

My passage planning checklist

- Circle potential dates for the trip and check crew availability
- Decide on overnight destination and check availability of berth
- Read pilot book and/or almanac for passage advice
- Check favourable tides, currents and weather forecast in relation to intended passage
- Set out waypoints on the chart (electronic or paper)
- Add landmarks, bearings and course-to-steer
- Note VHF channels for ports and bridge control
- Estimate duration of passage
- Look at daylight hours – am I happy to arrive in the dark?
- Look at tidal gates and restrictions (ie harbour bar, headlands, bridges and locks)
- Enter desired time to complete tidal gates and work backwards to find departure time
- Choose ports of refuge/Plan B if conditions deteriorate
- Sketch a series of pilotage charts in notebook
- Check tablet is charged, routes downloaded, charts are updated and chartplotter SD card working