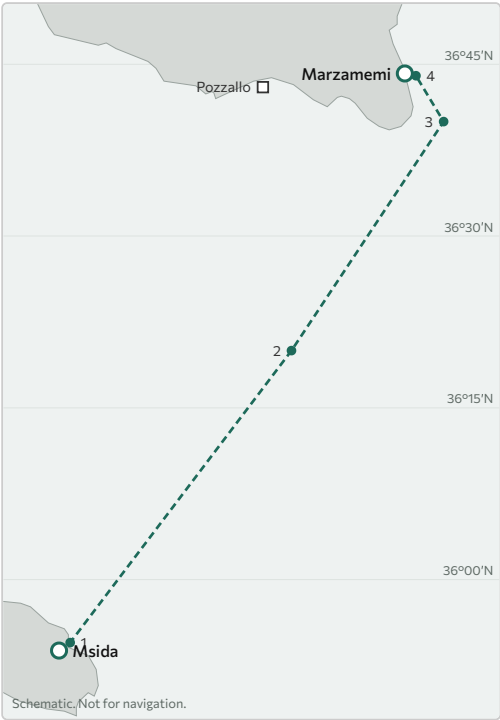


Msida, Malta to Marzamemi

North-east across the open sea from Malta back to Sicily, round Capo Passero to Marzamemi, a fishing village built round an old tuna factory.

DATE	Sunday 11 July 2027
DISTANCE	62.9 nm, 5 legs
TIME	10 h 44 min
DEPART	07:00 CEST from Msida, Malta. 1 hour 5 minutes after sunrise (05:55 CEST), after the rest day at Msida.
ARRIVE	About 17:44 CEST at Marzamemi. In the late afternoon, with about 2 hours 35 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:20 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.1 m: no practical effect
WIND	The maestrale is on the beam; a scirocco is on the nose
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 06:00 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No wind above force 5, and no scirocco above force 4.
- ☐ Marzamemi berth confirmed, or Siracusa as the plan.
- ☐ Visibility 3 nm or more.

If the weather is wrong, stay at Msida. Pozzallo is the shorter alternative landfall in Sicily.

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	Msida Marina	35°53.8'N	014°29.8'E				07:00 CEST	Depart.
1	Marsamxett entrance	35°54.5'N	014°31.0'E	054°T	1.2	1.2	07:18 CEST	Out, clear of Tigné Point on VHF 12.
2	Open sea	36°20.0'N	014°55.0'E	037°T	32.1	33.3	12:14 CEST	Halfway. Leaving Malta
3	South-east of Capo Passero	36°40.0'N	015°11.5'E	033°T	24.0	57.3	16:14 CEST	1.5 nm off the island of Sicily
4	Marzamemi approach	36°44.0'N	015°08.5'E	329°T	4.7	61.9	17:24 CEST	East of the harbour. CHECK ON THE CHART
5	Marzamemi	36°44.2'N	015°07.3'E	282°T	1.0	62.9	17:44 CEST	Fishing harbour. Position of the station. CHECK ON THE CHART

Tides and time

MSIDA, MALTA · SUN 11 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	03:42	0.0 m
HW	11:34	0.1 m
LW	17:56	0.1 m
HW	22:54	0.1 m

From the Porto Empedocle station.

MARZAMEMI · SUN 11 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	03:14	0.0 m
HW	10:30	0.1 m
LW	16:54	0.1 m
HW	21:55	0.1 m

From the Catania station.

Sunday 11 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.

Msida uses the Porto Empedocle station and **Marzamemi** 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 Msida 05:55 CEST. Sunset at Marzamemi 20:20 CEST.

Weather

- **Open sea.** 50 nm with no shelter.
- **Capo Passero.** Wind and sea build round the cape.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- Malta Meteorological Office: shipping forecast for Maltese waters, maltairport.com/weather. Issue times: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
- 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

- **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.
- **Marzamemi harbour.** A small fishing harbour; visitor berths, depths and VHF could not be checked. [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
- **Fishing gear** off Capo Passero and Marzamemi.
- **Shipping** crosses the route between the Strait of Sicily and the eastern Mediterranean.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Msida	Start	Within the first 2 hours	Marina.
Pozzallo	15 nm west of waypoint 3	Weather turns	Harbour.
Siracusa	25 nm north of Marzamemi	Marzamemi full	Porto Grande.

Pilotage

LEAVING MSIDA

1. Leave Marsamxett on VHF 12, clear of Tigné Point, and head north-east.

INTO MARZAMEMI

1. Round Capo Passero 1.5 nm off and head north.
2. Approach from the east. Berths and depths: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Malta lights	CHECK ON THE CHART
Capo Passero	Fl(2) 10s, 39 m, 11 M

Communications

Msida Marina	CHECK ON THE CHART
Valletta VTS	VHF 12 · +356 2555 4491
Emergency at sea, Italy (Guardia Costiera)	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 1530
Emergency on land	112

Contingencies

- **Behind time.** If waypoint 3 is not reached by 13:00 CEST, go into Pozzallo.
- **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) and 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
 - ☐ Marzamemi berth booked
 - ☐ Italian courtesy flag ready
-
- ☐ Fuel for 11 hours under engine, plus a reserve
 - ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 12 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

- Marzamemi: Italian Wikipedia.
- Transport Malta: VTS communications and participation notices; Local Notices to Mariners 030, 043, 059, 076 and 099 of 2026 (transport.gov.mt).
- 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.