

# Blue Flag Awards Feature

Jun 9, 2007

The International Blue Flag organisation has announced its Blue Flag awards for 2007 presenting the renowned accolade across 31 countries for 2628 beaches and 629 marinas.

In order to achieve a Blue Flag, beaches and marinas must comply with a number of stringent criteria. Marinas must consider recyclable waste facilities, have the presence of a map indicating all amenities and have lifesaving facilities including the safety precaution details clearly displayed. Beach candidates were subject to ongoing evaluation from control visits in 2006 and were judged by a national jury. The beaches were evaluated to ensure the presence of a map indicating all facilities, presence of recyclable waste facilities at the beach and compliance with the water quality criterion.

It is an exciting year for Bulgaria who began with a successful entry into the EU having continued to prosper with an influx of second home purchasers investing in the country and now they have received their first marina Blue Flag along with 10 Blue Flags for their beaches. Lance Nelson of Jet2Let comments, "We are delighted with the result, the Black Sea coast is popular in Bulgaria with nationals as well as overseas visitors; we are seeing people move away from the busy Sunny Beach regions to the more undiscovered areas along the coast. And these beaches can now be enjoyed with the knowledge that they adhere to the Blue Flag requirements."

Spain, as expected, has received a bumper number of awards, 499 for its beaches and 77 Blue Flags for its marinas. Despite some negative press recently the European tourist honey pot has remained popular and with 576 Blue Flag awards it is little wonder why [www.kyero.com](http://www.kyero.com), the Spanish property portal has reported that the national average property price remained the same one month on from the Spanish stock market slump at €250,000 (£169,463) confirming its popularity with the holiday home market.

Second in line for the highest number of Blue Flags is Greece, with an impressive 430 for its beaches and 9 for marinas followed by Turkey with 235 Blue Flag standard beaches and 14 marinas. "Greece, with its thousands of islands, the combination of relatively low prices, a maturing and competitive mortgage market and now the second highest number of Blue Flag accolades in Europe, make it a great second home destination", according to Irimi Tzortzoglou, Head of Retail Banking for Piraeus Bank London.

Turkey is another country which has taken the spot light this year for overseas property purchasers, and it is clear why investors are lured to Greece's neighbour, with affordable housing prices and now its undisputable fabulous Blue Flag beaches. Caroline Hollingworth of Hollingworth and Associates says, "We have seen interest in Turkey increase hugely in 2007; it has been a popular holiday destination with Britons and other Europeans for many years but now people are looking beyond the traditional second home markets for their property investments with Turkey sitting at the top of the list."

We will eagerly await the awards for South Africa, the Caribbean, Brazil and New Zealand which will be announced by the Blue Flag jury in the Autumn.

For more information contact [www.blueflag.org](http://www.blueflag.org), for properties overseas visit [www.jet2letproperty.com](http://www.jet2letproperty.com), [www.kyero.com](http://www.kyero.com) or [www.hollingworthtaylor.co.uk](http://www.hollingworthtaylor.co.uk) and for Euro mortgages for Bulgarian and Greek property contact [www.piraeusbank.co.uk](http://www.piraeusbank.co.uk).

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#### Notes to Editor

The Blue Flag International Jury is composed of representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), International Lifesaving Association (ILS), European Union for Coastal Conservation (EUCC), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), an international Environmental Education expert, the International Council of Marine Industry Associations (ICOMIA) and the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).

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PROPERTIES (images on request contact [a.billige@abpropertymarketing.co.uk](mailto:a.billige@abpropertymarketing.co.uk)):

#### Aheloy Beach Residence, Black Sea coast, Bulgaria

Aheloy Beach Residence is a stunning frontline development located in the town of Aheloy, 7km west of Nessebar. A private road passes over the River Aheloy to this privileged location next to the sea, yet it is just 15 minutes from Bourgas Airport.

Aheloy Beach Residence is a south-facing five and six storey development comprising studios, one bedroom and two bedroom apartments with feature balconies, air conditioning, tiled bathrooms and floors. The common areas to the front of the complex will feature large outdoor swimming pools, landscaped gardens, bars, restaurants, cafés and a redevelopment of the beachfront that will transform the present modern beach area into a gently sloping sandy shore.

#### Facilities include:

- Open Air swimming pools
- Fitness centre including weights area, free weights and aerobic area
- Wellness centre with spa, massage, sauna, steam room, mud baths, plunge pools and hydro pools, resting area,
- Children's pool with swimming pool water features
- Supermarket
- Poolside bars
- Indoor games (Pool tables, billiards, darts)
- Restaurants
- Café and pastry shop
- Crèche
- Hair and nail salon
- Laundry and dry cleaning
- Water-sports
- Bank and ATM
- Travel Agency
- Rent-a-car service

Prices start from £35,000 / €51,700, for more information please contact Jet2Let on 0800 068 33 70 / 00 44 870 428 3567 or visit [www.jet2letproperty.com](http://www.jet2letproperty.com).

#### Mordogan development, Cesme, Turkey

This development is located on a beautiful peninsula with its own private sandy beach in a sheltered bay in Mordogan, close to Cesme town. The whole peninsula

will provide a secure 5 Star Development of some 400,000m<sup>2</sup>, approx. 100 acres, developed in the style and charm of an exclusive village setting

The Mordogan development will consist of a mix of 500 Villas and Apartments ranging in price from £23,824 to £133,821. At the Mordogan development owners benefit from:

Your own Private White Sand beach.

Our own Marina, some villas will have private moorings.

Great location in an area allocated for major tourist development.

Charming local village just 10 minutes away with a fishing harbour, daily fish sales and a very popular weekly market.

Really low cost of living with Turkish prices, not inflated tourist prices.

Low "launch" prices starting from under £25,000.

It will be a 'Car Free' development for the safety and enjoyment of all.

An EXCLUSIVE GATED development with 24 Hour Security.

Izmir NEW International Airport, just 60 minutes away.

FREE Airport Pick Up 24/7 all year round.

FREE Air Conditioned shuttle buses to all popular destinations all year.

For more information contact Hollingworth & Associates' HOPSHOP on 08454 567737, email [chris@hollingworthtaylor.co.uk](mailto:chris@hollingworthtaylor.co.uk) or visit the website at [www.hollingworthtaylor.co.uk](http://www.hollingworthtaylor.co.uk).

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