

MANCA 2016 LEG 1 BENALMADENA TO LAGOS - TO END OF LEG 1
Part 3



Tidal pools at Chiopina are great fun for kids and clams digging

Popular beach at Chiopina with the Cathedral on the beach.





Colorful umbrellas Chiopino Beach on a perfect sunny Sunday

The very tall Chiopina Light . To the sea it is surrounded by wrecks. The sailing guides say give the cape a very wide berth. Kids find lots to see in the rock pools.





Seascape at low tide Chiopina

Beautiful villas and gardens in Chipiona



A flock of small shore birds... Free Beer for the first reader to identify these. They are a bit smaller than a blackbird.

A very active fishing fleet at Chiopina. They were all gone before daybreak.



CHIOPINA TO MAZAGON

With a fresh westerly we had a beautiful sail to Mazagon on almost one port tack the whole way, with a great geographic lift along the shore, which led us right to the lead light. This time the approach was easy as the longest breakwater in Europe (7 miles) provides shelter with a minimum of 5 metres up the river to the entrance. The gas fields to the West are feeding big tankers up the river at Helva. Mazagon also boasts a very long stretch of beautiful beach to the East. We stumbled into a very humble café where an enormous paella was being prepared.



Chef at Mazagon prepares a Sunday paella. The pan is nearly one metre diameter!

The Mazagon umbrella pines create a lovely mood. The very long beach is in the centre. The 7 mile breakwater off to the right. You can just see the entrance light under the tree on the right.



From Mazagon you take a short taxi ride to a re-creation of the early explorers' ships and visit an interpretation centre for the explorers.



Columbus ships: Pinta, Nina, and Santa Maria. Replicas at Huelva.

One of the early explorers complete with sunglasses.





From Huelva you can make a short walk up the hill to the Monastery of Rabido and the beautiful surrounding gardens.

Here there is a statue of Columbus. It is said he organized his crew from the monastery.



Monument to the explorers at La Rabida towers over the surround Helva River and landscape.

Nicely restored with many artifacts from early Columbus days.



MAZAGON TO VILLMOURA AND FINALLY PORTUGAL

We left at daybreak: 0630 for Villamoura as we had about 68NM to sail. There is a lot of low cloud, misty with some heavy tugs to avoid and some large freighters moving around. But as the sun came up we had good visibility. The tide or current seemed to help arriving at Villamoura at 1600.



Enroute we pass a few strange one-off craft. This Kontiki style catamaran was doing quite well in the light breeze.

We had a welcome party just before Villamoura.

A dolphin family just before Villamoura say :Keep going not far to go she seems to say after a pause in her fishing to swim by Manca!





As we approach Villamoura a vast fleet of skiffs comes into view. We find to our delight it is the International World Optimist Championships with about 400

competitors.

We found the Marina without any problem and the arrival dock despite, the Mega Yacht, easy to approach with the help of expert Marineras. Staff fantastic and the authorities waved me on with barely a look at the passports .

Part of the Optimist fleet return after a day of competition at Villamoura



Canadian competitor returning home.

Day 3 the Optimists head out to sea for another day of racing at Villamoura.





Slovenian crew return fro Regatta World Optimists Villamoura.

THE FINAL STEP IN LEG 1 VILLAMOURA TO LAGOS

It is only 27 miles on to Lagos. We left early and caught a fresh offshore North wind giving us a beautiful beam reach , on a flat sea, along the incredibly beautiful coast. Even before the Romans I am sure the ancient sailors enjoyed this wonderful sailing The North wind must have been a great help to the trading and fishing boats and of course the marauding invaders.

A German Flag French built Ameil coasting East as we sail past; going West to Lagos.



By leaving early we catch the morning sun on the wonderful indented shoreline. A wonderland for swimmers and bathers in the North wind.

The amazing coastline at the approach to Lagos comes into view. We are almost there!





Approaching Lagos. There will be more of this wonderful coast in my next Blog Leg 2

Finally we are at the entrance to Lagos. The Port light on the left. The remains of an ancient small stone harbour and fort ahead. The narrow river channel to the Marina Reception on the right!



END OF LEG 1 PART 3

It has been a very long haul! We have made it. An enchanting journey from Costa del Sol to the Algarve and Lagos slowly sailing 299 NM.

Terry and S/Y Manca completed at Alhao Lagoon just off the light at anchor 7/22/2016.
And revised at Ceuta August 8 2016

LEG 2 WILL BE PHOTOS AROUND LAGOS.