

## MANCA 2016 LEG 3 r\* LAGOS AND SURROUND

After a lengthy voyage from Fuengirola to Lagos it was very relaxing to make some small day trips around the Lagos coast. The region is steeped in sailing history, has beautiful towns and beaches and a stunning coastline; sculptured and shaped by the waves and the wind.

### SAGRESS AND HENRY THE NAVIGATOR

It is a cheap, interesting and easy bus ride from Lagos through the local villages and west along the coast to Sagress. Here the coastline is stunning and the history of Henry the Navigator impressive.



Born in 1394 Henry the Navigator takes pride of place looking south to the “unknown world” of Africa and beyond. From 1419-60 he built ships and trained sailors to brave the uncharted seas. It is said that he pushed his new graduates in fear and trembling off toward Africa to explore the “unknown”. Many returned heroes with their new discoveries. He is also honoured in Belem on The Monument to the Discoveries.

### SAGRESS TO CABO DE SAO VICENTE

A few days earlier we coasted out to “The End of the World”. During the early afternoon, on the return, we had a fantastic beam reach along the coast with the North wind squirting over the cliffs tops speeding us along at 9 knots.



A short taxi ride will also bring you to the “End of the World” at Cabo de Sao Vicente. I am sure it has been “the end” for many sailors and ships. If you can imagine my efforts to hold the camera still against the North Wind on this violent shoreline, you will understand. Only small scrub and plants can get a root hold onto this windswept SW corner of Europe. It is hard to stand up against the wind.



The raging sea and howling winds attack the shoreline. This view is looking north along the coast towards Lisbon.

In the summer sailors can make little progress north against these seas and winds unless they leave very early in the morning before the North wind begins to blow.



The Cape de Sao Vicente light now provides a warning for navigators. The light is said to be the most powerful in Europe with a 60NM range.

On the site of the Cape Sagress Fort, Henry the Navigator is said to have constructed this “Wind Compass”. The view is South to the Gran Canaries and Africa.



### DESTRUCTION AND BEAUTY.

The violence of the wind and the sea creates a beautiful seascape. The beaches made by sand eroded from the cliffs. Sheltered from the North wind the beaches are safe and beautiful.



The swells from the Atlantic bend into some of the bays attacking the shore, grinding the rocks; turning them to sand.

Here you can see the force of the “swash and swack” as the waves grind the beach and rocks on the attack and again on the retreat; double abrasive action.





Lovely, creamy beaches below Sagres. There are caves for shade and shelter. The sea is calm for swimming as the wind is "offshore". View is looking west.

Lovely sheltered playground for the kids.



A cliff remnant has, for a while, escaped the destruction of the sea.

The peace and tranquility of the beach provides a place to dream, cool the heels and beach comb.



Wonderful sea and sky with the Cabo de Sao Vicente Light on the distant cape.

A wise skipper has heavily reefed his yacht for the gusty beam reach along The Algarve shore.



Sagress view from the bus stop.

Beside the monument to Henry the Navigator someone has taken great care to put winter socks on these trees.



## LAGOS SHORELINE



Fish boat returns to Lagos with early morning catch cruising by some beautiful stacks on the headland.

Rock strata provide a colourful backdrop for the boat.



Day trippers enjoy a zoom across the sea.

The powerful winds and wave surge carve out a blow hole in the cliffs near Lagos. Much later in geological time the hole grows, an arch may be formed and after that, if the arch collapses, stacks will stand alone against the sea.





Kayakers enjoy the beauty of the stacks caves and blowholes.

With pirates on the attack we scurry to hide under an arch; beyond their reach.



Through this cave the swell creates a powerful "river" in one direction. The swell retreats from this side and then from the opposite side another swell reverses the "river" and the sea rushes out towards us. This action would double the speed of erosion.

## A DAY SAIL TO PORTIMAO

The Lagos Marina is a good half-mile inland up a narrow river. It is guarded by a narrow lifting foot bridge. On this Saturday morning race day there is a bottleneck as the yachts wait for the bridge to open. The strong North wind rips down the channel at times making maneuvering tricky.



High above the marina this stork family get a good laugh watching the sailors below struggling with their yachts.

Secluded beaches on the coast to Portamaio.





Once inside the Portimao harbor you sail into an enchanting world. Lovely beaches safe swimming and if you wish a cold beer up at the beach café with the red awnings.

How to imagine a more romantic place for sailing lessons under the walls of the Ferragudo Castle.



A German couple have converted an old trawler into their summer cruising yacht. What a beautiful anchorage.

The gulls chase the fish boat home to Portimao hoping for a share of the catch.





Fish boat chugs by the lovely Ferragudo Castle.

Early sun on the east side of the castle.



Ferragudo cafes grill their fish right on the dock. Chef keeps an eagle eye on the gulls.

Beautiful tiled wall outside Ferragudo café.



View across the river to The Portimao Marina.

The Luis Antonio fish boat safely beached at Ferragudo.



North European campers enjoy the freedom of Portugal and the beaches.

A classic claws her way past the Portimao Light.



Next Leg 4 coming soon as we retrace our steps East along the Algarve from Lagos to Cadiz. Terry and S/Y Manca... trying to catch up with backlog of blogs in hot Marina Smir Morocco August 18 2016.

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Oh dear this is the second attempt. I was just about finished late one night when I bumped a wrong key. The whole first version disappeared into the ether. Possibly Bill Gates is out there reading it over. Oh well enjoy version "r". T.