

Zadar to Kornati

South-east down the Pašman channel and out into the Kornati National Park, a maze of bare limestone islands, to swim and spend the night at Piškera.

DATE	Sunday 8 August 2027
DISTANCE	31.9 nm, 10 legs
TIME	7 h 55 min, including 2 h stopped
DEPART	09:00 CEST from Zadar. Mid-morning.
ARRIVE	About 16:55 CEST at Kornati. In the late afternoon, after the swim stop, with about 3 hours 20 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:14 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.2 m: no practical effect
WIND	The maestral in the afternoon
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. Kornati park ticket bought before entering



Track and waypoints 1 to 9, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 08:00 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No bora or wind above force 5: the Kornati anchorages are open to some directions.
- ☐ ACI Piškera berth confirmed (the park ticket is included in its berth price), or a park ticket bought for 8 August.
- ☐ Visibility 2 nm or more.

If the weather is wrong, stay at Zadar or stop at Biograd na Moru, and go into the Kornati the next day.

Route and waypoints

Waypoints are planning positions in open water, checked against a 1:10m coastline to be at least 0.3 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	Zadar marina	44°07.1'N	015°13.9'E				09:00 CEST	Depart.
1	Zadar approach	44°07.6'N	015°12.0'E	290°T	1.5	1.5	09:22 CEST	Out of the harbour
2	Zadar channel	44°02.5'N	015°17.5'E	142°T	6.5	7.9	10:26 CEST	South-east of Zadar CHECK ON CHART
3	Pašman channel, north	44°00.0'N	015°20.5'E	139°T	3.3	11.2	11:02 CEST	Into the channel from mainland. CHECK ON CHART
4	Pašman channel, middle	43°57.6'N	015°24.5'E	130°T	3.8	15.0	11:43 CEST	CHECK ON CHART
5	Pašman channel, off Tkon	43°55.8'N	015°26.0'E	149°T	2.1	17.1	12:06 CEST	Narrow, with islands CHECK ON CHART
6	Off Biograd	43°54.0'N	015°28.5'E	135°T	2.5	19.6	12:34 CEST	CHECK ON CHART
7	South of Pašman	43°52.0'N	015°26.0'E	222°T	2.7	22.3	13:01 CEST	CHECK ON CHART
8	South-east of Kornat	43°45.8'N	015°24.0'E	193°T	6.4	28.7	14:05 CEST	Round the south of Kornat the park. CHECK ON CHART
9	Vela Panitula, Piškera	43°45.6'N	015°20.3'E	266°T	2.7	31.4	14:45 CEST to 16:45	Swim stop at Vela Panitula Position appropriate CHECK ON CHART
10	ACI Marina Piškera	43°45.6'N	015°21.0'E	090°T	0.5	31.9	16:55 CEST	Approach from Vela Panitula Panitula Vela, Piškera CHECK ON CHART

Tides and time

ZADAR · SUN 8 AUG · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	03:07	0.1 m
HW	11:09	0.3 m

From the Split station.

LW	03:07	0.1 m
HW	11:09	0.3 m

From the Split station.

Sunday 8 August 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 Split 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 Zadar 05:55 CEST. Sunset at Kornati 20:14 CEST.

Weather

- **Sheltered channels** down to Pašman.
- **The Kornati** are bare and low: wind is not broken by the islands.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- Croatian marine forecast: DHMZ Marine Meteorological Centre, Split, meteo.hr, for the North, Central and South Adriatic, with warnings.
- Rijeka Radio: weather and safety broadcasts in English and Croatian at 05:30, 12:30, 19:30 and 00:30 UTC on VHF 4, 19, 20, 23, 24, 81 and 85. Split Radio: 05:45, 12:45, 19:45 and 00:45 UTC on VHF 7, 21, 23, 28, 81 and 84.
- NAVTEX Split: station Q on 518 kHz in English, at 02:40, 06:40, 10:40, 14:40, 18:40 and 22:40 UTC.

Hazards

- **Kornati National Park.** A ticket is required for every boat. For a boat of 11 to 18 m in June to September, 2026 prices were €95 for 1 day bought before entering and €190 bought inside the park. Buy online at shop.np-kornati.hr or in Murter. Anchoring and overnight stays are allowed only in 18 named bays, including Vela Panitula on Piškera and Lojena on Levrnaka; mooring buoys are free with the ticket. Strict protection zones round Purara, Mrtenjak, Kolobučar and the Obručan islets are closed to visitors. No spearfishing; diving only in organised groups.
- **Rocks and shoals** everywhere among the islands. The waypoints here are approximate: use the large-scale charts.
- **Pašman channel.** Narrow, with the Biograd to Tkon ferry crossing it.
- **Bora (bura).** A cold, gusty north-easterly that falls off the mountains. It is strongest and most frequent in winter but can blow in summer, and can start suddenly from a clear, calm sky. Signs are a cap of cloud on the mountains and a short, steep, white-crested sea. In a bora warning, stay in harbour or tuck under the lee of the mainland, never under the lee of an island in a channel.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Zadar	Start	Within the first hour	Marina.
Biograd na Moru	Waypoint 6	Weather turns	Marinas. CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
ACI Žut	4 nm north of Piškera, outside the park	Piškera full	VHF 17, +385 98 398 844.

Pilotage

LEAVING ZADAR

1. Leave the harbour and head south-east down the Zadar channel.

INTO THE KORNATI

1. From south of Pašman, head south-west round the south-east end of Kornat into the park.
2. After the swim in Vela Panitula, go round to the marina and approach from the north or west, between the Škanji reefs and the south cape of Panitula Vela, in 7 m. The north-west approach is shallow with reefs.

3. Call ACI Piškera on VHF 17 (+385 98 398 845).

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Oštri rat (Zadar)	Fl(3) 10s, 14 m, 15 M
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Sestrica Vela (Tajer)	Fl 8s, 47 m, 20 M
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Communications

ACI Marina Piškera	VHF 17 · +385 98 398 845
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Kornati National Park	+385 22 435 740 · kornati@np-kornati.hr
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Harbour master's branch, Murter	VHF 10 · +385 22 435 190
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Search and rescue at sea, Croatia (MRCC Rijeka)	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 195
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Emergency on land	112
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Contingencies

- **Vela Panitula crowded.** Swim in another of the permitted bays, such as Lojena on Levrnaka.
- **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
 - ☐ Kornati park ticket bought for 8 August, or ACI Piškera booked
 - ☐ Waypoints entered and checked against the large-scale charts
 - ☐ Ship's log started in UTC
 - ☐ Crew briefing: route, watches, safety gear, MOB
 - ☐ Food and water for 2 days: Piškera has only a small shop
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- ☐ 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

- Kornati National Park: np-kornati.hr (tickets, rules, mooring buoys).
- ACI Piškera and ACI Žut: aci-marinas.com.
- Croatian harbour masters: mmpi.gov.hr (Pula, Rijeka, Zadar and Šibenik offices and branches). Vignette: mmpi.gov.hr; enautika.pomorstvo.hr.
- Croatian lights: plovput.hr (official list). Radio and NAVTEX: plovput.hr.
- ACI marinas: aci-marinas.com.
- 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.