

Solenzara to La Maddalena

South past the Gulf of Porto-Vecchio and the Cerbicale islets, across the Strait of Bonifacio into Sardinia, and round Caprera to La Maddalena, the town of the island archipelago and national park.

DATE	Friday 11 June 2027
DISTANCE	51.8 nm, 7 legs
TIME	9 h 12 min
DEPART	08:30 CEST from Solenzara. 2 hours 45 minutes after sunrise (05:47 CEST).
ARRIVE	About 17:42 CEST at La Maddalena. In the late afternoon, with about 3 hours 15 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:55 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.2 m: no practical effect
WIND	The Strait of Bonifacio funnels any wind: westerlies there are stronger than anywhere else on this coast
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 6, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 07:30 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No westerly (mistral or ponente) above force 5 in the Strait of Bonifacio: it accelerates through the strait and raises a short steep sea.
- ☐ La Maddalena berth confirmed and park permit bought.
- ☐ Visibility 3 nm or more.

If the strait forecast is wrong, stop at Porto-Vecchio instead and cross the next day: La Maddalena has a rest day planned on 12 June.

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	Solenzara marina	41°51.5'N	009°24.2'E				08:30 CEST	Depart.
1	Solenzara approach	41°51.5'N	009°25.8'E	090°T	1.2	1.2	08:48 CEST	Clear of the harbour.
2	Off Pointe de la Chiappa	41°35.5'N	009°25.5'E	181°T	16.0	17.2	11:28 CEST	2 nm off the light.
3	East of the Cerbicale	41°31.0'N	009°25.5'E	180°T	4.5	21.7	12:13 CEST	Outside the Cerbicale reserve.
4	East of the Lavezzi	41°20.0'N	009°19.0'E	204°T	12.0	33.7	14:13 CEST	The Strait of Bonifacio: lanes at right angles, 10. Italy.
5	East of Caprera	41°13.0'N	009°30.0'E	130°T	10.8	44.6	16:02 CEST	1.5 nm off Caprera. La Maddalena National Park: permit needed to visit the coast.
6	South of Santo Stefano	41°10.3'N	009°24.5'E	237°T	4.9	49.5	16:56 CEST	Into the channel between Santo Stefano and Palau. CHECK ON THE CHART
7	La Maddalena, Cala Gavetta	41°12.6'N	009°24.3'E	356°T	2.3	51.8	17:42 CEST	Town harbour (light F). Approximate. CHECK ON THE CHART

Tides and time

SOLENZARA · FRI 11 JUN · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	02:13	1.2 m
LW	09:27	1.0 m
HW	16:10	1.2 m
LW	19:53	1.1 m

LA MADDALENA · FRI 11 JUN · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	02:13	1.2 m
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LW	09:27	1.0 m
HW	16:10	1.2 m
LW	19:53	1.1 m

From the Solenzara station.

Friday 11 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.

La Maddalena uses the Solenzara station.

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 Solenzara 05:47 CEST. Sunset at La Maddalena 20:55 CEST.

Weather

- **The Strait of Bonifacio.** Westerlies funnel between Corsica and Sardinia and can be 1 or 2 forces stronger than the forecast for the open sea.
- **East side.** The route crosses the eastern mouth of the strait, sheltered from the west by the islands.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- Météo-France coastal zone Corse (BMS côte 02-04), with microzones Bastia to Solenzara, Solenzara to Chiappa, Chiappa to Sant'Amanza, and Bouches de Bonifacio; port forecasts for Bastia, Porto-Vecchio and Bonifacio. meteofrance.com/meteo-marine.
- CROSS: the Corsica sub-centre at Aspretto (Ajaccio) handles missions within about 20 nm of Corsica. Emergency 196 or VHF 16.
- NAVTEX Cagliari: 518 kHz, station T. Roma: 518 kHz, station R. Check the times on the receiver.
- French notices to mariners: PING, portail.ping-info-nautique.fr.
- 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](#)

Hazards

- **Strait of Bonifacio traffic.** A traffic separation scheme and a particularly sensitive sea area. Ships report to Pertusato (France) or La Maddalena (Italy) on VHF 16 and 10. Which vessels must report, and the call sign, could not be checked from an official source. Cross at right angles and keep clear of ships. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)
- **Bouches de Bonifacio nature reserve.** The Lavezzi and Cerbicale islets are in a nature reserve (decree of 23 September 1999). Its anchoring, mooring and landing rules could not be read. Keep 1 nm off the islets on passage. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)
- **La Maddalena National Park permit.** A ticket is required to sail, moor or anchor within 300 m of the coast in the park. Buy it online at autorizzazioni.lamaddalenapark.it (pagoPA). 2026 rates: €3 per metre of length per day for boats of 10 to 24 m, or a flat €101 for 7 days for 10 to 14 m; sailing boats get 40% off and online purchase 5% off. 2027 rates were not yet published. Navigation, mooring and anchoring in the archipelago for the summers of 2026 and 2027 are set by the La Maddalena harbour office's Ordinanza 33/2026, which could not be read for this plan; nor could the park's zoning map.
- **Rocks.** The archipelago is full of rocks and shoals. Do not take short cuts between islands without the large-scale chart.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Solenzara	Start	Within the first hour	Marina.
Porto-Vecchio	5 nm up the gulf from waypoint 2	Strait forecast worsens	Marina, VHF 9, 150 visitor berths.
Bonifacio	6 nm west of waypoint 4	Emergency	CHECK THE PILOT BOOK

Pilotage

LEAVING SOLENZARA

1. Leave the marina and head south, 2 nm off the coast.

INTO LA MADDALENA

1. Pass east of Caprera, then west along its south side.
2. Enter the channel between Santo Stefano and Palau, watching for ferries to Palau.
3. Call the harbour at Cala Gavetta. VHF, phone and depths: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Chiappa	65 m, 23 M; characteristic: CHECK ON THE CHART
Lavezzi	27 m, 15 M; characteristic: CHECK ON THE CHART
Barrettinelli di Fuori	FI(2) 10s, 22 m, 11 M
Capo Ferro	FI(3) 15s, 52 m, 24 M
La Maddalena, Cala Gavetta	FI R 3s and FI G 3s

Communications

La Maddalena National Park (permits)	+39 0789 790224 · autorizzazioni@lamaddalenapark.it
Comune della Maddalena	+39 0789 790715
CROSS (France)	196 · VHF 16
Emergency at sea, Italy (Guardia Costiera)	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 1530

Contingencies

- **Westerly in the strait.** Turn back to Porto-Vecchio.
- **Fog.** Fog routine; radar and AIS watch for ships in the strait.
- **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
- ☐ French notices to mariners (PING) and 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
- ☐ La Maddalena park permit bought and printed
- ☐ Italian courtesy flag ready

- ☐ Fuel for 9 hours under engine, plus a reserve
- ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 10 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

- La Maddalena National Park: lamaddalenapark.it (permit; norme attuative); autorizzazioni.lamaddalenapark.it (2026 tariffs).
- Bouches de Bonifacio reserve: oec.corsica; rnbb.fr.
- Strait of Bonifacio: English Wikipedia, "Strait of Bonifacio" (secondary).
- Météo-France: meteofrance.com/meteo-marine (Corse, port forecasts).
- Préfecture maritime: premar-mediterranee.gouv.fr; PING.
- Corsican ports: resaportcorse.com directory; marina.portivechju.corsica.
- Lights in Corsica: French Wikipedia lighthouse pages (Alistro, Chiappa, Lavezzi, Pertusato).
- 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.