

Parting Shot 1

Life after death?

With some pyrotechnic force, last October, two ships were sunk in the Algarve, South of Portugal, to act as diving points under the project Ocean Revival.

Around the area, where the two ex-Portuguese warships, of a total of four, were going to be sunk, for the first time in the world on the same day, several small craft were complying with the established safety distances with more than one hundred people on board.

Everyone was anxious for the Navy diving teams that had to do the check dive, surfaced confirming that all was well, so that the first chosen ones could get geared up and do the first dive.

Although some small debris was still surfacing and the silt was still settling down, the first five divers jumped eagerly into the water and started descending the guide line that took us to the 80 meters long corvette.

For me, that I have served on board this class of ships for many years, it was a kind of “déjà vu”, but the ship was upright and is all prepared to receive divers of all levels...

What a great dive it was. And two months since that day, all kinds of life is already calling the wrecks “home”... and during 2013 the last two ships – a 110 meters frigate and a 80 meters hydrographic ship – will follow, creating a one of a kind diving spot.



Nikon D300 in SEALX housing, Tokina 10-17, 2 INON Z-240 at 10 mm, 1/50, f.10 ISO 400

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Do you have an image which has a 'story within a story'?
If so we'd love to hear from you.
E mail us and yours could be the next "Parting shot".
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Parting Shot 2

Koh Tao, a small island in the Gulf of Thailand, is a very popular backpacker hangout and is also the unofficial dive capital of the world, with more divers certified on the island each year than anywhere else on the planet. While there is some great diving around the island I also found something very unique was happening here.

Diving at a site called Japanese Gardens I had been told to watch out for titan triggerfish, so got quite alarmed when I felt something picking at my ear. I turned around expecting to see a huge triggerfish with my ear in its mouth, but there was nothing there. Suddenly the picking in my ear started again. I swatted my ear, wondering what it was, then looking at my wife Helen I could see her swatting her ears as well, swatting at something small, it was a cleaner wrasse!

I couldn't believe it; our ears were getting cleaned by a group of cleaner wrasse!

I had never heard of divers being cleaned before, so had to get some photos of this bizarre behaviour. Fortunately I had my 60mm macro lens on the camera.

Between swatting away the fish picking in our ears, which quickly become very annoying, I indicated to Helen to stay still for a few minutes so I could get some photos of the cleaner wrasse in action. I managed a couple of images, but there was only so long we could stand having these small fish picking in our ears!

After the dive we talked about how unusual, and irritating, the experience was. We also came



Nikon D90, 60mm lens, Ikelite Housing, Inon Z240 strobe, 1/100 f16.

up with a theory that the cleaner wrasse at Koh Tao have evolved to feed off the ear wax of the never ending supply of backpackers that learn to dive on this tiny island!

Nigel Marsh

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Parting Shot 3

Out into the blue

All OK? the thumb goes down, a sigh escapes your BCD
You breath out, gravity pulls, as you embrace the sea
A little down, a couple feet, you've barely entered the ocean
Yet the transformation is complete, the world has gone slow-motion
The landscape zooms as you drift down until you're almost there
No need for bungee or parachute, all you need is a puff of air
And there you float in perfect balance, a visitor in a different realm
So much to see, it is quite exciting, but all you feel is calm
A halo of anthias in their bright orange hue
You glide silently past, looking out into the blue
The damsels are dancing, some batfish say hi
Parrotfish drift head-up, there must be a cleaner nearby
They all have their business, their needs and routine
Eat, rest, mate, fight, hide or be seen
It's a privilege to be their guest, if only for a while
Memories are all that's left, but they often make me smile

Bart Hazes



This was shot with my (t)rusty Canon 20D and the 35mm F2 lens in an Ikelite housing with DS50 strobe. The dive site was Abu Nawas gardens, which is one of the sites near Red Sea Diving Safari's Marsa Shagra dive camp, where I was staying. After 8 years of loyal service the 20D/ikelite combo is going to be replaced by an OM-D EM5/Nauticam setup before my Red Sea Trip this summer.

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