

## Unbroken promenade planned from Valletta to St George's Bay Next step - linking Dragonara Road to Pembroke



The widened promenade in Dragonara Road. Photo: Darrin Zammit Lupi

Joggers may in future be able to run all the way from Valletta to St George's Bay as the government plans to link the promenades that fringe 12 kilometres of the coast.

"Our ultimate aim is to have one promenade everyone can enjoy," Tourism Parliamentary Secretary Mario de Marco said.

He was speaking during a visit to the recently widened promenade in Dragonara Road, St Julians, which links St George's Bay to Paceville, St Julians and Sliema.

The next step, he said was linking the area to Pembroke through gardens and a heritage trail in the area in front of the Institute for Tourism Studies.

Resources Minister George Pullicino said the widening of the road in St Julians was part of the government's commitment to improve the infrastructure in touristic areas.

Mr Pullicino and Dr De Marco called on the public's cooperation to keep these areas clean and in good shape. Unfortunately, Mr Pullicino said, vandals had destroyed fittings in recently installed public toilets in Paceville.

## Comments

Joseph Stafrace (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

@ jn ebejer

A very good idea indeed. But wait a minute; our South is only suitable for fishfarms, oil tanking, Power Stations etc, and don't forget Minister Pullicino electoral district does not comprise Marsascala!!

C.ZARB (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

I did that too Mr Lawrence since its my 'l ewwel art' and its very close to the fierfdom of Sliema, where we like to walk but we cannot park the car anymore.

Its evident that we are talking here about people whose economic means does not allow them to go and take coffee and eat meals 3 - 4 times a week at one of the cafeterias/restaurants at the front. Considering that these people were already kicked out by Ghadira (no more BBQs despite Nature Trust said that bbqs doesnt hinder any blue flag's status ) and they cant enjoy Sliema sea front for more then 2 hours (then they have to move the car for the greater beings) the least we can do is closing an eye at Tax Xbiex.

As long as they allow me space for me and my partner to walk without having to stop then Im happy. Honestly I am more concerned about the hawkers in Paceville and Bugibba. Those tend to take vital space in areas where you can't afford of doing so. BTW I had never sat on those benches let alone brought tables with me.

L Pace (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

C Zarb

Try going for your walk Sunday around 6.30p.m.!!!

Nigel Lawrence (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

You forget to mention the price; or is money STILL no problem.

C Cassar (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

@Tim Toldo: If one runs on a hard surface one simply needs to use the correct footwear. All of the world's most famous marathons in any city are on hard surfaces and that's 42km each time run by many professionals who understand the impact on their bodies more than you ever will. I've been running for years and only on hard surfaces between 30-40km per week. In fact a hard surface provides the necessary impact resistance to strengthen bones and joints which is very necessary for the over 50's. As with any form of excercise too much too soon is not good and a slow build up is the key. Get the right equipment and there will be no problem.

Roderick Cutajar (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

What about the building on the other side of the bay close to Marina Hotel? This building is dilapidated and is scarring the otherwise nice scenery. Something should be done so that such buildings, especially in prime tourist sites, are not left in such disrepair. I'm sure someone is accountable for this mess. Same thing in the Strand area where you can find many dilapidated buildings in between new apartments and hotels.

Tim Toldo (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

Great project but you should know better than to promote it for "Joggers". Running on concrete puts almost 6 times more impact on your joints than on tarmac and running tracks. Unfortunately most people do not realise this until they get serious joint injuries in their later years when it is too late to rectify. The Times should not be encouraging a pastime which has a negative impact on health.

Peter Sullivan (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

Well done to the government for the plans to link the current promenades all the way from Valletta to St. George's Bay.

Investments of this sort should be encouraged and well received by the public.

The only problem is the state of these promenades after the official opening and familiar photo shoots. Not enough maintenance is forthcoming. There is not enough vigilance to stop dog owners from dirtying these promenades, and may I also add the rocks from between the Fortizza to Torri (dogs are allowed to run freely even though there are signs that do not allow this). All the wardens have to do is patrol the area early mornings between 6am and 9am. Where are the wardens that once regularly patrolled the Sliema promenade? Oh I forgot, they are too busy giving parking tickets to Sliema residents who don't find parking places for their cars.

j n ebejer (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

How about rehabilitating St Thomas Bay, Marsascala, into the sandy bay it used to be - without spending the money to bring sand from wherever with a resulting sandy beach three times longer than the speck of St George's? Then remove the illegal occupation of the area and develop that in the most scenic tourist route from Delimara, through Muxar and newly set park at Deutchevilla to Marsascala, through relatively unspoilt coastline. Have ferries from Marsaxlokk Bay to the small bay just under Delimata Fort and rehabilitate the historic sites.

Prime touristic product, eco friendly and sustainable as an alternative to concrete enclaves.

C.ZARB (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

I go for a walk at Tax Xbiex 2 - 3 times a week and yet I was never hindered by those people. Live and let people live Mr Pace

Galea. L (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

All development in the Sliema Paceville area while all polluting projects are dumped in the south!!!!!!

How about one promenade going all the way from Senglea - Cospicua - Vittoriosa - Kalkara - Rinella - SmartCity??? - Xghajra - Marsaskala - San Tumas - Muxar -

Delimara - Marsaxlokk - Birzebbuga?

As for vandals, have night vision cameras constantly monitoring public toilets and other sensitive areas with plain clothes police nearby who can be alerted by those monitoring the cameras to quickly swoop on the vandals.

Edwin Mifsud (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

This project comes at excellent timing.

Since we non Sliema (2nd class) citizens cannot go to Sliema by car or motorcycle, at least we will be able to jog it there.

L Pace (2 weeks, 5 days ago)

What about the Ta'Xbiex promenade! Over the weekend people are using this promenade as a b-b-q / picnic area, so much with tables and chairs. If one wants to sit on the benches and admire the lovely view of Valletta, this cannot be done as these benches also form part of the picnic area!

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