

Royal Cruising Club Pilotage Foundation

Atlantic Spain and Portugal

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Further updates are available, as they come in, via
<https://rccpf.org.uk/Pilotage-Notices>



This replaces all previous supplements

Caution

Whilst the Royal Cruising Club Pilotage Foundation, the author and the publishers have used reasonable endeavours to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this book, it contains selected information and thus is not definitive. It does not contain all known information on the subject in hand and should not be relied upon alone for navigational use: it should only be used in conjunction with official hydrographical data. This is particularly relevant to the plans, which should not be used for navigation. The Pilotage Foundation, the author and the publishers believe that the information which they have included is a useful aid to prudent navigation, but the safety of a vessel depends, ultimately, on the judgment of the skipper, who should access all information, published or unpublished. The information provided in this book may be out of date and may be changed or updated without notice. The Pilotage Foundation cannot accept liability for any error, omission or failure to update such information. To the extent permitted by law, the Pilotage Foundation, the author and the publishers do not accept liability for any loss and/or damage, howsoever caused, that may arise from reliance on information contained in these pages.

This supplement contains amendments and corrections sent in by a number of cruising yachtsmen and women, in addition to those culled from official sources such as Notices to Mariners.

Positions and waypoints

All positions and waypoints are to datum WGS84. They are included to help locating place, features and transits. Do not rely on them alone for safe navigation.

Bearings and lights

Any bearings are given in degrees True and from seaward. The characteristics of lights may be changed during the lifetime of this book and they should be checked against the latest edition of the UK Admiralty List of Lights.

Note Where lights have been modified in the text do please remember to alter them on the appropriate plan(s).

This supplement is cumulative and the latest information is marked in **blue**.

Given the ongoing uncertainties of Covid 19, as well as the impact of Brexit on regulations and paperwork for UK cruisers, readers are encouraged to seek updates from the websites of the OCC, Cruising Association, RYA or Noonsite.

Acknowledgements

2019: Dody Stiller. 2020: Bernhard Sobotta, Andrew Bristow, Hugh Tidbury, Christopher Gould, Martin Walford, Ian Powoly, Captain Alex Blackwell, William Eaton, Andy Wood, Bernhard Sobotta, Mike Gill, Andrew Wilkes, Christopher Gould. 2021: Ruth Esteban, Christopher Gould, Captain Alex Blackwell, Tim Trafford, Megan Roberts, William Garnet, Jerry Burrage. 2022: Norman Kean, Pablo de Castro, José Schneider, Jerry Burrage, Bill OCC, Richard Waite, Christopher Gould, Mike Gill, William Garnet

Page 2 Sailing & Navigation



New section insertion: *Interactions with Orcas*

In 2020, several groups of Orca whales were encountered off the Iberian Peninsula, 2 to 8M from the coast. They interacted with both sailing yachts and motorboats. Most commonly, medium-sized yachts (15m or less) were affected, with structural damage to the rudder in some cases.

Orca chase tuna to exhaustion, or even paralysis, and prefer to feed on the belly of the tuna which is the meatiest part. It is still not known why the Orca go for the rudder of boats, and it could be totally unrelated to the fact that they prey on tuna.

The 'Action plan' for yacht skippers, devised by the Portuguese and Spanish authorities in March 2021, is as follows:

- STOP the boat (take down the sails), leave the wheel loose if sea conditions and pilotage allow it.
- Contact the authorities (☎ 112 or VHF 16)
- Take hands off the steering wheel and secure the boat against the effects of possible collisions.

d. Do not shout at the animals, do not touch them with anything or throw things at them, do not let yourself be seen unnecessarily. If you have a camera phone, or other device, record the animals, especially their dorsal fins, to help identify them. All information of this sort should be sent by email to: gt.orcas.ibericas@gmail.com

e. After an interaction, check operation of rudder and, if needed, request assistance from the authorities on VHF 16 or ☎ 112.

f. Make notes of the interaction:

i. Date/time:

ii. Position:

In 2020 the media were cautioned to focus information ‘on knowledge and conservation’ instead of creating ‘animosity’ towards orcas. Biologists reminded everyone that ‘this species is classified as vulnerable in the catalogue of threatened species and that Spain has specific protection standards for them.’ Sincere thanks go to Ruth Esteban, PhD, of the Madeira Whale Museum, who has supplied much of this information.

Update April 2022

The frequency of interactions with Orcas steadily increased over 2021. The Noonsite website provides some useful observations and advice:

www.noonsite.com/news/nw-spain-orca-activity-increasing-daily-tally-of-yachts-damaged

The Atlantic Orca Working Group website is a good source of information also:
www.orcaiberica.org

Now posted under ‘Last Interactions > Recommendations’ is a plan with a traffic light system on the forecast Orca migration route off Galicia that should be of help to skippers. This was updated every 24 hours in 2021 based on information received from boaters and rescue services, interactions and sightings. It is hoped that this will continue to operate over the 2022 season.

Page 42 Corme

Corrections to text:

p42, 2nd column, 4th line: s/b ...much ‘sought’ after...

p42, 2nd column, 7th line from bottom: s/b ...has ‘not’ helped...

p42, Corme *Facilities*: perhaps worth noting that there is nowhere to land dinghy except beach.

Pages 46-47 Camarinas Anchorages

The three separate beaches of Ensenado de Merejo (or Merexo) offer delightfully secluded anchorages from wind from east to west through south with good protection and holding in 3–5m. All can be accessed by careful navigation around the west side of the well-marked (at the corners by lit yellow buoys) Viveros at the head of the bay. The BRB mark in the middle of the Ensenado was not in position as at July 2019.

Page 48 Camarinas

There are no longer any moorings in the harbour as indicated on chart page 48. Instead about six yachts were anchored in this area with space for more. The club charged 20 euro per night for a 12m catamaran on the T-end.

Pages 56-58 Ria de Corcubion

Anchorage: the main anchorage is NW of the pier and mooring field. One does not anchor amongst the moorings. The bottom here is sand.

Page 61 Muros

Discounts can be applied to rates as set out by Passporte Escale, Transeurope, Pasaporte Marinas, Cruising Association and the Irish Cruising Club.

Significant hull repairs can be carried out at Muros. They call on the services of a technician from Portosin. This technician works in both GRP and CopperCoat. A yard man has been seen scraping and applying standard anti-fouling paint also.

Page 66 Portosin

It is possible to get propane gas in Portosin by arrangement with the marina office.

Page 75 Aguiño

Aguiño is a small modern fishing port with little of the charm of older Galician harbours but is strategically located at the entrance to the wonderful playground of Ria de Arousa.

Page 86 Vilagarcia

Amend Marina Vilagarcía ☎ to +34 986 511 175

Page 89 Isla de Arousa

Boatyard facilities include a 180-T travel lift, secure yacht storage and a 38m high shed, which permits sheltered boat repair without having to drop the mast. Some older charts may show no water, but this is incorrect. Contact www.xufre.es and info@xufre.es. The yard owner is a long-term yachtsman who actively encourages visiting yachts and provides domestic facilities and a car for visitors to use. Local train station at Vilagarcia provides connections to Santiago and Vigo airports.

Page 101 Picamillo beacon

The Picamillo beacon was rebuilt in 2018



Page 107 Combarro Anchorages

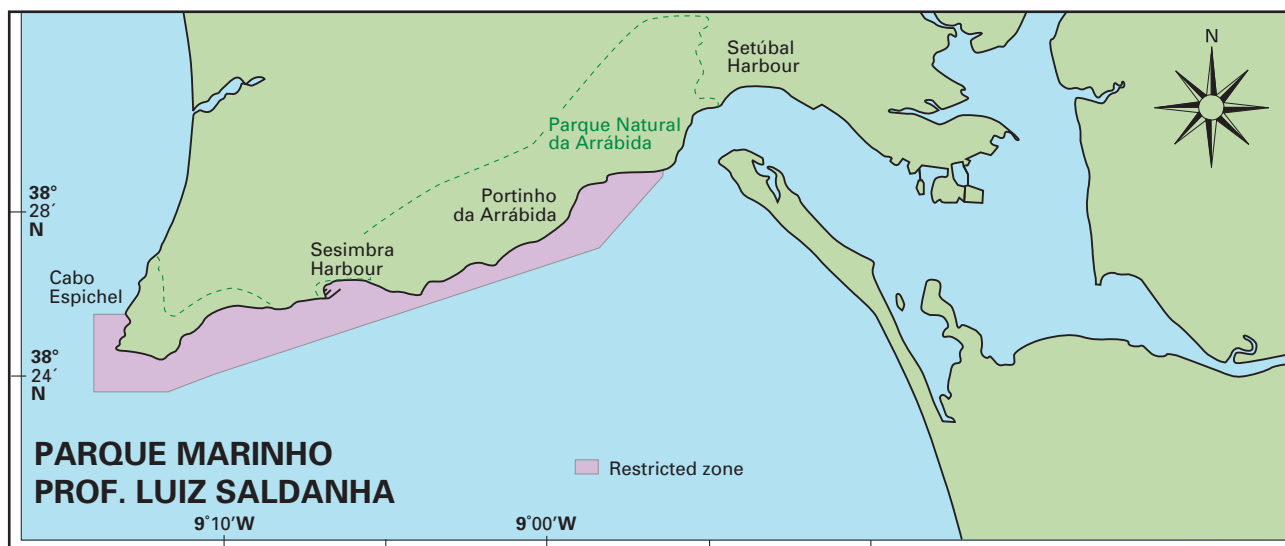
Off the marina the bottom is mud. East of Isla Tambo the bottom is sand.

Page 111 Ria de Aldan Anchorages

The western end of Praia de Area Brava has a charted shallowing area. This is very rocky and should be avoided. Less than 50m east from the 5m contour and 30m outside the swimming area are uncharted rocks that, at low tide, appear to be less than 2m below the surface. No sounding taken.

Anchorage as described in text and on chartlet is incorrect. The southeast corner is pretty full of boats/moorings where it is deep enough. It shoals out beyond these. The anchorage nearest to town and most used is in the SW corner; but beware of the rock that is marked correctly on the chart. Good shore access also from the pier in the SW corner.

Up the hill in O Hio visitors will find Galicia’s most intricate and beautiful *cruciero*.



Page 113 Islas Cies Anchorages

In the terms and conditions of the anchoring permit for Islas Cies, only three anchorages are listed: Rodas, Nosa Señora (Isla Vinos) and San Martiño beaches. A yachtsman has politely been told by the park authorities that anchoring is not permitted off the Playa Das Figueiras (Playa de Arena, no.2 in the pilot).

Page 117 Moaña

First sentence: Delete: 'Moana is spelt' and 'and'

Page 119 Darsena de Bouzas Liceo Marítimo

That the Liceo 'is some way from town' is not true. The Liceo Marina is right in Bouzas, which is part of Vigo. There are lots of good restaurants and services. Excellent chandlery, Lavandaria, etc.

Page 126 Baiona

Berthing: Amend to read:

1. Monte Real Club de Yates Bayona 42°07'·20N
08°50'·40W

The MRCB is a long established clubetc

Page 126 Baiona

Facilities

Communications: Amend to read:

Marina Baiona, Recinto del Parador s/n, 36300, Baiona (Pontevedra) ☎34 986 38 50 00

Page 143 Povoia de Varzim

Anchoring in the harbour of Povoia de Varzim is no longer permissible. However, marina costs are very reasonable paying 20 euros for a 12m cat.

Page 150 Leixões

Advised as not a good place to leave a boat unattended.

Page 151 Leixões

In late 2021 on a visit to Leixões a yachtsman found that fuel is only provided to commercial vessels inside Leixões harbour. The only alternative for refuelling is by using jerrycans and visiting a gas station 1km away.

Page 155 Porto

If stormbound in Douro Marina the harbourmaster may close the entrance to Porto harbour. It is understood that trying to leave before the formal opening of the harbour constitutes a criminal offence and rescue may be refused.

Page 165 Figueira Da Foz Entrance

Figueira is another tricky place to leave as a favourable weather window may be compromised by the swell conditions preventing leaving for days at a time. The harbourmaster may refuse entry/exit.

Page 179 Peniche

The extended marina wall has been completed and made a huge difference in reducing the swell.

Page 205 Seixal

Secure local moorings often available for periods of 4 weeks or more (107 euros a month in 2019) can be reserved through Mr Pires ☎+351 966 602 853 or the association office on

Email geral.anauticaseixal@gmail.com.

Free taxi service ashore.

Access to Tagus Yacht Centre is now limited to boats drawing less than 2m for approximately 40 minutes either side of HW. No more dredging will take place until a major marina development begins 'in a year or two'.

Page 211 Marine Reserve; Parque Marinho Prof. Luiz Saldanha

See new plan above

It has been reported that a yachtsman has been fined for anchoring in the Portinho de Arrábida in the Rio Sado without permission. This supplement is published to alert mariners to this incident and to provide the following advice:

It is understood that the Portuguese have a maritime law requiring a vessel to request permission before anchoring in their territorial waters. Either the local *Capitania*, or the *Policia Maritima* (outside office hours) should be consulted and they will provide helpful guidance and give permission as appropriate. In the summer months, when popular anchorages are busy with boats, this requirement is normally waived except in sensitive areas. The Parque Marinho Prof. Luiz Saldanha, which is part of the Parque Natural da Arrábida nature reserve, is a sensitive area. If planning to anchor here it would be prudent to contact the relevant authority as follows:

Capitania do Porto de Setúbal
Praça da República 2904 – 537 Setúbal
Office ☎ +351 265 548 270
capitania.setubal@amn.pt

Comando Local de Setúbal
Rua Regimento de Infantaria Onze, 2900 – 584 Setúbal
Patrol vessel ☎ +351 918 498 049
Office ☎ +351 265 105 123
policiamaritima.setubal@amn.pt

Posto da Polícia Marítima de Sesimbra
Porto de Abrigo 2970 – 152 Sesimbra
Patrol vessel ☎ +351 918 498 053
Office ☎ +351 212 280 778
policiamaritima.sesimbra@amn.pt

Adjacent anchorage

2. Portinho de Arrábida 38°28'6N 8°58'7W

(see plan on page 213)

Note that this is in a sensitive area within the marine park where permissions for anchoring should be sought as described above.

This is a wooded bay backed by high cliffs some 6M east of Sesimbra. While very scenic, and with good holding, in the evenings it is prone to very heavy downdrafts of wind from the mountains. There is sometimes 25-30kn of wind in the anchorage, whereas 3 miles offshore, there could be only 5-10kn. Some would say the anchorage is for lunchtime stops only. However, although being fully open to the south, a surprising number of small craft lie on summer moorings in the western part of the bay.

The approach from the west is complicated by a drying sandbank, the Baixo de Alpertuche, off Forte Arrábida. Keep 0.4M offshore until lightbeacon No.2 bears 090°, before altering to 033° to clear Forte Arrábida by 150–200m. This should give a least depth of 2.2m at low water springs but be careful as the bank may grow and/or move. Admiralty chart 3259 will be found useful and the water is crystal clear. Anchorage can be found in 5.5m just to seaward of the moorings, over weed and hard sand. There are rocks and a small offlying island, Anixa, at the east end of the bay.

There are no facilities other than a telephone kiosk behind the beach, half a dozen waterfront restaurants, and an oceanographic museum in Forte Arrábida on the western headland. Much of the surrounding area, including Anixa island, is a nature reserve.

Pages 212–215 Rio Sado and approaches, Setúbal

Vessels should contact Setúbal Harbour Control (VHF 73) before entering the port and on departure.

We were told by Setúbal Harbour Control that yachts should anchor in the bay west of Forte Albarquel (Adjacent Anchorage 3) and that anchoring in the Adjacent Anchorages 1 and 2 (page 215) were not permitted. 1M dinghy ride to Clube Náutico basin where the dinghy can be left on a pontoon.

Page 228 Enseada de Sagres

As of 21 October 2019, there were 4 yellow buoys in a square formation off the fort.

Page 232 Lagos Silting

From AVISO 6/22 04-Feb-2022 from the Capitania do Porto de Lagos:

The charted depth over the bar to Lagos harbour has been reduced to 1.3m only.

Page 232 Lagos Berthing

'room always found for visitors' was not true on 22 October 2019.

Page 236 Alvor Silting

The problem with the narrow estuaries on the Algarve is that you want to enter or exit at half tide or more. Alvor is shallow and Faro, whilst deep, is not an entry you want to do on the ebb.

Page 256 Faro Boatyard

Change of name and contact details

The 'Quinta do Progresso boatyard' is now officially named 'Nave Pegos' but widely known in English as 'Bruce's Yard'.

Contact details: www.navepegos.com/contacts/

Nave Pegos Lda

Estrada do Passeio Ribeirinho, 6

8000-537 Faro, Portugal

Contact office ☎(00351) 289 822506

Email nave.pegos@gmail.com

☎ 00351 919317171 leave a message

Monday to Friday: 8.30–12.30 and 14.00–18.00

Nave Pegos yard is located within a 5-minute walk from Faro railway station, on the southern edge of the city. It is only 10 minutes from the airport by bus or taxi.

Having passed through the entrance at Cabo de Santa Maria, the island of Culatra will be to starboard of you. Follow the red buoyed channel until the Faro channel opens up to port, then follow the well buoyed channel to Faro docks, deep water all the way, even at low water. Leave Faro docks to starboard, and continue to follow the green buoys to green buoy no.23. You can continue to the private mooring area, being careful of the sand spit, or anchor out of the channel and contact Bruce. Bruce will then let you know when he will come out and guide you in. It would be nice if you had your anchor up and waiting for him. Be prepared to berth port side to the small landing stage next to the lifting bay. You may not be able to swing all the way round due to the narrow channel, but have your warps at the bow and nudge your bow on and hand your warps to the yard crew who will then warp you round into position for warping stern first into the lifting bay.

Page 257 Culatra

A very popular wide open anchorage with good protection and good holding (with care). Culatra is a small sandy island with no cars but a few ATVs and tractors which are used to ferry goods from the fishing boats to shops and restaurants. There are a couple of small grocery stores with adequate supplies and several restaurants. Try the *Cataplana* - seafood stew - something of an island specialty. Dinghy facilities are limited to a small area on the first pontoon in the fishing harbour or on the beach. Culatra sports a wonderful beach with a small bar for essentials. Many cruisers will come here and stay for weeks in this very relaxing anchorage.

Page 264 & 265 Tavira anchorage

The text mentions Ría Tavira to the southwest, this should be Ria Formosa.

At the anchorage, the tidal stream is so strong that in a 20-knot contrary wind the yacht will still be tide rode. The yachts at anchor and on moorings charge around all over the place and it is very uncomfortable until three quarter tide.

Page 269-270 Vila Real de Santo Antonio

Facilities

Fuel is now payable by credit card. If you are leaving a boat it is really important to ensure you are not on the wave break pontoon as a southerly wind against the ebb of the river creates havoc, with waves literally breaking over the wave break.

Page 270 Vila Real de Santo António

Facilities

Fuel is now payable by credit card.



Boatyard Guadiana *Mike Gill*

Page 270 Boatyard Guadiana

The hauling in and out arrangements need it to be pretty calm and, if you draw 2·1 or more, undisturbed by wash from passing traffic and close to HW. A new Continente supermarket at the south end of town is a 12-minute walk.

Nautipark next door is the biggest fibreglass and wooden boatbuilder in Portugal and also has a hard and a hydraulic lifting facility for boats <10-T displacement, <2·1 draft, and <13m loa. They reportedly allow you to work on your own boat.

Page 271 Ayamonte

Entering the river on the bottom of a neap tide is reported to be fine with only a 0·5m swell at the outer channel markers. Least depth found in the marked channel was 2·4m (corrected to LAT). The river continues to flow out for about 30 minutes or more after low water Vila Real, making entry more controlled. Good anchorage in 4m is reported on the east side of the river near the entrance - opposite the southern end of the Vila Real boatyard (about 2 cables beyond the No:7 starboard buoy on a heading of 10°). Useful for a quick exit.

Good launderette can be found 200m north of the Vila Real marina (on the harbour-side road – Av de Republica).

Pages 288-290 Mazagon Huelva Channel

The shower and laundry block was a full 15–20 minute walk from some of the visitor berths. Only one washer and dryer. The town is a short walk away and although small houses a number of restaurants and bars. There's a good supermarket in town and a couple of smaller grocery stores.

Page 305 Bay between Rota Marina and Rota Naval Base

Note that landing in the bay between Rota marina and the Rota Naval Base is forbidden.

Page 308 Marina Puerto Sherry

There is reportedly a good engineer at Marina Puerto Sherry who works on Mastervolt and Whisper equipment.

Page 314 Marina Puerto America

Marina Puerto America has, for its size, an excellent chandlery.

NOTE Puerto Conil

Puerto Conil is not included in Edition 8 of *Atlantic Spain and Portugal* for reasons such as this:

‘As a stopping point between Gibraltar and Cádiz we thought this spot looked encouraging. Don't be encouraged!!

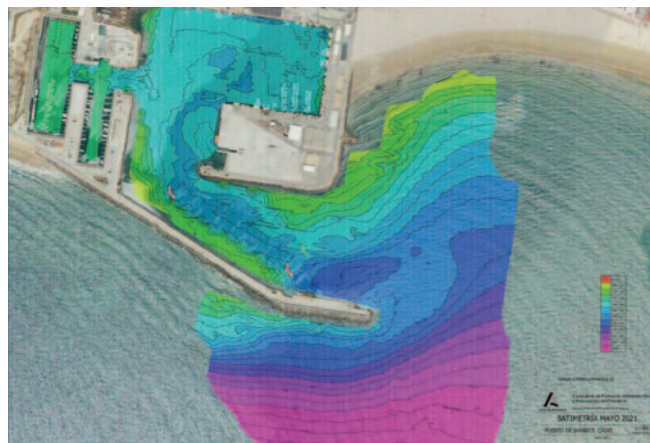
In spite of very minimal swell and little wind, we rolled all night. Not a viable stopping place!’

Page 325 Barbate silting hazard

WARNING: A yacht crew member has suffered serious injury when the yacht grounded sharply on the final approach to Barbate marina. The sand bank encountered is only a metre or two west of the line between the last port hand buoy (No4) and eastern tip of anti-swell boom. This accident is another example of what is a silting problem that affects harbours along the coast of the Algarve and Atlantic Andalusia. APPA started publishing bathymetric charts for Andalusian harbours in 2018 in an attempt to help yachtsmen navigate the shifting sandbanks that plague this coast. In this case the link is:

www.puertosdeandalucia.es/en/ports-of-andalusia/cadiz/puerto-de-barbate

- click on ‘Batimetria Puerto de Barbate (Mayo 2021)’ for the most recent information.



The pilot book reference to these charts is out of date and information for individual Andalusian ports can now be found through:

www.puertosdeandalucia.es/en/ports-of-andalusia

Page 333 Alcaidesa Marina

Communications

Mailing Address – amend to read:
Torre de Control. Avda. Príncipe de Asturias s/n,
11.300 La Línea, Cádiz, España.

Facilities

A new workshop has been established at the Alcaidesa Marina:

Varaderos del Sur offer a comprehensive service for all types of boats: general repair, mechanics, fibre-painting and maintenance. Their professional and experienced team provide a full diagnosis prior to carrying out any work. They are the official service provider for marine companies such as Mercury, Mercruiser, and Yanmar.

Shopping

The Eroski supermarket, just across the border from the Alcaidesa Marina, is within walking distance if you have a bag with wheels.

Page 336 Gibraltar

Recent reports are that Marina Bay did not have any spaces for transient visitors. Queensway Quay was not welcoming visitors at that time.