

Time Zones

Summary for the RYA Charts and Exercises:

Area	Time	Country equivalent	Time Zone
Northern Territory	UT	UK	0000
Northern Territory Daylight Saving Time	UT + 1	UK - BST - Summer Time	0000
Southern Peninsula Standard Time SPST	UT + 1	France - French Standard Time	- 0100
Southern Peninsula Daylight Saving Time SPDST	UT + 2	France - French Summer Time	- 0100

UTC – Universal Time Co-ordinated : is the same as GMT

The sun rises in the east and countries to the east of Greenwich set their time earlier, and to the west the time is later, in 24 Time Zones round the world, which are 15° wide.

The Greenwich Time Zone of 15° is designated Zone 0000 and is 7½° of longitude either side of Greenwich. At 180° longitude (East or West) the zone is 7½ ° either side.

For navigation purposes the times are designated Zone -0100, Zone -0200 etc as you travel to the East. To the West of Greenwich, zones are +0100, +0200 etc. This is because in celestial navigation a ship must derive GMT/UT from their current Zone Time, not Zone Time from UT.

Time Zone 0000 is conventionally known as UT or UTC (Coordinated Universal Time). Zone zero is also known as 'Zulu' time in many applications in the Met Office, Coastguard and Services.

For Zone -0100, you must **ADD** 1 hour to UT to obtain local time (because the sun rises earlier). So 1445 in UK is 1545 in France - see any nautical almanac for real life example.

As an example France is in Time Zone -0100. French Standard Time is UT+1. French Summer Time is UT+2.

In the fictitious RYA charts, Northern Peninsula Time is Zone 0000. Southern Peninsula Time is Zone -0100, which is UT+1.

Summer Time - Daylight Saving Time

SPDST - Southern Peninsula Daylight Saving Time, is Summer Time in that area, and is UT+2. The almanac will tell you to add 1 hour in the non shaded months, the summer months. BST - British Summer Time (UT+1), is the same as French Standard Time (UT+1).

Secondary Ports

When calculating secondary port time differences, use the tide times for the standard port directly from the almanac, do not adjust for Summer Time. The secondary port differences are only valid for Local Standard time. Add the hour for Summer Time AFTER you find the difference in time between the Standard Port and the Secondary Port.