

A GUIDE TO

Selected Beaches

in Malta and Ragusa, Sicily



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Project MaSpi



Euro-Mediterranean
Centre on Insular Coastal
Dynamics (ICoD)



University
of Malta



Regione
Sicilia



Repubblica
Italiana



Provincia
Regionale
di Ragusa



Gal CoPAI
Ragusa, Italy



INTERREG IIIA
Italia-Malta



Structural Funds Programme for Malta 2004-2006
Project part-financed by the European Union Community Initiative
INTERREG IIIA Italy-Malta Cross-border Cooperation Programme



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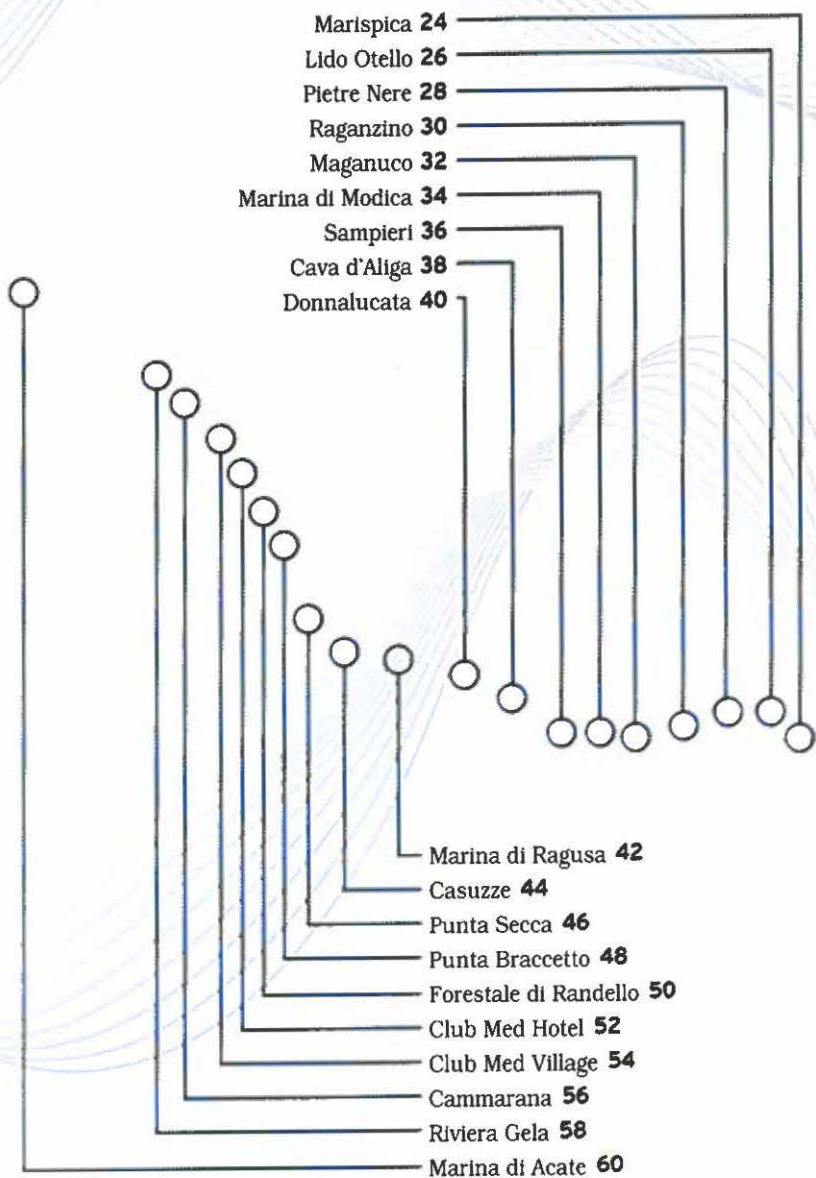
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Ragusa, Sicily, Italy



Between January 2007 and mid-2008, the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (ICoD) was engaged in implementing a project focussing on the Sustainable Management of Beach Resources in Sicily and Malta (MaSpi).

Together with two Sicilian partners, the Regional Province of Ragusa and CoPAI, a consortium dedicated to the promotion of the Iblean area, ICoD carried out a range of activities aimed at identifying an appropriate beach management strategy for the sustainable use of beaches in both Sicily and Malta. Key among these activities was an extensive programme of fieldwork, during which an innovative system for beach quality evaluation and management, the BARE technique developed by Dr Anton Micallef, ICoD, University of Malta and Prof Allan T Williams, University of Wales was applied at selected bathing areas in both locations.

This publication presents the results of applying the BARE (Bathing Area Registration and Evaluation) technique to 25 beaches in total – 19 in Sicily and 6 in the Maltese Islands. By including examples from a wide range of different types of beach, from resorts to remote beaches, this book is intended to serve as a guide for the whole spectrum of different beach users, ranging from families with young children who might be looking for an easily accessible beach having a range of facilities to nature lovers who are prepared to hike considerable distances to reach an isolated beach with few or no facilities but enjoying serene and unspoilt surroundings.

Information about each bathing area is presented as a concise description of the beach itself and the surrounding area, followed by sections detailing the safety features, water quality, and the recreational, sanitary and catering facilities present. In this way, we hope that this guide will be used to help prospective beach-goers select an appropriate beach site based on their particular requirements. For ease of reference, the BARE quality ratings for all the beaches featured, based on the five basic parameters of safety, water quality, facilities, scenery and cleanliness, are summarised in a table printed on the inside back cover of this book, together with a key to the symbols used throughout.

It should be noted that beach descriptions are based on surveys carried out during the 2007 bathing season (July–September), and the authors take no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred since this date.

We would like to acknowledge the European Union's financial support through its funding of this publication as part of Project Maspi, an 18-month pilot project on the application of the BARE technique in Malta and Ragusa, Sicily under the INTERREG IIIA Italia-Malta Programme. It is hoped that the very positive results of this project will lead to further recognition of the importance of the need for proper management of bathing areas and to the application of the BARE technique's valuable management approach to other countries in the region.

Introducing the BARE technique

Beach quality evaluation has been shown to be an extremely effective management tool, in that it results in better informed beach users while also serving as a management tool assisting beach managers to achieve a better managed beach.

All of the many different beach-rating systems currently available strive to provide indicators of quality. However, very few stand out by providing an effective beach quality evaluation tool that simultaneously provides an approach having enhanced scope for management intervention. The Bathing Area Registration and Evaluation (BARE) system does exactly this by:

- Evaluating the bathing area as a whole (i.e. the beach together with that area within walking distance (500 m) and generally visible from the beach as well as any facility (e.g. camping area) beyond this distance but clearly serving the beach).
- Classing bathing areas according to a rating system that focuses on five main beach-related issues that have been shown to rate highly in beach-user preferences and priorities.
- Recognising a wider selection of beach types, hence allowing prioritisation of the beach related parameters used for quality evaluation according to the type of beach being evaluated.
- Providing a final bathing area classification primarily as a management tool to assist local management in identifying issues requiring priority intervention leading to upgrading of beach quality as well as to more effective promotion of the beach.

- Providing a flexible system that improves on the pass / fail.
- award options of many Flag Award schemes and thus provides an improved management oriented tool.
- Providing beach users with an opportunity to make a better-informed choice of bathing areas.

It was for these reasons that the BARE technique was adopted by project MaSpi as an effective strategy for achieving improvements in beach quality and beach user satisfaction.

The BARE technique classifies bathing areas into five categories based on their accessibility and type of environment: remote, rural, village, urban and resort beaches are considered. Each bathing area is evaluated according to five parameters which have been shown in a number of studies to be the priority issues of concern to beach users: safety, water quality, beach facilities, coastal scenery and litter. Each of these parameters is rated on a scale from A to D and the individual scores for the five parameters are then combined to give a final star-rating to any beach evaluated in this way. BARE star ratings vary from one to five stars, with five stars indicating a top quality beach.

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Maltese Beaches

Ghadira Bay

Ghadira Bay is a very popular 1km long sandy beach situated in the north of Malta and is the longest beach in the islands

It is effectively divided into three sections by a naturally occurring outcrop of rocky shore on the right-hand side of the beach and a beach-based restaurant on the left-hand side. Immediately behind the beach is the Ghadira Nature Reserve, a protected wetland and salt marsh area. The reserve offers an outstanding combination of biodiversity and natural beauty, and is a haven for birds and birdwatchers. Ghadira Bay is located in a largely rural environment, but the beach is also close to Melleiha village, and to a number of hotels and seaside residences.



SAFETY

Ghadira is generally safe for bathing due to the gentle underwater slope of the beach. Warning flags are flown during rough weather when conditions are unsafe for bathing, and the beach also features lifeguards, bathing area zonation markers, a first aid post and beach information notices.



WATER QUALITY

Water quality in 2007/2008 was rated as high according to Barcelona Convention and European Bathing Directive evaluation criteria. The most recent water quality results can be accessed online at <http://www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=1055>





LITTER

Ghadira received a high rating for beach cleanliness.



FACILITIES

Facilities on and near the beach include public and restaurant-based toilets and showers, regularly emptied litter bins, restaurants, snack bars, information notices and adequate parking facilities on the road backing the beach. There are several outlets which rent umbrellas and deck chairs. A variety of water sports options are available, including speed towing activities and hire of sail boats, wind surfers, pedaloes and canoes. Hotel accommodation up to four-star quality can be found near the beach.



Golden Sands

Golden Sands Bay is located on the north western coast of Malta. The sand beach is light tan in colour and is approximately 125 m long and 80 m wide at its widest point

Apart from the presence of a prominent five-star hotel on the right-hand headland, the surroundings are largely rural in character with a picturesque backdrop of rocky headlands and low cliffs and a seventeenth century coastal watchtower still standing on the left-hand headland. Of potential interest is the Elysium tree nursery where visitors can learn about the environmental conservation work being carried out in the area by the Gaia Foundation.



SAFETY

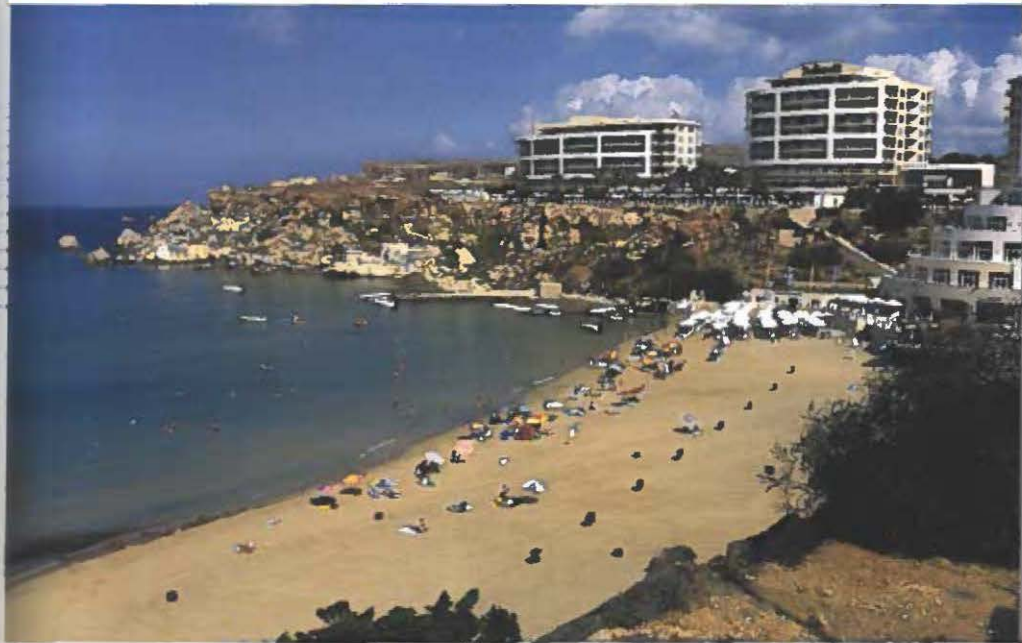
Golden Sands is generally safe for bathing due to the gentle underwater slope of the beach. Warning flags are flown in rough weather when conditions are unsafe for bathing. No lifeguard facilities are provided, but bathing area zonation markers and beach information notices are present.



WATER QUALITY

Water quality in 2007/2008 was rated as high according to Barcelona Convention and European Bathing Directive evaluation criteria. The most recent water quality results can be accessed online at <http://www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=1055>





LITTER

Golden Sands received a high rating for beach cleanliness.



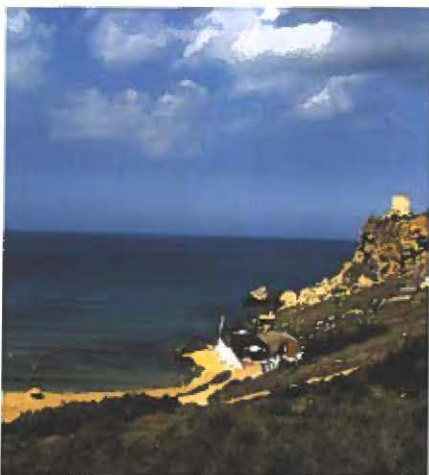
FACILITIES

Facilities on and near the beach include public toilets & showers (in the car park), regularly emptied litter bins, restaurants, snack bars and information notices, and there is a car park next to the beach. Visitors can rent umbrellas and deck chairs, and a variety of water sports options are available, including speed towing activities and hire of jetskis, pedaloes and canoes. Five star hotel accommodation is also available very close to the beach.



Ghajn Tuffieha

Ghajn Tuffieha is a narrow, slightly curved sand beach located close to Golden Sands bay on the north western coast of Malta



SAFETY

Ghajn Tuffieha is generally safe for bathing due to the gentle underwater slope of the beach. However, notices warn bathers of potentially dangerous rip currents in rough weather, when warning flags are flown to indicate that conditions are unsafe for bathing. Other safety features include bathing area zonation markers, fixed buoyed safety lines and beach information notices.



The beach is about 165 m long and 27 m wide at its widest point and is composed of fine sand having a warm reddish brown colour. Visitors can descend to the beach either via a steep flight of concrete steps or by walking down a winding unpaved track. Boulder strewn rocky headlands on either side and steep shrub covered clay slopes just behind the beach contribute to the very attractive natural character of this rural beach. Ghajn Tuffieha beach and its surroundings are protected by national and EU legislation on account of their ecological and geological value, and the area is extremely popular with ramblers due to its high scenic beauty.



WATER QUALITY

Water quality in 2007/2008 was rated as high according to Barcelona Convention and European Bathing Directive evaluation criteria. The most recent water quality results can be accessed at <http://www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=1055>





LITTER

Ghajn Tuffieha received a high rating for beach cleanliness.



FACILITIES

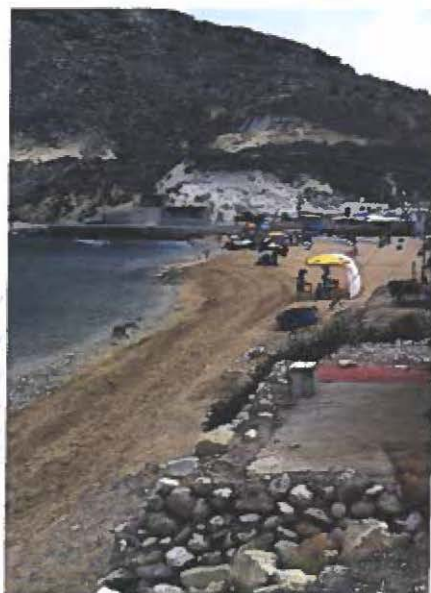
Unusually for a rural beach, toilet & shower facilities can be found at the snack bar on the right-hand side of the beach. Litter bins are emptied regularly, and well-presented information notices can be found at the top entrance to the beach, next to the adequate car park. Visitors can rent umbrellas, deck chairs and a limited selection of water sports equipment such as pedaloes and canoes.



Ġnejna

Ġnejna Bay is a rural beach situated on the north western coast of Malta. The beach is about 225 m long and 28 m wide at its widest point

The beach is composed of a mixture of fine and coarse sand. Ġnejna is best accessed by car as there is no public transport to the beach and the nearest village of Mgarr is several kilometers away. Except for clusters of boathouses at the foot of the rocky headlands on either side of the bay and an unmanaged camper zone, this beach is largely undisturbed and rural in character. As well as the sand, there is a smooth natural rock platform on the right-hand side of the beach which is popular with bathers.



SAFETY

Ġnejna is generally safe for bathing due to the gentle underwater slope of the beach. No lifeguard facilities are provided, but bathing area zonation markers are present.



WATER QUALITY

Water quality in 2007/2008 was rated as high according to Barcelona Convention and European Bathing Directive evaluation criteria. The most recent water quality results can be accessed at <http://www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=1055>





DIFFER

Ġnejna beach received a high rating for beach cleanliness.

FACILITIES

Facilities on and near the beach include public toilets located in the car park backing the beach, regularly emptied litter bins and snack bars. Visitors can also rent umbrellas and deck chairs, and speed boat towing activities and pedaloes are available.



San Blas, Gozo

San Blas is located on the northern coast of Gozo, Malta's smaller sister island, and is a very small pocket beach with fine reddish gold sand

This remote beach is best reached by car but visitors should note that car park space is limited. Access to the beach is not easy, requiring an approximately 500 m walk down an extremely steep slope. Despite this, a visit to San Blas beach is highly recommended for those wishing to escape the crowds and seeking solitude. Backed by locally typical terraced fields and enjoying a splendid and unmarred natural environment of rock headlands, clay slopes and cliffs, the surrounding scenery is spectacular.



SAFETY

Although no safety features are present, San Blas is generally safe for bathing due to the gentle underwater slope of the beach.



WATER QUALITY

Water quality in 2007/2008 was rated as high according to Barcelona Convention and European Bathing Directive evaluation criteria. The most recent water quality results can be accessed at <http://www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=1055>





LITTER

San Blas received a high rating for beach cleanliness.

FACILITIES

Facilities on the beach at San Blas are limited to a very small snack bar. A litter bin is provided by the bar, which also rents out umbrellas and deck chairs.



Ramla, Gozo

Located on the northern coast of Gozo, Ramla is best described by its undisturbed rural character



SAFETY

Ramla is generally safe for bathing due to the gentle underwater slope of the beach. However, notices warn bathers of potentially dangerous rip currents in rough weather, when warning flags are flown to indicate that conditions are unsafe for bathing. Other safety features include the presence of lifeguards, bathing area zonation markers, fixed buoyed safety lines and beach information notices.



The beach is approximately 412 m long and varies between 25 and 50 m wide, with sand that has a very distinctive reddish gold colour. Well defined rocky headlands with boulder strewn clay slopes and largely abandoned terraced fields bound the beach on either side. Ramla lies at the end of an extensive and largely undisturbed valley system, with the village heights of Nadur and Xaghra overlooking the bay, and the road leading to the beach runs through intensively farmed fields along the valley floor and sides. Immediately behind the beach is one of the last remaining sand dune systems in the Maltese Islands and the whole area is protected by national and EU legislation on account of its rich and unique biodiversity.



WATER QUALITY

Water quality in 2007/2008 was rated as high according to Barcelona Convention and European Bathing Directive evaluation criteria. The most recent water quality results can be accessed at <http://www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=1055>





LITTER

Ramla Bay received a high rating for beach cleanliness.



FACILITIES

Facilities include public toilets & showers, regularly emptied litter bins, restaurants, snack bars, information notices, and adequate parking facilities along the road leading to the beach and in fields specially set aside for this purpose during the bathing season. Visitors can rent umbrellas, deck chairs and a range of water sports equipment including jetskis, pedaloes and canoes.

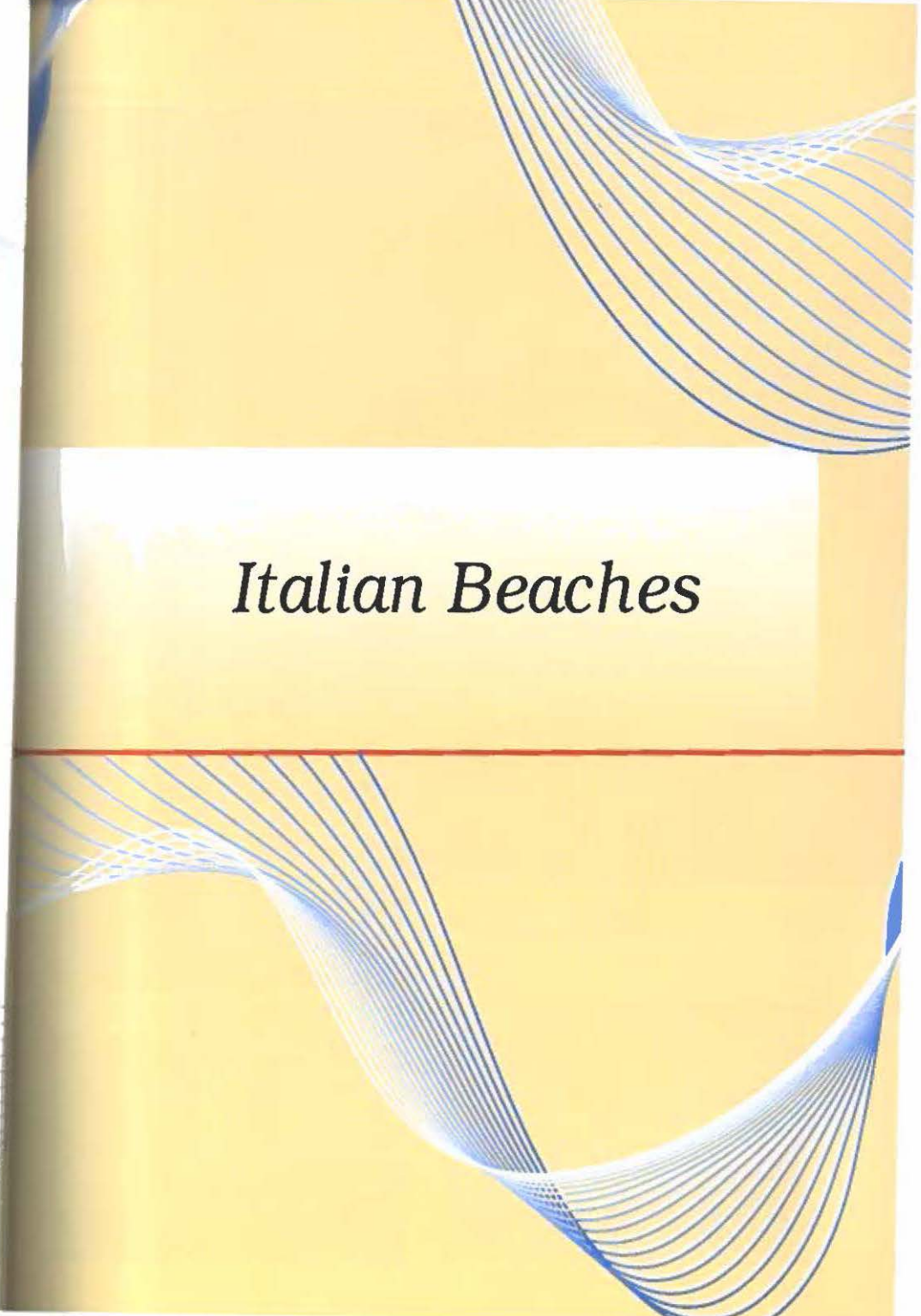




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Italian Beaches

Marispica - Sta Maria del Focallo

This beach resort stretches for about 12 km and is very popular with locals and tourists alike, especially during the summer months, largely on account of its long strand and crystal clear waters

The beach is characterised by a strip of protected natural vegetation, mostly composed of acacias, that is ideal for picnicking. The coastal tourist village of Marispica is renowned even at the national level, and more and more tourists visit it every year, attracted by its excellent beach and by the area's climate. The tourist village runs a beach concession that stretches for a length of 300 m.



SAFETY

This area is safe for bathing since it is manned by lifeguards throughout the bathing season.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

The beach at Marispica obtained an excellent cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

Beach facilities include showers, toilets, litter bins, ashtrays, chairs, deckchairs, beach umbrellas and a bar.



Lido Otello - Sta Maria Del Focallo

This beach resort boasts a very long beach stretching for about 12 km from Pozzallo right up to Pachino in the province of Siracuse

Its powdery sand and natural dunes make it an enchanting place, and the area is very popular in summer with locals and tourists alike, thanks to its long strand and crystal clear waters. The beach is characterised by a strip of protected natural vegetation, mostly composed of acacias, that is ideal for picnicking. The Lido Otello beach hut is located a kilometre to the east of the tourist village of Marsipica, right next to one of the most popular areas of this stretch of beach.



SAFETY

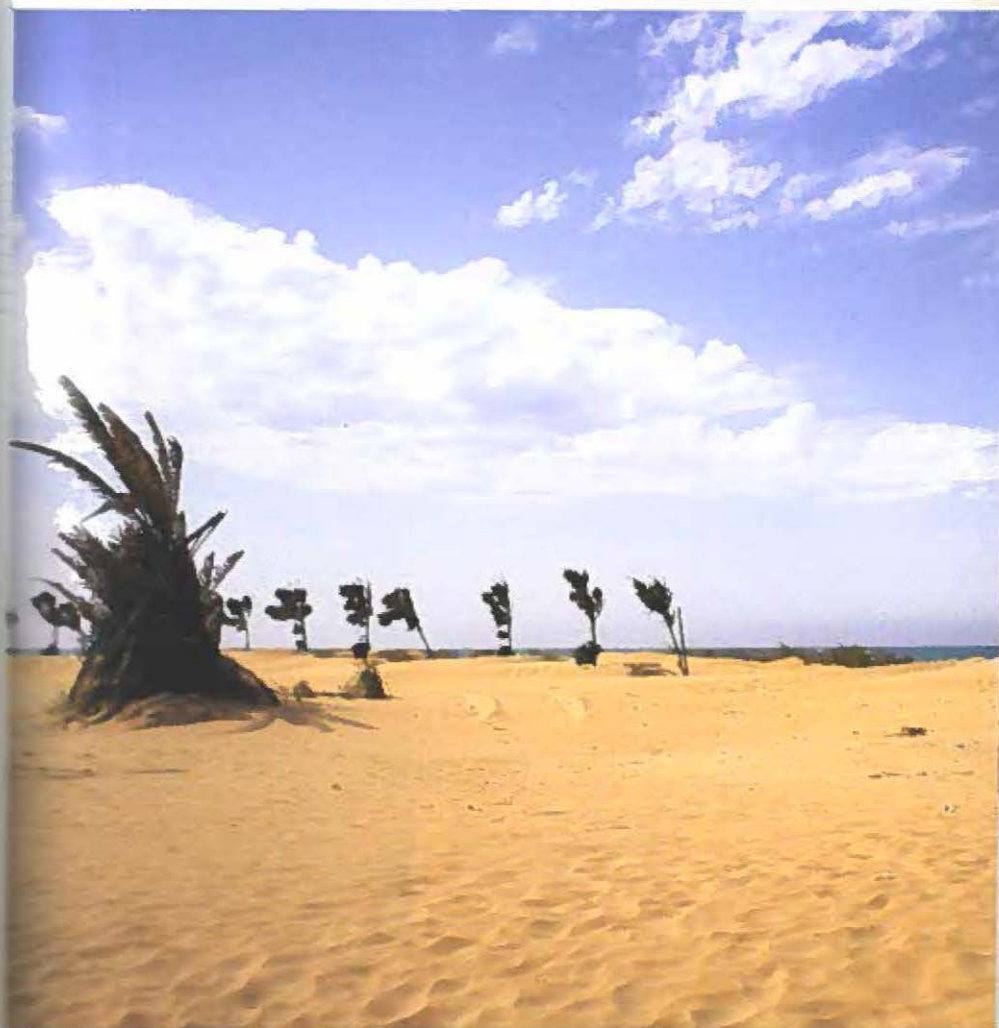
This area is safe for bathing since it is manned by lifeguards throughout the bathing season.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76 / 160 / EEC).





CLEANLINESS

The beach at Lido Otello obtained a good cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

Beach amenities include showers, toilets and litter bins.



Pietre Nere

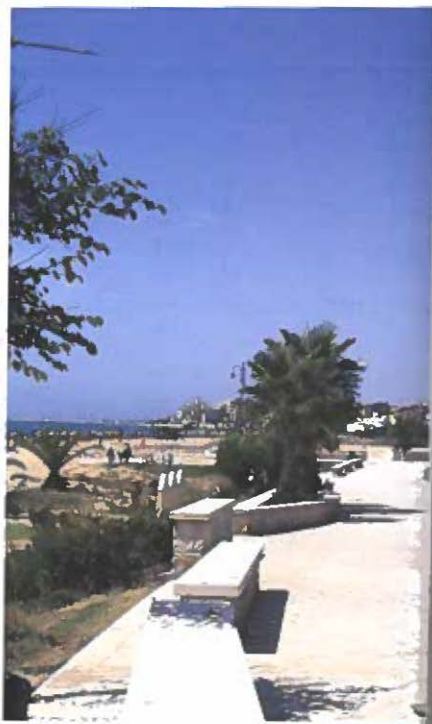
The name of this beach is derived from Lungomare Pietre Nere, the brand new seaside promenade of Pozzallo, which is highly popular both for bathing as well as for long strolls by day and by night

The beach, covered in golden, African-type sand, is 100 m wide, so visitors can always find a quiet spot to relax comfortably, even during the busy summer months. Pozzallo, with a latitude 70 km south of Tunis, is one of only 4 villages in Sicily to be awarded the Blue Flag in 2008, thanks to the quality of its bathing water, coast, facilities and safety features as well as environmental awareness measures.



SAFETY

This area is manned by lifeguards throughout the bathing season and is therefore safe for bathing



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

Pietre Nere beach obtained a good cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

Beach amenities include showers, toilets and litter bins. Bathers can hire pedaloes as well as deckchairs and umbrellas, and the beach also offers beach huts and restaurants. Other restaurants, hotels, bars and rooms for rent on a bed and breakfast basis are located off the beach.



Raganzino

Located next to Pozzallo harbour, Raganzino beach is composed of fine golden sand and is very popular with locals and tourists during the summer months

Martino Castle stands on the crest of a hill overlooking the beach, offering breathtaking views of the surrounding area. Raganzino is a location of rare beauty and charm, and has frequently been the location of events organized during the Easter celebrations of recent years.



SAFETY

This area is manned by lifeguards throughout the bathing season and is therefore safe for bathing.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

Raganzino beach obtained an excellent cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

Beach amenities include showers, toilets and litter bins, and bathers can also hire pedaloes. The beach offers chalets and restaurants. Other restaurants, hotels, bars and rooms on a bed and breakfast basis can be found close to the beach.



Maganuco

Located between Marina di Modica and Pozzallo harbour, Maganuco beach is a site of Community interest (SCI): in summer it is a bathing resort, while in winter it plays an important role as a natural habitat. The beach is characterized by powdery sand and dunes, and is bordered by low cliffs on both sides



SAFETY

This area is safe for bathing since it is serviced by lifeguards throughout the bathing season.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

Maganuco beach obtained an excellent cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

The beach is easily accessible and is equipped with showers, chemical toilets and litter bins. The "Conte di Cabrera" resort is located right on the beach and is very popular with foreign tourists. Here one can rent rooms or choose to stay in the village where lodgings in private residences and accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis are available.



Marina di Modica

Marina di Modica is frequented by locals and sought out by surfers on windy days. It is a beautiful semi-circular coastal area with a beach of fine sand bordered by low rocky outcrops



SAFETY

The presence of lifeguards throughout the bathing season makes the area safe for bathing.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

The beach at Marina di Modica obtained a good cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

Beach amenities include showers, toilets and litter bins. A beach hut, restaurant and tourist resort can also be found on the beach, and other restaurants are located off the beach. Visitors can rent beach umbrellas and deckchairs. "La Perla" village, located just behind the lido, offers bungalows and flats for rent. Tennis courts are also available within the sports centre.



Sampieri

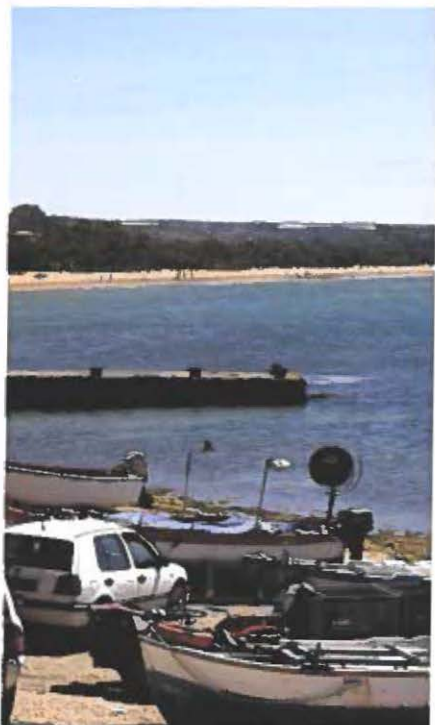
Sampieri, an old fishing village which still retains the evocative charm and atmosphere of days gone by, is situated a few kilometres away from Scicli

It boasts one of the longest and most delightful beaches of the Iblean coast, characterized by powdery golden sand, a dune landscape rich in typical vegetation, and the imposing Penna kiln which commands a view of the whole bay.



SAFETY

The presence of lifeguards throughout the bathing season, as well as first aid stations and equipment, ensure that the area is safe for bathing.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

Sampieri beach obtained an excellent cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

Beach amenities include toilets, showers, litter bins and opportunities for recreational activities and water sports such as pedaloes, football, beach-volley and beach games for children. Two resort lidos offering full amenities are located along the beach, as are two beach resorts with catering establishments, toilets and changing cabins. Rooms on a bed and breakfast basis, flats for rent, aparthotels and hotels located in the vicinity of the beach offer visitors the chance to spend an enjoyable holiday in this typical coastal location.



Cava d'Aliga

Located between Donnalucata and Sampieri, Cava d'Aliga is a beach resort popular with both locals and foreigners. It offers a charming little beach nestled within a small bay, bordered by rocky outcrops on both sides



SAFETY

This area is manned by lifeguards throughout the bathing season and is therefore safe for bathing.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

The beach at Cava d'Aliga obtained an excellent cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

A beach club is located on the beach, offering a restaurant and bar, showers, toilets and changing cabins, and visitors can rent deckchairs and umbrellas. Hotels, rooms on a bed and breakfast basis and flats for rent are available in the vicinity of the beach.



Donnalucata

A delightful hamlet of the Sciclitano area, Donnalucata was once a typical traditional fishing harbour and still hosts a lively fish market every morning

The village, which has now become an urban centre, boasts a long sandy beach along an elegant seaside promenade embellished by the imposing old summer residences of the local aristocracy.



SAFETY

The presence of lifeguards throughout the bathing season, as well as the availability of first aid equipment, make the area safe for bathing.



WATER QUALITY

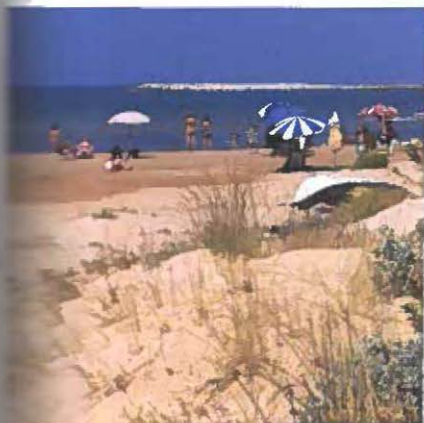
In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

Donnalucata beach obtained
 an excellent cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

The beach is easily accessible and offers a wide range of amenities such as showers, litter bins and recreational activities, while bars and restaurants are located in the vicinity of the beach. A number of hotels, motels, rooms on a bed and breakfast basis and flats for rent are also located in the area.



Piazza Malta, Marina di Ragusa

Piazza Malta is one of the beaches in Marina di Ragusa, and is located between the "Riserva Naturale Speciale della Foce del Flume Irminio" (a nature reserve) and the centre of the seaside resort. The latter is the best equipped and most renowned resort in South-East Sicily, thanks to its beautiful lidos and vibrant night life. The beach is covered in fine sand and is sheltered by a number of artificial reefs



SAFETY

This area is manned by lifeguards throughout the bathing season and is therefore safe for bathing.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

The beach at Piazza Malta obtained a good cleanliness rating.

FACILITIES

Beach amenities include showers, toilets in the beach huts and litter bins. On the beach are beach huts and bars where visitors can rent deckchairs and umbrellas. Recreational facilities include pedaloes, beach-volley courts and a sailing centre which offers windsurfing, sailing, para-sailing and jetskis. By way of accommodation, the area offers flats for rent, rooms on a bed and breakfast basis, as well as superior hotels and camping sites.



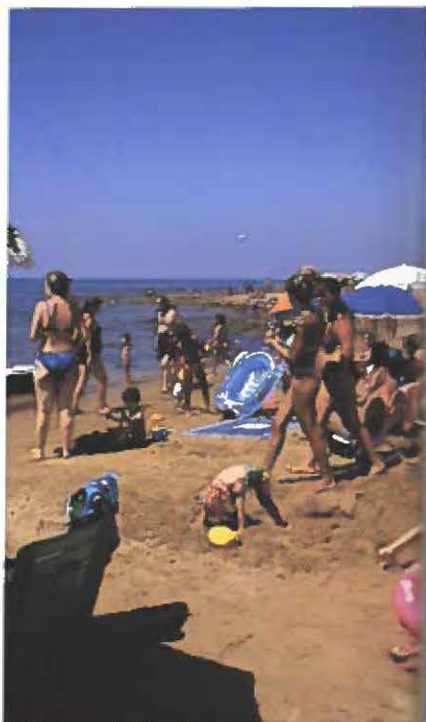
Casuzze

Located just a few kilometers away from Marina di Ragusa, Casuzze beach has a small strip of sand hemmed in on both sides by shallow reefs and jagged rocks just breaking the surface of the water



SAFETY

The presence of lifeguards and the availability of first aid equipment make the area safe for bathing.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

Casuzze beach obtained an excellent cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

The beach is easily accessible and is equipped with access ramps for the disabled. Beach facilities include showers and litter bins, while restaurants are located near the beach. The village behind the beach offers an aparthotel, bed and breakfast accommodation and flats for rent.



Punta Secca

A maritime hamlet of Santa Croce Camarina and the location where the popular television series Commissario Montalbano was shot, the village of Punta Secca offers a long stretch of beach covered in golden sand. To the west of the beach are a small harbour for pleasure craft and a charming lighthouse that solemnly stands sentinel over the coast



SAFETY

The presence of lifeguards throughout the bathing season, as well as the availability of first aid equipment, make the area safe for bathing.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

The beach at Punta Secca obtained a good cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

Beach amenities include showers, litter bins, beach umbrellas and deckchairs, and restaurants and bars are located in the vicinity of the beach. Numerous hotels, motels, rooms on a bed and breakfast basis and flats for rent are located in the residential area, right next to the beach.



Punta Braccetto

The crescent-shaped beach at Punta Braccetto nestles in a lovely inlet, and is covered in fine sand and bordered on both sides by rocks and steep cliffs

At the westernmost point of the coastal landscape stand the imposing historic ruins of the Vigliena Tower, also known as the Bracello Tower, built in 1595 to protect the coast against pirate raids.



SAFETY

The presence of lifeguards and the permanent availability of first aid equipment throughout the bathing season make this area safe for bathing.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

The beach at Punta Braccetto obtained an excellent cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

The beach is easily accessible and is equipped with ramps for the disabled. A chalet houses a restaurant, and toilets, bathing huts, beach umbrellas and deckchairs are also available. Numerous aparthotels, hotels, rooms on a bed and breakfast basis and flats for rent are located in the vicinity of the beach, as are a number of well-equipped camping sites.



Forestale di Randello

The forest reserve of Randello, with its magnificent stretch of sandy coastline, is situated 9 km away from Marina di Ragusa

On the beach, visitors can admire one of the last remaining unspoilt dune landscapes of the Iblean coast. The beach hinterland is rich in endemic Sicilian vegetation and, further inland, one can find examples of *Ophrys lunulata*, a rare plant species protected under the Washington Convention.



SAFETY

Since this beach is considered remote, neither lifeguards nor first aid services are available here.

WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

The beach at Forestale di Randello obtained a good cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

The area is managed by the State Forestry Department of the Province of Ragusa and is equipped for various recreational activities. The beach can only be reached by a footpath along which are chemical toilets, showers, wooden picnic tables and barbecue facilities provided by the State Forestry Department.



Club Med (Hotel)

The Club Med Kamarina resort is situated near the village of Scoglitti, a few kilometers away from Ragusa, near a beautiful semi-circular coastal area with beaches of fine sand and pebbles hemmed in by rocky outcrops. Club Med Kamarina consists of a village on one side and a hotel on the other, each with a beach for their exclusive use



SAFETY

While lifeguards service the beach next to the hotel through most of the bathing season, this beach lacks some safety features such as zoning buoys.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

The Club Med hotel beach obtained an excellent cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

Beach amenities include showers, toilets, ashtrays and litter bins, and deckchairs and umbrellas are available for hire. Bars and restaurants can be found exclusively inside the hotel, and, unlike the Club Med Village beach, no sporting activities are offered here.



Club Med (Village)

The Club Med Kamarina resort is situated near the village of Scoglitti, a few kilometers away from Ragusa, near a beautiful semi-circular coastal area with beaches of fine sand and pebbles hemmed in by rocky outcrops. Club Med Kamarina consists of a village on one side and a hotel on the other, each with a beach for their exclusive use



SAFETY

The beach belonging to the village is safe for bathing thanks to the presence of lifeguards throughout the bathing season, as well as all the safety features.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

The Club Med village beach obtained an excellent cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

Beach amenities include showers, toilets, ashtrays and litter bins. Deckchairs and umbrellas are available, and the village beach has a sailing centre where visitors can hire catamarans or go canoeing, kayaking and water skiing.



Cammarana

Cammarana beach is situated between the archaeological site of Camarina (a city founded by Greek settlers) and the town of Scoglitti. The beach is a mix of sand and shingles and the main road separates it from the dunes



SAFETY

This area is safe for bathing since lifeguards are on duty throughout the bathing season.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

Cammarana beach obtained a good cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

Beach amenities include showers, toilets inside the beach huts, ashtrays, litter bins and access for wheelchairs. Catering establishments on the beach include beach huts and bars. Recreational facilities include pedaloes, sailing and beach-volley courts, and visitors can rent deckchairs and umbrellas on the beach. The area offers flats for rent and rooms on a bed and breakfast basis.



Riviera Gela

Offering a long wide strip of beautiful golden sand set along a picturesque seaside promenade, Riviera Gela is located east of Scoglitti harbour, the coastal hamlet of Vittoria and an important fishing village on the western Iblean coast. Riviera Gela is well equipped for tourism, with numerous residences, hotels, rooms on a bed and breakfast basis, flats for rent and tourist villages scattered all over the nearby urban area



SAFETY

The presence of lifeguards throughout the bathing season as well as the year round availability of first aid equipment make the area safe for bathing.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

The beach at Riviera Gela obtained an excellent cleanliness rating.



FACILITIES

There is easy access to the beach, including ramps for the disabled. The beach offers a wide range of amenities, including showers, toilets, and litter bins, numerous bathing establishments and chalets with restaurant service, cafeterias, hire of beach umbrellas and deckchairs, as well as opportunities for recreational activities and water sports such as pedaloes and jetski rides, beach games for children, beach volley, football, and sailing.



Marina di Acate

Marina di Acate is a long sandy beach located between the Gulf of Gela and Scoglitti. It is a rural beach, characterized by the typical agricultural landscape of the area and by the presence of very few tourists



SAFETY

While lifeguards are on duty for most of the bathing season, this beach lacks some of the safety features such as zoning buoys.



WATER QUALITY

In 2007, the water quality was tested and given a "blue" rating according to the criteria of the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).





CLEANLINESS

The beach at Marina di Acate obtained a poor rating for cleanliness.



FACILITIES

The beach is easily accessible. There are two little beach huts with toilets and showers in the central part of the beach. There are no hotels to be found in this seaside resort but numerous flats and private properties are available for rent.



Assessment of the beaches

The BARE technique evaluates beaches based on five parameters – safety, water quality, sanitary and recreational facilities, coastal scenery and cleanliness. For every beach, each of these parameters is rated on a scale from A to D, with A being the best score and D the lowest score. Based on these scores, each beach is awarded a final rating of one to five stars, five being the highest score and one being the lowest.

Sea water quality for the Maltese beaches was rated based on the 2007 and 2008 results of the official water quality monitoring carried out by the Environmental Health Unit. The most recent results can be accessed online at <http://www.sahha.gov.mt/pages.aspx?page=1055>

Bathing water quality for the Sicilian beaches was rated based on the results of the official water quality monitoring carried out by the Ministry of Work, Health and Social Policies. The most recent results can be viewed online at: www.ministerosalute.it/balneazione/balneazione.jsp



Protected area



Litter bins



Toilets



Accessible
toilets



Access ramp



Changing
cabins



Showers



Pedaloes



Restaurant



Snack bar



Jetskis



Windsurfing



Beach volley



Lifeguard service



Water safety zoning



Blue Flag



Canoes



Beach umbrellas
and chairs



Diving



Speed towing
activities (water
skiing, banana
riding, parasailing)



High bathing
water quality



Good bathing
water quality



Problems
with sampling
procedure



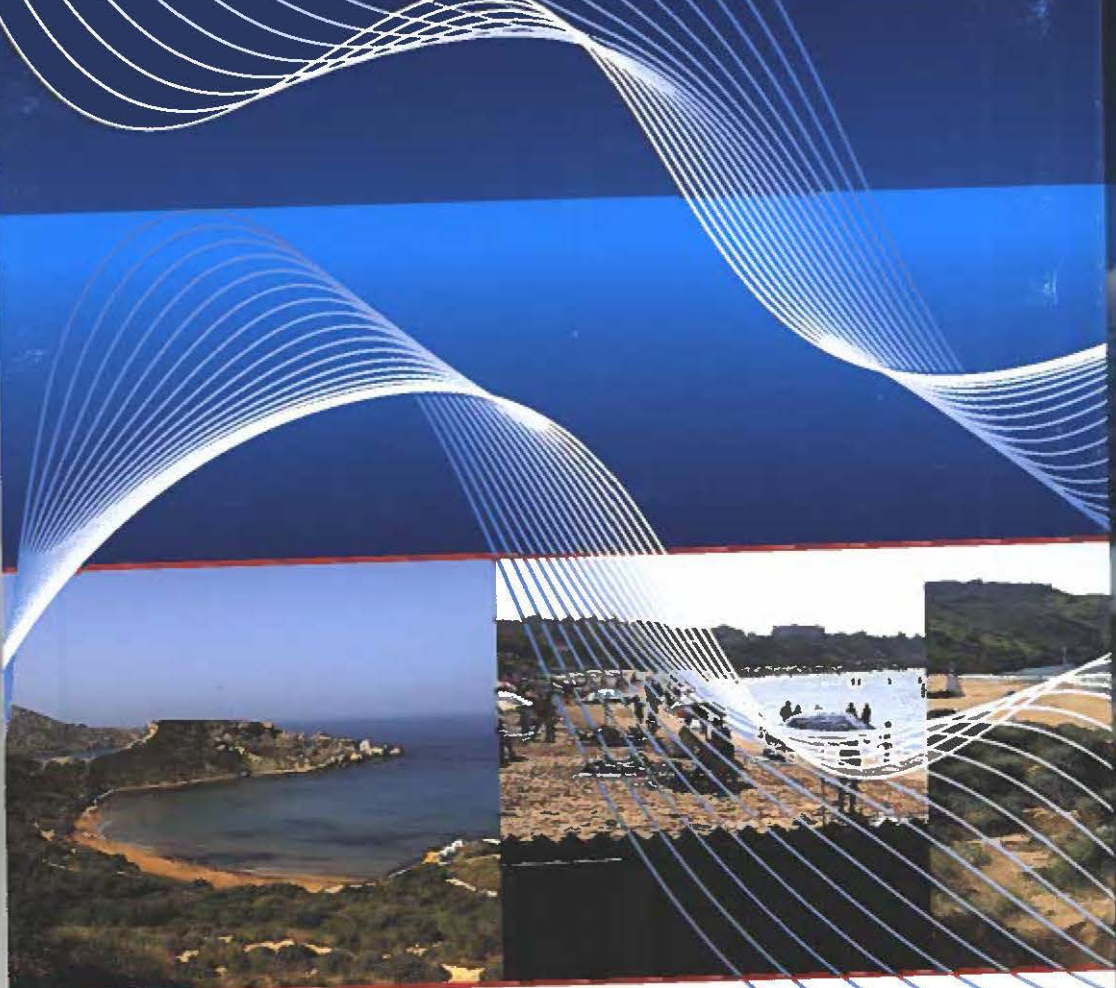
Bathing
temporarily
prohibited

Bathing area locations

Malta & Gozo		Type of beach	Safety	Water quality	Facilities	Scenery	Litter
Ghadira	Melieha	Village	B	A	B	D	A
Golden Sands	Melieha	Rural	B	A	B	C	B
Ghajn Tuffieha	Mgarr	Rural	-	A	-	B	C
Gnejna	Mgarr	Rural	-	A	-	C	A
San Blas, Gozo	Nadur	Remote	-	A	-	A	A
Ramla Bay, Gozo	Xaghra	Rural	-	A	-	C	C

Ragusa, Sicily, Italy

Marispica	Ispica	Resort	B	A	B	C	A
Lido Otello	Ispica	Rural	-	A	-	C	B
Pietre Nere	Pozzallo	Urban	B	A	B	C	B
Raganzino	Pozzallo	Urban	B	A	C	D	A
Maganuco	Modica	Rural	-	A	-	C	A
Marina di Modica	Modica	Village	A	A	A	C	B
Sampieri	Scicli	Village	B	A	B	B	A
Cava d'Aliga	Scicli	Village	C	A	B	C	A
Donnalucata	Scicli	Urban	C	A	C	C	A
Marina di Ragusa	Ragusa	Urban	C	A	B	C	B
Casuzze	Santa Croce Camerina	Village	C	A	B	C	A
Punta Secca	Santa Croce Camerina	Village	C	A	B	B	B
Punta Braccetto	Santa Croce Camerina	Village	C	A	B	A	A
Forestale di Randello	Ragusa	Remote	-	A	-	C	B
Club Med Hotel	Camarina (Ragusa)	Resort	C	A	D	B	A
Club Med Village	Camarina (Ragusa)	Resort	A	A	B	B	A
Cammarana	Vittoria	Urban	C	A	C	C	B
Spina Gela	Vittoria	Urban	C	A	C	D	B
Marina di Acate	Acate	Rural	-	A	-	C	D



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Regione
Siciliana



Repubblica
Italiana



Provincia
Regionale
di Ragusa



Gal CoPAI
Ragusa, Italy



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