

Chipiona to Barbate

South past the old city of Cádiz and the long beaches of the Costa de la Luz, wide round Cabo Trafalgar and its shoal, to Barbate, the tuna-fishing port at the western end of the Strait.

DATE	Friday 30 April 2027
DISTANCE	50.8 nm, 7 legs
TIME	8 h 45 min
DEPART	09:30 CEST from Chipiona. 1 hour 55 minutes after sunrise (07:34 CEST).
ARRIVE	About 18:15 CEST at Barbate. With about 2 hours 55 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 21:10 CEST).
TIDES	2 days after the last quarter: neaps, range about 1.9 m at Cádiz and 0.8 m at Tarifa
WIND	North-west or west most likely; a Levanter (east) is common near the Strait
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 08:30 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ Wind force 5 or less, and no Levanter above force 5 forecast for the Trafalgar area: off the cape it raises a short steep sea.
- ☐ Swell under 2 m.
- ☐ 2027 tuna net positions plotted from the Avisos a los Navegantes.

- ☐ No firing notice for the Rota, Cádiz or Sierra del Retín (Barbate) ranges.
- ☐ Visibility 2 nm or more.

If the weather is wrong, stay in Chipiona. Barbate has a weather day planned on 1 May; a day lost here uses 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	Chipiona marina	36°45.0'N	006°25.7'W				09:30 CEST	Depart.
1	Chipiona approach	36°43.5'N	006°26.8'W	211°T	1.7	1.7	09:50 CEST	South-west, inside the bay. Pilot out by chart.
2	West of Cádiz	36°32.0'N	006°24.0'W	169°T	11.7	13.4	11:48 CEST	4 nm west of the city, inside the bay, on its west side.
3	Off Sancti Petri	36°21.0'N	006°19.0'W	160°T	11.7	25.1	13:45 CEST	5 nm off.
4	West of Conil, outside the tuna nets	36°16.0'N	006°17.0'W	162°T	5.3	30.4	14:37 CEST	7 nm off Conil, outside the bay, may reach. Check the chart. CHECK ON THE CHART
5	South-west of Cabo Trafalgar	36°08.5'N	006°06.0'W	130°T	11.6	42.0	16:34 CEST	Outside the Bajo de la Isla (depth 1.2 m) and the race of the wind.
6	Barbate approach	36°10.3'N	005°57.0'W	076°T	7.5	49.5	17:55 CEST	West of the entrance to the bay, Barbate tuna net, laid out by chart. CHECK ON THE CHART
7	Barbate harbour	36°10.8'N	005°55.5'W	069°T	1.3	50.8	18:15 CEST	Breakwater head, from the bay. Waiting pontoon inside the harbour.

Tides and time

CHIPIONA · FRI 30 APR · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	05:47	1.3 m
HW	12:06	2.4 m
LW	18:00	1.5 m

From the Cadiz station.

TARIFA · FRI 30 APR · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	05:19	0.6 m
HW	11:13	1.0 m
LW	17:38	0.5 m
HW	23:48	1.0 m

Friday 30 April 2027, 2 days after the last quarter: neaps.

Barbate lies between 2 tidal regimes. The Atlantic tide at Cádiz has a range of about 1.9 m today; at Tarifa, inside the Strait, it is about 0.8 m. Barbate's range lies between them and its times are close to Cádiz's. The TICON-4 set has no Barbate station, so both tables are shown.

[CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

Streams. Off Cabo Trafalgar the race (the Riza del Cabo) runs south-west from the cape to the Bajo de la Aceitera. Waypoint 5 keeps you outside it.

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 Chipiona 07:34 CEST. Sunset at Barbate 21:10 CEST.

Weather

- **Levanter and Poniente.** Near the Strait the wind is usually either east (Levanter) or west (Poniente), funnelled and stronger than further out. A Levanter blows offshore here and can be strong and gusty off the capes.
- **Cabo Trafalgar.** Wind and sea build off the cape and over the Aceitera. Keep outside waypoint 5 in any wind.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- AEMET coastal bulletins, aemet.es, predicción marítima: “Costa de Andalucía Occidental y Ceuta” and “Costa de Andalucía Oriental y Melilla”. Coastal text updated at 12:00 and 20:00 local time. AEMET warns at force 7 or more, sea 3 m or more, or visibility under 1 nm.
- NAVTEX Tarifa: 518 kHz, station G, at 0100, 0500, 0900, 1300, 1700 and 2100 UTC, in English; 490 kHz, station T, in Spanish.
- Salvamento Marítimo coastal stations broadcast forecasts on VHF. Channels and times:

[CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

- AEMET zone Aguas costeras de Cádiz, sub-areas Del Guadalquivir al Cabo Roche and De Cabo Roche a Punta Camarinal (área Trafalgar).

Hazards

- **Cabo Trafalgar.** The Bajo de la Aceitera, about 1.8 nm south-west of the cape, has a least depth of 1.2 m. A passage between the shoal and the cape exists but should not be attempted. The race runs over it.
- **Tuna nets (almadrabas).** Large fixed nets are laid off this coast in spring and summer and may extend up to 7 nm seaward. Off Barbate, nets are laid 1 nm south of the harbour entrance between April and August. In Spanish waters a net is marked by day with a white flag bearing a black "A" at its centre and outer end, and by night with a red light over a white light at the outer end and 2 white lights in a vertical line at the centre, visible about 2 miles. Get the 2027 positions from the Avisos a los Navegantes before sailing and plot them.
- **Firing ranges.** The Sierra del Retín military range is on the coast near Barbate, and there may be exercise areas off Rota and Cádiz. Check the notices before sailing.
- **Off Cádiz.** Rocks and shoals off the west side of the city. Waypoint 2 keeps you 4 nm off.
- **Sancti Petri and Conil.** Sancti Petri's 2.7 km access channel has leading lights, but its depth could not be confirmed for 1.9 m. Conil is a small fishing harbour. Neither is planned as a refuge.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Chipiona	Start	Within the first hour	Marina, +34 856 109 711.
Cádiz (Puerto América) or Puerto Sherry	6 to 9 nm from waypoint 2	Weather turns early	Puerto América +34 856 580 002. Puerto Sherry VHF 9, 3.5 m, +34 956 870 103.
Barbate	Destination	First choice	313 berths, waiting pontoon, fuel. +34 856 108 399.

Pilotage

LEAVING CHIPIONA

1. Leave the harbour and head south-west by chart, inside the Salmedina shoal.
2. Head south to pass 4 nm west of Cádiz, listening on VHF 16 for Cádiz traffic.

3. Make sail.

ENTERING BARBATE

1. From waypoint 5, head east toward Barbate, keeping north of the tuna net laid south of the entrance. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)
2. Watch for tuna boats working the net.
3. Enter round the breakwater head (Fl(2) WR 7s on the lighthouse; red light on the head) and go to the waiting pontoon.
4. Call the port office (+34 856 108 399 or +34 600 140 312) for a berth. VHF channel:

[CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Chipiona	Fl 10s, 69 m
Cádiz, Castillo de San Sebastián	Fl(2) 10s, 39 m
Sancti Petri	Fl 3s, 20 m
Cabo Roche	Fl(4) 24s, 45 m
Cabo Trafalgar	Fl(2+1) 15s, 51 m
Barbate	Fl(2) WR 7s, 22 m

Communications

Chipiona marina	+34 856 109 711
Barbate port	+34 856 108 399 or +34 600 140 312 · barbated@puertosdeandalucia.es
Club Náutico de Conil	+34 956 232 967
Sancti Petri port office	+34 856 101 096
Emergency	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 112
Salvamento Marítimo (Spain)	Rescue coordination centres for Cádiz, Tarifa, Algeciras and Almería: numbers CHECK THE PILOT BOOK

Contingencies

- **Levanter rising off Trafalgar.** Do not round the cape into it. Turn back to Cádiz or Puerto Sherry and wait.
- **Tuna net in the way.** Go round the outer end, which carries the red-over-white light at night. Never cross a net.
- **Fog.** Fog routine. The approaches to the Strait are busy: radar and AIS watch throughout.

- **Engine failure.** Sail on and call Barbate for a tow in from the approach; do not sail into the harbour among the nets.
- **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
- ☐ Spanish notices to mariners (Avisos a los Navegantes) checked for the route
- ☐ Waypoints entered and checked against the chart
- ☐ Ship's log started in UTC
- ☐ Crew briefing: route, watches, safety gear, MOB, fog
- ☐ 2027 tuna net positions plotted

- ☐ Fuel for 9 hours under engine, plus a reserve
- ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 10 hours
- ☐ Lifejackets with crotch straps, jackstays rigged, harnesses
- ☐ Liferaft, grab bag, flares in date, handheld VHF
- ☐ Radar, AIS and navigation lights tested
- ☐ Passports, boat papers and insurance aboard

Sources

- Cabo Trafalgar, the Aceitera and tuna nets: NGA Pub 131 (2025), pages 2, 4 and 7.
- Strait, Tarifa, Algeciras and Gibraltar: NGA Pub 131, Sailing Directions (Enroute) Western Mediterranean, 19th edition (2025), sector 1.
- NAVTEX: NGA Pub 117, chapter 3; AEMET maritime guide (2016).
- AEMET coastal zones: aemet.es, predicción marítima.
- Spanish ports: puertosdeandalucia.es port pages (positions, phones, berths).
- Lights: The Lighthouse Directory, Spain (ibiblio.org/lighthouse/esanw.htm and esane.htm) and Gibraltar (gib.htm).
- 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.