

La Maddalena to Porto-Vecchio

Back north across the Strait of Bonifacio to swim at the Lavezzi, granite islets with clear water between Corsica and Sardinia, then up the long gulf to Porto-Vecchio.

DATE	Sunday 13 June 2027
DISTANCE	42.9 nm, 6 legs
TIME	9 h 51 min, including 1.5 h stopped
DEPART	08:30 CEST from La Maddalena. 2 hours 40 minutes after sunrise (05:49 CEST), after the rest day at La Maddalena.
ARRIVE	About 18:21 CEST at Porto-Vecchio. In the early evening, after a stop at the Lavezzi, with about 2 hours 35 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:58 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.2 m: no practical effect
WIND	Westerlies funnel through the strait
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 Lavezzi stop depends on the reserve's rules: see Hazards



Track and waypoints 1 to 5, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

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

- ☐ No westerly above force 5 in the strait.
- ☐ Porto-Vecchio berth confirmed.
- ☐ For the stop only: the Lavezzi rules allow a visiting yacht to stop, and the sea is calm enough.

If the weather is wrong, stay at La Maddalena. Porto-Vecchio has a weather day planned on 14 June before the crossing to Elba.

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	La Maddalena, Cala Gavetta	41°12.6'N	009°24.3'E				08:30 CEST	Depart.
1	South of Santo Stefano	41°10.3'N	009°24.5'E	176°T	2.3	2.3	09:05 CEST	Out through t
2	East of Caprera	41°13.0'N	009°30.0'E	057°T	4.9	7.3	09:59 CEST	Round Caprer
3	Lavezzi	41°20.0'N	009°16.5'E	305°T	12.3	19.6	12:27 CEST to 13:57	Swim stop, on Position appro CHECK ON
4	East of the Cerbicale	41°31.0'N	009°25.5'E	031°T	12.9	32.5	16:06 CEST	Outside the is
5	Gulf of Porto-Vecchio entrance	41°36.0'N	009°24.0'E	347°T	5.1	37.6	17:02 CEST	North of Poin
6	Porto-Vecchio marina	41°35.4'N	009°17.0'E	264°T	5.3	42.9	18:21 CEST	At the head of channel. CH

Tides and time

LA MADDALENA · SUN 13 JUN · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	04:11	1.4 m
LW	12:42	1.2 m
HW	17:34	1.4 m
LW	22:24	1.3 m

From the Solenzara station.

PORTO-VECCHIO · SUN 13 JUN · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	04:11	1.4 m
LW	12:42	1.2 m

HW	17:34	1.4 m
LW	22:24	1.3 m

From the Solenzara station.

Sunday 13 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.

Both ends use 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 La Maddalena 05:49 CEST. Sunset at Porto-Vecchio 20:58 CEST.

Weather

- **The strait** as on leg 38.
- **The gulf.** The Gulf of Porto-Vecchio is sheltered except from the east.

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.

Hazards

- **Lavezzi.** Part of the Bouches de Bonifacio nature reserve, with no-take zones and rules on anchoring, mooring and landing that could not be read for this plan. Phone the reserve or the Office de l'Environnement de la Corse before stopping. Without confirmation, look from 1 nm off and carry on.
- **Strait traffic.** As on leg 38.

- **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.
- **The gulf.** 9 km long, with shoals off its shores: follow the channel marks to the marina.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
La Maddalena	Start	Within the first hour	Cala Gavetta.
Bonifacio	6 nm west of the Lavezzi	Weather in the strait	CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
Porto-Vecchio	Destination	First choice	Marina, 150 visitor berths, up to 50 m, under 4.5 m draught.

Pilotage

LEAVING LA MADDALENA

1. Leave Cala Gavetta and the channel to the south, then round Caprera to the east and north.

INTO PORTO-VECCHIO

1. Enter the gulf north of Pointe de la Chiappa.
2. Follow the channel marks to the head of the gulf.
3. Call the marina on VHF 9 (+33 4 95 70 17 93).

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Capo Ferro	Fl(3) 15s, 52 m, 24 M
Lavezzi	27 m, 15 M
Chiappa	65 m, 23 M

Communications

Porto-Vecchio marina	VHF 9 · +33 4 95 70 17 93 · port@portivechju.corsica
Bouches de Bonifacio reserve (OEC)	oec.corsica
Emergency at sea (CROSS)	VHF 16, DSC 70 · telephone 196, free, 24 h

Contingencies

- **No stop allowed at the Lavezzi.** Swim in the Gulf of Porto-Vecchio instead.
- **Westerly rising.** Go straight to Porto-Vecchio.
- **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) 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
- ☐ Porto-Vecchio berth booked
- ☐ Lavezzi rules confirmed, or the stop dropped

- ☐ Fuel for 7 hours under engine, plus a reserve
- ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 8 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

- Porto-Vecchio marina: marina.portivechju.corsica.
- Bouches de Bonifacio reserve: oec.corsica; rnbb.fr.
- 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).
- 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.