

Orikum to Sarandë

Out of the Bay of Vlorë between Karaburun and Sazan and south down the Albanian Riviera, under the Ceraunian mountains, past Dhërmi and Himarë to Sarandë, opposite Corfu.

DATE	Monday 23 August 2027
DISTANCE	66.2 nm, 11 legs
TIME	11 h 10 min
DEPART	06:15 CEST from Orikum. At sunrise (06:15 CEST), after the rest day at Orikum.
ARRIVE	About 17:25 CEST at Sarandë. In the late afternoon, with about 2 hours of daylight in hand (sunset 19:25 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.1 m: no practical effect
WIND	The afternoon north-westerly is behind the yacht
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 10, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 05:45 CEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No wind above force 5: the Riviera is steep with few harbours.
- ☐ Sarandë agent booked.
- ☐ Visibility 2 nm or more.

If the weather is wrong, stay at Orikum. Porto Palermo, south of Himarë, is the only shelter on the way.

Route and waypoints

Waypoints are planning positions in open water, checked against a 1:10m coastline to be at least 0.4 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	Orikum Marina	40°20.1'N	019°28.3'E				06:15 CEST	Depart.
1	Orikum approach	40°23.4'N	019°26.4'E	336°T	3.6	3.6	07:09 CEST	North up the bay, clear
2	Bay of Vlorë	40°27.0'N	019°24.0'E	333°T	4.0	7.6	07:46 CEST	
3	Mezokanal	40°28.0'N	019°17.4'E	281°T	5.1	12.8	08:48 CEST	Between Karaburun and CHECK ON THE CHART
4	West of Cape Gjuhëz	40°25.2'N	019°14.4'E	219°T	3.6	16.4	09:21 CEST	2 nm off the end of Ka
5	Off Karaburun	40°18.0'N	019°19.2'E	153°T	8.1	24.5	10:36 CEST	2 nm off.
6	Off Dhërmi	40°12.0'N	019°27.0'E	135°T	8.5	32.9	11:54 CEST	3 nm off.
7	Off Himarë	40°06.0'N	019°41.4'E	119°T	12.5	45.5	13:50 CEST	3 nm off.
8	Off Lukovë	40°00.0'N	019°50.4'E	131°T	9.1	54.6	15:14 CEST	2 nm off.
9	Off Kakome	39°55.2'N	019°54.0'E	150°T	5.5	60.2	16:05 CEST	2 nm off.
10	Sarandë approach	39°51.9'N	019°59.1'E	130°T	5.1	65.3	17:07 CEST	West of the harbour.
11	Sarandë	39°52.2'N	020°00.2'E	067°T	0.9	66.2	17:25 CEST	Port of entry.

Tides and time

ORIKUM · MON 23 AUG · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	07:04	0.1 m
HW	13:15	0.3 m
LW	19:15	0.2 m

From the Kerkyra station.

SARANDË · MON 23 AUG · CEST (UTC+2)

LW	07:04	0.1 m
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HW	13:15	0.3 m
LW	19:15	0.2 m

From the Kerkyra station.

Monday 23 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 Kerkyra 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 Orikum 06:01 CEST. Sunset at Sarandë 19:25 CEST.

Weather

- **The Ceraunian mountains** drop straight into the sea; gusts come down off them.
- **Sarandë** faces south-west.

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

- **Karaburun-Sazan National Marine Park.** Rules could not be found; keep 1 nm off and do not anchor inside it without permission.
- **Himarë** is not a port of entry: a yacht that stopped there without clearance was detained. Stop only at ports of entry or in an emergency.

- **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.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Orikum	Start	Within the first hour	Marina.
Porto Palermo	5 nm south of Himarë	Emergency	Sheltered bay. CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
Sarandë	Destination	First choice	Port with agents.

Pilotage

LEAVING ORIKUM

1. Go north up the bay and out through the Mezokanal between Karaburun and Sazan, then south.

INTO SARANDË

1. Approach from the west.
2. Call the agent and the port; berth as directed.

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Kep i Gjuhëzës	Fl 6s, 58 m
Sazan, south point	Fl 6s, 18 m
Sarandë, Lëkurës	Fl(3) 30s, 215 m
Sarandë, south-east	Fl(4) 12s, 37 m

Communications

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

Contingencies

- **Wind rising.** Go into Porto Palermo.
- **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
 - ☐ 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
 - ☐ Sarandë agent booked
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- ☐ Fuel for 10 hours under engine, plus a reserve
 - ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 11 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

- Karaburun-Sazan: English Wikipedia. Himarë and Sarandë: noonsite.com.
- 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.