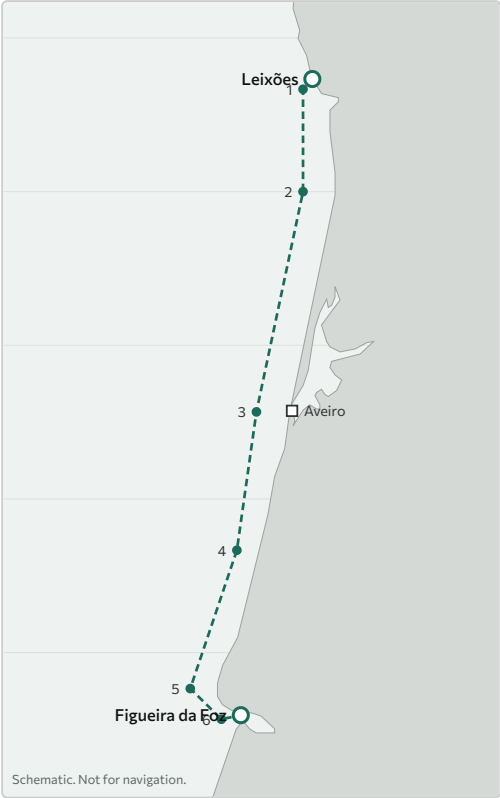


Leixões to Figueira da Foz

About 67 nautical miles south along a straight, low, sandy coast from Marina Porto Atlântico to Figueira da Foz, the first sheltered harbour south of Porto, on the first day of the voyage.

DATE	Saturday 17 April 2027
DISTANCE	67.5 nm, 7 legs
TIME	11 h 26 min
DEPART	08:05 WEST from Leixões. 1 hour 10 minutes after sunrise (06:53 WEST), timed to arrive on the young flood at Figueira.
ARRIVE	About 19:31 WEST at Figueira da Foz. Just after low water, as the flood starts, about 45 minutes before sunset (20:16 WEST).
TIDES	3 days before the full moon of 20 April: range growing toward springs, about 1.6 m
WIND	North to north-west most likely, but April is unsettled: a fair wind southbound when it holds
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



Track and waypoints 1 to 6, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 07:30 WEST on the day, after the morning forecasts and the first bar status update. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ Wind from north to west, force 5 or less, and not forecast to back south during the day.

- ☐ Swell at Figueira da Foz under 2 m, or over 2 m only with a period under 12 s, for the evening of arrival. The rescue plan for the port says swell over 2 m with a period over 12 s often gives heavy surf on the bar.
- ☐ Figueira da Foz bar shown open (“aberta a toda a navegação”) on amn.pt, and Nazaré open as the fallback.
- ☐ Visibility forecast at 2 nm or more. With fog forecast, go only with radar and AIS working.
- ☐ No navigation warning for the route.
- ☐ Crew, boat and safety gear checked against the list at the end of this plan.

If the forecast fails, stay in Leixões. The next day is planned as a sailing day, so a day lost here moves the whole schedule by 1 day; the rest day in Cascais can absorb it.

Route and waypoints

Waypoints are planning positions in open water, checked against a 1:10m coastline to be at least 2 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	Marina Porto Atlântico	41°11.0'N	008°42.3'W				08:05 WEST	Depart. Call the marina on VHF Leixões port on VHF
1	Leixões approach	41°10.0'N	008°43.5'W	222°T	1.3	1.3	08:20 WEST	Clear of the breakwater, clear the oil monobuoy.
2	Off Espinho	41°00.0'N	008°43.5'W	180°T	10.0	11.4	10:00 WEST	3.5 nm off. Stay outside
3	Off the Aveiro bar	40°38.5'N	008°49.5'W	192°T	22.0	33.3	13:40 WEST	3.5 nm off. Ships use 12.5 nm. Keep a lookout and go
4	Off Praia de Mira	40°25.0'N	008°52.0'W	188°T	13.6	47.0	15:56 WEST	3 nm off a long open
5	Off Cabo Mondego	40°11.5'N	008°58.0'W	199°T	14.3	61.3	18:19 WEST	3 nm west of the light
6	Figueira da Foz approach	40°08.5'N	008°54.0'W	134°T	4.3	65.5	19:02 WEST	1.3 nm west of the marina mast. Call POLIMAR CHECK ON THE
7	Figueira da Foz marina	40°08.9'N	008°51.5'W	078°T	2.0	67.5	19:31 WEST	Inside the river, north of the approach. CHECK ON THE

Tides and time

LEIXÕES · SAT 17 APR · WEST (UTC+1)

HW	00:48	3.0 m
LW	07:13	0.8 m
HW	13:26	2.9 m
LW	19:28	0.8 m

FIGUEIRA DA FOZ · SAT 17 APR · WEST (UTC+1)

HW	00:38	2.9 m
LW	07:02	0.7 m
HW	13:14	2.7 m
LW	19:17	0.8 m

From the Nazare station.

Saturday 17 April 2027 is 3 days before the full moon, so the range is growing toward springs: about 1.6 m at Leixões and 1.5 m at Figueira da Foz.

Figueira da Foz has no harmonic station in the TICON-4 set, so its times are from Nazaré, 30 nm south, where the tide arrives within a few minutes. [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

Why arrive at 19:30. The Figueira bar is worst with swell against the ebb, which runs at about 4 kn at springs and harder when the river is in flood. Low water is at about 19:15 WEST. Arriving 15 minutes later puts you at slack water as the flood starts: the stream is turning with you and the water is about to rise. Arriving later would be better for the bar but too close to sunset this early in the year. Never cross this bar on the ebb with a swell running.

Depth on arrival. About 0.9 m above chart datum at 19:30 and starting to rise. The marina takes boats up to 3 m draught. [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

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 Leixões 06:53 WEST. Sunset at Figueira da Foz 20:16 WEST.

Weather

- **April.** The summer pattern is not yet set: winds from north to north-west are the most likely, but Atlantic fronts still cross this coast in April and can bring a south-westerly shift with rain. A southerly is the wind to avoid for this leg: it closes the bars.

- **Nortada.** The steady summer north wind, driven by the Azores high and the heat low over Iberia, blows mainly from June to September and is often strongest in the afternoon. In April it is irregular.
- **Swell.** On this coast swell is 1 to 2 m on about 2 days in 3 through the year (Leixões rescue plan). Swell, not wind, decides whether the bars are open.
- **Fog.** Morning fog and haze are common in summer on this coast; expect some in spring too.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- 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.

Hazards

- **Leaving Leixões.** A commercial port with an oil terminal. Keep 0.5 nm from the oil monobuoy. A sandbank lies about 0.5 nm offshore south of the bar, and the bar is exposed to strong southerly wind and sea (Leixões rescue plan).
- **Fishing gear.** Pots and nets are common off northern and central Portugal and often poorly marked. Keep 3 nm or more off in daylight with a bow lookout.
- **Aveiro.** Ships use the Aveiro channel. The spring ebb runs at about 6 kn, up to 8 kn, and against a southerly sea the entrance can be impassable. Keep 3.5 nm off.
- **Beach seine nets (xávega).** Worked off the beaches near Figueira da Foz from March to October, with boats launched through the surf. Keep 1.5 nm off.
- **The Figueira da Foz bar.** A sandbank at the entrance breaks at some sea states and at lower tides, and small boats have been carried onto Cabedelo beach. North-west to south-west swell over 2 m with a period over 12 s often gives heavy surf. Southerly gales against the ebb can stop crossings.
- **The 11 m rule.** The Figueira da Foz and Nazaré bars have a state called “barra condicionada a 11 m”: only vessels longer than 11 m may cross. A 35 or 36 ft yacht (10.7 to 11.0 m) is shut out in that state; a 37 or 38 ft yacht (11.3 to 11.6 m) is not.
- **Speed.** 5 kn in the river, 3 kn in the docks and marina.

- **Beaches.** In the bathing season, no navigation within 300 m of a beach.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Leixões	Start	Anything goes wrong in the first 3 hours	Open day and night unless the Captain of the Port restricts entry.
Aveiro	3.5 nm from waypoint 3	Emergency only	Not a practical refuge for this boat: when the bar is conditioned it is closed to vessels under 15 m, and the ebb runs at 6 to 8 kn. Port Control VHF 13 and 74.
Nazaré	29 nm beyond Figueira da Foz	Figueira da Foz bar closed or conditioned on arrival	The most sheltered bar on this coast, used as a refuge when others close. Arrival would be after dark, about 01:00 WEST: lit, with no tidal restriction for this draught.
Figueira da Foz	Destination	Bar open	Port of refuge all year, subject to the bar state.

Pilotage

LEAVING LEIXÕES

1. Call Marina Porto Atlântico on VHF 9 before slipping, then Leixões port on VHF 12 and listen for traffic.
2. Leave the basin under engine. Keep clear of ships manoeuvring and of the oil terminal.
3. Clear the south breakwater (Fl G 4s) and head south-west to waypoint 1, keeping 0.5 nm from the oil monobuoy.
4. Turn south once clear of the sandbank south of the bar, and make sail.

ENTERING FIGUEIRA DA FOZ

1. At waypoint 6, watch the signal mast at the Forte de Santa Catarina. 2 black balls by day, or green-red-green-red lights at night: closed. 1 ball at half-hoist, or green-red-green flashing: conditioned to vessels over 11 m. No signal: open.
2. Call POLIMARFOZ on VHF 13, which is the mandatory watch here. The authority does not keep a permanent watch on VHF 16.
3. Watch the sea on the bar for several sets before committing. If it breaks across the entrance, do not enter: go on to Nazaré.
4. Enter mid-channel between the moles under engine, sails down, at no more than 5 kn once inside.
5. Call the marina for a berth and go to the reception pontoon. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Leça (Boa Nova)	Fl(3) 14s, 57 m
Leixões south breakwater	Fl G 4s, 17 m
Aveiro (Barra)	Fl(4) 13s, 66 m
Aveiro north mole	Fl R 3s, 12 m
Aveiro south mole	Fl G 3s, 15 m
Cabo Mondego	Fl 5s, 97 m
Figueira da Foz north mole	Red, 1.5 s on and 4.5 s off, 15 m
Figueira da Foz south mole	CHECK ON THE CHART

Communications

Marina Porto Atlântico	VHF 9 · +351 229 964 895 · 09:00 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 18:30
Leixões port	VHF 12 · Polícia Marítima duty +351 229 983 080 or +351 916 353 249, watching VHF 16 and 70
Capitania de Leixões	+351 220 165 050
Aveiro Port Control	VHF 13 and 74 · Polícia Marítima +351 234 397 246
Figueira da Foz harbour (Polícia Marítima)	VHF 13, call sign POLIMARFOZ · +351 233 070 602 or +351 916 352 629
Capitania da Figueira da Foz	+351 233 422 955
Figueira da Foz marina	+351 233 402 918 or +351 967 190 242 · summer hours 09:00 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 24:00 · VHF channel: CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
Emergency	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 112
MRCC Lisboa	+351 214 401 919 · mrcc.lisboa@marinha.pt · watches VHF 16 around the clock

Contingencies

- **Figueira da Foz bar closed, conditioned, or breaking.** Do not try it. Continue 29 nm to Nazaré, a night arrival at about 01:00 WEST into a lit harbour, or heave to off Figueira in open water until the next morning's flood.
- **Wind backs south or swell builds.** Before waypoint 3, turn back to Leixões, which stays open. After it, carry on and decide between Figueira and Nazaré from the bar status.
- **Fog.** Fog routine: navigation lights, sound signal (1 long, 2 short under sail), radar and AIS watch, lifejackets on, liferaft ready. Move out to 4 nm to stay clear of pot buoys, and slow down.
- **Engine failure.** Do not try a bar under sail. Call the Polícia Marítima for a tow in, or stand off until help arrives.
- **Running late.** If waypoint 5 is passed after 18:30 WEST, the young flood is still running until about 21:00, but light will fail. Enter only if the bar is calm; otherwise go on to Nazaré.

- **Person overboard.** Shout, point, throw the danger buoy, press MOB on the plotter, DSC distress alert, Mayday on 16. Recover under engine.

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
-
- ☐ 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

- Bar rules, signals and VHF: Capitania da Figueira da Foz, Edital 490/2025; Capitania da Nazaré, Edital 171/2026; Capitania de Aveiro, Edital 102/2016 (amn.pt).
- Bar behaviour, contacts and seine nets: Plano de Salvamento Marítimo, Capitania da Figueira da Foz (2025); Capitania de Leixões (2025, under revision); Capitania de Aveiro (amn.pt).
- Marinas: marinaportoatlantico.net; portofigueiradafoz.pt (náutica de recreio).
- Bar status: Autoridade Marítima Nacional, Estado das barras, amn.pt.
- 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.