

Parting Shot 1

The Old Head of Kinsale is an iconic part of Ireland's southern coast. It is a 3-mile-long peninsula that juts south into the Celtic Sea and has two blue flag beaches, a rich history and a famously upmarket golf links course. It also has wonderful diving, particularly at the southern tip under the lighthouse.

On an early season dive, after a winter of especially strong storms, I joined two Dutch photographers on a calm morning with enticing visibility. The skipper from Oceanaddicts, the local dive operation, had dropped us perfectly to start a scenic wall and gully dive on the more interesting west side. There are several sites in a short stretch, including the wreck of the 'City of Chicago', which steamed straight into a cave on the headland in heavy fog on a June morning, 1892. Miraculously, everyone on board was saved, the majority being rescued to the cliffs above.

As we dumped the air from our BCD's and drysuits and slowly descended, I could make out some white specks on the gravel seabed. On closer inspection, while moving around to get a shot with a diver, dozens of golf balls had gathered at the top of the gully, resembling small white sea urchins.

It turns out that this gully is below the 17th tee of the Old Head golf links. It is described as 'a long par 5 where finding the fairway is a must on your drive and second shot. Par is always a good score on this hole.'

It's more lessons or scuba guys...

John Collins
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Olympus OM-D E-M1 in Nauticam housing; 8mm F1.8 Fisheye lens behind Zen 170mm dome and two Inon z240 strobes.

**Do you have a shot
which has a story within a story?
If so e mail it with up to 500 words of text
and yours could be the next Parting Shot.**
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Parting Shot 2

Menorca is one small island in the Balears in Spain. The sea is clear and blue, the marine parks are rich in marine life but for the divers it is more famous for the caves.

Countless caves are available to the scuba diving industry. The last 3 years a new Freediving School opened on the island and introduced for the first time cave diving for freedivers. The experience is becoming more and more popular and a new breed of cave dwellers started to appear inside the Menorkian caves. In most cases it is a swim through.

Entering a cave from one side and exiting from the other but sometimes the divers will surface inside the cave. One cave like that is the “Cathedral”. The big entrance leads into a big chamber but if you continue deeper there is a second entrance to a smaller chamber in which you can surface and breathe. Going in is a leap of faith. You need to trust your instructor because after some point you have to get going.

The closest source of fresh air is forward into the darkness and the unknown. The way back is a lot more fun. You have the sense of achievement and the knowledge that you can do it. These 2 happy divers have reached the inner chamber of the cathedral for the first time and now they follow their instructor back towards the open sea. Among the freedivers in Menorca “doing” a cave is a badge of honor and the Cathedral stands among the hardest cave dives.

The picture was shot on a breathhold.

Olympus OM-D E-M5 mark III with Olympus M.Zuiko Digital ED 8mm f/1.8 Fisheye PRO Lens behind a 4.33” Dome port in a Nauticam housing. f/1.8 1/13 ISO2000 P Mode

Nicholas Kouvaras
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