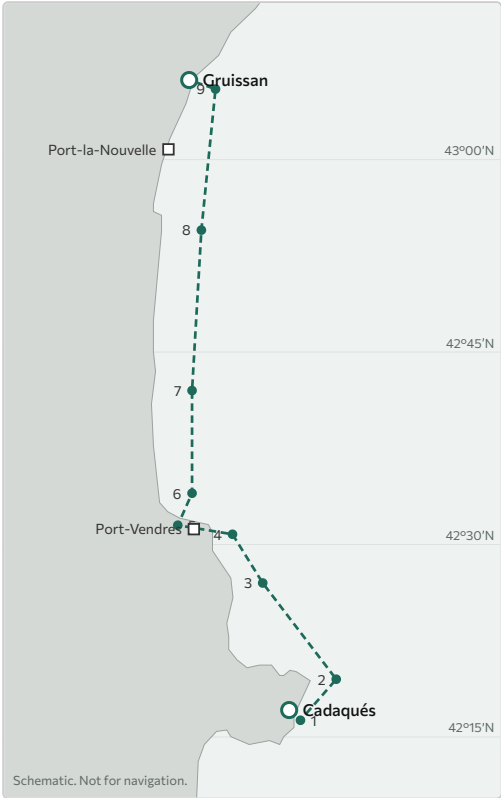


Cadaqués to Gruissan

About 60 nautical miles: round Cap de Creus, the easternmost point of mainland Spain, and into France, to swim and lunch on a buoy off Collioure, a harbour village painted by Matisse and Derain, then north along the Roussillon coast to Gruissan, to wait there for the right day to cross the Gulf of Lion.

DATE	Tuesday 25 May 2027
DISTANCE	60.2 nm, 10 legs
TIME	12 h 48 min, including 2 h stopped
DEPART	07:00 CEST from Cadaqués. 40 minutes after sunrise (06:18 CEST). A long day with a stop.
ARRIVE	About 19:48 CEST at Gruissan. In the early evening, after 2 hours at Collioure, with about 1 hour 25 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 21:14 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.2 m: no practical effect
WIND	The Tramontana (north-west) is the wind that matters here: strong, sudden, offshore
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. The Collioure buoy must be booked by 11:00 the day before



Track and waypoints 1 to 9, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 06:15 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No Tramontana forecast: it is at its worst round Cap de Creus and blows offshore along the Roussillon.
- ☐ Collioure buoy booked (by 11:00 the day before) and Gruissan berth confirmed.
- ☐ Visibility 2 nm or more.

If the Tramontana is blowing, stay in Cadaqués. If it arrives after the cape, stop at Port-Vendres, next to Collioure.

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	Cadaqués bay	42°17.1'N	003°16.8'E				07:00 CEST	Slip the moorings
1	Cadaqués approach	42°16.3'N	003°18.0'E	132°T	1.2	1.2	07:18 CEST	Out by the main
2	Off Cap de Creus	42°19.5'N	003°21.8'E	041°T	4.3	5.5	08:01 CEST	1.5 nm off the cape the Encallador
3	Off Cerbère	42°27.0'N	003°14.0'E	323°T	9.5	14.9	09:35 CEST	Spain to France 2. 3 nm off the
4	Off Cap Béar	42°30.8'N	003°10.8'E	328°T	4.5	19.4	10:20 CEST	2 nm off the light
5	Collioure buoy field	42°31.5'N	003°05.0'E	279°T	4.3	23.7	11:25 CEST to 13:25	Booked buoy in June to September CHECK ON
6	Off Argelès	42°34.0'N	003°06.5'E	024°T	2.7	26.5	13:55 CEST	Back out of the
7	Off Canet	42°42.0'N	003°06.5'E	000°T	8.0	34.5	15:15 CEST	3 nm off the bay
8	Off Cap Leucate	42°54.5'N	003°07.5'E	003°T	12.5	47.0	17:20 CEST	3 nm off the light offshore: keep
9	Gruissan approach	43°05.5'N	003°09.0'E	006°T	11.1	58.1	19:11 CEST	South-east of CHECK ON
10	Gruissan harbour	43°06.2'N	003°06.2'E	289°T	2.2	60.2	19:48 CEST	Position approx CHECK ON

Tides and time

CADAQUÉS · TUE 25 MAY · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	08:07	0.2 m
HW	11:33	0.2 m
LW	17:28	0.1 m

From the Port Vendres station.

GRUISSAN · TUE 25 MAY · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	07:56	0.2 m
HW	11:30	0.2 m
LW	17:22	0.2 m

From the Port-la-Nouvelle station.

Tuesday 25 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.

Stations. Cadaqués uses Port-Vendres; Gruissan uses Port-la-Nouvelle.

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 Cadaqués 06:18 CEST. Sunset at Gruissan 21:14 CEST.

Weather

- **Tramontana.** A cold north-westerly from the Pyrenees, strongest round Cap de Creus and along this coast. It can reach gale force in hours, with a clear sky.
- **Sea breeze.** In settled weather a south-easterly in the afternoon: fair for the run north.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- Météo-France marine forecasts, meteofrance.com/meteo-marine: coastal zones Frontière espagnole to Port-Camargue, Port-Camargue to Saint-Raphaël, and Saint-Raphaël to Menton. Special bulletins (BMS côte) are issued for force 7 and above.
- CROSS La Garde on VHF: regular bulletins 3 times a day, announced first on VHF 16. Special bulletins on VHF 80 every hour at 3 minutes past. Transmitters: Néoulos and Port-Vendres VHF 64, Agde 79, La Gâtasse 80, Mont Coudon (Toulon) 63, Camarat 80, Pic de l'Ours (Cannes) 64. Check the time for each transmitter in the Météo-France Guide Marine.

- NAVTEX La Garde: sources disagree on the 518 kHz station letter and times. Check them against the Admiralty List of Radio Signals. [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
- Notices to mariners (AVURNAV) are published on PING, portail.ping-info-nautique.fr, and broadcast on VHF by the signal stations.

Hazards

- **Cap de Creus.** Rocks and islets off the cape; the Encalladora islet is an integral reserve, open only with authorisation. Keep 1.5 nm off.
- **Collioure bay.** A mooring zone (ZMEL) under inter-prefectoral arrêté 277/2022. From June to September, mooring is only on a booked buoy: book online with the tourist office by 11:00 the day before (11:00 to 11:00, no arrivals after 20:00, non-refundable, about €60 for a monohull under 16 m, boats up to 20 m). Free anchoring is allowed only from October to April.
- **Offshore wind farms.** 2 floating wind farms were being built off this coast: EFGL off Leucate and Le Barcarès, and EolMed off Gruissan, both due in service by 2026. Their positions and exclusion rules could not be checked. The route stays 3 nm off the beaches, inshore of them.

[CHECK ON THE CHART](#)

- **Anchoring in France.** The Mediterranean maritime prefecture's general anchoring rules apply along this coast (arrêté 123/2019), with stricter rules on seagrass (posidonia) meadows mainly aimed at yachts of 20 to 45 m and over, and a limit on how long a boat may stay at anchor (arrêté 77/2025). The limit itself was not checked for this plan. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Cadaqués	Start	Within the first hour	Bay moorings.
Port-Vendres	Next to Collioure	Tramontana arrives	Marina with 30 visitor berths. Capitainerie +33 4 68 82 08 84.
Port-la-Nouvelle	5 nm short of Gruissan	Late	Commercial and fishing port with a marina. CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
Gruissan	Destination	First choice	Marina. CHECK THE PILOT BOOK

Pilotage

LEAVING CADAQUÉS

1. Leave the bay by the marked channel.

2. Round Cap de Creus 1.5 nm off, then head north-west along the coast into France.

COLLIOURE, THEN GRUISSAN

1. At Collioure, call the harbour master on VHF 9 (+33 7 78 73 64 02) and pick up the booked buoy.
2. After lunch, head north 3 nm off the beaches.
3. At Gruissan, enter by the channel and call the capitainerie. VHF, phone and depths:

[CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Cap de Creus	Fl(2) 10s, 87 m
Cap Béar	Fl(3) 15s, 80 m
Port-Vendres, Fort du Fanal	Oc G 4s, 29 m
Collioure jetty	Iso G 4s, 14 m
Cap Leucate	Fl(2) 10s, 66 m
Port-la-Nouvelle south jetty	Q, 23 m

Communications

Collioure harbour master	VHF 9 · +33 7 78 73 64 02 · capitainerie +33 4 68 82 17 69
Port-Vendres capitainerie	+33 4 68 82 08 84
CROSS weather, Néoulos and Port-Vendres	VHF 64
Emergency at sea (CROSS)	VHF 16, DSC 70 · telephone 196, free, 24 h
Emergency on land	112

Contingencies

- **Tramontana arrives.** Before Cap de Creus, go back to Cadaqués. After it, Port-Vendres.
- **Collioure buoy not available.** Swim from the boat at Port-Vendres instead, or skip the stop.
- **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) and French notices to mariners (PING) 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
 - ☐ Collioure buoy booked
 - ☐ French courtesy flag ready
-
- ☐ Fuel for 10 hours under engine, plus a reserve
 - ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 11 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

- Collioure mooring zone: arrêté inter-préfectoral 277/2022 (premar-mediterranee.gouv.fr); collioure.fr (zone de mouillage, tarifs du port).
- Port-Vendres: port-vendres.com.
- Wind farms: eoliennesenmer.fr (Leucate, Gruissan); premar-mediterranee.gouv.fr.
- Cap de Creus: Llei 4/1998 (boe.es).
- Customs: douane.gouv.fr (vous naviguez).
- Météo-France Guide Marine 2026 (CROSS VHF channels, 196, NAVTEX); meteofrance.com/meteo-marine (coastal zones).
- Préfecture maritime de la Méditerranée, premar-mediterranee.gouv.fr (arrêtés, AVURNAV).
- Lights: The Lighthouse Directory, France (ibiblio.org/lighthouse/froc.htm, frbr.htm, frvar.htm, fralp.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.