

Is iol.co.za legit? TrustSniffer's high-trust assessment: 97/100

iol.co.za

Verdict

97

OUT OF 100

HIGH TRUST

iol.co.za appears legitimate.

Our checks found nothing pointing to fraud. Ordinary care still applies when you pay or sign in.

Not Scam

Safe for Login

Low Risk

Assessed 2026-08-17 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 55%.

What this site appears to be

Major South African news homepage with wide topical coverage and heavy advertising/consent vendor ecosystem; content is editorial and partnered/sponsored pieces; no signs of credential harvesting or financial fraud on the page.

Evidence status and limitations

- Evidence completeness: UNKNOWN
- The real-world operator identity was not independently verified.
 - Module-level completeness metadata is unavailable for this legacy report.

At a glance

The checks that decide most of this verdict.

Malware engines	None flagged it VirusTotal	CLEAR
Google Safe Browsing	Not listed Google	CLEAR
Abuse reports on the host	0 reports AbuseIPDB; shared hosting inflates this count	NOTED
Domain age	30 years old Registered history	CLEAR
Web archive	Never archived No public history of this site	WATCH
Certificate	Encrypted connection Issued by WE1	NOTED

The page as captured

<https://iol.co.za/>



What iol.co.za served when TrustSniffer captured it on 2026-08-17. The page may look different now.

Key findings

- Automated classification: Not Scam.
- Domain age: more than 10 years (registration continuity).
- No flags from the reputation services TrustSniffer consulted at assessment time.

Full analysis

Overview

IOL is a South African online news and content publisher presenting breaking news, politics, business, sport, entertainment, lifestyle, technology, and regional coverage through an advertising-supported editorial portal that also carries partnered and sponsored content.

Scam/Impersonation Risk

No contradictions were observed between the site's presentation, technical posture, and external reputation signals. The homepage presents coherent editorial content rather than a credential-harvesting or financial-fraud interface; it contains no sensitive form, login form, hidden form, wallet connection, or detected brand-impersonation mechanism. External reputation checks reported no malicious or suspicious detections, no abuse reports, and no confirmed blacklist result. The site's substantial social presence and established domain history further support provenance consistent with a long-running publisher, although the real-world operator identity is not independently verified.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage is classified as “News / Media” and contains extensive South African news, business, sport, entertainment, and lifestyle editorial content; no phishing or financial-fraud indicators were detected.
- The homepage links established social channels including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.
- The domain registration record shows creation on 1996-08-18 and an age of 30.01 years.

Regulatory Verification Notes

The available evidence is consistent with an established, apparently legitimate media publisher rather than a regulated financial service. The registration record identifies the organization as IOL and the registrar as Gandi, but these records do not independently prove the real-world operator's identity. No financial-services licence claim or licence number was identified in the supplied site content; for this editorial business model, that is a regulatory-disclosure point to clarify only if the site presents a separately regulated product or service. The advertising, partnered-content, sponsored-article, consent, and third-party tracking model should be understood as commercial publishing practice, not as evidence of fraud. No broker-reputation match was identified in the available third-party context.

EVIDENCE

- The domain registration record lists organization “IOL” and registrar “Gandi”.
- The site's transport encryption uses a DV TLS certificate issued by WE1, valid until 2026-11-08.
- The homepage describes an advertising-supported publisher with display/native advertising, partnered content, sponsored articles, and consented third-party vendor tracking.

What to Verify Next

Before any credential or payment interaction associated with a separately offered service, confirm the applicable merchant or publisher identity through an independent corporate or regulatory source, review the relevant terms and privacy disclosures, and confirm return, refund, and payment-protection arrangements where applicable. Official contact channels should also be confirmed through an independent route rather than relying solely on an on-site contact path.

EVIDENCE

- Legal or about pages should be checked for the responsible legal entity, jurisdiction, and applicable service terms.
- Any future subscription, commercial promotion, or transaction page should be checked for clear billing, cancellation, refund, and payment-protection information.
- Any separately regulated offering should be matched to the relevant official licensing registry before use.

Summary Verdict

The overall posture is **high trust and low risk**, with convergent evidence supporting an established, apparently legitimate website and no observed scam or impersonation contradiction. The classification is strong, while operator identity remains likely rather than independently verified.

Infrastructure Integrity

The site is protected by Cloudflare’s CDN/WAF infrastructure, with the observed network identified as AS13335. This provides a mitigating layer against direct exposure and common abuse patterns, but protective infrastructure alone is not proof of legitimacy; observed addresses include CDN edge servers as well as potential origin candidates.

EVIDENCE

- Served from AS13335 (Cloudflare).
- Hosting provider: CLOUDFLARENET — Cloudflare, Inc., US; registry: ARIN.
- Observed infrastructure includes six CDN edge IPs and two potential origin candidates.

Closing Assessment

Normal browsing is proportionate to the assessed posture; before credentials or payments are submitted for any associated service, ordinary independent identity, terms, and payment-protection checks should be completed.

Written analysis generated 2026-08-17 by the TrustSniffer Analysis Engine from the evidence in this report.

What the analysis found

No rule findings contributed to this verdict.

Identity verification

Status	LIKELY
Identity score	80/100
Identity verification confidence	80%

- Trusted social count=4

Identity verification measures whether the site can be independently connected to a real-world brand or person. It is separate from the classification confidence.

What TrustSniffer observed

First-party facts recorded during the assessment of iol.co.za.

- The request stayed on iol.co.za. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- Registration is published under Gandi. CLEAR
- DNS for this domain is served by cloudflare.com, across 2 name servers. NOTED
- The registration is paid up to 2027-08-18. NOTED
- It is hosted on CLOUDFLARENET, from a server in US. NOTED

Domain intelligence

Registrar	Gandi
Hosting	CLOUDFLARENET - Cloudflare, Inc., US

Country	US
Server IP	2606:4700:10::6814:2ba4
Name servers	pete.ns.cloudflare.com, coco.ns.cloudflare.com
SSL issuer	WE1
SSL expiry	2026-11-08
Domain age	30.01 years (continuous registration)
Domain expiry	2027-08-18
Archive first seen	Not available
Archive snapshots	0
Reputation	VirusTotal: 0 flagged AbuseIPDB: 0 reports Google Safe Browsing: 0 matches

About this assessment

A trust score summarises the evidence TrustSniffer could collect about iol.co.za at assessment time. It is a starting point for your own judgement, not a guarantee: a high score means the signals were consistent with a legitimately operated site, a low or critical score means several risk patterns were present.

TrustSniffer assesses a website from the evidence it can collect at a point in time: domain registration and age, hosting and certificate, the content the site served, and third-party reputation feeds. A score is a summary of that evidence, not a guarantee and not a legal finding. There is no human rating and no user review in it. A site can change after it is assessed.

This report online: <https://trustsniffer.com/report/iol.co.za> · assessed 2026-08-17