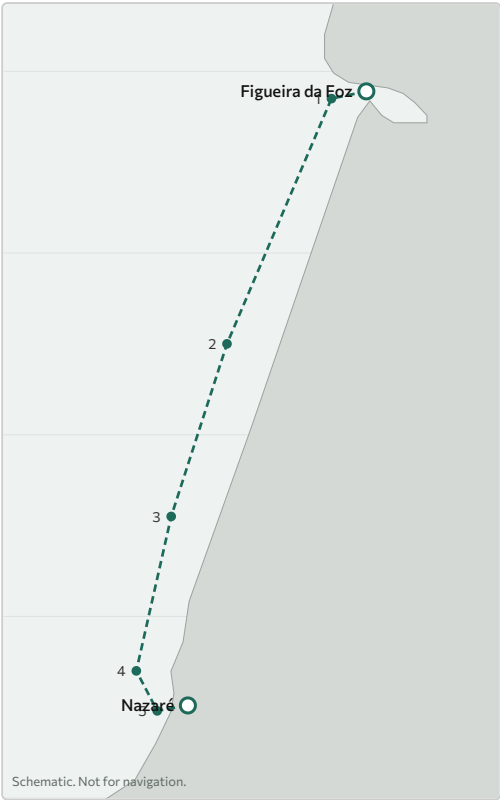


Figueira da Foz to Nazaré

About 40 nautical miles south past the pine forest of Leiria and São Pedro de Moel to Nazaré, whose harbour sits at the head of the Nazaré Canyon.

DATE	Sunday 18 April 2027
DISTANCE	39.6 nm, 6 legs
TIME	6 h 50 min
DEPART	12:15 WEST from Figueira da Foz. 1 hour 45 minutes before high water (14:00 WEST), on the flood, so the bar never has the ebb running against the swell.
ARRIVE	About 19:05 WEST at Nazaré. About 1 hour before low water, with about 1 hour 10 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:17 WEST).
TIDES	2 days before the full moon: range about 1.8 m and growing
WIND	North to north-west most likely: a fair wind southbound
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 5.

Go or no-go

Decide at 10:30 WEST, after the morning bar status update. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ Figueira da Foz bar open, and not breaking when you look at it before slipping.
- ☐ Wind from north to west, force 5 or less.
- ☐ Swell under 2.5 m from the west or north-west. Nazaré handles more than this, but the Figueira bar does not.
- ☐ Nazaré bar open on amn.pt.

☐ Visibility 2 nm or more.

If Figueira's bar is the problem, wait for the next high water (about 02:15 WEST) or the next day. Nazaré is a short leg, so a day's wait costs the rest day planned for 19 April and nothing more.

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	Figueira da Foz marina	40°08.9'N	008°51.5'W				12:15 WEST	Depart on the last of POLIMARFOZ on VHF
1	Figueira da Foz approach	40°08.5'N	008°54.0'W	258°T	2.0	2.0	12:38 WEST	Clear of the bar. Turn
2	Off Pedrógão	39°55.0'N	009°01.5'W	203°T	14.7	16.6	15:05 WEST	3 nm off. Seine nets and beaches.
3	Off São Pedro de Moel	39°45.5'N	009°05.5'W	198°T	10.0	26.6	16:45 WEST	3 nm west of the Pen (Fl(2) 15s).
4	West of the Pontal	39°37.0'N	009°08.0'W	193°T	8.7	35.3	18:12 WEST	2.4 nm off the Nazaré Guilhim rocks. Praia de north-east: keep off it
5	Nazaré approach	39°34.8'N	009°06.5'W	152°T	2.5	37.8	18:39 WEST	Approach from the west CAPIMARNAZARÉ or CHECK ON THE CHART
6	Nazaré harbour	39°35.1'N	009°04.3'W	080°T	1.7	39.6	19:05 WEST	North basin, recreational Position approximate CHECK ON THE CHART

Tides and time

FIGUEIRA DA FOZ · SUN 18 APR · WEST (UTC+1)

HW	01:31	3.0 m
LW	07:49	0.6 m
HW	14:00	2.9 m
LW	20:03	0.6 m

From the Nazare station.

NAZARÉ · SUN 18 APR · WEST (UTC+1)

HW	01:31	3.0 m
LW	07:49	0.6 m
HW	14:00	2.9 m
LW	20:03	0.6 m

Sunday 18 April 2027, 2 days before the full moon. Range about 1.8 m.

Leaving before high water. High water at Figueira da Foz is at about 14:00 WEST (from the Nazaré station: no Figueira station in the TICON-4 set). Leaving at 12:15, the flood is still running in against you on the bar, which flattens the sea there; the ebb, which steepens it, has not started. Leaving at the slack itself would bring the arrival too close to sunset.

[CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

Arriving before low water. Low water at Nazaré is at about 20:03 WEST, 0.6 m above chart datum. Nazaré's entrance is deep, with the canyon running almost to the moles, and this draught has no tidal restriction. [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 Figueira da Foz 06:54 WEST. Sunset at Nazaré 20:17 WEST.

Weather

- **April.** North to north-west winds are the most likely. A front with a south-westerly is the main risk.
- **The Nazaré Canyon.** The canyon runs up to about 1 km off Nazaré. It bends and focuses westerly and north-westerly swell onto Praia do Norte, north of the headland, where the waves are much bigger than anywhere else on the coast. The harbour, south of the headland, is sheltered by the headland and by the shape of the canyon.
- **Swell and fog** as for leg 2.

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

- **The Figueira da Foz bar on the way out.** Same hazards as on arrival: look before you go. **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.
- **Seine nets** off the beaches from Figueira south past Pedrógão, March to October. Keep 1.5 nm off.
- **The Pontal and the Guilhim.** Rocks lie off the Nazaré headland (the Pontal), chiefly the Guilhim. Waypoint 4 keeps you 2.4 nm off.
- **Praia do Norte.** Do not cut inside waypoint 4. The canyon makes the sea north of the headland far rougher than the forecast for the coast.
- **Nazaré harbour rules.** Anchoring inside the port is prohibited. Anchoring in the bay needs prior approval from the harbour authority. Speed 10 kn between the moles, 3 kn in the outer harbour.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Figueira da Foz	Start	Within the first hour	Re-enter only on the flood and only if the bar is calm.
Nazaré	Destination	Always the first choice on this stretch	Port of refuge all year. Often open when other bars are closed. No VTS.
São Martinho do Porto	5 nm beyond Nazaré	Not recommended	Shallow entrance about 200 m wide, strongly affected by westerly swell and often conditioned or closed.
Peniche	25 nm beyond Nazaré	Nazaré closed, which is rare	Port of refuge all year. Dangerous bar in westerly and southerly swell.

Pilotage

LEAVING FIGUEIRA DA FOZ

1. Call POLIMARFOZ on VHF 13 before slipping.
2. Leave on the last of the flood, mid-channel, under engine, at no more than 5 kn in the river.

3. Clear the moles and head west to waypoint 1 before turning south, to stay outside the breaking sandbank.

4. Make sail once in open water.

ENTERING NAZARÉ

1. From waypoint 4, close the harbour from the west, keeping south of the Pontal.
2. Look at the signals. Closed: a cone point down over a cone point up by day, or green-red-green vertical lights at night. Conditioned to vessels over 11 m or 35 m: see the Edital.
3. Call CAPIMARNAZARÉ on VHF 13, the mandatory watch. VHF 9 is the recreational channel.
4. Enter between the moles (north mole red light, south mole green) at no more than 10 kn, then 3 kn in the outer harbour.
5. Go to the recreational pontoons in the north basin, run through the Clube Naval da Nazaré.

Book ahead. [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Cabo Mondego	Fl 5s, 97 m
Penedo da Saudade (São Pedro de Moel)	Fl(2) 15s, 55 m
Nazaré, Forte de São Miguel	White, 2 s on and 1 s off, 50 m
Nazaré north mole	Red, 2 s on and 3 s off, 9 m
Nazaré south mole	Green, 2 s on and 3 s off, 9 m

Communications

Figueira da Foz harbour (Polícia Marítima)	VHF 13, call sign POLIMARFOZ · +351 233 070 602
Nazaré harbour	VHF 13 (mandatory watch), call signs CAPIMARNAZARÉ and POLIMARNAZARÉ · VHF 9 recreational
Capitania da Nazaré	+351 262 070 620
Polícia Marítima, Nazaré	+351 262 070 632 or +351 918 498 031 (24 h)
Nazaré lifeboat station	+351 262 070 929
Clube Naval da Nazaré (berths)	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 bar breaking at departure.** Do not go. Wait for the next high water or the next day.

- **Wind or swell rising on the way.** Carry on to Nazaré: it is the most sheltered harbour on this coast. Do not turn back to Figueira on the ebb.
- **Fog.** Fog routine as for leg 2. The approach to Nazaré from the west is in deep water with no off-lying dangers south of the Pontal.
- **Engine failure.** Sail to Nazaré and call the Polícia Marítima for a tow in from the approach.
- **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
-
- ☐ Fuel for 7 hours under engine, plus a reserve
 - ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 8 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

- Nazaré harbour rules, signals and VHF: Capitania da Nazaré, Edital 171/2026 (amn.pt).
- Nazaré harbour behaviour, the Pontal rocks and contacts: Plano de Salvamento Marítimo do Porto da Nazaré (amn.pt).
- Figueira da Foz: Capitania da Figueira da Foz, Edital 490/2025 and Plano de Salvamento Marítimo (amn.pt).
- São Martinho do Porto: Capitania da Nazaré, Edital 171/2026 and rescue plan.
- The Nazaré Canyon: summary in Wikipedia, "Nazaré Canyon" (secondary source).
- 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.