

Sines to Sagres

The longest day in Portugal: about 65 nautical miles down the Costa Vicentina, a natural park with no harbour for 60 nm, round Cabo de São Vicente and Ponta de Sagres into the lee of the cape at Baleeira, the harbour of Sagres. Lagos, 14 nm further, would mean arriving after sunset this early in the year.

DATE	Monday 26 April 2027
DISTANCE	66.4 nm, 8 legs
TIME	11 h 28 min
DEPART	06:30 WEST from Sines. At first light, 15 minutes before sunrise (06:46 WEST). This coast has no shelter, so start early.
ARRIVE	About 17:58 WEST at Sagres. With about 2 hours 20 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:20 WEST).
TIDES	6 days after the full moon: springs easing, range about 2.0 m
WIND	North to north-west most likely: a fair wind down the coast, often stronger off Cabo de São Vicente
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 long day: plan meals and rest



Track and waypoints 1 to 7, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Take a first look the evening before and decide at 05:30 WEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ Wind from north to west, force 5 or less on the coast, and not more than force 6 forecast off Cabo de São Vicente.

- ☐ Swell under 2.5 m. Lagos's harbour authority says south-west swell affects the whole area severely.
- ☐ Visibility 3 nm or more: there is nowhere to stop for 60 nm if fog comes in.
- ☐ Crew rested: this is an 11-hour day.
- ☐ No navigation warning for the route or the traffic scheme.

If the forecast fails, stay in Sines: a rest day was taken there on 25 April, and a second day costs the rest day at Sagres. The Costa Vicentina is not a coast to be caught on.

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	Sines marina	37°57.0'N	008°52.1'W				06:30 WEST	Depart at sunrise.
1	Sines approach	37°56.3'N	008°52.3'W	193°T	0.7	0.7	06:39 WEST	Clear of the port. He
2	Off Porto Covo	37°50.0'N	008°51.0'W	171°T	6.4	7.1	07:42 WEST	3 nm off the Ilha do F
3	Off Cabo Sardão	37°36.0'N	008°51.5'W	182°T	14.0	21.1	10:03 WEST	2.5 nm off the light (C
4	Off Aljezur	37°20.0'N	008°55.0'W	190°T	16.3	37.4	12:45 WEST	3.5 nm off. No shelte Sagres.
5	Off Cabo de São Vicente	37°00.5'N	009°02.5'W	197°T	20.4	57.8	16:09 WEST	2 nm off. Inshore of t Wind and sea often b CHECK ON THE
6	South of Ponta de Sagres	36°58.0'N	008°57.0'W	120°T	5.1	62.8	17:00 WEST	2 nm south of the po into the lee of the ca
7	Baleeira approach	36°59.6'N	008°54.8'W	048°T	2.4	65.2	17:35 WEST	South-east of the br CHECK ON THE
8	Baleeira, Sagres	37°00.6'N	008°55.5'W	331°T	1.1	66.4	17:58 WEST	Anchor in the bay no breakwater, or moor port allows. Position CHECK ON THE

Tides and time

SINES • MON 26 APR • WEST (UTC+1)

LW	00:20	1.0 m
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HW	06:34	2.5 m
LW	12:24	1.1 m
HW	18:50	2.6 m
SAGRES · MON 26 APR · WEST (UTC+1)		
LW	00:05	1.0 m
HW	06:22	2.6 m
LW	12:09	1.2 m
HW	18:37	2.7 m

From the Lagos Algarve station.

Monday 26 April 2027, 6 days after the full moon: springs easing, range about 2.0 m.

Sagres uses the Lagos station, 14 nm east. The Baleeira anchorage has good depth; tide makes little difference to it.

Streams round the capes. Expect a set round Cabo de São Vicente and Ponta de Sagres; there is little tidal stream along the open coast. [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 Sines 06:46 WEST. Sunset at Sagres 20:20 WEST.

Weather

- **The Costa Vicentina.** 60 nm of cliffs and beaches with no harbour a yacht can use. Porto Covo and Vila Nova de Milfontes are fair-weather shelters only, and the Milfontes bar is badly silted and dangerous.
- **Cabo de São Vicente.** A northerly accelerates round the cape and the sea is steeper there. Once round Ponta de Sagres the wind usually eases and the sea flattens in the lee.
- **The Algarve.** South-facing, sheltered from the north. Afternoon sea breezes from the south-west are common in summer.

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.
- IPMA high-seas area 18 São Vicente.

Hazards

- **No shelter.** From Sines to Sagres there is no harbour a 1.9 m yacht can rely on. Decide at Sines, not at sea.
- **Traffic off Cabo de São Vicente.** The Cabo de São Vicente traffic separation scheme lies offshore. This route stays inshore of it, 2 nm off the cape. A sailing yacht must not impede ships in a lane and crosses at right angles if it must cross. Check the scheme's limits on the chart. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)
- **Fishing gear.** Pots and nets all along the coast, and fishing boats off the capes.
- **Protected areas.** The Costa Vicentina natural park has no-fishing zones round the Ilha do Pessegueiro, Cabo Sardão, the Ilhotes do Martinhal and Cabo de São Vicente.
- **Ponta da Piedade.** Sea stacks and arches off the point. Keep 1 nm off; look at them from there.
- **Baleeira.** A fishing harbour and a recognised refuge for recreational craft, sheltered from north and west by Ponta de Sagres but open to the south and south-east. Berths for yachts in the harbour could not be checked. In a southerly, move on to Lagos. [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Sines	Start	Within the first 2 hours	An unrestricted shelter.
Porto Covo, Vila Nova de Milfontes	At waypoints 2 and 3	Not for this boat	Fair-weather shelters only. The Milfontes bar is badly silted and dangerous.
Baleeira (Sagres)	Destination	First choice	A recognised refuge for recreational craft, in the lee of Ponta de Sagres.
Lagos	14 nm east of Baleeira	Wind going south	Marina, entrance dredged to 3.0 m at low water springs, +351 282 770 210.

Pilotage

LEAVING SINES

1. Leave the recreational port under engine at no more than 5 kn.
2. Head south, keeping well clear of the oil-port breakwaters.
3. Make sail and settle the watch: it is a long day.

INTO BALEEIRA

1. Round Ponta de Sagres 2 nm off and head north-east into the bay.
2. Approach the breakwater head from the south-east, watching for fishing boats.
3. Anchor north-east of the breakwater in sand, clear of the harbour entrance and moorings, or call the Delegação Marítima de Sagres (+351 282 624 210) about a berth.

[CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Cabo de Sines	Fl(2) 15s, 56 m
Milfontes	Fl 3s
Cabo Sardão	Fl(3) 15s, 68 m
Cabo de São Vicente	86 m. Characteristic: CHECK ON THE CHART
Ponta de Sagres	Red, 1 s on and 1 s off, 53 m
Baleeira breakwater	Flash every 4 s, white or red by direction CHECK ON THE CHART
Ponta da Piedade	Fl 7s, 51 m
Lagos east mole	Fl G 5s
Lagos west mole	Fl(2) R 6s

Communications

Sines port control	VHF 12 and 16
Capitania de Lagos	+351 282 788 464 · Lagos harbour VHF 9 and 16
Delegação Marítima de Sagres	+351 282 624 210
Sagres lifeboat station	+351 282 625 221 or +351 919 670 204
Polícia Marítima, Lagos	+351 916 613 499
Marina de Lagos	+351 282 770 210 · marina@marlagos.pt · VHF channel: CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
AMN working channels	AMN channels on this coast: VHF 16 calling, 11 Capitania and Polícia Marítima working, 67 search and rescue working.
Emergency	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 112

Contingencies

- **Behind time at Cabo Sardão.** If waypoint 3 is passed after 10:30 WEST, turn back to Sines (2.5 hours).
- **Wind rising off the cape.** Reef before waypoint 5. Once round Ponta de Sagres, Baleeira is 2 nm away in the lee.
- **Fog.** Fog routine. Stay 3 nm off the coast and keep radar and AIS watch for ships rounding the cape.
- **Engine failure.** Sail on: the wind is fair. Anchor off Baleeira in the lee of the cape.
- **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
- ☐ Meals for an 11-hour day prepared the night before

- ☐ Fuel for 13 hours under engine, plus a reserve
- ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 13 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

- Costa Vicentina no-fishing zones: PNSACV leaflet, Capitania do Porto de Sines (amn.pt).

- Sines and Milfontes: Plano de Salvamento Marítimo and Edital 245/2016, Capitania do Porto de Sines (amn.pt).
- Lagos and Sagres: Capitania do Porto de Lagos page, Edital 173/2016 and Plano de Salvamento Marítimo (amn.pt).
- Marina: marinadelagos.pt.
- Lights south of Sines: The Lighthouse Directory, Southern Portugal (ibiblio.org/lighthouse/pts.htm).
- Bar status: Marinha, Estado das Barras, marinha.pt (all bars on this stretch shown open in October 2026).
- Local warnings: Instituto Hidrográfico, geoanavnet.hidrografico.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.