

## GIBRALTAR TO LAGOS 2020

Manca and crew had a wonderful sail into Gibraltar. Dolphins leaping, wind blowing hard; she topped 9.8knots.

Crew had to return to Holland. Then new crew had to cancel due to virus. Skipper now stuck. Is this a repeat of five months stuck in Costa Rica? Time went by. The Marina staff kept pushing me to leave because Ocean Village Marina was being demolished to make way for new floating docks. Gibraltar was still exciting as the airport was open and no virus problems. Tourists could return without restrictions. Short term weather great for leaving. Long term: weather breaking up. Dozens of emails many apologies. No crew.

Then out of the blue two wonderful Spanish crew and a professional arrived. After two weeks waiting we can now make the 198 nautical miles return to Lagos. But we needed an opening in the weather to sail west out of Gibraltar Strait. Tricky and complicated forecast. The wind would veer to the south which would let us escape and clear Tarifa but, wave heights and direction were a problem.

The two Spanish crew arrived with wonderful "puchero" (far better than chicken stew) and more. We planned on two nights.

The tidal streams in the Strait are confusing and can be opposing. We waited 2 hours into the ebb,( supposed the right time to go west) and so we departed at 1000

Wind on the nose. Current worked for a while 6k Then a slow slog against the opposing stream Could not find the right river.

It took three hours to do the 10 miles to Tarifa. Then the wind filled from the south; we were making good time at 8+k. Manca loved the waves for a while.

Later the confused seas became incredibly rough. Staying secured became the big problem. Very hard on the crew as waves were very steep and from 3-4 different directions. There are few boats designed to romp over confused seas but Manca's fine bow kept her on track with minimal ploughing and slamming. Speed good. But it was much too rough to take photos.

We cleared the dangerous lee shore Trafalgar Banks before night fall. Dodged a number of tankers. At night a series of rain squalls crossed our rhumb line. Heavy rain and squally winds hit about every half hour. I had to turn my back to the rain to protect my face on the 0400 - 0800 watch. Between the squalls incredibly bright stars.

Despite the really rough seas we have made 160k in 24 hours by 10am We can easily make Lagos before night fall. One day ahead of prediction.

At 1400 we are at the entrance to the Lagos river. Our average 6.8k. We are a bit early but as the tide was rising we were able to slowly creep up the river. One of the roughest sails I have ever experienced over.



*Figure 1 Navigating the shallow entrance to Lagos*

*Figure 2 Great crew. Carmen and Isabel survived one on my roughest sails ever.*



*Figure 3 Beautiful Algarve coast approaching Lagos*

*Figure 4 Lagos Marina has poor radio Easier to use the phone*



*Figure 5 Isabel and Carmen did a fantastic job preparing food even under very rough conditions.*

*Figure 6 Carmen plays and sings beautiful melodies and her own compositions*





*Figure 7 Isabel Adjusting fender height in preparation for arrival at Lagos*

*Figure 8 The majestic Algarve Coastline*



*Figure 9 Arrived Lagos! Exhausted*

*Figure 10 Bath facilities Gibraltar Marina Luxury!*



*Figure 11 Happy to be in calm waters after an incredibly rough passage*

*Figure 12 Can I come out now!*





*Figure 13 Great photo Isabel*

*Figure 14 Later Halloween in Lagos Jacks Pub*



*Figure 15 Isabel great job above deck and in the galley*

*Figure 16 Sunset from Jack's Pub Lagos Marina*



*Figure 17 Manca at Reception Dock Lagos*

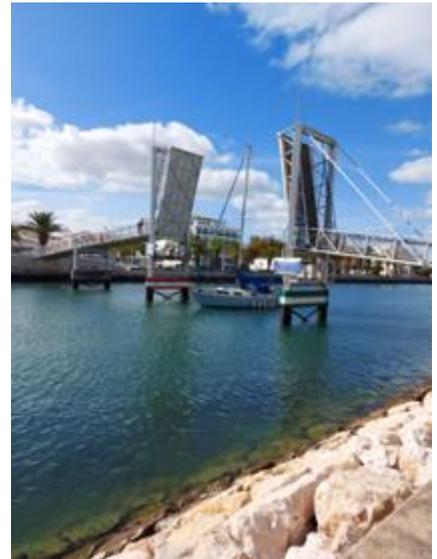
*Figure 18 Great photo Manca rig and clouds*





*Figure 19 Isabel prepares the bow line*

*Figure 20 The lifting bridge opens quickly when you call in on VHF*



*Figure 21 Headed back to Spain Great team*

*Figure 22 Super crew! Muchas Gracias Pura Vida*



*Figure 23 On watch.*

Hope you enjoyed the story of the roughest ride ever! A “Survivor” event!  
Special credit to Carmen and Isabel who contributed many of the photos!

Pura vida,

Terry

Completed during my 14 day Quarantine Victoria, Canada.

November 11, 2020