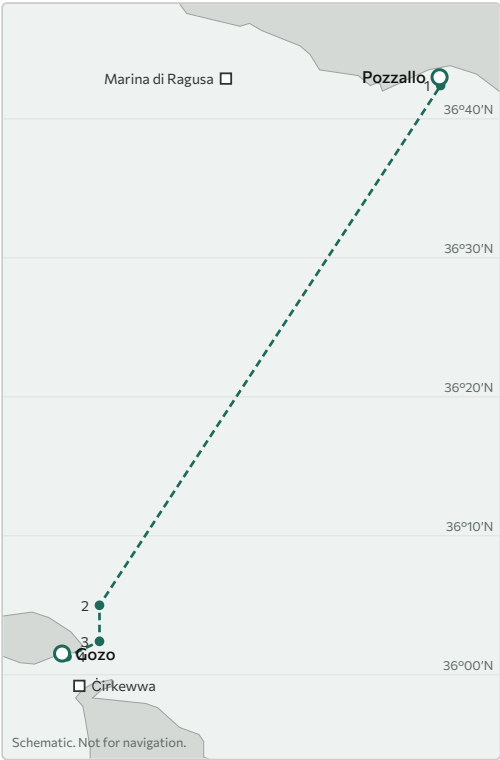


Pozzallo to Gozo

South across the Malta Channel from Sicily to Gozo, the greener, quieter of the Maltese islands, round its east end to the harbour of Mġarr.

DATE	Wednesday 7 July 2027
DISTANCE	51.0 nm, 5 legs
TIME	8 h 55 min
DEPART	08:00 CEST from Pozzallo. 2 hours 10 minutes after sunrise (05:49 CEST).
ARRIVE	About 16:55 CEST at Gozo. In the late afternoon, with about 3 hours 25 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:22 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.2 m: no practical effect
WIND	The maestrale (north-west) is the summer wind in the channel, on the beam
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 4, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

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

- ☐ No wind above force 5 in the Malta Channel.
- ☐ Mġarr berth confirmed: see Hazards.
- ☐ Visibility 3 nm or more: ships cross the channel east and west.

If the weather is wrong, stay at Pozzallo. Gozo has a rest day planned on 8 July, so the crossing can slip a day.

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	Pozzallo	36°43.0'N	014°51.9'E				08:00 CEST	Depart.
1	Pozzallo approach	36°42.4'N	014°52.0'E	172°T	0.6	0.6	08:09 CEST	Out to the south. Wait for ferry.
2	North-east of Gozo	36°05.0'N	014°21.5'E	213°T	44.8	45.4	15:37 CEST	Malta. Listen on VHF.
3	Off Qala Point	36°02.4'N	014°21.5'E	180°T	2.6	48.0	16:08 CEST	East of Gozo, north of North Comino Channel.
4	Mġarr approach	36°01.3'N	014°18.6'E	245°T	2.6	50.6	16:47 CEST	East of the breakwater.
5	Mġarr Marina	36°01.5'N	014°18.2'E	302°T	0.4	51.0	16:55 CEST	Position from the marina.

Tides and time

POZZALLO · WED 7 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	06:13	0.1 m
LW	12:02	0.0 m
HW	18:23	0.2 m

From the Catania station.

GOZO · WED 7 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	06:41	0.1 m
LW	12:18	-0.0 m
HW	19:22	0.1 m

From the Porto Empedocle station.

Wednesday 7 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.

Gozo uses the Porto Empedocle station, about 85 nm away: there is no closer one. Treat the times as a guide only.

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 Pozzallo 05:49 CEST. Sunset at Gozo 20:22 CEST.

Weather

- **The Malta Channel.** 45 nm of open water; the summer maestreale is fresh by afternoon.
- **Mġarr** faces east and is sheltered from the maestreale.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- Malta Meteorological Office: shipping forecast for Maltese waters, maltairport.com/weather. Issue times: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
- Malta Coast Radio broadcasts on NAVTEX; check the station letter and times on the receiver. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)
- Italian Meteomar for the Canale di Sicilia: meteoam.it.
- 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](#)

Hazards

- **Arriving in Malta from Italy.** Both are in the Schengen area, so there is no passport control between them. Whether a yacht must report its arrival to the police, customs or Transport Malta could not be checked. Ask the marina before sailing.
- **Mġarr Marina.** After damage from Storm Harry the marina stopped taking bookings in 2026, with no reopening date given. Confirm it is open for 2027 before planning on it.
- **Maltese vessel traffic services.** Every vessel in Maltese ports, internal and territorial waters takes part in the VTS. Keep a listening watch on VHF 12 for Valletta (Grand Harbour and Marsamxett), 14 for Marsaxlokk and 10 for Mġarr, Gozo, whether under way or at anchor, and be ready to give position and intentions. Whether a yacht must also report on arrival could not be confirmed. Call to be sure.
- **Gozo Channel ferries** run day and night between Ċirkewwa and Mġarr, with a fast ferry from Valletta. Keep clear of the harbour entrance when one is moving.

- **Comino and the Blue Lagoon.** A swimmers' zone, closed to boats, covers the Blue Lagoon (Transport Malta notice 059/2026); boats keep at least 5 m outside it. A 5 kn limit applies in the Blue Lagoon and its fairways and 10 kn round Comino, marked by yellow buoys (Fl Y 4s) from June to October and in force all year. Mooring to the marker buoys is prohibited. Comino is a Natura 2000 marine site. Other swimmers' zones round Gozo (Ramla, Xlendi, Mġarr ix-Xini and others) have a 20 m safety distance. The 2026 notices expire in October 2026; check the 2027 reissue.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Pozzallo	Start	Within the first hour	Harbour.
Msida, Malta	15 nm south-east of Mġarr	Mġarr closed or full	Marina.
Marina di Ragusa	10 nm west of Pozzallo	Weather turns early	VHF 74, +39 0932 230301.

Pilotage

LEAVING POZZALLO

1. Leave the harbour, watching for the Malta ferry, and head south-south-west.

INTO MĠARR

1. Round Qala Point and enter the North Comino Channel at slow speed.
2. Call Mġarr LPS on VHF 10, then the marina on VHF 13 (+356 9924 2501).
3. Enter between the breakwaters; the ferry terminal is in the south-west of the harbour and the yacht pontoons to the north.

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Capo Passero	Fl(2) 10s, 39 m, 11 M
Gozo, Giordan	Fl 7.5s, 180 m, 20 M
Mġarr breakwaters	CHECK ON THE CHART

Communications

Mġarr Marina	VHF 13 · +356 9924 2501 · office +356 2099 2501
Emergency, Malta	112
AFM Operations Centre (search and rescue)	+356 2249 4016

Contingencies

- **Mġarr full or closed.** Go on to Msida.
- **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 Maltese Local Notices to Mariners (Transport Malta) 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
 - ☐ Mġarr berth booked and the marina confirmed open
 - ☐ Maltese courtesy flag ready
 - ☐ Arrival formalities confirmed with the marina
-
- ☐ 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

- Pozzallo: English and Italian Wikipedia.
- Transport Malta: VTS communications and participation notices; Local Notices to Mariners 030, 043, 059, 076 and 099 of 2026 (transport.gov.mt).
- AFM Operations Centre: afm.gov.mt. Mġarr Marina: gozomarina.net.

- Malta lights: English Wikipedia, List of lighthouses in Malta; Giordan and Delimara lighthouse pages.
- 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.