

Santa Maria di Leuca to Otranto

North up the cliff coast of the Salento, past the sea caves of the Otranto to Leuca park, with a swim off Castro and the Zinzulusa cave, round Punta Palascia, the easternmost point of Italy, to Otranto.

DATE	Sunday 18 July 2027
DISTANCE	29.3 nm, 7 legs
TIME	7 h 51 min, including 1.5 h stopped
DEPART	09:30 CEST from Santa Maria di Leuca. Mid-morning.
ARRIVE	About 17:21 CEST at Otranto. In the late afternoon, after the Castro stop, with about 2 hours 50 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:12 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.3 m: no practical effect
WIND	The maestrale is offshore here; a scirocco puts a sea onto the cliffs
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. Swim stop off Castro



Track and waypoints 1 to 6, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 08:30 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No wind above force 5, and no easterly or scirocco above force 4: the coast is cliffs with few harbours.
- ☐ Otranto mooring confirmed: see Hazards.
- ☐ For the stop only: the sea calm off Castro.

If the weather is wrong, stay at Leuca. Tricase Porto and Castro are small harbours on the way.

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	Marina di Leuca	39°47.6'N	018°21.8'E				09:30 CEST	Depart.
1	Leuca approach	39°46.8'N	018°20.5'E	230°T	1.3	1.3	09:49 CEST	Out to the south
2	South of the cape	39°46.0'N	018°23.5'E	109°T	2.4	3.7	10:18 CEST	Round the cape to the north.
3	Off Tricase	39°55.5'N	018°25.5'E	009°T	9.6	13.3	11:54 CEST	1 nm off the coast
4	Off Castro	40°00.3'N	018°26.6'E	010°T	4.9	18.2	13:32 CEST to 15:02	Swim stop at the cave. Position CHECK ON CHART
5	Off Punta Palascia	40°06.4'N	018°32.5'E	036°T	7.6	25.8	16:25 CEST	1 nm off the east
6	Otranto approach	40°08.9'N	018°30.6'E	330°T	2.9	28.7	17:08 CEST	East of the harbour
7	Otranto, Lega Navale	40°08.8'N	018°29.8'E	257°T	0.7	29.3	17:21 CEST	Position from the

Tides and time

SANTA MARIA DI LEUCA · SUN 18 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	04:28	0.2 m
LW	10:10	0.1 m
HW	16:45	0.3 m
LW	23:14	0.1 m

From the Otranto station.

OTRANTO · SUN 18 JUL · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	04:28	0.2 m
LW	10:10	0.1 m
HW	16:45	0.3 m
LW	23:14	0.1 m

Sunday 18 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 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 Santa Maria di Leuca 05:33 CEST. Sunset at Otranto 20:12 CEST.

Weather

- **Sheltered** from the maestrale under the cliffs.
- **Scirocco and easterlies** send a sea straight onto this coast.

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

- **Otranto has no marina.** Visiting yachts under 24 m use the Lega Navale moorings or the town's berths, through the harbour office. Book with the Lega Navale (0836 801141) or the mooring service (389 687 7286). The Lega Navale's published transit rates are for its members; ask about rates for other boats.
- **Sea caves.** The Otranto to Leuca coast is a regional park with many caves; boats ferry visitors into the Zinzulusa and others. Marine rules for the park could not be found. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)
- **The shoal east of Capo Santa Maria di Leuca.** Pass outside it.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Leuca	Start	Within the first hour	Marina.
Tricase Porto or Castro	On the way	Weather turns	Small harbours. CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
Otranto	Destination	First choice	Lega Navale moorings.

Pilotage

LEAVING LEUCA

1. Leave the marina and round the cape outside the shoal, then head north 1 nm off the cliffs.

INTO OTRANTO

1. Round Punta Palascia 1 nm off and head north-west.
2. Enter the harbour past the Punta Craul light and call the Lega Navale mooring service (389 687 7286).

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Capo Santa Maria di Leuca	FI(3) 15s, 102 m, 24 M
Punta Palascia	FI 5s, 60 m, 18 M
Otranto, Punta Craul	FI(3) WR 10s, 12 m, 13/8 M

Communications

Lega Navale Otranto	0836 801141 · otranto@leganavale.it · moorings 389 687 7286, night 340 873 4239
Marina di Leuca	VHF 12 · 0833 758687
Emergency at sea, Italy (Guardia Costiera)	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 1530
Emergency on land	112

Contingencies

- **Swell at Castro.** Skip the stop.
- **No berth at Otranto.** Anchor in the bay in settled weather, or go back to Castro.
- **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
- ☐ Otranto mooring booked

- ☐ Fuel for 6 hours under engine, plus a reserve
- ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 8 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

- Otranto: portodiotranto.it; lniotranto.it.
- Costa Otranto to Leuca park: Italian Wikipedia.
- 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.