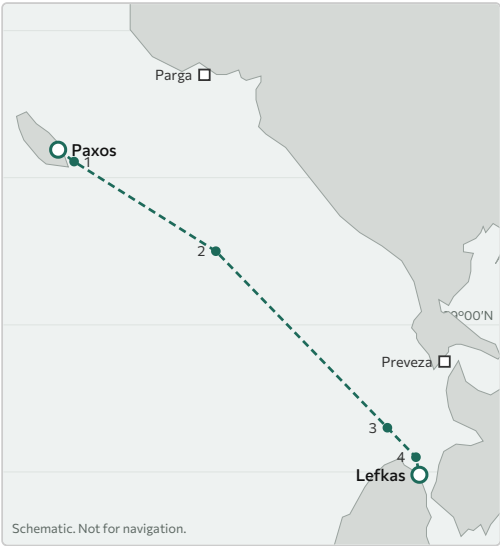


Paxos to Lefkas

The last leg: south-east across the open Ionian from Paxos to the north end of Lefkas, through the canal and the floating swing bridge to Lefkas Marina, the end of the voyage.

DATE	Friday 27 August 2027
DISTANCE	33.5 nm, 5 legs
TIME	6 h 22 min
DEPART	08:30 EEST from Paxos. 1 hour 25 minutes after sunrise (07:03 EEST).
ARRIVE	About 14:52 EEST at Lefkas. In the afternoon, with about 5 hours 25 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 20:15 EEST). The end of the voyage.
TIDES	Range about 0.2 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 4, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 07:30 EEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No wind above force 5.
- ☐ Lefkas Marina berth confirmed and the bridge opening times known.
- ☐ Visibility 2 nm or more.

If the weather is wrong, stay on Paxos. Preveza, at the mouth of the Ambracian gulf, is the alternative.

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	Gaios	39°11.9'N	020°11.2'E				08:30 EEST	Depart.
1	Gaios south approach	39°11.1'N	020°12.6'E	126°T	1.3	1.3	08:50 EEST	Out by the southern end
2	Open Ionian	39°05.0'N	020°25.0'E	122°T	11.4	12.7	10:44 EEST	Across to Lefkas.
3	North of Lefkas	38°53.0'N	020°40.0'E	136°T	16.7	29.5	13:32 EEST	Off the Gyra spit at the canal. CHECK ON THE CHART
4	Lefkas canal, north entrance	38°51.0'N	020°42.5'E	136°T	2.8	32.3	14:27 EEST	Wait for the bridge. CHECK ON THE CHART
5	Lefkas Marina	38°49.8'N	020°42.8'E	169°T	1.2	33.5	14:52 EEST	Through the bridge to the marina.

Tides and time

PAXOS · FRI 27 AUG · EEST (UTC+3)

LW	02:16	0.2 m
HW	07:41	0.2 m
LW	14:17	0.1 m
HW	21:14	0.3 m

From the Kerkyra station.

LEFKAS · FRI 27 AUG · EEST (UTC+3)

LW	02:16	0.2 m
HW	07:41	0.2 m
LW	14:17	0.1 m
HW	21:14	0.3 m

From the Kerkyra station.

Friday 27 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.

Lefkas uses the Kerkyra station, about 70 nm away. 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 Paxos 07:03 EEST. Sunset at Lefkas 20:15 EEST.

Weather

- **Open water** for 25 nm.
- **The canal** is sheltered, but cross-winds at the bridge can make waiting awkward.

FORECASTS TO CHECK

- Hellenic National Meteorological Service (emy.gr): marine forecast for the North Ionian.
- 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.
- Kerkyra Radio covers the Ionian Sea east to 22°30'E; urgent warnings go out first on DSC 70, then on VHF 16.

Hazards

- **Lefkas canal and bridge.** The island is joined to the mainland by a causeway and a floating swing bridge that opens at set times. The opening times, the canal depth and the port police contact could not be checked: ask the marina before sailing.
- **Shallow water** on both sides of the canal approach off the Gyra spit. Keep to the buoyed channel.

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Paxos	Start	Within the first hour	Gaios or Lakka.
Preveza	5 nm north-east of the canal	Bridge delay or weather	Marina. CHECK THE PILOT BOOK
Lefkas Marina	Destination	First choice	VHF 69, 620 berths, up to 3.30 m draught.

Pilotage

LEAVING PAXOS

1. Leave Gaios by the southern entrance and head south-east.

INTO LEFKAS

1. Approach the north entrance of the canal off the Gyra spit, in the buoyed channel.
2. Wait for the bridge opening, then go through slowly to the marina. Call Lefkas Marina on VHF 69 (+30 2645 026645).

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Paxos lights	CHECK ON THE CHART
Lefkas, Santa Maura fort	17 m; characteristic: CHECK ON THE CHART

Communications

Lefkas Marina (D-Marin)	VHF 69 · +30 2645 026645
Lefkas port police	CHECK ON THE CHART
Hellenic Coast Guard	VHF 16 · 108
Emergency	112
Coast Guard working channel	VHF 12

Contingencies

- **Bridge not opening.** Anchor off the north entrance in settled weather or go to Preveza.
- **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
- ☐ Greek 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
- ☐ Lefkas Marina berth booked

- ☐ Bridge opening times confirmed

- ☐ Fuel for 7 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

- Lefkada: English Wikipedia.
- Greek clearance: noonsite.com (2023); aade.gr (Transit Log).
- NAVTEX and Kerkyra Radio: Hellenic Navy Hydrographic Service, hnhs.gr.
- Lefkas Marina: d-marin.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.