

Almerimar to San José

Across the Gulf of Almería and round Cabo de Gata into the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park, a volcanic coast of empty beaches and coves, to the small harbour of San José.

DATE	Saturday 8 May 2027
DISTANCE	36.2 nm, 5 legs
TIME	7 h 60 min, including 1.5 h stopped
DEPART	09:30 CEST from Almerimar. 2 hours 20 minutes after sunrise (07:11 CEST).
ARRIVE	About 17:30 CEST at San José. In the late afternoon, after a swim stop in the park, with about 3 hours 35 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 21:03 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.3 m: no practical effect
WIND	Levante (east) or Poniente (west) along this coast; afternoon sea breezes
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 4, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 08:30 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No Levante above force 5: it is on the nose, and it heaps up the sea off Cabo de Gata.
- ☐ Berth at San José confirmed. The harbour takes boats up to 12 m only, in a basin 2.5 m deep.
- ☐ Visibility 2 nm or more.

If the Levante is blowing, stay in Almerimar, or stop at Almería, 20 nm on, and round the cape the next day. San José has a rest day planned on 9 May.

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	Almerimar marina	36°41.8'N	002°47.9'W				09:30 CEST	Depart.
1	South of Punta Sabinal	36°39.5'N	002°42.0'W	116°T	5.2	5.2	10:27 CEST	1.5 nm off the (10s).
2	South of Cabo de Gata	36°41.0'N	002°11.5'W	086°T	24.5	29.8	14:32 CEST	2.3 nm south of marine reserve cape. Off-lying CHECK OUT
3	Off Ensenada de Genoveses	36°44.2'N	002°07.6'W	044°T	4.5	34.2	15:26 CEST to 16:56	Swim stop, or Anchoring is possible CHECK OUT
4	San José approach	36°44.9'N	002°06.5'W	052°T	1.1	35.4	17:13 CEST	South-west of the integral zone Genoveses.
5	San José harbour	36°45.7'N	002°06.2'W	017°T	0.8	36.2	17:30 CEST	Club Náutico club.

Tides and time

ALMERIMAR · SAT 8 MAY · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	04:57	0.4 m
LW	10:42	0.1 m
HW	17:58	0.4 m
LW	22:29	0.2 m

From the Almeria station.

SAN JOSÉ · SAT 8 MAY · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	04:57	0.3 m
LW	11:00	0.1 m

HW	18:24	0.3 m
LW	22:23	0.2 m

From the Carboneras station.

Saturday 8 May 2027. **Tides.** The range here is 0.1 to 0.3 m: tides make no practical difference. Wind and air pressure move the sea level more than the tide does.

San José uses the Carboneras station, 13 nm north-east.

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 Almerimar 07:11 CEST. Sunset at San José 21:03 CEST.

Weather

- **Cabo de Gata.** The corner between the Alborán Sea and the open Mediterranean. Wind accelerates round the cape and the sea is rougher there than either side of it.
- **Levante and Poniente.** The 2 main winds on this coast. The Levante brings a short steep sea from the east.
- **Dry coast.** The driest corner of Europe: clear air, strong sun, little shade ashore.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- AEMET coastal bulletins, aemet.es, predicción marítima: “Costa de Andalucía Oriental y Melilla” (Aguas costeras de Almería) and “Costa de Valencia y Murcia” (Aguas costeras de Murcia, del Mar Menor, de Alicante, de Valencia). High-seas areas Alborán, Palos and Baleares.
- NAVTEX Cabo de la Nao: 518 kHz, station X, at 0350, 0750, 1150, 1550, 1950 and 2350 UTC, in English; 490 kHz, station M, in Spanish. Check the times against the Admiralty List of Radio Signals. [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

Hazards

- **Marine reserves.** Spain's marine reserves (reservas marinas) cover the outer waters out from the coastline. In them anchoring is prohibited except in an emergency, the buoys are for authorised dive boats only, and recreational fishing is restricted or banned. The reserve service keeps watch on VHF 9 from 08:00 to 22:00. Waters inside the coastline's straight baselines (the coves themselves) are under the regional government's rules, which could not be checked for this plan.
- **Cabo de Gata-Níjar marine reserve.** The reserve runs from the coastline out to 1 nm offshore, from Rambla del Agua to Barranco del Hondo near Carboneras. Navigation is free, but in its integral zones speed must be under 10 kn and only authorised scientific work is allowed. Integral zones include the waters off Cabo de Gata between 002°11.70'W and 002°10.95'W, and a circle of 0.15 nm round 36°44.28'N 002°06.95'W at the Morrón de Genoveses.
- **The swim stop.** The coves at Genoveses and Mónsul are inside the baselines, where the natural park's own rules apply, including any mooring-buoy fields. These could not be checked. Use a park buoy if one is available and allowed; otherwise do not stop.
- **Off-lying rocks at Cabo de Gata.** [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)
- **San José harbour.** Entrance faces south-west, 35 m wide and 6 m deep. Basin 2.5 m. Boats up to 12 m. Minimum steerage way at the entrance, never more than 3 kn.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Almerimar	Start	Within the first 2 hours	Marina, 997 berths.
Almería	8 nm north of the route	Levante rising before the cape	Commercial port with the Club de Mar de Almería, +34 950 230 780.
San José	Destination	First choice	Small harbour, up to 12 m, basin 2.5 m.

Pilotage

LEAVING ALMERIMAR

1. Leave the marina and head south-east round Punta Sabinal.
2. Cross the Gulf of Almería toward Cabo de Gata and make sail.

INTO SAN JOSÉ

1. From the swim stop, motor slowly north-east, keeping clear of the integral zone round the Morrón de Genoveses.
2. Call the Club Náutico de San José on VHF 9 (+34 950 380 041).
3. Enter through the south-west-facing entrance at no more than 3 kn and go to the waiting pier.

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Sabinal	Fl(1+2) 10s, 34 m
Cabo de Gata	Flash every 4 s, white and red sectors, 55 m; fog signal Mo(G) every 40 s CHECK ON THE CHART
Punta de la Polacra	Fl(3) 14s, 281 m
San José pierhead	Green

Communications

Club Náutico de San José	VHF 9 · +34 950 380 041 · gerencia@clubnauticodesanjose.com
Cabo de Gata-Níjar marine reserve service	VHF 9, 08:00 to 22:00
Autoridad Portuaria de Almería	+34 950 254 217
Emergency	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 112
Salvamento Marítimo (Spain)	Rescue coordination centres for Cádiz, Tarifa, Algeciras and Almería: numbers CHECK THE PILOT BOOK

Contingencies

- **Sea too rough off the cape.** Turn back to Almería; do not force Cabo de Gata in a Levante.
- **No buoy at the coves.** Do not anchor: the reserve prohibits it. Go into San José and swim from the beach.
- **Engine failure.** Sail clear of the cape and call the club for a tow in. Do not sail into the small harbour.
- **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
- ☐ San José berth booked (boat papers, crew ID and insurance sent)

- ☐ Fuel for 8 hours under engine, plus a reserve
- ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 9 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

- Marine reserve: Orden ARM/1744/2011, Reserva Marina de Cabo de Gata-Níjar, consolidated text (boe.es).
- San José: clubnauticodesanjose.com (port, berths); puertosdeandalucia.es.
- Almería: puertosdeandalucia.es.
- Spanish ports: puertosdeandalucia.es port pages; club and marina websites listed above.
- Lights: The Lighthouse Directory, Spain (ibiblio.org/lighthouse/esane.htm, esmc.htm, esvc.htm).
- NAVTEX: NGA Pub 117, chapter 3. AEMET zones: aemet.es, predicción marítima.
- 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.