

Crotone to Santa Maria di Leuca

North-east across the mouth of the Gulf of Taranto from Calabria to Santa Maria di Leuca, the heel of Italy, where the Ionian meets the Adriatic.

DATE	Saturday 17 July 2027
DISTANCE	71.5 nm, 4 legs
TIME	11 h 20 min
DEPART	05:45 CEST from Crotone. At first light, at sunrise (05:39 CEST), after the weather day at Crotone.
ARRIVE	About 17:05 CEST at Santa Maria di Leuca. In the late afternoon, with about 3 hours 5 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:13 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.3 m: no practical effect
WIND	The maestrale (north-west) is the summer wind across the gulf, 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. An 11-hour day of open sea: meals prepared ahead



Track and waypoints 1 to 3, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide the evening before and confirm at 05:15 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ Settled forecast for the whole day: no wind above force 5, and no scirocco above force 4.
- ☐ Leuca berth confirmed.
- ☐ Crew rested: this is an 11-hour day.

This is the leg the weather day at Crotone is for. If the forecast is still wrong, wait. Gallipoli, 20 nm north of Leuca on the gulf side, is the alternative landfall.

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	Crotone	39°05.7'N	017°07.5'E				05:45 CEST	Depart at first light.
1	Crotone approach	39°05.5'N	017°09.0'E	101°T	1.2	1.2	06:03 CEST	Out to the east.
2	Mid-gulf	39°27.0'N	017°45.0'E	052°T	35.2	36.4	11:28 CEST	Open sea, 25 nm from
3	Leuca approach	39°46.8'N	018°20.5'E	054°T	33.8	70.2	16:40 CEST	South-west of the ha and its shoal.
4	Marina di Leuca	39°47.6'N	018°21.8'E	050°T	1.3	71.5	17:05 CEST	Position from the ma

Tides and time

CROTONE · SAT 17 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	03:48	0.2 m
LW	09:15	0.1 m
HW	15:52	0.2 m
LW	22:28	0.1 m

SANTA MARIA DI LEUCA · SAT 17 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	03:59	0.2 m
LW	09:40	0.1 m
HW	16:15	0.3 m
LW	22:46	0.1 m

From the Otranto station.

Saturday 17 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.

Leuca uses the Otranto 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 Crotone 05:39 CEST. Sunset at Santa Maria di Leuca 20:13 CEST.

Weather

- **Open sea.** About 60 nm across the gulf with no shelter.
- **Capo Santa Maria di Leuca.** Wind and sea build where the Ionian and Adriatic meet.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- Italian forecasts: Aeronautica Militare Meteomar and gale warnings (avviso di burrasca), meteoam.it. Forecast areas Ionio, Adriatico meridionale and Adriatico centrale. Zone names and issue times: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
- NAVTEX: Italian stations cover the Ionian and Adriatic; check the station letters and times on the receiver. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)
- Italian coast radio VHF weather broadcasts: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

Hazards

- **The Gulf of Taranto.** Italy claims the gulf inside a line from Punta Alice to Punta Meliso (Leuca) as a historic bay. The naval base at Taranto is at its head; naval exercise areas in the gulf could not be checked. Read the Avvisi ai naviganti before sailing.
- **The shoal east of the cape.** A shoal lies east of Capo Santa Maria di Leuca, covered by a red occulting sector on the lighthouse. The route approaches from the south-west, clear of it.
- **Shipping** to and from Taranto crosses the route.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Crotone	Start	Within the first 2 hours	Port.
Gallipoli	20 nm north of Leuca	Leuca full or weather from the south	CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
Santa Maria di Leuca	Destination	First choice	Marina, VHF 12, 760 berths.

Pilotage

LEAVING CROTONE

1. Leave at first light and set the course north-east across the gulf.

INTO MARINA DI LEUCA

1. Approach from the south-west, west of the cape.
2. Call the marina on VHF 12 (0833 758687). Depth up to 7.5 m, 3 kn in port.

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Capo Colonna	Fl 5s, 40 m, 24 M
Punta Alice	Fl(2) 10s, 31 m, 16 M
Capo Santa Maria di Leuca	Fl(3) 15s, 102 m, 24 M; red occulting sector over the shoal to the east

Communications

Port of Crotone	+39 392 658 2094
Marina di Leuca	VHF 12 · 0833 758687 · info@portodileuca.it
Emergency at sea, Italy (Guardia Costiera)	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 1530
Emergency on land	112

Contingencies

- **Behind time.** If the mid-gulf waypoint is not reached by 11:30 CEST, turn back to Crotone or bear away for Gallipoli.
- **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
- ☐ Leuca berth booked

- ☐ Meals for an 11-hour day prepared
- ☐ Avvisi ai naviganti for the Gulf of Taranto read
- ☐ Fuel for 13 hours under engine, plus a reserve
- ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 14 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

- Gulf of Taranto: Italian and English Wikipedia.
- Marina di Leuca: portodileuca.it.
- Lights in Puglia and Calabria: English Wikipedia, List of lighthouses in Italy; Italian Wikipedia lighthouse pages (Capo Santa Maria di Leuca, Punta Palascia, Capo Colonna).
- Port descriptions: Italian Wikipedia, Porto di Brindisi, Porto di Monopoli, Porto di Bari, Porto di Trani, Vieste.
- Harbour ordinances (Capitanerie di porto) and the Autorità di Sistema Portuale del Mare Adriatico Meridionale's rules for pleasure craft could not be read. [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)
- 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.