

Málaga to Marina del Este

East along the Axarquía coast past Nerja to the cliffs of Maro-Cerro Gordo, a protected stretch of coves and caves, and round Punta de la Mona into Marina del Este.

DATE	Wednesday 5 May 2027
DISTANCE	35.5 nm, 6 legs
TIME	7 h 56 min, including 1.5 h stopped
DEPART	10:00 CEST from Málaga. Mid-morning: a short leg.
ARRIVE	About 17:56 CEST at Marina del Este. In the early evening, with a swim stop off the cliffs on the way.
TIDES	Range about 0.5 m
WIND	Light to moderate, with an afternoon sea breeze; a Levanter would be on the nose
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, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 09:00 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No Levanter above force 5.
- ☐ Sea calm enough to swim off the cliffs: no swell from the south or east.
- ☐ Marina del Este berth confirmed.

A short leg in sheltered water: if the morning is wrong, wait for the afternoon or take the rest day planned on 6 May.

Route and waypoints

Waypoints are planning positions in open water, checked against a 1:10m coastline to be at least 1 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	Real Club Mediterráneo, Málaga	36°42.8'N	004°24.8'W				10:00 CEST	Depart. Call po
1	Málaga approach	36°41.0'N	004°24.0'W	160°T	1.9	1.9	10:29 CEST	Out of the port
2	Off Torre del Mar	36°42.0'N	004°05.0'W	086°T	15.3	17.2	13:01 CEST	2 nm off.
3	Off Nerja	36°43.0'N	003°52.0'W	084°T	10.5	27.7	14:46 CEST	1.7 nm off.
4	Off the Maro cliffs	36°44.2'N	003°46.5'W	075°T	4.6	32.2	15:41 CEST to 17:11	Swim stop, onl rules allow. See CHECK ON
5	Marina del Este approach	36°43.0'N	003°43.6'W	117°T	2.6	34.9	17:43 CEST	South of Punta CHECK ON
6	Marina del Este	36°43.7'N	003°43.5'W	004°T	0.7	35.5	17:56 CEST	Breakwater he

Tides and time

MÁLAGA · WED 5 MAY · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	03:07	0.6 m
LW	08:53	0.1 m
HW	15:36	0.6 m
LW	21:00	0.2 m

From the Malaga station.

MARINA DEL ESTE · WED 5 MAY · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	03:04	0.6 m
LW	08:48	0.1 m
HW	15:33	0.5 m
LW	20:50	0.2 m

From the Motril station.

Wednesday 5 May 2027. Range about 0.5 m: no practical effect.

Marina del Este has no station in the TICON-4 set; the Motril station, 10 nm east, is shown.

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 Málaga 07:20 CEST. Sunset at Marina del Este 21:06 CEST.

Weather

- **Sheltered coast.** The Sierra de Almijara and the Sierra Nevada behind shelter this coast from the north.
- **Sea breeze.** From late morning, a south-westerly or south-easterly sea breeze builds. A Levante would put the cliffs on a lee shore.

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 Málaga and Aguas costeras de Granada.

Hazards

- **Maro-Cerro Gordo protected area.** The cliffs from Maro to Cerro Gordo are a protected natural area. According to a secondary source citing its management plan, motorised craft must keep 200 m from beaches and 50 m from the rest of the coast, anchoring is allowed only in designated zones and only from sunrise to sunset, and boats may not enter the coves or caves. The official text could not be reached. Check the rules with the Junta de Andalucía before stopping.
- **Swimming from the boat.** Engine off, a line streamed astern, someone on watch, and swimmers wearing bright caps: tourist boats and kayaks work the cliffs.
- **Fish farms.** Fish-farm cages are moored off parts of this coast. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)

- **Málaga port.** Cruise ships and ferries on the way out.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Málaga	Start	Within the first hour	Real Club Mediterráneo.
Caleta de Vélez	2 nm from waypoint 2	Weather turns	Harbour with fuel, +34 951 509 476. Entrance 80 m wide.
Marina del Este	Destination	First choice	227 berths, +34 958 640 801.

Pilotage

LEAVING MÁLAGA

1. Call port control before slipping.
2. Leave round the west breakwater head and turn east.
3. Make sail for the run along the coast.

ENTERING MARINA DEL ESTE

1. From the cliffs, round Punta de la Mona (light Fl 5s, 140 m, on the point).
2. Approach from the south and call the marina for a berth (+34 958 640 801). VHF channel and depths: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
3. Enter round the breakwater head (red light).

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Málaga, La Farola	Fl(3+1) 20s, 38 m
Torre del Mar	Fl(1+2) 10s, 30 m
Torrox	Fl(4) 15s, 29 m
Punta de la Mona	Fl 5s, 140 m

Communications

Málaga port control centre (24 h)	+34 952 222 117
Caleta de Vélez	+34 951 509 476 · caleta@puertosdeandalucia.es
Marina del Este	+34 958 640 801
Emergency	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 112

Contingencies

- **Sea too rough off the cliffs.** Skip the stop and go into Marina del Este; swim from the beach at La Herradura.
- **Levanter.** Stop at Caleta de Vélez.
- **Engine failure.** Sail to the 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
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Maro-Cerro Gordo rules confirmed

- ☐ 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, boat papers and insurance aboard

Sources

- Maro-Cerro Gordo rules: Spanish Wikipedia, “Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo”, citing the area's management plan (secondary source).
- Caleta de Vélez and Punta de la Mona: puertosdeandalucia.es port pages.
- 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.