

Messina to Giardini Naxos

South out of the strait with the scendente along the Ionian coast of Sicily, under the hill town of Taormina, to Giardini Naxos, the first Greek colony in Sicily.

DATE	Saturday 3 July 2027
DISTANCE	28.6 nm, 6 legs
TIME	5 h 07 min
DEPART	09:30 CEST from Messina. Mid-morning, after the rest day at Messina. The exact time is set by the current in the strait.
ARRIVE	About 14:37 CEST at Giardini Naxos. In the early afternoon, with about 5 hours 50 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:24 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.2 m, but the strait's current runs to the south end of the narrows: time the departure
WIND	Sea breezes; Etna's slopes bring gusts off the land
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 5, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 08:30 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ The current tables give a scendente at Messina at the planned departure.
- ☐ No southerly above force 4 against the current.
- ☐ Giardini Naxos berth confirmed.

If the weather is wrong, stay at Messina. Riposto, 10 nm south of Naxos, is the alternative.

Route and waypoints

Waypoints are planning positions in open water, checked against a 1:10m coastline to be at least 0.5 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	Messina, Marina del Nettuno	38°12.2'N	015°34.0'E				09:30 CEST	Depart on the scend
1	Off Messina harbour	38°11.0'N	015°35.5'E	136°T	1.7	1.7	09:50 CEST	Clear of the port entr Punta San Raineri. Fe
2	Off Scaletta	38°03.0'N	015°31.0'E	204°T	8.8	10.4	11:18 CEST	1.5 nm off.
3	Off Capo Sant'Alessio	37°55.0'N	015°23.0'E	218°T	10.2	20.6	13:00 CEST	1 nm off.
4	Off Capo Taormina	37°50.5'N	015°19.5'E	212°T	5.3	25.9	13:53 CEST	1 nm off. Isola Bella is
5	Giardini Naxos approach	37°49.5'N	015°17.5'E	238°T	1.9	27.8	14:21 CEST	North of Capo Schisò CHECK ON THE C
6	Giardini Naxos harbour	37°49.3'N	015°16.5'E	256°T	0.8	28.6	14:37 CEST	Small harbour and po Schisò. Position appr CHECK ON THE C

Tides and time

MESSINA · SAT 3 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)		
LW	07:57	0.0 m
HW	12:06	0.1 m
LW	20:24	0.0 m
GIARDINI NAXOS · SAT 3 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)		
HW	03:15	0.1 m
LW	08:58	0.0 m
HW	15:36	0.2 m
LW	22:19	0.0 m
From the Catania station.		

Saturday 3 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.

Giardini Naxos uses the Catania station.

The strait. The current at Messina runs as on leg 51. Leave on the scendente, so the boat is carried south out of the strait.

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 Messina 05:39 CEST. Sunset at Giardini Naxos 20:24 CEST.

Weather

- **The Ionian coast** is open to the east and south-east.
- **Etna.** Ash from an eruption can fall on the coast and reduce visibility.

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

- **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.
- **Giardini Naxos harbour.** Small, with pontoons run by private operators. Berths, depths and VHF could not be checked. The bay is a common anchorage in settled weather.

[CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

- **Isola Bella** below Taormina is a nature reserve. Keep off.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Messina	Start	Within the first hour	Marina del Nettuno.
Riposto	10 nm south of Naxos	Naxos full or exposed	Marina dell'Etna. CHECK THE PILOT BOOK

Pilotage

LEAVING MESSINA

1. Leave on the scendente and head south, clear of the port entrance and the ferry routes.

INTO GIARDINI NAXOS

1. Round Capo Taormina 1 nm off and head south-west into the bay.
2. Call the pontoon operators for a berth, or anchor in the bay north of Capo Schisò. Operators and depths: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Capo Peloro	CHECK ON THE CHART
Capo Sant'Alessio and Capo Taormina	CHECK ON THE CHART

Communications

Marina del Nettuno, Messina	+39 090 344139
Giardini Naxos pontoons	CHECK ON THE CHART
Emergency at sea, Italy (Guardia Costiera)	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 1530
Emergency on land	112

Contingencies

- **Current against.** Wait in the marina until it turns.
- **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 3 July worked out
- ☐ Giardini Naxos berth booked

- ☐ Fuel for 6 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

- Strait of Messina: Italian Wikipedia, “Stretto di Messina” (currents, eddies, ferries); English Wikipedia, “Strait of Messina”.
- 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.