

Gozo to Msida, Malta

A short day: across to Comino to swim at the Blue Lagoon, then down the north-east coast of Malta, past St Julian's and Sliema, into Marsamxett harbour under the walls of Valletta to the marina at Msida.

DATE	Friday 9 July 2027
DISTANCE	14.0 nm, 6 legs
TIME	4 h 48 min, including 2 h stopped
DEPART	10:00 CEST from Gozo. Mid-morning, after the rest day on Gozo.
ARRIVE	About 14:48 CEST at Msida, Malta. In the afternoon, after the Blue Lagoon stop, with about 5 hours 35 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:21 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.1 m: no practical effect
WIND	The maestrale is fair down Malta's north-east coast
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 Blue Lagoon is crowded by midday: arrive early



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

Go or no-go

Decide at 09:00 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No wind above force 5.
- ☐ Msida berth confirmed.
- ☐ For the stop only: room to anchor outside the Blue Lagoon swimmers' zone.

If the weather is wrong, stay at Mġarr. The leg is 20 nm and can be done in most summer weather.

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	Mġarr Marina	36°01.5'N	014°18.2'E				10:00 CEST	Depart.
1	Mġarr approach	36°01.3'N	014°18.6'E	122°T	0.4	0.4	10:06 CEST	Out of the harbour
2	Blue Lagoon, Comino	36°00.9'N	014°19.6'E	113°T	0.9	1.3	10:24 CEST to 12:24	Swim stop at 10:24, 12:24 zone, 5 kn. Port of Call. CHECK ON CHART
3	Off Qawra Point	35°58.0'N	014°26.0'E	120°T	6.0	7.3	13:24 CEST	1 nm off.
4	Off St Julian's	35°55.5'N	014°30.5'E	124°T	4.4	11.7	14:08 CEST	1 nm off. Listed as 124°T
5	Marsamxett entrance	35°54.5'N	014°31.0'E	158°T	1.1	12.8	14:24 CEST	Keep clear of Tigné Point and
6	Msida Marina	35°53.8'N	014°29.8'E	234°T	1.2	14.0	14:48 CEST	At the head of the bay, approximate. CHECK ON CHART

Tides and time

GOZO · FRI 9 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	01:51	0.0 m
HW	08:20	0.1 m
LW	13:43	0.0 m
HW	20:29	0.1 m

From the Porto Empedocle station.

MSIDA, MALTA · FRI 9 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	01:51	0.0 m
HW	08:20	0.1 m
LW	13:43	0.0 m
HW	20:29	0.1 m

From the Porto Empedocle station.

Friday 9 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 Porto Empedocle station, about 85 nm away. 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 Gozo 05:54 CEST. Sunset at Msida 20:21 CEST.

Weather

- **Sheltered** from the maestrale along Malta's north-east coast.
- **A gregale** (north-east) sends a sea onto this coast and into the harbour mouths.

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.

Hazards

- **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 (FI 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, Mgarr ix-Xini and others) have a 20 m safety distance. The 2026 notices expire in October 2026; check the 2027 reissue.

- **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.
- **Marsamxett.** A submerged obstruction from a water pipeline lies about 28 m off Tigné Point, at 35°54.307'N 14°30.770'E: passing between it and the shore is prohibited (notice 030/2026). A fairway for the Sliema ferries is marked in the harbour, with no anchoring or mooring in it (notice 043/2026).
- **Msida Marina.** VHF, phone, depths and visitor berths could not be checked.

CHECK THE PILOT BOOK

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Mġarr	Start	Within the first hour	Marina.
St Paul's Bay or Mellieħa Bay	Waypoint 3	Weather turns	Anchorage.
Grand Harbour marina	Next harbour south of Marsamxett	Msida full	CHECK THE PILOT BOOK

Pilotage

LEAVING MĠARR

1. Leave the harbour and head east into the channel between Comino and Cominotto.

INTO MARSAMXETT

1. Call Valletta VTS on VHF 12 before the entrance and keep a listening watch.
2. Enter well clear of Tigné Point and outside the ferry fairway.
3. Call Msida Marina for a berth. VHF and phone: CHECK THE PILOT BOOK

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Gozo, Giordan	Fl 7.5s, 180 m, 20 M
Fort St Elmo	49 m; characteristic: CHECK ON THE CHART
Comino	CHECK ON THE CHART

Communications

Msida Marina	CHECK ON THE CHART
Emergency, Malta	112
AFM Operations Centre (search and rescue)	+356 2249 4016
Valletta VTS	VHF 12 · +356 2555 4491
Mġarr Local Port Service (Gozo)	VHF 10 · +356 2125 5071

Contingencies

- **Blue Lagoon full.** Swim off the boat outside the 5 kn zone, or skip the stop.
- **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
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Msida berth booked

- ☐ Fuel for 5 hours under engine, plus a reserve
- ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 6 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

- 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.
- 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.