

## MANCA 2017 LAGOS CRUISE APRIL, MAY AND TO JUNE 15

The weather is king when it comes to sailing. Today it is sublime with a gentle breeze, full sunshine and about 28+c outside. It was too hot yesterday to type, more like 40 outside and 36 in the salon. Back in April and May it was cooler with some beautiful days and the occasional storm. I have now enjoyed nearly two months of cruising the Algarve. By checking the weather three times before venturing out we have enjoyed some great, safe, coastal sailing. We have not ranged very far; preferring to make short days sails, interspersed with many day excursions ashore to: small towns, along the beaches, the ragged rocky coves. The beauty of the Algarve is stunning. So far there have been different crews from Tasmania, UK, USA, Ukraine, Canada and Queensland. More Aussies arriving soon for the Summer Solstice!

Lagos will be Manca's base for most of this summer. It is an attraction in its own right, so crew arriving often spends time exploring the surroundings. The food is great. There are dozens of great restaurants within a few minutes' walk of the yacht. "Madness" is one of my genuine Portuguese favorites! If you order 2-3 days ahead Helena will make the most succulent, special baby lamb; slow baked to perfection!

### LAGOS



I was frequently amazed at the skill of this gull. It caught these large mullet, flew them to the dock and then managed to gobble the fish whole in a few gulps.

I have included this beautiful tiger as it was painted by a member of the UK team. Gra is British with Polish parents and is very talented. She has given me permission to include Tiger on my web page. Thank you!





Manca heads back to Lagos on a stiff SW breeze. A storm arrives just as we are docking.

The Lagos Optimists return after a regatta and before the storm arrives. They are based behind the ancient Moorish castle and harbor.



One Optimist slowly makes her way to dock. The calm before the storm. Note the port hand light and compare with the next day.

The seas over 4 meters smash the coast from the south. They also help to form the beauty of the rugged coastline with stacks, arches, beaches and caves.





Tourists come to watch the storm at “Potato Beach”. The unwise family has ignored the sign to watch for rogue waves.

When the fair weather returns the water sports and activities resume. This beach was the site of the first slaves arriving from Africa into Europe.



Lagos offers all kind of beach and water fun.

It's worth spending a few Euros to get a local guide to zip you are around the rocks and caves in a small boat. The big boats can't get this close!



Some of the beautiful colors and rocky shores at Lagos.

### AROUND PORTIMAO, SLIVES AND FERAGUDO

Just east of Lagos is a lagoon and at the head of it, the lovely ancient town of Alvor. On Fridays a great restaurant does live Fado music and on Sunday; superb British Jazz. Too shallow for Manca we sailed on a few miles further east to Portimao. There is lots of fun to enjoy here.

We tied up on the visitors' dock and from there we enjoyed unobstructed views of all the traffic around Portimao. The "caravel" is about 14th Century; designed by Henry the Navigator. The Feragudo castle behind, has been recently restored to make a private residence.



A clever little inflatable boat with jib and main!

An unusual design anchored behind the Portimao breakwater. Double in line masts on a catamaran. I assume there is enough ballast on port side to hold her upright. Free beer if you can send me the designer!





Yacht passes fish boat with Feragudo church behind.

A Viking boat passes the castle. Yes, the Vikings were active along this coast. Two Viking boats were excavated nearby.



What a beautiful location for a sailing school out of Portimao. Good thing the 3 meter tide is in or she would be on the golden sand!

Manca lying alongside at Portimao visitors' dock Portimao.



## SILVES RIVER CRUISE

With a nasty weather forecast we decided to take a cruise up the river to the Roman town of Silves. It too is tide related, even for the shallow rubber ducky. We went up the river on the flood and down the river on the ebb. Great fun! It takes about four hours total.



Portimao fish boat.

A Viking boat now plunders the tourist wallets on a peaceful voyage to Silves.





The black stork has a great location beside the river. Plenty of fish here.

The ancient town of Silves has survived many invasions. The moors were pushed out by this large fellow...







I think the one of the right gave Silves back to the Portuguese after the Moors were sent packing back to Morocco. The one on the left came for the beer.

The liberator.





Sardines and street art.

Tiled window.





Silves backstreets are colorful and fun to wander around.

The Roman Bridge still stands at Silves. It is now closed to chariots.



Photo of the remnants of a tidal grinding mill. The guide said it was grinding wheat for flour. You can just see the channel on the left where the wheel would be placed. Why have we forgotten the almost free, natural, renewable resource?

When the sardine fishing collapsed over 22 factories were closed around Portimao. Later the tourist came and partly rescued the economy. You can visit the Museum of fishing for less than the price of one sardine.



The old steel bridge used the same designer as the Eiffel tower.

Road and rail bridges Portimao.





Portimao Bridge.

"Splash" does a great job with friendly guides and drivers!



Beautiful Silves flower.

The next blog will describe some of the beautiful seascapes east of Portimao: Albufeira, Vilamoura and the lagoon at Culatra Island.

So much sailing fun!

Terry and s/y Manca at Lagos June 18 2017