion 15. Single-use products used in connection with food and beverages must be avoided. If single-use products are used, recyclable products and products made of biodegradable materials must be used.</p> <p>Criterion 16. 50% of food and beverages offered to tourists must be or contain local products, organic products, eco-labelled products or fair-trade products.</p> <p>Criterion 17. In EU countries, paper towels, facial tissues and toilet paper must be made of nonchlorine bleached paper or awarded with an eco-label. Tour operators operating in non-EU countries are strongly encouraged to follow this criterion.</p> <p>Criterion 26. Speed and engine maintenance must be aimed at maximising energy efficiency and minimising pollution.</p>



	<p>Criterion 28. After the life service of a tourism boat has been reached, it must be disposed of following national regulations.</p> <p>Criterion 40. The tour operator should support the local economy by choosing to buy and use local products.</p>
<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p> 	<p>Criterion 27. Anchoring restrictions must be respected. If available, mooring buoys must be used to protect the seabed. If no mooring buoys are available, the tourism boat must only anchor in insensitive grounds.</p> <p>Criterion 29. Noise pollution from the tourism boat must be minimised.</p> <p>Criterion 43. Vulnerable and protected areas must be respected.</p> <p>Criterion 44. Any wildlife must be approached at a slow speed and in a manner that allows the wild animal(s) to evaluate the situation. They must not be encircled, trapped or chased.</p> <p>Criterion 45. Special precaution must be taken in the vicinity of breeding wild animals. Young animals must not be separated from their group.</p> <p>Criterion 46. When in the direct vicinity of any wildlife, noise must be reduced to a minimum and the engine should be put into neutral whenever appropriate.</p> <p>Criterion 47. The tour operator is responsible for advising tourists not to touch or collect living wild animals and plants.</p> <p>Criterion 48. Tourists and employees must not feed wild animals</p> <p>Criterion 49. If there are any signs of disturbance, the boat must increase its distance to the wild animals.</p> <p>Criterion 51. Injured, entangled, stranded or dead wild animals must be reported to the local authorities.</p>
<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p> 	<p>Criterion 12. Hazardous waste generated on the tourism boat and in the buildings must be stored and disposed of responsibly.</p> <p>Criterion 13. Adequate and well-managed litter bins and/or garbage containers must be in place on the boats and the buildings of the tour operator. The wastes must be disposed of at a licensed facility that is handled by a licensed contractor. This can be done through the harbour.</p> <p>Criterion 14. Facilities for receiving recyclable waste materials such as bottles, cans, paper, plastic and organic material must be in place on the tourism boat and the tour operator's buildings.</p> <p>Criterion 29. Noise pollution from the tourism boat must be minimised.</p>



**16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS**



Criterion 2. A code of conduct for tourists that reflects appropriate rules governing the behaviour onboard must be displayed. The tour operator must also be able to provide relevant information about the appropriate behaviour in the harbour area.

Criterion 9. A management committee should be established, with responsibility for instituting environmental management systems and conducting regular environmental control visits of the tourism boat, the buildings of the tour operator and the tours.

Criterion 11. The boating operator must comply with all regulations pertaining to the location and operation of the tourism boat and offered services. All buildings must be properly maintained and comply with national legislation.

Criterion 25. The relevant authorities must be notified immediately regarding accidents that might cause environmental damage.

Criterion 39. The tour operator complies with international and national labour legislation.

BLUE FLAG IS PROUD TO WORK WITH CORPORATE PARTNERS WHO WISH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

UNESCO lauds FEE as the primary driver for Education to Sustainable Development (ESD), whilst Blue Flag is recognised by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation as the only award in the tourism sector so far, achieving a critical mass while being financially independent and sustainable.



BLUE FLAG



GREEN KEY



ECO-SCHOOLS



LEARNING ABOUT FORESTS



YOUNG REPORTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Number of beaches and marinas

4,573

Number of establishments

3,200

Number of schools

59,000

Number of students

700,000

Number of reporters

360,000

Number of countries

47

Number of countries

65

Number of countries

68

Number of countries

28

Number of countries

45

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Blue Flag programme, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

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