

Giardini Naxos to Siracusa

South under Etna, across the Gulf of Catania and past the oil port of Augusta, to Siracusa, with its island old town of Ortigia and the great natural harbour of the Porto Grande.

DATE	Sunday 4 July 2027
DISTANCE	49.8 nm, 6 legs
TIME	8 h 43 min
DEPART	07:30 CEST from Giardini Naxos. 1 hour 50 minutes after sunrise (05:42 CEST).
ARRIVE	About 16:13 CEST at Siracusa. In the late afternoon, with about 4 hours 10 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:22 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.2 m: no practical effect
WIND	Sea breezes; afternoon gusts off Etna
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 06:30 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No wind above force 5, and no easterly above force 4.
- ☐ Siracusa berth confirmed.
- ☐ Visibility 3 nm or more: the approaches to Catania and Augusta are busy.

If the weather is wrong, stay at Giardini Naxos. Catania is the harbour on the way.

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	Giardini Naxos harbour	37°49.3'N	015°16.5'E				07:30 CEST	Depart.
1	Giardini Naxos approach	37°49.5'N	015°17.5'E	076°T	0.8	0.8	07:42 CEST	Out of the bay, then s
2	Off Acireale	37°36.0'N	015°13.0'E	195°T	14.0	14.8	10:02 CEST	2 nm off the lava coas
3	Off Capo Santa Croce	37°14.5'N	015°18.0'E	170°T	21.9	36.7	13:41 CEST	2 nm off. Augusta to t naval ships.
4	East of Ortigia	37°04.0'N	015°19.0'E	176°T	10.5	47.2	15:26 CEST	1.5 nm off.
5	Porto Grande approach	37°02.8'N	015°18.5'E	198°T	1.3	48.5	15:45 CEST	South-east of the ent Plemmirio area.
6	Siracusa, Porto Grande	37°03.6'N	015°17.1'E	306°T	1.4	49.8	16:13 CEST	Inside the harbour, of Position approximate CHECK ON THE C

Tides and time

GIARDINI NAXOS · SUN 4 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	04:00	0.1 m
LW	09:44	0.0 m
HW	16:17	0.2 m
LW	23:00	0.0 m

From the Catania station.

SIRACUSA · SUN 4 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	04:00	0.1 m
LW	09:44	0.0 m
HW	16:17	0.2 m
LW	23:00	0.0 m

From the Catania station.

Sunday 4 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.

Both ends use the Catania 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 Giardini Naxos 05:42 CEST. Sunset at Siracusa 20:22 CEST.

Weather

- **Settled in summer.** Sea breezes from the south-east.
- **Gulf of Catania.** Open to the east; a sea builds in an easterly.

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

- **Augusta.** One of Italy's largest oil ports and a naval base, with tankers anchored off and restricted naval areas. Keep 2 nm off and outside any charted military area.
[CHECK ON THE CHART](#)
- **Catania.** Ferries and commercial traffic.
- **Porto Grande.** The Anapo river gives a steady current in the harbour.

- **Plemmirio marine protected area**, round Capo Murro di Porco. Zone A (no navigation, anchoring or mooring) off the cape between 36°59.94'N and 37°01.04'N, east of the coast to 15°20.45'E. Zone B: sail allowed, engine at 5 kn, no anchoring, mooring only on the park's buoys. Zone C (the rest, out to 15°21.15'E and down to 36°59.44'N): engine at 10 kn, anchoring only on sand in 2 marked areas. Buoys need a paid authorisation bought online (pagoPA), which asks for an Italian fiscal code or the country of residence. Consorzio Plemmirio 0931 449310, info@plemmirio.it.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Giardini Naxos	Start	Within the first hour	Harbour.
Catania	6 nm west of waypoint 2	Weather turns	CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
Siracusa	Destination	First choice	Marina Yachting, about 180 berths; Foro Italico quay, about 100.

Pilotage

LEAVING GIARDINI NAXOS

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

INTO THE PORTO GRANDE

1. From east of Ortigia, head south, then west into the harbour between Castello Maniace and Punta Castelluccio.
2. Call Marina Yachting for a berth. VHF and phone: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Capo Santa Croce	LFI(2) 12s, 39 m, 16 M
Capo Murro di Porco	FI 5s, 34 m, 17 M
Siracusa harbour	CHECK ON THE CHART

Communications

Marina Yachting, Siracusa	CHECK ON THE CHART
Consorzio Plemmirio	0931 449310 · info@plemmirio.it
Emergency at sea, Italy (Guardia Costiera)	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 1530

Contingencies

- **Easterly rising.** Go into Catania.
- **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
- ☐ Siracusa berth booked

- ☐ Fuel for 10 hours under engine, plus a reserve
- ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 11 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

- Siracusa: Italian Wikipedia, “Porto di Siracusa”.
- Lights: English Wikipedia, Capo Santa Croce and Capo Murro di Porco lighthouses.
- Plemmirio: plemmirio.eu (decree of 15 September 2004; disciplinare 2022; ormeggio).
- 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.