

Vigo to Leixões

The delivery run to the start: south out of the Ría de Vigo past the Islas Cíes, round Cabo Silleiro, across the Miño into Portugal and down the coast to Marina Porto Atlântico at Leixões, where the crew joins.

DATE	Friday 16 April 2027
DISTANCE	73.0 nm, 10 legs
TIME	12 h 25 min
DEPART	07:30 CEST from Vigo. At first light, 25 minutes before sunrise (07:53 CEST). A long day.
ARRIVE	About 18:55 WEST at Leixões. In the early evening, with about 1 hour 20 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:15 WEST).
TIDES	Range about 2.5 m; streams along the open coast are weak
WIND	April is unsettled: northerlies are the most likely, but Atlantic fronts still bring south-westerlies
BOAT	35 to 38 ft sailing yacht, 1.9 m draught, 6 kn under sail, 5.5 kn under engine
CREW	Skipper and 3 crew, 2 watches of 2. A 12-hour day



Track and waypoints 1 to 9, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 07:00 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ Wind from north to west, force 5 or less, not rising above 6 before 20:00 WEST.
- ☐ Significant wave height at Leixões 2.5 m or less, and swell not from the south-west.
- ☐ Visibility 2 nm or more, or radar and AIS working with a crew briefed for fog.

- ☐ Bar status on amn.pt shows Viana do Castelo and Póvoa de Varzim open, so both refuges can be used.
- ☐ Marina Porto Atlântico berth confirmed.

If the forecast fails, hop 7 nm to Baiona and start again the next morning. The crew joins at Leixões, so a day lost here moves the whole schedule.

Route and waypoints

Waypoints are planning positions in open water, checked against a 1:10m coastline to be at least 1.5 nm off land except at the harbour ends. Distances and courses are calculated from them. Plot every one on the current chart before use. Courses are true.

#	WAYPOINT	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	COURSE	LEG NM	TOTAL NM	ETA	NOTES
0	Real Club Náutico de Vigo	42°14.6'N	008°43.3'W				07:30 CEST	Depart. Call the marina.
1	Ría de Vigo, off Cabo Estai	42°11.8'N	008°50.0'W	241°T	5.7	5.7	08:32 CEST	Main channel. Ferries.
2	Canal del Sur	42°10.5'N	008°54.0'W	246°T	3.2	8.9	09:08 CEST	South of the Islas Cíes, end of the Cíes. CHECK ON THE CHART
3	West of Islas Estelas	42°07.8'N	008°56.5'W	214°T	3.3	12.2	09:40 CEST	Clear of Las Serralleiras. CHECK ON THE CHART
4	Off Cabo Silleiro	42°06.0'N	008°57.5'W	202°T	1.9	14.2	10:00 CEST	3 nm west of the light.
5	Off the Río Miño	41°52.0'N	008°57.0'W	178°T	14.0	28.2	11:20 WEST	Portugal. Clocks go back.
6	Off Montedor	41°45.0'N	008°57.0'W	180°T	7.0	35.2	12:30 WEST	Viana do Castelo is 5 nm.
7	Off Esposende	41°32.0'N	008°53.0'W	167°T	13.3	48.5	14:43 WEST	Outside the pot-buoy.
8	Off Póvoa de Varzim	41°22.5'N	008°49.5'W	165°T	9.9	58.4	16:22 WEST	Check the bar status Póvoa.
9	Leixões approach	41°10.0'N	008°43.5'W	160°T	13.3	71.7	18:35 WEST	Keep 0.5 nm from the coast on VHF 12.
10	Marina Porto Atlântico	41°11.0'N	008°42.3'W	042°T	1.3	73.0	18:55 WEST	VHF 9. Inside the harbour.

Tides and time

LW	07:18	1.0 m
HW	13:37	2.9 m
LW	19:38	1.1 m
LEIXÕES · FRI 16 APR · WEST (UTC+1)		
LW	06:16	0.9 m
HW	12:33	2.7 m
LW	18:34	1.0 m

Friday 16 April 2027, 5 days before the full moon: range about 2.5 m and growing.

The clock trap. Spain keeps CEST (UTC+2) and Portugal WEST (UTC+1). Keep the log in UTC and change the ship's clock at waypoint 5, off the Río Miño.

Leixões. The harbour is open at all states of tide; inbound craft keep to the east side of the channel.

Tide times are predictions made for this plan from the TICON-4 harmonic constants (DGFI-TUM) with the Neaps tide predictor, because the official 2027 tables were not yet published when it was written. Tested against the official APDL table for Leixões on 23 July 2026, the predicted times were within 8 minutes and the heights 0.1 to 0.2 m lower. Heights are above lowest astronomical tide. Check every time against the official 2027 table before sailing.

Daylight. Sunrise at Vigo 07:53 CEST. Sunset at Leixões 20:15 WEST.

Weather

- **April.** The summer Nortada is not yet set: northerlies are the most likely, but Atlantic fronts still cross this coast and bring south-westerly wind, rain and swell. A southerly closes the Portuguese bars.
- **Swell.** Atlantic swell from the north-west runs under the wind sea and decides whether the bars are open.
- **Fog.** Morning fog is common on this coast; less so in April than in summer.
- **Current.** The coastal current sets south, slightly in your favour. Plan for no help.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- AEMET coastal forecast, zone Aguas costeras de Pontevedra, and high-seas zones Finisterre and Porto.
- IPMA (Portugal) maritime bulletins and coastal warnings, ipma.pt, maritime section. The high-seas area for this coast is 17 Porto.

- NAVTEX Portugal (Monsanto): 518 kHz, station R, in English; 490 kHz, station G, in Portuguese. Check the station letters and broadcast times against the Admiralty List of Radio Signals. [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
- Bar status: Autoridade Marítima Nacional, “Estado das barras”, on the amn.pt home page, by zone. The online notice overrides the signals shown at the harbour.
- Navigation warnings: Instituto Hidrográfico local warnings, geoanavnet.hidrografico.pt.
- NAVTEX Coruña: 518 kHz, station D. Check the station letter on the receiver.

Hazards

- **Leaving the Ría de Vigo.** Commercial traffic, ferries to the Cíes and mussel rafts (bateas) line the ría. Keep to the main channel.
- **Canal del Sur.** Rocks off the south end of the Islas Cíes and off Monteferro. Pass mid-channel. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)
- **Cabo Silleiro.** Wind and sea build off the cape in a northerly. Keep 3 nm off.
- **Fishing gear.** Pot buoys and nets off northern Portugal, often poorly marked. Keep 3 nm off and a bow lookout.
- **River bars.** The Miño (A Guarda and Caminha) and Esposende are not for a 1.9 m yacht.
- **Leixões.** A commercial port with an oil terminal. No navigation within 0.5 nm of the oil monobuoy. When a tanker is approaching, stay out of the outer channel.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Baiona	4 nm from waypoint 3	Anything goes wrong in the first 2 hours	Monte Real Club de Yates, +34 986 385 000.
Viana do Castelo	5 nm from waypoint 6	Wind or sea rising mid-passage	Check bar status first. Capitania +351 258 070 553.
Póvoa de Varzim	3 nm from waypoint 8	Late, or crew tired	Check bar status on the day.
Leixões	Destination	Always available	Open day and night unless the port restricts entry.

Pilotage

LEAVING VIGO

1. Call the marina on VHF 9 before slipping.

- 2. Head west-south-west down the ría in the main channel; port traffic has priority.
- 3. Pass between Cabo Estai and the Cíes into the Canal del Sur, then south off Cabo Silleiro.

ENTERING LEIXÕES

- 1. Keep at least 0.5 nm from the oil buoy.
- 2. Call Leixões on VHF 12 at waypoint 9. Enter on the east side of the channel.
- 3. Call Marina Porto Atlântico on VHF 9 for a berth.

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Cíes, Monte del Faro	Fl(2) 8s, 185 m
Cabo Silleiro	Fl(2+1) 15s, 85 m, 17 M
Montedor	Fl(2), 103 m, 22 M: period CHECK ON THE CHART
Leça (Boa Nova)	Fl(3) 14s, 57 m
Leixões south breakwater	Fl G 4s, 17 m

Communications

Real Club Náutico de Vigo	VHF 9 · +34 638 037 201
Monte Real Club de Yates, Baiona	+34 986 385 000
Leixões harbour (Polícia Marítima)	VHF 12 and 16
Marina Porto Atlântico	VHF 9 · +351 229 964 895
Emergency, both countries	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 112
Portugal maritime emergencies	+351 214 401 919

Contingencies

- **Wind above force 6 or swell above 2.5 m.** Before waypoint 5, turn back to Baiona. After it, go to Viana if its bar is open, otherwise continue to Leixões.
- **Running late.** If waypoint 8 is passed after 17:30 WEST, decide between Póvoa de Varzim and a night entry to Leixões, which is lit and open.
- **Person overboard.** Shout, point, throw the danger buoy, press MOB, DSC distress alert, Mayday on 16.

Before leaving

- ☐ Forecasts read and logged before the go or no-go time

- ☐ Bar status checked on amn.pt for departure, destination and refuges
- ☐ Navigation warnings checked
- ☐ Waypoints entered and checked against the chart
- ☐ Ship's log started in UTC
- ☐ Crew briefing: route, watches, safety gear, MOB, fog
- ☐ Passports and boat papers aboard for Portugal

- ☐ Fuel for 13 hours under engine, plus a reserve
- ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 14 hours
- ☐ Lifejackets with crotch straps, jackstays rigged, harnesses
- ☐ Liferaft, grab bag, flares in date, handheld VHF
- ☐ Radar, AIS and navigation lights tested
- ☐ Passports and boat papers aboard

Sources

- This leg follows the earlier Vigo to Leixões plan on this site (July 2026), re-timed for April 2027.
- Leixões rules: Capitanía do Porto de Leixões, Edital 594/2018.
- Marinas: rcnauticovigo.com, mrcyb.es, marinaportootlantico.net.
- Tides: predictions from TICON-4 harmonic constants (Hart-Davis, Dettmering and Seitz, DGFI-TUM, 2025, doi 10.17882/109129) with Neaps (openwaters.io). Check against the Instituto Hidrográfico 2027 tables.
- Sunrise and sunset: calculated (NOAA method).
- Lights: The Lighthouse Directory (Rowlett), ibiblio.org/lighthouse, Portugal pages revised August 2024. Cross-check with the IH List of Lights, volume I.
- Pilot: RCC Pilotage Foundation, Atlantic Spain and Portugal, 9th edition (2025).

A planning exercise to RYA Yachtmaster standard. Not for navigation: use current official charts, the pilot book and the forecasts on the day.