

Águilas to Cartagena

East past Cabo Cope and the Bay of Mazarrón, round the high headland of Cabo Tiñoso and into Cartagena, a natural harbour in use since ancient times.

DATE	Tuesday 11 May 2027
DISTANCE	33.7 nm, 6 legs
TIME	6 h 01 min
DEPART	09:30 CEST from Águilas. 2 hours 30 minutes after sunrise (07:01 CEST).
ARRIVE	About 15:31 CEST at Cartagena. In the afternoon, with about 5 hours 30 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 21:02 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.1 m: no practical effect
WIND	Levante on the nose, Poniente behind
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 08:30 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No Levante above force 5.
- ☐ Visibility 2 nm or more.
- ☐ No navigation warning for naval exercises off Cartagena.

If the weather is wrong, stay in Águilas. Cartagena has a rest day planned on 12 May.

Route and waypoints

Waypoints are planning positions in open water, checked against a 1:10m coastline to be at least 1.3 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	Club Náutico de Águilas	37°24.0'N	001°34.1'W				09:30 CEST	Depart.
1	Águilas approach	37°23.2'N	001°34.0'W	173°T	0.9	0.9	09:43 CEST	Clear of the harbour.
2	South of Cabo Cope	37°24.0'N	001°29.0'W	079°T	4.1	4.9	10:23 CEST	1.5 nm off.
3	Off Mazarrón	37°31.0'N	001°16.0'W	056°T	12.5	17.4	12:28 CEST	2.5 nm off the port.
4	South of Cabo Tiñoso	37°30.5'N	001°06.4'W	094°T	7.6	25.0	13:45 CEST	1.7 nm off the light (F
5	Cartagena approach	37°34.4'N	000°58.6'W	058°T	7.3	32.3	15:04 CEST	South of the harbour see Hazards. CHECK
6	Yacht Port Cartagena	37°35.7'N	000°58.6'W	358°T	1.3	33.7	15:31 CEST	Position from the ma

Tides and time

ÁGUILAS · TUE 11 MAY · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	07:17	0.3 m
LW	13:24	0.1 m
HW	21:15	0.3 m

From the Cartagena station.

CARTAGENA · TUE 11 MAY · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	07:17	0.3 m
LW	13:24	0.1 m
HW	21:15	0.3 m

Tuesday 11 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.

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 Águilas 07:01 CEST. Sunset at Cartagena 21:02 CEST.

Weather

- **Cabo Tiñoso.** A high, steep headland: gusts and confused sea off it in a strong wind.
- **Sea breeze** in the afternoon in settled weather.

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

- **Cartagena naval base.** Spain's main Mediterranean naval base. Restricted areas and exercise areas lie in and off the port. Check the chart and notices, and keep clear of warships.
- **Escombreras.** The oil and industrial port east of Cartagena: tankers at anchor and under way.
- **Commercial traffic.** Ships use the Cartagena entrance between the Navidad and Curra breakwaters. Listen on the port channel and keep out of their way. [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
- **Fish farms.** Cages in the Bay of Mazarrón and off the coast. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Águilas	Start	Within the first hour	Club Náutico.
Mazarrón	2.5 nm from waypoint 3	Weather turns	Port and marina. CHECK THE PILOT BOOK

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Cartagena	Destination	First choice	Yacht Port Cartagena.

Pilotage

LEAVING ÁGUILAS

1. Leave the harbour and head south-east round Cabo Cope.
2. Make sail for Mazarrón Bay.

ENTERING CARTAGENA

1. From Cabo Tiñoso, close the entrance from the south-west.
2. Enter between the Navidad breakwater (Fl(2) R 10s) and the Curra breakwater (Fl(3) G 14s), watching for ships.
3. Call Yacht Port Cartagena on VHF 9 (+34 968 121 213) and go where directed. Berths are alongside, bow-to or stern-to.

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Águilas, Punta Negra	Fl(2) 5s, 30 m
Mazarrón	Oc(1+2) 13.5s, 65 m
Cabo Tiñoso	Fl(1+3) 20s, 146 m, 24 M
Escombreras islet	Fl 5s, 65 m
Cartagena, Navidad breakwater	Fl(2) R 10s, 15 m
Cartagena, Curra breakwater	Fl(3) G 14s, 14 m

Communications

Yacht Port Cartagena	VHF 9 · +34 968 121 213 · marina@yachtportcartagena.com
Cartagena port control	CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
Emergency	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 112
Salvamento Marítimo (Spain)	Rescue coordination centres for Cádiz, Tarifa, Algeciras and Almería: numbers CHECK THE PILOT BOOK

Contingencies

- **Levante.** Stop at Mazarrón.
- **Warship or exercise in the approach.** Stand off and wait for clearance.

- **Engine failure.** Sail into the outer harbour and call the marina.
- **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
- ☐ Cartagena berth booked

- ☐ 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

- Cartagena: yachtportcartagena.com.
- Águilas: cnaguilaspd.com.
- 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.