

Sunday, Mar 27th 2016 10AM 13°C 🙀 1PM 16°C 📂 5-Day Forecast TRAVEL IHail

Home | News | U.S. | Sport | TV&Showbiz | Australia | Femail | Health | Science | Money | Video | Travel | Fashion Finder

Latest Headlines | Travel | Destinations | Holiday Types | Expert Reviews | Mail Travel | Travel Boards | Travel Blog | Celebrity Travel

Login

Sponsored Links by Taboola D

A New MMORPG You Won't Get Bored With : Click here to try!

Sparta Online Game

YOU MIGHT LIKE

Already 15 Million Players. Found your Empire. Register for Free!

Forge Of Empires - Free Online Game

Branqueei os meus dentes! Graças a este sistema branqueador caseiro. Saiba mais!

Ionic White

The Ultimate Way to Get Cheap Hotel Rooms

Save70

Obama's Surprising Ties to Top CEOs

Reuters TV

10 tips to learn any language from a genius who speaks 9

Babbel

The secret's out: Portugal's Troia is the new Algarve, says Chelsea's Jose Mourinho

By JON CRAIG

PUBLISHED: 18:43 GMT, 21 September 2013 | **UPDATED:** 18:43 GMT, 21 September 2013















View comments

The Portuguese used to say Troia was one of their best-kept secrets. Not any more. Now they're calling it 'the new Algarve', because it has beaches to rival Portugal's south-coast resorts but – due to the opening of a new ferry service – is now only an hour from Lisbon.

Many of the capital's affluent middle classes are selling their villas in the Algarve and buying an apartment in this new, still-developing haven of golden sand, where dolphins frolic in the sea and longnecked storks stare down from chimney pots of the old fishermen's cottages nearby.

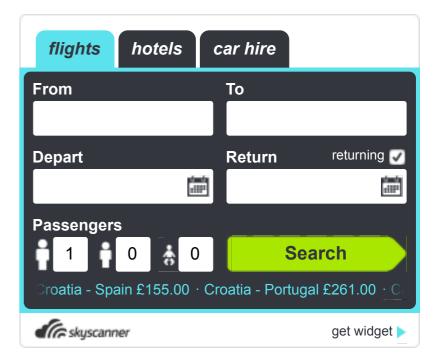


Moor-inho: The marina at Troia where Jose Mourinho has bought a holiday home









TOP TRAVEL CREDIT CARDS

NO FEES ON FOREIGN PURCHASES

Troia is indeed special, so much so that the self-styled 'special one', newly reappointed Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho, has bought a home here. The new resort is on a long, finger-shaped peninsula, reached by a ten-minute catamaran service from Setubal – Mourinho's home town.

We – my fiancee Caroline, her 13-year-old daughter Sophie and son Jack, 11 – drove south from Lisbon to board the ferry, painted an unmissable shade of lime green.

SHARE THIS ARTICLE



RELATED ARTICLES



Weekending in Lisbon: Fresh fish, a coastal retreat and one...



Waves of pleasure: Portugal's spectacular Costa da Prata is...

We rented an apartment overlooking the marina at Troia. It wasn't quite a millionaires' playground, but some fabulous yachts were moored up. It was fun to watch the comings and goings in the marina from our first-floor balcony.

But it was even more fun to drink chilled wine in a bar or restaurant at the water's edge. So far, there are just two hotels, the five-star Design Hotel and four-star Aqualuz. The 12 miles of sand are divided into several beaches, and to help negotiate the sand dunes there are boardwalks from the apartments and hotels, including one that handily leads to the beach bar.

There are a number of boat trips on offer from the marina. We chose a small motorboat tour of the Sado estuary, the stretch of water between the Troia peninsula and the mainland, the Arrabida Coast.

We were told to look out for the bottlenose dolphins. I'm always sceptical about this sort of claim by tour guides, but indeed we saw them all afternoon, closer to Setubal harbour than I thought they'd be.

And I was sceptical, too, about the 'local seafood lunch' provided as part of the trip. I could not have been more wrong. It was a sumptuous feast of shellfish washed down by bottle after bottle of chilled vinho verde. It was a brilliant afternoon.

There's more to Troia than the modern resort at the tip of the peninsula. Heading south, drive past the Roman ruins on the left and the golf club on the right, pass through a few miles of dunes and you come to traditional old fishing villages a world away from the modern buildings in Troia.

The first is Comporta, where a stork gazes down at you from almost every chimney pot. Here I had a fantastic huge pot of lobster risotto at the fine, traditional restaurant O Ze.



Cool fun: Sophie and Jack with family friend Joana

In between eating and drinking in these old villages, we walked on the rickety planks that serve as primitive harbours for the fishermen. The old and new attractions of the Troia peninsula are a delight. Local boy Mourinho's return to Chelsea was football's worst-kept secret. And now the secret of Troia is out, too.

Getting there

Sunvil Discovery (sunvil.co.uk, 020 8758 4722) offers holidays to Troia. Prices start at £679pp for seven nights' self-catering, including return flights to Lisbon with TAP and car hire. For further information on the area, see visitalentejo.com.

Share or comment on this article















The Most Exciting MMORPG You've Ever Played. Don't miss this!

Sparta Online Game



That's How You Find Super Cheap Flights!

Save70



North Korea's Nuclear Test Shocks The World

Reuters TV

Credit cards selected by This is Money





0% CURRENCY FEES

Post Office Platinum

0% CURRENCY FEES Saga Platinum





0% FOREIGN FEES

Lloyds Avios Card

0% FOREIGN FEES Halifax Clarity

TOP STORIES IN TRAVEL

▶ Two passengers kicked off plane at **Manchester Airport after** they were deemed 'TOO DRUNK to fly' at 8.40AM



▶ Dramatic moment JetBlue plane touched down on its nose and sent sparks flying on the runway after its landing gear failed



▶ An Inspector Calls: The eclectic No. 11 Cadogan Gardens will make you feel like you're misbehaving just by checking in



▶ Treat the family to a **Crete escape: The** beautiful Greek island offering something for everyone



▶ Oh happy Danes! **Discovering what** makes Denmark a famously contented country with a visit to **Europe's next Capital of** Culture



▶ A reel haven for fishing fans: From slippery salmon to hightempered trout, this Welsh getaway left chef **Valentine Warner** hooked



▶ Following in the footsteps of Anne of **Green Gables: Inspired** by the children's classic, Dame Esther Rantzen visits Eastern Canada and is utterly charmed



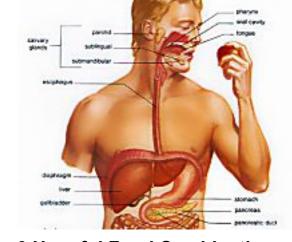
▶ Gold palm trees and a garden library: Why a quirky boutique property in Bruges has been crowned Belgium's best concept hotel



▶ Croatia's grand secret comes in from the cold: **Reaching Pula and its** 2,000-year-old monuments has never been easier



They really ARE having a whale of a time! Incredible footage shows pod of playful



9 Harmful Food Combinations That You Should Always Avoid Addictive Strategy Game! HealthyPanda



Pirates: Finally a Free and

Pirates - Online Game



The Netherlands: 15 Reasons You Don't Want To Go There

TravelTips4Life





Pirates: Finally a Free and **Addictive Strategy Game!**

Pirates - Online Game



Dentes brancos em 15 min. Ionic white está aqui para ajudar a brilhar como uma...

Ionic White



Sparta: The Strategy Game Phenomenon of 2015

Sparta Online Game



The most addictive game of the year! Play with 14 million

Forge Of Empires - Free Online Game

The Ultimate Way to Get **Cheap Hotel Rooms**

Save70



How to Find the Perfect Movie in Less than 50 Seconds

itcher Movie Recommendations

Players now!



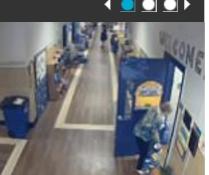
BBC pays tribute to James Martin on his final Saturday...



Hugh Jackman helps his son and others out of a rip at Bondi



Iraq bomb attack: Video said to show moment of **Baghdad blast**



Teacher knocks down special needs student, then resigns

Ads

Silversea® Senior Cruises

More Choices Than Any Luxury Line. Best Single Fares: Get a Quote Now! silversea.com/Senior-Single-Offer



Day Trips From Lisbon

Free Reservation Daily trips. Small Groups & Hotel Pick-up go2lisbon.pt/day-trip-from-lisbon



Golf Hotels Austria

5 top hotels in St. Johann Austria, holiday specialist for ski and golf www.amade-hotels.com/golf-austria



MOST READ TRAVEL



Two passengers kicked off plane at



'If you like chavs with lots of tattoos



Dramatic moment JetBlue plane



Branson set to

through the ocean

humpbacks pirouetting



home)



▶'If you like chavs with lots of tattoos eating c****y food, this is the place for you': It's been slated on TripAdvisor, so why DOES Cameron keep going back to Lanzarote?





▶ Pictured: Crippled passenger jet with broken landing gear that was hosed with foam after an emergency landing



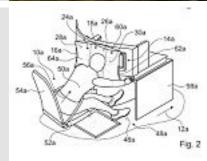
▶ Shocking drone photographs reveal how wild fires and five years of drought have devastated California's landscape

room by the MINUTE

▶ Revealed: The plane seat with an AIRBAG to protect first and business class passengers in a crash landing

▶ Welcome to the dark... and light side of **London: Mesmerising** timelapse footage contrasts day and night scenes in the capital









House guest's shock at being woken up by



Newest Oldest Worst rated **Best rated**

The comments below have not been moderated.



Pedro Vieira, San Francisco, United States, 2 years ago

Troia is indeed an amazing place (specially if you're also interested in spending a few days in Lisbon). If you're visiting Portugal, I recommend using services like www.WiserGo.com which let's you design several travel packages with Portuguese agents, select your favorite, they will book everything and provide customer support while you're in Portugal. Since they are local agents, they know the ins-and-outs of everything and you get to experience the country as a local!

Click to rate 12







The views expressed in the contents above are those of our users and do not necessarily reflect the views of MailOnline.

We are no longer accepting comments on this article.



Who is this week's top commenter?

Find out now

MORE TOP STORIES

▶ 'frozen excrement from plane loo' crashing through roof



▶ The best travel job you don't know about: Hilton's 'tastemaker' explores the world to research new hotel restaurant concepts



▶ Sir Richard Branson set to usher in new era of 'affordable' supersonic flights with 'mini Concorde'



▶ From volcanic ash clouds in Indonesia to a Japanese monkey braving the cold: The stunning winners of the prestigious **Smithsonian Photo Contest revealed**



▶ Airbnb 'unlocks' more than 4,000 villas and apartments in Cuba... and these photographs show how visitors are in for a treat



▶ A walk on the REALLY wild side: From massages with pythons to crocodile cages how you can get up close and personal with nature's most fearsome predators



▶ From the Grand Canyon to the Taj **Mahal: Tourists reveal** which attractions really DO live up to the hype



▶ Out of this world! The amazing volcanic hydrothermal fields in **Ethiopia that look like** the landscape of an alien planet



▶ Pretty in pink: **Spectacular** photographs reveal how **Japan and South Korea** are transformed by blooming cherry blossom trees



▶ Thrill-seeking teens risk their lives and imprisonment by scaling 1381ft high tower in Shanghai... to take the ultimate tourist snaps



Dodging seals and killer

whales: Incredible images reveal the thrillseeking surfers who ride the icy waves of the Arctic Circle



▶ 'We've got a loaded plane spinning on the runway!' Panicked ground staff film a Boeing 737 with passengers on board being spun 180 DEGREES by extreme winds





▶ Carnival to send first cruise ship from US to Cuba for over 50 years after agreeing deal with Castro's government



▶ The future of economy class revealed: Airbus's new planes have wider seats, lavatories that play soothing sounds... and space for even more passengers



▶ Sunburn at 30,000ft? It's possible. Experts reveal why passengers should be packing SPF cream in their carry-on luggage



▶ Surviving natural disasters revealed: How to avoid the 'death mask' in an avalanche, run around a forest fire and why a radio could save you in a hurricane



▶ Isle of Man awarded coveted Unesco status... and these stunning pictures will show you why



▶ Uber of the skies: Passengers can now book empty seats on private jets through a mobile app for as little as £150



▶ Follow in the footsteps of Benedict Cumberbatch or Ryan Reynolds: Spend the night in Airbnb properties used as filming locations for Sherlock, Girls and Hollywood films



▶ Luckily, it didn't take her breath away TOO much: The stunning images of a freediver who came face to face with blue whales



'A man was caught dancing around in his wife's bikini and heels': Hotel guests reveal the most

embarrassing situations they have ever been caught in by housekeeping staff



▶ 'Sistine Chapel of the Middle Ages' reopens to public in Rome after 2.7million euro restoration





DO NOT DISTURB

► Land of enchantment: The photographs that show just why Myanmar leaves every visitor spellbound



▶ Pictures that made a HUGE splash: The breathtaking images selected as winners of the 2016 Underwater Photographer of the Year contest



▶ Buckingham Palace is 'a dull block in the middle of a roundabout' and Hyde Park 'needs more trees': Hilarious reviews show that not everyone likes London, despite its TripAdvisor gong as No1 destination



▶ It's all Greek to me!
Commuters' surprise
when their trip to
Woolwich train station
takes them to Athens
instead... after signs are
changed for Jason
Bourne movie



▶ The ultimate retreat if you're Under Pressure: David Bowie's \$20million Caribbean villa is available to rent for the first time (at \$40,000 a week)



Never leave your toys at home! New 328ft superyacht can carry a small blimp or sea plane to the most remote places on earth (and billionaires can store their sports cars in the lounge)



▶ Fish are friends! Jawsome moment shark gives camera its goofiest smile... and looks just like predator Bruce in Finding Nemo



▶ The bear necessities: British Airways documents Pooh the teddy bear's extraordinary journey home to an eightmonth-old boy after being left 4,600 miles behind in Buenos Aires



Holidaymaker 'who spent NINE WEEKS in intensive care with Legionnaires' disease' after trip to Sardinia takes legal action against travel company



► The Crafty Traveller: Can you really slash the cost of excursions on a cruise?

▶ Carnival Cruises to send first ship from US to Cuba for over 50 years after agreeing deal with Castro's government



▶ The ultimate 'bro'd trip': The two siblings driving to all 50 US states in their 82-square-ft Sprinter van



▶ The most expensive Airbnb listings in the world: Listings so flash that stars such as Beyonce and Justin Bieber are splashing out over £7,000 A NIGHT to stay in them



► London beats New York, Paris and Rome as it's named TripAdvisor's No1 destination in the WORLD



▶ Furniture sent flying, water gushing down stairways and passengers hanging on for their lives: On-board footage reveals terror on cruise ships during extreme storms



▶ Girl power!
Fascinating images
show widows in India
breaking taboo and
celebrating the
colourful Holi festival
for the first time



▶ Is the gig REALLY in Bogata, Snoop Dogg? Rap star sparks worldwide interest in tiny Romanian village after Instagram gaffe



▶ A roller coaster of emotions: British tourist films his hilarious reaction to free falling 165ft into a canyon on a giant swing



▶ A flight with only a parrot on board, female escorts and cabin crew who know how to dance: The most outrageous requests from private jet passengers revealed



▶ Don't touch people's heads in Thailand and NEVER make the 'ok' sign in Brazil: The worst mistakes you can make on holiday revealed



▶ Jurassic lark! The toy dinosaurs that have become Instagram stars after being photographed on their travels around the world



▶ A doctor's travels: **Breathtaking pictures** taken by medic on his journeys through Indonesia, Iceland, **Bhutan and beyond**

▶ Would YOU want to

trip' and will switch

accommodation

- stay in the same hotel as Donald Trump? Firm is offering 'Trump-free booking if guest finds mogul staying at their
- ▶ Is this the ultimate pub crawl? Tavern chain looking for interns to travel and drink beer this summer (and they'll get paid \$12,000 for sharing their adventures)



▶ Have the terrorist attacks put you off **Paris? The stunning** Instagram account that will rekindle your love for the French capital



▶ Revealed: How to see Japanese sumo wrestling for free and how to behave once you're inside



▶ Stars in their eyries: The ultimate in R&R for the Dad's Army mob at **London's Corinthia** Hotel



▶ A riveting vision of Hell in a sweet little corner of Holland: Artist **Hieronymus Bosch's** hometown commemorates 500 years since his death



▶ Howzat that for a view!... the Victoria Falls we mean not Blowers in a waterproof poncho



▶ Why Delhi doesn't deserve its bad rep: Inside the hidden restaurants, secret bars and luxury hotel beyond the tourist trail



▶ Some like it haute... and even 'bangers and mash' children lap up San Sebastian's magnificent Michelinstarred cuisine



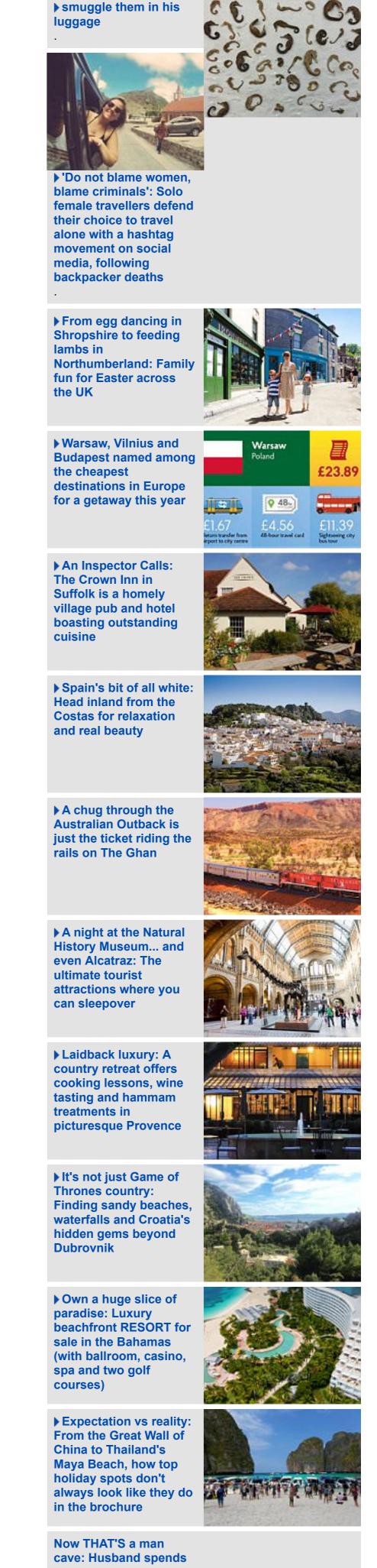
▶ From spectacular live music to sophisticated places to eat: Six things you must do in **Nashville**



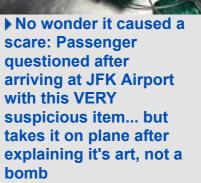
Now TV's Voice is booming out across the seas: Cruise passengers will be able to take part in on-board version of talent show



More than 50 dead **SEAHORSES** seized by **US** customs after passenger on a flight from Vietnam tried to



▶ 12 years digging a home 63ft underground for his family using a pick and shovel



▶ The car that was REALLY built to last: Couple drive more than 50,000 miles around the globe... in a 100-yearold Model T Ford



▶ Where fairytales become reality: Inside the bizarre Japanese village that's modelled on Peter Rabbit and Alice in Wonderland



▶ British hot air balloonist drifts into the record book by becoming the first person to fly over all 48 mainland US states... travelling 15,000 miles in 33 days



▶ They're flying supersonnet! Heathrow to play poems over speakers to calm down travellers over its busiest Easter ever



▶ Astonishing picture shows scorched wingtip of an American Airlines plane from a lightning strike that left passengers thinking it had 'been hit by a missile'



▶ Don't bring porn into North Korea and NEVER insult Zimbabwe's president: How to stay out of trouble while holidaying in a dictatorship



▶ Just how theft-proof IS the backwards rucksack? MailOnline Travel puts it to the test with a professional pickpocket



▶ Those were the days! Composite images of London blend modern photos of the capital with vintage snaps from 100 years ago

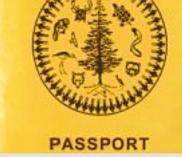


▶ British Airways A380 FLOODED after service trolley hits a pipe that causes water to cascade down from the upper deck



From the document issued to only a few hundred diplomats to the fanciful creations of micronations: The world's most obscure passports revealed





History obliterated:
 How almost ALL of
 Syria's Unesco heritage
 sites have been
 damaged or destroyed
 by conflict

▶ Movie over, Lassie: Rescue dog Kahlua makes claim for being the world's mosttravelled pooch by journeying across America



LATEST TRAVEL NEWS



Tourists warned as Goa taxi protest turns violent

Parliament to debate cost of term-time holidays

New Brazil yoga retreats for World Cup widows

Outer Hebrides boasts stunning airport approach

Lewis Hamilton to star in Top Gear festival

Thailand set to lose £1.6bn in tourism revenue

14% of Brits abroad refuse to speak local dialect

Egypt bombing: New FCO advice to UK tourists

India to cut red tape and issue visas on arrival

Qatar Airways' new all-business class flights

Rise in British travellers visiting Germany

Brits rate cuisine as essential part of holiday

London to Glasgow train to host comedy gig

British sounds in £2.5m tourism advert

Two-fifths of parents would risk term-time trip

EDITORS PICK: OUR LATEST HOLIDAY DEALS TRAVEL Hail

VILLA HOLIDAY SEARCH



With over 13,000 properties worldwide, your perfect villa is just a few clicks away

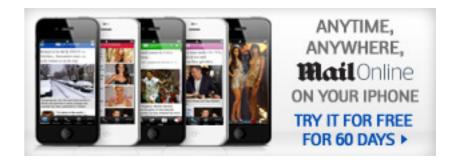




COMPARE MONEY TRANSFER DEALS

Sending from:





TRAVELMAIL PARTNERS

- Free prepaid MasterCard for your Euros or Dollars
- Save up to 85% on phone calls on holiday



Back to top

Home | News | U.S. | Sport | TV&Showbiz | Australia | Femail | Health | Science | Money | Video | Travel | Fashion Finder

Sitemap | Archive | Video Archive | Topics Index | Mobile Apps | Screensaver | RSS | Text-based site | Reader Prints | Our Papers | Top of page Daily Mail | Mail on Sunday | This is Network | This is Money Metro | Jobsite | Mail Travel | Zoopla.co.uk | Prime Location

Published by Associated Newspapers Ltd Part of the Daily Mail, The Mail on Sunday & Metro Media Group

© Associated Newspapers Ltd

How to complain Advertise with us Syndication Terms Privacy policy & cookies Contact us