

Herceg Novi to Durrës

The longest day of the last stretch: out of the Bay of Kotor at first light and south-east down the coasts of Montenegro and Albania, well offshore of the shallow river mouths, to Durrës, Albania's main port.

DATE	Friday 20 August 2027
DISTANCE	81.2 nm, 5 legs
TIME	12 h 60 min
DEPART	05:45 CEST from Herceg Novi. At first light, 15 minutes before sunrise (05:58 CEST), after the weather day at Herceg Novi.
ARRIVE	About 18:45 CEST at Durrës. In the evening, with only about 50 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 19:34 CEST), at an average of 6.5 kn. It depends on motoring if the wind is light, and on reaching the checkpoint off Bar on time.
TIDES	Range about 0.2 m: no practical effect
WIND	Light in settled weather; a jugo 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. A 12-hour day: meals prepared ahead



Track and waypoints 1 to 4, 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 jugo above force 4.

- ☐ Durrës agent booked and expecting the yacht.
- ☐ Crew rested: this is a 12-hour day.
- ☐ Engine and fuel ready for motoring at 6.5 kn if the wind is light: the daylight margin depends on it.

This is the leg the weather day at Herceg Novi is for. If the forecast is wrong, wait. Bar (Montenegro) and Shëngjin (Albania) split the leg if needed.

Route and waypoints

Waypoints are planning positions in open water, checked against a 1:10m coastline to be at least 1 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	Portonovi, Herceg Novi	42°25.7'N	018°35.1'E				05:45 CEST	Depart at first light, c Montenegro.
1	Bay of Kotor entrance	42°23.1'N	018°32.4'E	217°T	3.3	3.3	06:24 CEST	Out between Mamula
2	Off Bar	42°04.8'N	018°47.0'E	149°T	21.3	24.5	09:41 CEST	Checkpoint, 14 nm off straight to Cape Durrës. Buna and the Drin gulf
3	Off Cape Durrës	41°20.0'N	019°21.6'E	150°T	51.7	76.3	17:38 CEST	2 nm off the light.
4	Durrës approach	41°18.0'N	019°26.0'E	121°T	3.9	80.2	18:25 CEST	Into the bay. Wrecks a near the channel.
5	Durrës	41°18.4'N	019°27.2'E	063°T	1.0	81.2	18:45 CEST	Commercial port, where an agent.

Tides and time

HERCEG NOVI · FRI 20 AUG · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	01:54	0.0 m
HW	08:20	0.3 m
LW	13:18	0.2 m
HW	19:05	0.3 m

From the Split station.

DURRËS · FRI 20 AUG · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	05:48	0.2 m
LW	11:39	0.1 m
HW	17:59	0.3 m

From the Otranto station.

Friday 20 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.

Herceg Novi uses the Split station and **Durrës** the Otranto station; both are distant. 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 Herceg Novi 05:58 CEST. Sunset at Durrës 19:34 CEST.

Weather

- **Open coast** for 80 nm with few harbours.
- **A jugo** brings a sea onto this coast and heads the yacht.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- Croatian DHMZ forecast for the South Adriatic (meteo.hr); Greek forecasts for the North Ionian (Hellenic National Meteorological Service, emy.gr).
- NAVTEX Kerkyra: station K on 518 kHz in English, at 01:40, 05:40, 09:40, 13:40, 17:40 and 21:40 UTC, with weather at 05:40, 09:40, 17:40 and 21:40.
- Albanian weather broadcasts on VHF: [CHECK THE PILOT BOOK](#)

Hazards

- **Entering Albania.** A yacht must clear in at a port of entry before anyone goes ashore. Most cruising reports say an agent is needed; agents meet yachts at Durrës, Vlorë and Sarandë. Visitors may stay 90 days in any 180. Whether an agent is required by law in 2027 could not be checked from an official source. Book an agent before sailing.
- **The Buna and Drin.** Shallow deltas and lagoons along the Montenegro to Albania border and in the Drin gulf; depths could not be checked. The route stays 12 nm or more off.

- **Durrës.** A shallow bay: yachts may have to anchor well off. Beware of unlit or hard-to-see marks and wrecks near the entrance channel. Harbour master on VHF 15. A planned yacht marina was not built as of the latest information.
- **Ferries** to Italy from Durrës and Bar.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Herceg Novi	Start	Within the first 2 hours	Portonovi.
Bar	14 nm east of waypoint 2	Weather turns	Port of entry. CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
Shëngjin	20 nm east of the track	Behind time	CHECK THE PILOT BOOK

Pilotage

LEAVING HERCEG NOVI

1. Clear out of Montenegro at Portonovi the evening before. Leave at first light through the entrance and head south-east, 5 nm off.

INTO DURRËS

1. Approach from the west, passing the Cape Durrës light.
2. Call the harbour master on VHF 15 and the agent; berth or anchor as directed.

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Cape Rodon	Fl(2) 10s, 40 m
Cape Durrës	Fl(2) 10s, 126 m
Durrës, south mole	Fl R 5s
Durrës, east mole	Fl G 5s

Communications

Durrës harbour master	VHF 15
Durrës agent	CHECK ON THE CHART
Emergency at sea, Albania	VHF 16 · 125
Albanian coast guard working channel	VHF 11
Police	129

Contingencies

- **Behind time.** If waypoint 2 is not reached by 09:00 CEST, go into Bar.
- **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
 - ☐ Montenegrin notices to mariners and Albanian notices to mariners 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
 - ☐ Cleared out of Montenegro
 - ☐ Durrës agent booked
 - ☐ Albanian courtesy flag and Q flag ready
 - ☐ Meals for a 12-hour day prepared
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- ☐ Fuel for 14 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

- Durrës: noonsite.com; English Wikipedia, Port of Durrës.
- Drin gulf and Buna: English Wikipedia.
- Montenegro and Albania formalities: noonsite.com (cruising reports, dated); Portonovi: portonovi.com; Orikum Marina: marinaorikum.com.

- Albanian and Montenegrin lights: Lighthouse Directory (ibiblio.org/lighthouse), characteristics and heights only.
- 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.