

Doha Basra TIMED Race 2026- Race Report by KaSToR



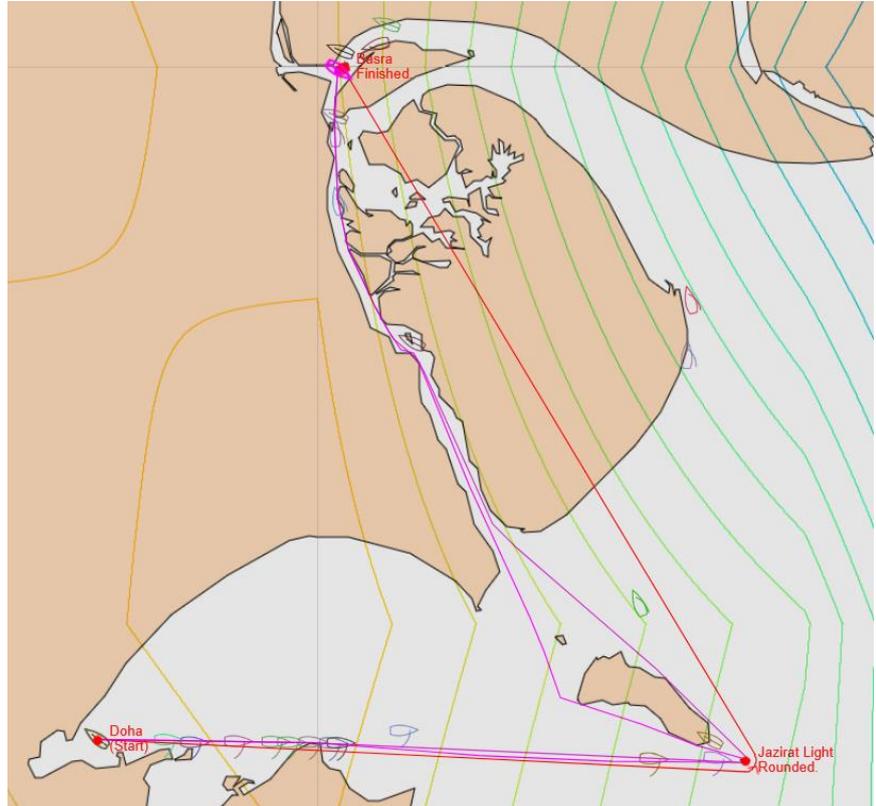
The playing field is located in Kuwait between the port of Doha (not to be confused with Doha, Qatar) and Basra, Iraq. There are 78 nautical miles to cover.

The Jazirat lighthouse, located on the island of Auhah, is the only landmark to watch out for, keeping it on the port side.

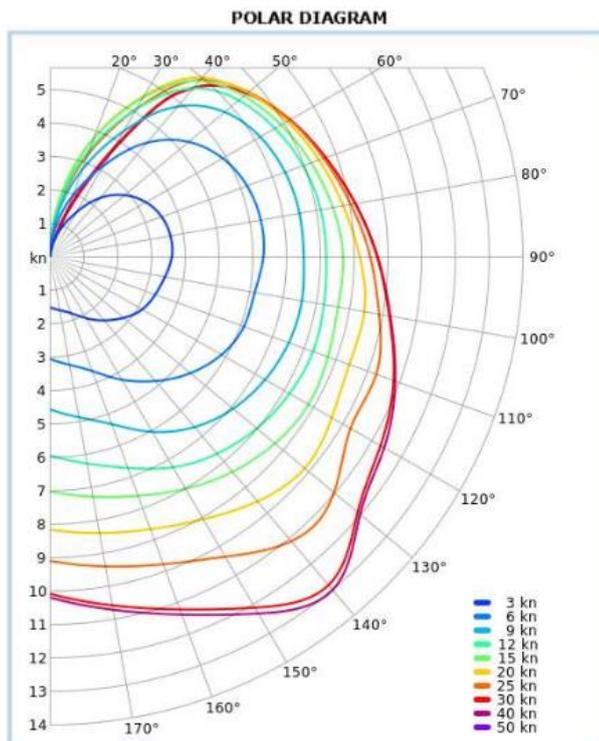
Passing through the channel, west of Bubiyan Island, seems to be the shortest route.

The Beneteau First 40.7v2 cruising yacht is our boat.

Strong winds appear to be blowing from the north-east or south-east in the area.



First 40.7 v2



Analysis of the polar curves suggests that the best times will probably be achieved with south-westerly winds, avoiding crossing the channel with a headwind.

The race begins with a window of strong north-westerly winds.

I cannot let this window pass, as I have serious doubts about the strength of the winds in the area and for the next two weeks. I therefore decide to set off immediately. By the time I have armed the boat, it is 12:01:41 p.m. I will be racing side by side with Mouthansar (Skip).

The first leg is a direct course to reach and round the island of Auhah, passing south of the island of Failaka, then a series of tacks extending the route (89 nm) to pass the channel and reach the finish line.

A race time of 11:57 puts me at the top of the provisional rankings ahead of Skip.

The conclusion of this attempt is that it was necessary to start as soon as possible after the race began.

First attempt

42	 KaStoR	First 40.7 v2	0	11:57:19	2026-02-15 12:01:41	2026-02-15 23:59:00
43	 Skip	First 40.7 v2	0	11:57:42	2026-02-15 12:04:03	2026-02-16 00:01:45
44	 rafa	First 40.7 v2	0	12:00:18	2026-02-15 13:10:03	2026-02-16 01:10:22
45	 Sax747	First 40.7 v2	0	12:01:25	2026-02-15 13:11:54	2026-02-16 01:13:20
46	 CriticalHippo	First 40.7 v2	0	12:01:43	2026-02-15 14:02:27	2026-02-16 02:04:10
47	 sabbi	First 40.7 v2	0	12:06:42	2026-02-15 20:33:22	2026-02-16 08:40:05
48	 cdhinman	First 40.7 v2	0	12:10:03	2026-02-15 14:00:40	2026-02-16 02:10:43
49	thy29	First 40.7 v2	0	12:10:18	2026-02-15 14:41:08	2026-02-16 02:51:26
50	 HoratioPugwash	First 40.7 v2	0	12:10:35	2026-02-15 23:01:55	2026-02-16 11:12:30

Four days later, a window of strong winds opens up, but this time with a more promising south-easterly wind.

We leave at dawn, a little earlier than Skip (him again), Adlaem, bonknhoot...

We are still heading straight for Auhah Island.

As we round the island, a serious mistake causes me to run aground! BBQ!

And what a BBQ! I lost more than a minute and 20 seconds to get back on course, which took us around Failaka Island to the south and then into the channel with a downwind. The route was shorter than on the first attempt (82 nm).

Despite my serious navigational error, I am in fifth place behind Skip, Adlaem, bonknhoot and number1.

However, my error does not explain why I am more than two minutes behind at the finish line.

Skip must have navigated perfectly, but I think I left a little too early in the window.

Second attempt

11	 Skip	First 40.7 v2	0	10:53:17	2026-02-19 04:40:33	2026-02-19 15:33:50
12	 Adlaem	First 40.7 v2	0	10:54:18	2026-02-19 04:50:05	2026-02-19 15:44:24
13	 bonknhoot	First 40.7 v2	0	10:55:04	2026-02-19 05:10:01	2026-02-19 16:05:06
14	 number1	First 40.7 v2	0	10:55:14	2026-02-19 05:15:48	2026-02-19 16:11:03
15	 KaStoR	First 40.7 v2	0	10:55:30	2026-02-19 04:20:04	2026-02-19 15:15:34
16	 CriticalHippo	First 40.7 v2	0	10:55:40	2026-02-19 04:21:01	2026-02-19 15:16:42
17	 cdhinman	First 40.7 v2	0	10:58:03	2026-02-19 04:00:39	2026-02-19 14:58:42
18	 FakeNews	First 40.7 v2	0	10:59:50	2026-02-19 04:14:14	2026-02-19 15:14:04
19	 rthinman	First 40.7 v2	0	10:59:55	2026-02-19 03:59:59	2026-02-19 14:59:54
20	 QMaxx	First 40.7 v2	0	11:04:19	2026-02-19 04:40:04	2026-02-19 15:44:23

We had to wait five days for a new window to appear with a south-easterly wind. This time, the wind direction indicated that it would be possible to sail north of Failaka Island. This would shorten the route even further (80 nm). We set off at night this time, but there were no problems as the course was direct to the buoy, which I passed just after getting up.

The window indicated a departure time between 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. Given my previous attempt, I delayed the ideal departure time, but I was wary because a sharp drop in wind strength was forecast in the arrival area around 1:00 p.m.

It was a good decision, as throughout the race I was able to make up time on my competitors who had started before me.

I also noticed that Collegefund, which had started 24 minutes after me, was catching up fast.

The only unknown factor was the drop in wind speed in the finish area.

At the last grib, I noticed that I was being affected by this drop in wind speed. I knew then that Collegefund would be affected even more.

In the end, I was very lucky (you always need luck to win a race), and I took the lead in the rankings!.

Third attempt

Rank	Boat Name	Boat Type	DTG	On Course	Start Time (UTC)	Finish Time (UTC)
1	 KaSToR	First 40.7 v2	0	10:08:20	2026-02-24 02:45:04	2026-02-24 12:53:24
2	 CollegeFund	First 40.7 v2	0	10:09:35	2026-02-24 03:08:41	2026-02-24 13:18:17
3	 number1	First 40.7 v2	0	10:10:24	2026-02-24 02:28:07	2026-02-24 12:38:32
4	 CriticalHippo	First 40.7 v2	0	10:11:03	2026-02-24 02:22:02	2026-02-24 12:33:06
5	 Panpyc	First 40.7 v2	0	10:13:17	2026-02-24 02:12:00	2026-02-24 12:25:17
6	 rthinman	First 40.7 v2	0	10:14:32	2026-02-24 01:58:40	2026-02-24 12:13:13
7	 Adlaem	First 40.7 v2	0	10:16:05	2026-02-24 02:34:58	2026-02-24 12:51:03
8	 rodm67	First 40.7 v2	0	10:28:32	2026-02-24 03:26:02	2026-02-24 13:54:35
9	 Sax747	First 40.7 v2	0	10:30:30	2026-02-24 00:26:30	2026-02-24 10:57:01
10	 PadericO	First 40.7 ~	0	10:32:45	2026-02-24 02:22:45	2026-02-24 12:55:31

Well done to all the competitors we encountered during our various attempts.

Special congratulations to Collegefund and number1, who complete the podium.

And a quick hello to Hippo, Adlaem and Panpyc, my Discord buddies with whom we sometimes discuss strategy before and after races.