

Othonoi to Otranto

Back across the Strait of Otranto, the narrow mouth of the Adriatic, from the westernmost island of Greece to the easternmost town of Italy.

DATE	Friday 3 September 2027
DISTANCE	47.0 nm, 5 legs
TIME	7 h 51 min
DEPART	07:30 EEST from Othonoi. 20 minutes after sunrise (07:12 EEST), after the weather day at Othonoi.
ARRIVE	About 14:21 CEST at Otranto. In the afternoon, with about 4 hours 55 minutes of daylight in hand (sunset 19:15 CEST).
TIDES	Range about 0.2 m: no practical effect
WIND	North-westerly on the beam; a tramontana or scirocco funnels through the strait
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. Clocks go back 1 hour in Italian waters (CEST)



Track and waypoints 1 to 4, with ports of refuge as squares.

Go or no-go

Decide at 06:30 EEST. Go only if all of these hold:

- ☐ No wind above force 5 in the strait, and no tramontana or scirocco above force 4.
- ☐ Otranto mooring confirmed with the Lega Navale.
- ☐ Leaving formalities done: see Hazards.
- ☐ Visibility 3 nm or more.

This is the crossing the weather day at Othonoi is for. If the forecast is still wrong, wait. Santa Maria di Leuca, 47 nm, is the alternative landfall.

Route and waypoints

Waypoints are planning positions in open water, checked against a 1:10m coastline to be at least 1.5 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	Othonoi, Ammos	39°50.2'N	019°24.2'E				07:30 EEST	Depart.
1	Othonoi approach	39°50.5'N	019°25.0'E	064°T	0.7	0.7	07:40 EEST	Out of the harbour.
2	Strait of Otranto	40°00.0'N	019°00.0'E	296°T	21.4	22.1	10:58 EEST	Mid-strait. Ferries and Adriatic and the Ionian
3	Italian waters	40°05.0'N	018°42.0'E	290°T	14.7	36.8	12:13 CEST	Clocks back 1 hour to
4	Otranto approach	40°08.9'N	018°30.6'E	294°T	9.6	46.3	14:08 CEST	East of the harbour, n
5	Otranto, Lega Navale	40°08.8'N	018°29.8'E	257°T	0.7	47.0	14:21 CEST	Position from the Lega

Tides and time

OTHONOI · FRI 3 SEP · EEST (UTC+3)

LW	06:41	0.1 m
HW	12:36	0.3 m
LW	18:42	0.1 m

From the Kerkyra station.

OTRANTO · FRI 3 SEP · CEST (UTC+2)

HW	05:53	0.3 m
LW	11:48	0.0 m
HW	17:55	0.2 m

Friday 3 September 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.

Othonoi uses the Kerkyra station and **Otranto** its own.

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 Othonoi 07:12 EEST. Sunset at Otranto 19:15 CEST.

Weather

- **Open sea.** About 40 nm with no shelter.
- **The strait** funnels north and south winds: a tramontana or scirocco is stronger here than the forecast for the open sea.

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.
- 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](#)

Hazards

- **Leaving Greece for Italy.** Both are in the Schengen area, so there is no passport control. A non-EU boat must surrender its Transit Log to Greek customs when leaving Greek waters; EU boats keep their crew list. Whether an EU boat must formally check out of Greece, and whether Italy expects any declaration on arrival from Greece, could not be checked. Ask the port police at Corfu before leaving.
- **Shipping.** Ferries between Greece and Brindisi, Bari, Ancona and Venice, and ships in and out of the Adriatic. Cross the main flow at right angles.
- **Naval exercise areas** in the southern Adriatic could not be checked. Read the Avvisi ai naviganti. [CHECK ON THE CHART](#)
- **Otranto has no marina.** Use the Lega Navale moorings (0836 801141; mooring service 389 687 7286).

Ports of refuge

PORT	FROM THE ROUTE	USE IT WHEN	NOTES
Othonoi	Start	Within the first 2 hours	Ammos.
Santa Maria di Leuca	20 nm south of Otranto	Weather from the north	Marina, VHF 12, 0833 758687.
Otranto	Destination	First choice	Lega Navale moorings.

Pilotage

LEAVING OTHONOI

1. Leave Ammos and set the course north-west across the strait.

INTO OTRANTO

1. Approach from the east, north of Punta Palascia.
2. Enter past the Punta Craul light and call the Lega Navale mooring service (389 687 7286).

LIGHTS ON THE WAY

Othonoi, Kastri	Fl 10s
Punta Palascia	Fl 5s, 60 m, 18 M
Otranto, Punta Craul	Fl(3) WR 10s, 12 m, 13/8 M

Communications

Lega Navale Otranto	0836 801141 · moorings 389 687 7286
Emergency at sea, Italy (Guardia Costiera)	VHF 16, DSC 70 · 1530
Emergency on land	112
Hellenic Coast Guard	VHF 16 · 108

Contingencies

- **Wind rising in the strait.** Turn back to Othonoi if under 15 nm out; otherwise run for Otranto or Leuca.
- **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
- ☐ Transit Log surrendered or crew list closed, as the port police advise
- ☐ Otranto mooring booked
- ☐ Italian courtesy flag ready

- ☐ Fuel for 9 hours under engine, plus a reserve
- ☐ Water, food and hot drinks for 10 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

- Strait of Otranto and Othonoi: English Wikipedia.
- Greek formalities: noonsite.com.
- Otranto: Iniotranto.it; portodiotranto.it.
- 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](#)
- 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.