

Gibraltar to Málaga

About 67 nautical miles: round Europa Point and north-east along the Costa del Sol, past Estepona, Marbella and Fuengirola, to the city of Málaga.

DATE	Tuesday 4 May 2027
DISTANCE	67.8 nm, 9 legs
TIME	11 h 39 min
DEPART	08:00 CEST from Gibraltar. 35 minutes after sunrise (07:26 CEST). A long leg.
ARRIVE	About 19:39 CEST at Málaga. With about 1 hour 30 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 21:08 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.5 to 0.8 m: no tidal gates in the Mediterranean
WIND	Poniente (west) is fair; a Levanter (east) is on the nose. Afternoon sea breezes along the coast
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 8, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

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

- ☐ No Levanter above force 5: it would be on the nose for 65 nm, with a short steep sea.
- ☐ No westerly gale: down-draughts east of the Rock are violent in a strong Poniente.
- ☐ Visibility 2 nm or more.
- ☐ Málaga berth confirmed (Real Club Mediterráneo takes visitors up to 13 m).

If the weather is wrong, stay in Gibraltar. Leg 14Marina del Este is short and can be joined to a later day if needed.

Route and waypoints

Waypoints are planning positions in open water, checked against a 1:10m coastline to be at least 1.2 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	Queensway Quay Marina	36°08.1'N	005°21.3'W				08:00 CEST	Depart. Call Gibraltar
1	Off Gibraltar South Mole	36°07.5'N	005°22.2'W	230°T	0.9	0.9	08:11 CEST	Out of the harbour at
2	South of Europa Point	36°05.4'N	005°20.7'W	150°T	2.4	3.4	08:36 CEST	1.2 nm south of the lig east of the Rock in a s
3	East of Gibraltar	36°09.0'N	005°17.5'W	036°T	4.4	7.8	09:20 CEST	2 nm off the east side
4	Off Estepona	36°23.0'N	005°07.0'W	031°T	16.4	24.2	12:04 CEST	2.5 nm off.
5	Off Marbella	36°28.0'N	004°53.0'W	066°T	12.3	36.5	14:07 CEST	2.5 nm off.
6	Off Punta de Calaburras	36°28.3'N	004°38.0'W	089°T	12.1	48.6	16:08 CEST	2 nm off the light (FI 5
7	Off Benalmádena	36°34.0'N	004°29.0'W	052°T	9.2	57.8	17:40 CEST	2 nm off. The Laja Ben the harbour.
8	Málaga approach	36°41.0'N	004°24.0'W	030°T	8.1	65.9	19:01 CEST	South of the port. Ca CHECK ON THE C
9	Real Club Mediterráneo, Málaga	36°42.8'N	004°24.8'W	340°T	1.9	67.8	19:39 CEST	Inside the port, near L approximate. CHECK ON THE C

Tides and time

GIBRALTAR · TUE 4 MAY · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	02:18	0.9 m
LW	08:17	0.2 m
HW	14:45	0.9 m
LW	20:28	0.2 m

HW	02:32	0.6 m
LW	08:20	0.1 m
HW	14:56	0.6 m
LW	20:27	0.2 m

From the Malaga station.

Tuesday 4 May 2027. The range falls from about 0.8 m at Gibraltar to about 0.5 m at Málaga. Tides make no practical difference to this leg.

Current. The surface current into the Mediterranean runs east along this coast, a little in your favour.

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 Gibraltar 07:26 CEST. Sunset at Málaga 21:08 CEST.

Weather

- **Levanter and Poniente** as in the Strait, but weaker away from it. A Levanter brings low cloud over the Rock and a lumpy sea along the coast.
- **Sea breezes.** In settled weather a sea breeze builds along the Costa del Sol in the afternoon.
- **Terral.** A hot, dry wind off the land at Málaga in summer, sometimes strong. It blows offshore.

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 zones Aguas costeras de Cádiz (De Punta Carnero a Punta Chullera) and Aguas costeras de Málaga.

Hazards

- **Leaving Gibraltar.** Port traffic, bunkering tankers off the east side, and ships at anchor in the bay. The runway crossing is closed when the white strobe lights flash. 5 kn in the inner port.
- **Europa Point.** The 1 nm exclusion zone round the light is open to vessels under 24 m. Down-draughts east of the Rock in strong westerlies.
- **Marinas and fish farms.** Many marina entrances and some fish farms along the coast. Keep 2 nm off and watch for marked fish-farm cages. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)
- **Benalmádena.** The Laja Bermeja shoal lies west of the entrance.
- **Málaga port.** Cruise ships and ferries. Follow port control's instructions.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Gibraltar	Start	Within the first hour	3 marinas, 4.5 m.
Estepona	At waypoint 4	Levanter rising early	Marina, +34 952 801 800.
Fuengirola	3 nm from waypoint 6	Tired or late	Port +34 951 215 488; marina +34 952 468 000.
Benalmádena	At waypoint 7	Málaga full or late	VHF 9, +34 952 577 022. Waiting pontoon with fuel. Enter between the Laja Bermeja shoal and the breakwater.

Pilotage

LEAVING GIBRALTAR

1. Call Gibraltar VTS on VHF 12 before slipping.
2. Leave north of the South Mole head (Q 2s) at 5 kn, then head south along the west side of the Rock.
3. Round Europa Point 1.2 nm off, then turn north-east up the east side of the Rock.

ENTERING MÁLAGA

1. From waypoint 7, close the port from the south-west. Call Málaga port control (24 h +34 952 222 117). VHF channel: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
2. Enter round the west breakwater head (Fl(2) R 7s), watching for ships.

3. Go to the Real Club Mediterráneo visitors' berths (up to 13 m, 07:00 to 22:00, +34 952 226 300 extension 5).

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Europa Point	Oc 10s, 49 m
Punta Carbonera	Oc 4s, 39 m
Estepona, Punta de la Doncella	Fl(1+2) 15s, 31 m
José Banús	Fl(3) G 12s, 13 m
Marbella	Fl(2) 14.5s, 35 m
Punta de Calaburras	Fl 5s, 46 m
Málaga, La Farola	Fl(3+1) 20s, 38 m
Málaga west breakwater	Fl(2) R 7s

Communications

Gibraltar VTS	VHF 12, 16, 20
Estepona marina	+34 952 801 800
Benalmádena marina	VHF 9 · +34 952 577 022
Málaga port control centre (24 h)	+34 952 222 117 · port authority +34 952 125 000
Real Club Mediterráneo	+34 952 226 300, extension 5
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 sets in.** Stop at Estepona or Benalmádena rather than punch into it.
- **Running late.** If waypoint 6 is passed after 17:30 CEST, stop at Benalmádena.
- **Fog.** Fog routine. Ships leave Gibraltar and Algeciras for the east: radar and AIS watch.
- **Engine failure.** Sail to the nearest marina approach and call for a tow onto the berth.
- **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

- ☐ Gibraltar Port Authority notices and 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
- ☐ Málaga berth booked

- ☐ 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, boat papers and insurance aboard

Sources

- Gibraltar: gibraltarport.com; Safety at Sea (2018); NGA Pub 131 (2025).
- Málaga: puertomalaga.com (information for yachts, port directory); realclubmediterraneo.com (visitors).
- Benalmádena: puertobenalmadena.es. Estepona: marinasmediterraneo.es.
- 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.