



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry of Tourism, Public Transport and the Port
Suite 631
Europort
Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

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Gibraltar Tourist Board finalising works at Beaches

The Gibraltar Tourist Board is in the final stages of finalising various works at Gibraltar's various beaches for the main bathing period during the summer months.

Toilet facilities have been available throughout winter at Camp Bay, Little Bay and Eastern Beach. As from this Easter, facilities were open at Catalan Bay and this has seen a marked increase in beach usage.

As from the 9th June and till the 10th September, there will be a full provision of facilities at Gibraltar's beaches, with all changing rooms including showers being open, lifeguard service and Royal Gibraltar Police support.

Over the last few weeks, walkways have been laid at the sandy beaches and a refurbishment programme implemented that has included painting and final general repairs to deal with the extra use.

As the Government recently noted in the last session of Parliament, the sand at Sandy Bay has all but disappeared and although this is a constantly changing scenario the Gibraltar Tourist Board will keep the facilities open throughout the summer. Walkways over the rock armour wall are in place but care should be taken by beach users in the area. Also as recently announced in Parliament, the Government is currently considering proposals for a long term solution to remedy the lack of sand on the beach, but works will not commence until after this summer season.

Western Beach continues to be closed on Public Health grounds, although everything is in place to re-open as soon as the waters are deemed safe. The Government is constantly assessing the situation and will do everything in its power to open the beach.

The facility run by the Care Agency for persons with disability to access the sea will also continue to be available at Eastern Beach.

Litter on the beach is a constant problem and although the beaches are in a pristine condition at the start of the day the Gibraltar Tourist Board requests the assistance of all beach users and asks that litter is deposited in the bins provided either on the beach or the promenades. This will make for a better environment for all.

Commenting on the above, Minister for Tourism, Transport and the Port Neil Costa said: "With the official bathing season upon us and with an increasing number of people enjoying our beaches, the GTB have been busy carrying out various refurbishment and other works. Whilst the GTB will continually monitor the cleanliness and state of the beaches throughout the summer, the public are invited to contact officials at any time."