HM Government of Gibraltar

Ministry of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change, Heritage, Education and Culture

HM Government of Gibraltar

Ministry of Equality, Employment, Culture and Tourism

Beaches & Pools Accessibility Information Booklet

Contents

Introduction	1
Accessible Beaches	2-6
Inaccessible Beaches	7-8
GSLA Pool Facilities	9-12
Support	13-15
Support Hours	16
Equipment	17-19
Contact Information	20-21

Introduction

The Supported Needs and Disability Office (SNDO) has created this booklet to help clarify the accessibility of existing beaches and pool facilities across Gibraltar.

Whilst HM Government of Gibraltar is fully committed to making Gibraltar's beaches and pools as accessible as possible, we understand that this is challenging due to Gibraltar's natural topography.

In this booklet you will find information about which beaches and pools are accessible, what equipment is available to the public, the location of accessible toilets and changing rooms, and where the nearest accessible parking bays or bus stops are to each facility.

We hope the information in this booklet proves useful to you. If you have any comments or concerns, please contact the SNDO at the details provided at the end of the booklet.

Accessible Beaches

Catalan Bay

Equipment

The equipment is located at the northern end of the beach with the beach attendants and includes:

- Two types of amphibious wheelchairs (large and extra-large) that can float and move on sand.
- Beach wheelchairs with chest harnesses and lap straps for support.
- A free-standing hoist for transferring between wheelchairs.
- Beach crutches in various sizes.
- A flexible walkway for easy access from sand to sea, adjusted daily based on tides.

Accessible Toilets

Situated on the southern end of the beach is available at all times with a RADAR Key. You can apply for a RADAR Key from the SNDO. Beach attendants can also open the toilets during their working hours.

Parking & Transport

- x4 accessible parking bays at the reclamation area
- x1 accessible parking bay by the beachside village.
- Bus Route 4 and 8 provide transport to Catalan Bay.

Eastern Beach

Equipment

The equipment is located at the southern end of the beach with the beach attendants, and includes:

- Two types of amphibious wheelchairs (large and extra-large) that can float and move on sand.
- Beach wheelchairs with chest harnesses and lap straps for support.
- A free-standing hoist for transferring between wheelchairs.
- Beach crutches in various sizes.
- A flexible walkway for easy access from sand to sea, adjusted daily based on tides.

Accessible Toilets

Accessible toilets are located at the northern and southern end of the beach, available anytime with a RADAR Key. You can apply for a RADAR Key from the SNDO. Beach attendants can also open the toilets during their working hours.

Parking & Transport

- x4 accessible parking bays on Eastern Beach Road
- x3 accessible parking bays in the multi-story car park.
- Bus Routes 4 & 8 provide transport to Eastern Beach.

Western Beach

Equipment

The equipment is located at the beach entrance, with the beach attendants, and includes:

- Two types of amphibious wheelchairs (large and extra-large) that can float and move on sand.
- Beach wheelchairs with chest harnesses and lap straps for support.
- A free-standing hoist for transferring between wheelchairs.
- Beach crutches in various sizes.
- A flexible walkway for easy access from sand to sea, adjusted daily based on tides.

Accessible Toilets

Accessible toilets can be found at the eastern end of the beach by the car park and can be accessed at all times with a RADAR Key. You can apply for a RADAR Key from the SNDO. Beach attendants can also open the toilets during their working hours.

Parking & Transport

- x4 accessible parking bays located in the car park directly outside the restaurant.
- The paid Bus Routes 5 & 10 provide transport to the Frontier Terminus, near the entrance to the beach

Camp Bay

Equipment

The equipment is located at the middle of the beach, with the beach attendants and includes:

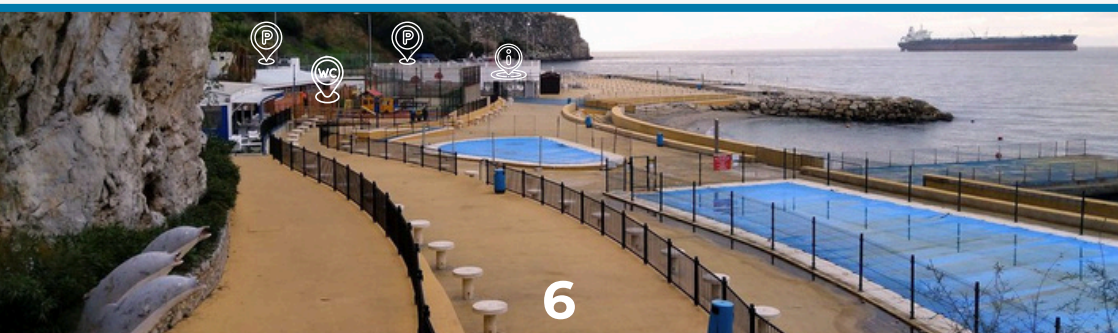
- Two types of amphibious wheelchairs built to float in the sea and move across the sand.
- Beach wheelchairs are with chest harness and lap strap for support.
- Free-standing hoist to transfer between wheelchairs.
- Beach crutches of varying sizes.
- Flexible walkway rolled out daily for smooth transfer from sand to sea. Adjusted daily based on tides.

Accessible Toilets

Accessible toilets can found behind the children's park and can be accessed at all times with a RADAR Key. You can apply for a RADAR Key from the SNDO. Beach attendants can also open the toilets during their working hours. The toilets are equipped with a ceiling hoist and electric changing table.

Parking & Transport

- x2 accessible parking bays located at the top of the hill by the Dolphins restaurant.
- x2 accessible parking bays located at the top of the hill by the lifeguard post.



Inaccessible Beaches

Little Bay

Little Bay is inaccessible because access to the sea has been deemed dangerous for persons with mobility impairments due to the risks that the natural landscape posses. Amphibious equipment is not available at Little Bay.

However, there is an accessible toilet and a ramp that goes all the way down to the beach for those that wish to visit this beach without going for a swim. There are accessible parking bays available here too and beach attendants on site.

Sandy Bay

Due to Gibraltar's natural topography, Sandy Bay is not an accessible beach. Please note the ramp that leads to Sandy Bay does not belong to the Government of Gibraltar.

Professionals continue to investigate possible accessibility investments. As a consequence of this, beach attendants are not available nor is the use of accessible equipment provided, as it is unsafe for persons with mobility impairments to access to Sandy Bay.

Additionally, the Government of Gibraltar acknowledges challenges with parking facilities at this beach and urges the public to use the available bus service free to residents.

GSLA
Pool Facilities

Europa Pool

Equipment

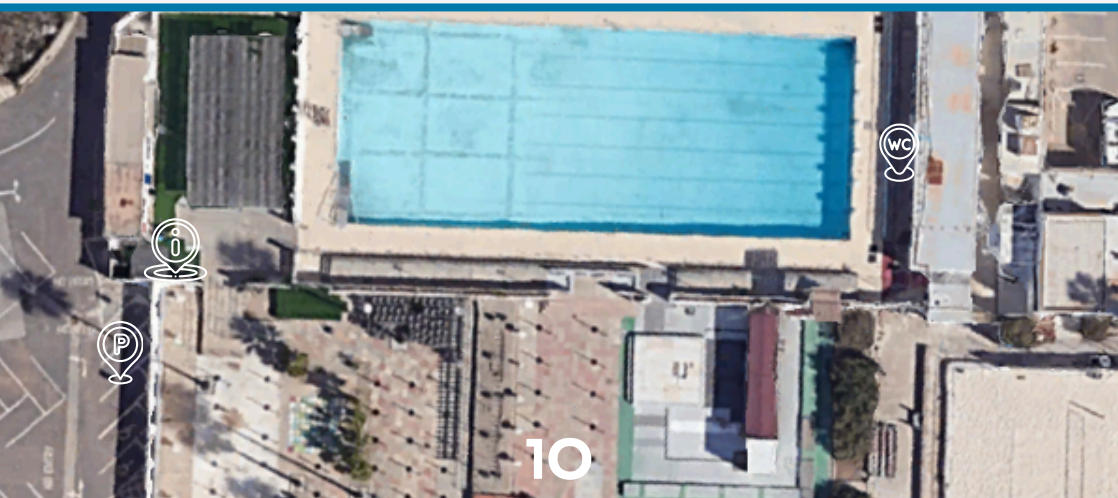
Europa Pool is equipped with a pool side hoist and a ramp that goes directly into the pool. Other types of amphibious equipment are not available at Europa Pool.

Accessible Toilets

Accessible toilets are available by the volleyball courts.
There are no accessible changing rooms at this facility.

Parking & Transport

There are x3 accessible parking bays outside the complex.



Bathing Pavillion

Equipment

The Bathing Pavillion is equipped with a pool side hoist for outdoor use. There is also a mobile hoist that can be used for any pool. Please ask the attendants for support. Other types of amphibious equipment are not available at the Bathing Pavilion.

Accessible Toilets

Accessible toilets are located by the food and drink bar. Changing rooms are also located adjacent to the toilets, equipped with a ceiling mounted hoist, variable height wash basin and electric changing table.

Parking & Transport

There are x4 accessible parking bays along Harbour Views Road. Transport is also available via the Bus Route 3, 8 and 9 stopping at GSLA Swimming Pool

Indoor Pool

Equipment

There is an electric mobile pool side hoist and the mobile hoist, located in the Bathing Paviliion can be used on request.

Accessible Toilets

Accessible toilets and accessible changing rooms are available by the indoor pool, and are equipped with a free standing versatile mobile hoist, a ceiling mounted hoist and electric changing tables.

Parking & Transport

x4 accessible parking bays along Harbour Views Road.
Transport is also available via the Bus Routes 3, 8 and 9 stopping at GSLA Swimming Pool.

Support

Beach Attendants

The Department of the Environment (DoE) provides accessible beach equipment and limited assistance (from April to September) to enable persons with disabilities or reduced mobility to access pool/ beach environments. This service is provided by trained Beach Attendants and is intended to support access to the beach.

Beach Attendants may provide assistance which includes:

- Preparing and positioning specialised beach accessibility equipment.
- Assisting with the transfer of the service user onto and off the equipment, where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
- Assisting with the movement of the equipment across the beach towards the shoreline where conditions allow.
- Providing general guidance on the safe use of the equipment.
- Beach Attendants will perform these duties in accordance with departmental procedures and operational safety guidelines.

For safety, operational, and liability reasons, the following limitations apply:

- Beach Attendants will not enter the water with service users under any circumstances.
- Beach Attendants are also compiling statistics on a daily basis to better inform the DoE & the SNDO of this summer's service requirements.
- Please report any issues to the Beach Attendants. They are also making notes of issues that arise so that the DofE and SNDO can resolve these matters and make the service better for everyone.
- Beach Attendants do not provide personal care, medical care, or supervision services.
- Beach Attendants are not responsible for monitoring or supervising service users in the water.
- The assistance provided does not replace the role of a carer, guardian, or responsible accompanying adult.

Carers Support

Community Care
Domiciliary Services Ltd

In partnership with Community Care Domiciliary Services Ltd, the Department of the Environment also provide carer support at some beaches and swimming pools over the bathing season.

Carers may provide assistance which includes:

- Assisting the Beach Attendant with the transfer of the service user onto and off the equipment, where it is safe and appropriate to do so.
- Assisting the Beach Attendant with the movement of the equipment across the beach towards the shoreline where conditions allow.
- Entering the water with service users.
- Staying and supporting service users whilst they are swimming.

For safety, operational, and liability reasons, the following limitations apply:

- Carers do not provide personal care, medical care, or supervision services.
- The assistance provided does not replace the role of a guardian, or responsible accompanying adult

Any issues with the carers should be reported to the Beach Attendant who can log your complaint and pass it on to the Manager. Alternatively, you can contact the Department of the Environment or the SNDO.

Support Hours

Little Bay

12:30 to 20:30

Camp Bay

10:00 to 20:00

Catalan Bay

11:30 to 19:30

Eastern Beach

12:00 to 20:00

Western Beach

12:00 to 20:00

GSLA Bathing Pavilion

10:00 to 20:00

Europa Pool

10:00 to 20:00
(11:00 to 20:00 on Wednesdays)

**All the above begin an hour earlier on the weekends and bank holidays except for Europa Pool & GSLA Bathing Pavilion.*

Equipment

Amphibious Beach Chairs

The Tiralo

The Oceanic

Amphibious wheelchairs are built to absorb the shock and discomfort caused by rugged terrain. The armrests and wheelchairs are comprised of floatation materials that enable balance while bathing in either the sea or the pool. Additionally, one large and one extra-large Amphibious wheelchair are available if requested in advance.

Free - Standing Electric Hoists

Free-standing electric hoists are available to allow for wheelchair users to be transferred between their day wheelchair, Amphibious or All-terrain wheelchairs as necessary.

All-Terrain Beach Chairs

All-terrain wheelchairs are built to absorb the shock and discomfort caused by rugged terrain without the ability to enter the water. This allows for wheelchair users to move along the beach without compromising the availability of the Amphibious wheelchairs. They are also equipped with chest harnesses, waist belts and seat belts that are suitable for most users.

Beach Crutches

Beach crutches are designed with a wider base than standard crutches. This allows persons with mobility difficulties who still walk to ensure that they can continue to access the support of a walking aid on the rough terrain.

Flexible Walkways

Flexible walkways are deigned to be rolled out on to the sand to allow for a more stable surface. This surface can help persons with mobility difficulties or in wheelchairs better navigate the sand. Please note that the flexible walkways that are used on the beaches may not be made available at full lenth if the tide or weather make it unsuitable to do so.

Contact Information

Contact & Support

The Department of the Environment is responsible for accessible equipment and beach attendance.

If you plan to visit the beach or pool and need to use any of the accessible beach equipment, although you can first turn up, it is advisable to contact them beforehand on:

Telephone: +350 200 71648
Email: ur&beaches@gibraltar.gov.gi.

Department of the Environment and Climate Change
HM Government of Gibraltar

If you come across any equipment that appears to be broken or damaged, please report it as soon as possible to the Beach Attendants or the Department of the Environment.

For any other matters, please contact the SNDO on:

Telephone: +350 200 42196
Email: sndo@gibraltar.gov.gi
Whatsapp: +350 56003195.

Supported Needs & Disability Office

The SNDO will then liaise with relevant departments to resolve any reported issues.

Your cooperation helps ensure a safe and functional environment for everyone.

HM Government of Gibraltar

Ministry of the Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change, Heritage, Education and Culture

HM Government of Gibraltar

Ministry of Equality, Employment, Culture and Tourism

Contact Information

+350 20042196

+350 56003195

sndo@gibraltar.gov.gi

www.disability.gov.gi