

Portovenere to Capraia

About 61 nautical miles south across the open Ligurian Sea, in the Pelagos whale sanctuary, to Capraia, a volcanic island in the Tuscan Archipelago National Park with 1 village and 1 harbour.

DATE	Sunday 6 June 2027
DISTANCE	61.1 nm, 5 legs
TIME	10 h 29 min
DEPART	08:30 CEST from Portovenere. About 2 hours 50 minutes after sunrise (05:39 CEST).
ARRIVE	About 18:59 CEST at Capraia. In the early evening, with about 1 hour 55 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:56 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.2 m: no practical effect
WIND	Sea breezes near the coast; offshore, the libeccio (south-west) or mistral (north-west)
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 the evening before and confirm at 07:30 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No libeccio or mistral above force 5 for the crossing.
- ☐ Capraia berth or buoy confirmed.
- ☐ Visibility 3 nm or more.

If the forecast is wrong, wait in Portovenere. Capraia has a rest day planned on 7 June, which absorbs the wait.

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	Portovenere	44°03.0'N	009°50.3'E				08:30 CEST	Depart.
1	West of Portovenere	44°02.8'N	009°49.0'E	258°T	1.0	1.0	08:44 CEST	Out through the Bocca
2	South-west of Tino	44°00.0'N	009°49.0'E	180°T	2.8	3.8	09:15 CEST	Clear of the islands of Tinetto.
3	North of Capraia	43°05.5'N	009°50.5'E	179°T	54.5	58.3	18:20 CEST	Open water. Keep east coast, which is a no-e
4	Capraia harbour approach	43°03.3'N	009°51.0'E	171°T	2.2	60.5	18:47 CEST	North-east of the har CHECK ON THE C
5	Porto di Capraia	43°03.0'N	009°50.3'E	240°T	0.6	61.1	18:59 CEST	Harbour and summer approximate. CHECK ON THE C

Tides and time

PORTOVENERE · SUN 6 JUN · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	05:13	0.0 m
HW	10:02	0.2 m
LW	17:06	-0.0 m
HW	23:17	0.3 m

From the La Spezia station.

CAPRAIA · SUN 6 JUN · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	05:01	0.2 m
HW	09:49	0.4 m
LW	16:51	0.1 m
HW	23:04	0.5 m

From the Centuri station.

Sunday 6 June 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.

Capraia uses the Centuri station on Cap Corse, 17 nm west.

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 Portovenere 05:39 CEST. Sunset at Capraia 20:56 CEST.

Weather

- **Open sea.** 55 nm with no shelter. The libeccio raises a long sea from the south-west; a mistral reaches here as a fresh north-westerly.
- **Calms.** On settled June days the crossing can be a motor.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- Italian forecasts: Aeronautica Militare Meteomar and gale warnings (avviso di burrasca), meteoam.it. Forecast area Mar Ligure. Zone names and issue times: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
- NAVTEX Roma: 518 kHz, station R, at 0250, 0650, 1050, 1450, 1850 and 2250 UTC. Cagliari: 518 kHz, station T. Check the times on the receiver.
- Italian coast radio VHF weather broadcasts: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

Hazards

- **Pelagos Sanctuary.** The Ligurian Sea, from Toulon to northern Sardinia and Tuscany, is a sanctuary for whales and dolphins. Follow its code of conduct: keep a safe distance, slow down, hold a steady course, and never approach a group with calves. Fin whales and sperm whales are seen on the crossing to Capraia. Report sightings to the Pelagos secretariat (+377 92 16 11 55).
- **La Spezia.** A naval base: military exercise areas off the gulf could not be checked.
- **Gorgona.** A prison island north-east of the route: keep well clear.

- **Capraia's west coast.** Zone 1 of the national park (about 43°01.3' to 43°03.4'N, 009°46.8' to 009°47.8'E): navigation, access, stopping and anchoring by any vessel are prohibited. Approach from the north-east.
- **The Miglio Blu.** A 1,100 m corridor marked by 22 buoys, from south of the harbour to Torretta al Bagno, closed to navigation, anchoring and mooring.
- **The rest of the park.** The marine park round the island (about 42°57' to 43°07.3'N, 009°43.3' to 009°55.1'E) has zones A to D with their own rules, which could not be read. A monk-seal cave has been closed since 2020. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Portovenere and La Spezia	Start	Within the first 2 hours	Gulf of La Spezia.
Livorno	25 nm east of the route	Weather turns mid-crossing	CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
Capraia	Destination	First choice	Harbour with a summer buoy field and fuel.

Pilotage

LEAVING PORTOVENERE

1. Leave through the Bocchette slowly, then head south past Tino.
2. Set a course for the north of Capraia.

ENTERING CAPRAIA

1. Approach from the north-east, keeping clear of the west coast.
2. Call Porto di Capraia on VHF 69 (+39 0586 905307 or +39 338 374 4102).
3. Pick up the buoy or berth you are given. The light on Punta del Ferraione (flash every 6 s) closes the harbour to the south-east.

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Isola del Tino	Fl(3) 15s, 117 m, 25 M
Capraia, Punta del Ferraione	Flash every 6 s, 16 M

Communications

Porto di Capraia	VHF 69 · +39 0586 905307 · +39 338 374 4102
Tuscan Archipelago National Park	+39 0565 919411
Pelagos Sanctuary secretariat	+377 92 16 11 55
Emergency at sea, Italy (Guardia Costiera)	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 1530
Emergency on land	112

Contingencies

- **Weather mid-crossing.** Bear away for Livorno.
- **Whales close aboard.** Slow down, keep a steady course, and let them move off.
- **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
 - ☐ Italian notices to mariners (Avvisi ai naviganti) 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
 - ☐ Capraia berth or buoy booked
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- ☐ Fuel for 11 hours under engine, plus a reserve
 - ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 12 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

- Capraia park rules: DPR 22 July 1996; islepark.it (le regole a mare, il Miglio Blu, zone map Tav. B3).

- Porto di Capraia: portodicapraia.it.
- Lights in Italy: Wikipedia, List of lighthouses in Italy (characteristics, heights, ranges); check against the Italian Navy list of lights (Elenco dei fari).
- NAVTEX: NGA Pub 117, chapter 3.
- Pelagos Sanctuary: pelagos-sanctuary.org; islepark.it.
- Italian harbour ordinances (Capitanerie di porto) could not be read for this plan: guardiacostiera.gov.it was unreachable. [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
- 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.