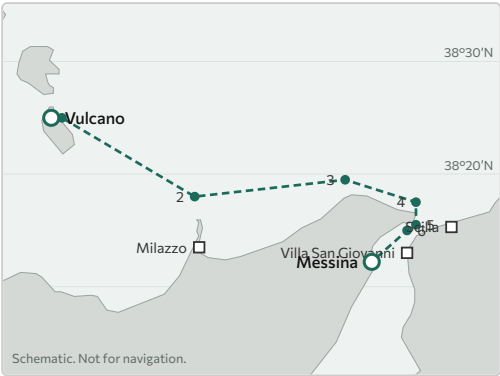


Vulcano to Messina

East along the north coast of Sicily past Capo Milazzo, round Capo Peloro and south into the Strait of Messina, Scylla and Charybdis of the Odyssey, to Messina.

DATE	Thursday 1 July 2027
DISTANCE	41.8 nm, 7 legs
TIME	7 h 54 min
DEPART	08:00 CEST from Vulcano. About 2 hours 20 minutes after sunrise (05:40 CEST). The exact time is set by the current in the strait: see Tides.
ARRIVE	About 15:54 CEST at Messina. In the afternoon, with about 4 hours 30 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:25 CEST), if the strait is timed as planned.
TIDES	Range about 0.1 m at Messina, but the strait's currents reach 5 kn or more: the passage must be timed
WIND	Wind in the strait funnels north or south and can be much stronger than outside
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, all hands on deck through the strait



Track and waypoints 1 to 6, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 07:00 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ The current tables give a scendente (south-going) stream at Capo Peloro within the day's daylight window, and the departure time is set to meet it.

- ☐ No wind above force 4 against the expected current in the strait.
- ☐ Messina berth confirmed.
- ☐ Visibility 3 nm or more.

If the timing or wind is wrong, stay at Vulcano or stop at Milazzo, 20 nm from the strait, and go through the next day. Messina has a rest day planned on 2 July.

Route and waypoints

Waypoints are planning positions in open water, checked against a 1:10m coastline to be at least 0.3 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	Vulcano, Porto di Levante	38°25.0'N	014°57.8'E				08:00 CEST	Depart.
1	Porto di Levante approach	38°25.0'N	014°59.0'E	090°T	0.9	0.9	08:14 CEST	Out of the bay, then e
2	North of Capo Milazzo	38°18.0'N	015°14.0'E	121°T	13.7	14.6	10:31 CEST	1.5 nm off the cape.
3	Off Capo Rasocolmo	38°19.5'N	015°31.0'E	083°T	13.4	28.1	12:45 CEST	2 nm off.
4	North of Capo Peloro	38°17.5'N	015°39.0'E	108°T	6.6	34.7	13:57 CEST	The northern entrance the current before tu
5	The narrows	38°15.5'N	015°39.0'E	180°T	2.0	36.7	14:19 CEST	Off Torre Faro, 3.1 km Sicilian side, clear of t
6	Off Ganzirri	38°15.0'N	015°38.0'E	238°T	0.9	37.6	14:29 CEST	Shear lines form here
7	Messina, Marina del Nettuno	38°12.2'N	015°34.0'E	228°T	4.2	41.8	15:54 CEST	North of the port entrance. Position appro

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Tides and time

VULCANO · THU 1 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	01:12	0.1 m
HW	07:24	0.3 m
LW	13:35	0.0 m
HW	20:14	0.3 m

From the Ginostra station.

MESSINA · THU 1 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	05:43	0.0 m
HW	10:36	0.1 m
LW	19:05	0.0 m
HW	22:55	0.1 m

Thursday 1 July 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.

Vulcano uses the Ginostra station on Stromboli.

The Strait of Messina currents. The tides of the Tyrrhenian and Ionian Seas are in opposition, so the current in the strait reverses about every 6 hours: the montante runs north, the scendente runs south. The tidal stream alone reaches about 5.8 kn at the narrows, and with wind and pressure added up to about 10 kn. Whirlpools form off Scilla and south of Capo Peloro on the montante, and a large eddy (the garofalo) off Punta San Raineri, at the mouth of Messina harbour, on the scendente. Steep shear lines (tagli) form off Ganzirri, Torre Faro and Punta Pezzo. Time the passage from the Istituto Idrografico della Marina's current tables for the strait, to carry the scendente south through the narrows and avoid wind against current. The reference times for 2027 were not available for this plan.

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 Vulcano 05:40 CEST. Sunset at Messina 20:25 CEST.

Weather

- **Funnelled wind.** Wind in the strait blows along it, north or south, and can be 1 or 2 forces stronger than outside.
- **Wind against current** raises a short, steep sea in the narrows. Do not enter in those conditions.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- Italian forecasts: Aeronautica Militare Meteomar and gale warnings (avviso di burrasca), meteoam.it. Forecast areas Tirreno meridionale, Stretto di Sicilia and Ionio. Zone names and issue times: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
- NAVTEX Augusta: 518 kHz, station V. Roma: station R. Check the times on the receiver.
- Italian coast radio VHF weather broadcasts: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

Hazards

- **The Strait of Messina currents.** The tides of the Tyrrhenian and Ionian Seas are in opposition, so the current in the strait reverses about every 6 hours: the montante runs north, the scendente runs south. The tidal stream alone reaches about 5.8 kn at the narrows, and with wind and pressure added up to about 10 kn. Whirlpools form off Scilla and south of Capo Peloro on the montante, and a large eddy (the garofalo) off Punta San Raineri, at the mouth of Messina harbour, on the scendente. Steep shear lines (tagli) form off Ganzirri, Torre Faro and Punta Pezzo. Time the passage from the Istituto Idrografico della Marina's current tables for the strait, to carry the scendente south through the narrows and avoid wind against current. The reference times for 2027 were not available for this plan.
- **Strait traffic.** A traffic separation scheme runs through the strait, with a vessel traffic service at Messina. Ferries cross between Villa San Giovanni, Reggio Calabria, Messina and Tremestieri every few minutes, and fast craft run at speed. Small-craft reporting rules, the VTS channel and the Capitaneria's ordinance for the strait could not be read for this plan. Listen on VHF 16 and the VTS channel, cross the lanes at right angles, and keep to the Sicilian side.
- **Swordfish boats.** Traditional spotter boats with tall masts and long bowsprits fish in the strait in summer and move fast.
- **Milazzo.** An oil refinery with tankers anchored off.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Vulcano or Lipari	Start	Within the first hour	Harbours.
Milazzo	4 nm south of waypoint 2	Wrong timing or weather	Marinas. CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
Messina	Destination	First choice	Marina del Nettuno, +39 090 344139.

Pilotage

LEAVING VULCANO

1. Leave Porto di Levante and head east toward Capo Milazzo.

THROUGH THE STRAIT TO MESSINA

1. Arrive north of Capo Peloro at the start of the scendente.
2. Turn south through the narrows on the Sicilian side, out of the traffic lanes and clear of the ferry routes.
3. Watch for eddies and shear lines off Ganzirri. Keep the engine ready.
4. Call Marina del Nettuno (+39 090 344139; mobile +39 392 990 0144) for a berth. VHF:

[CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Strombolicchio	Fl(3) 15s, 57 m, 11 M
Capo Peloro	37 m, 19 M; characteristic: CHECK ON THE CHART
Messina, Punta San Raineri	CHECK ON THE CHART

Communications

Marina del Nettuno, Messina	+39 090 344139 · +39 392 990 0144 · info.messina@marinadelnettuno.it
Messina VTS	CHECK ON THE CHART
Emergency at sea, Italy (Guardia Costiera)	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 1530
Emergency on land	112

Contingencies

- **Current against.** Wait north of Capo Peloro, well clear of the lanes, or anchor off Torre Faro if the weather allows, until it turns.
- **Engine failure in the strait.** Sail if possible; call the VTS and Guardia Costiera at once: the current will carry the boat.
- **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
- ☐ Strait current times for 1 July worked out from the official tables
- ☐ Messina berth booked
- ☐ Engine checked: it must not fail in the strait

- ☐ 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

- Strait of Messina: Italian Wikipedia, “Stretto di Messina” (currents, eddies, ferries); English Wikipedia, “Strait of Messina”.
- Messina: marinadelnettuno.it (contacts, tariffs); Italian Wikipedia, “Porto di Messina”.
- Capo Peloro: English Wikipedia, “Capo Peloro Lighthouse” (characteristic unclear).
- Capitaneria di porto ordinances for Lipari, Milazzo, Messina, Catania, Siracusa and Pozzallo could not be read: guardiacostiera.gov.it was unreachable. [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
- 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.