

# MYLES CREEK, KILKEE

## A Basic Dive Guide



by Noel Gleeson  
Kilkee SAC

Cave in shallow depth. Photo by Martin Kiely.

Myles Creek is a North-facing inlet on the top of the Duggerna Rocks, a large reef covered by tides at the mouth of Kilkee Bay. For shore dives it can be accessed by road on the south of the bay and trekking over the rocks at low water. Beware of slipping, allow enough time in your planning.

In suitable conditions, it can be dived from a boat, but the site is otherwise very tide sensitive. From the shore, it is essential to enter the water preferably 30 minutes before low water to dive in calm water. If there is white water, or a bad forecast, don't dive it. On a shore dive, you must exit in exactly the same place and navigation is essential. The alternative is a very long swim around the reef to Newfee. It's an excellent site for snorkellers too and a natural underwater oasis.

From the shore the creek is initially shallow (3 metres) with a drop off to about 14m into a sheltered valley, often with startlingly clear water, given reasonable sea conditions. This has spectacular colour on floor and walls overlaid with anemones and is generally populated by a variety of fish. If one follows the left hand cliff, this leads to open water and the protection ceases. You are now on a more normal dive site with kelp on the floor. Go north to the next drop, about 20m. Again follow

the cliff on your left and you will eventually encounter a very large cave in usually clear conditions at about 33m. You should check your air and perhaps start back. You can, of course, enjoy a simpler, shallower dive in the valley without the worries of deep diving.

**FROM BOAT-** From the sea there are submerged rocks both sides of the entrance, so care is needed in marginal conditions. The shallow valley is ideal for

novices in very calm conditions at only 14m and clear water. Divers can be dropped off near the valley and then explore it before heading outward (west). A deeper dive can be had on the West of the site, where there is an excellent cliff face with many ledges and sea life. There is also a nice cave at a shallow depth in the kelp on the east side of the site (about where the text says 'small caves'), if you can find it. Martin Kiely our current Regional Diving Officer took a fine

