

Recently returned from a Moroccan visit to Marrakech and Casablanca, Peter Corden will soon be re-packing his suitcase for an assignment in Spain when we met in Stockholm on a sunny day in April.

There is no doubt that Peter Corden may have Sweden's most envious job. Especially, if you love golf. Peter Corden travels around the globe photographing golf courses. Plus, he gets paid for it, as well.

He may travel more than the average Swede, but he likes what he does. "I actually don't see any down side to my job," says Peter. "Most would think it's all the traveling that's the drawback but I've always loved to travel so it's really no big deal for me. Besides, it's a good way to shorten those long, dark days of a Swedish winter."

The intensity shows when he speaks about the art of photography and what he considers in finding his motifs. Peter explained, "Since I play golf, I'm looking to photograph the challenges that the player will face when he plays. I usually do some research, as well, like reading scorecards to get yardages before I go out. Otherwise, it's pretty much about looking for good angles."

What is noticeable is that most of Peter's images show beautiful scenery, dramatic skies and deep bunkers. But no people are visible in the images. Why? Are the golfers not there? Peter responds with, "Sure, people can absolutely be in the pictures! For me, I use them more as reference points and helping the viewer to create a relationship with the course. My specialty, however, is to capture the golf course's character. All courses are different and have their own challenge.

We live in an age of social media, where everything we do is documented, we couldn't help but wonder how a professional photographer looks at the way people use their smart phones to take pictures?

"Personally, I think it's great! I usually use photos from the phone as a sort of diary entries through social media, like Facebook and Instagram," said Peter enthusiastically. "I think it is fun to show the family and my friends what I am up to and where I'm working. It can also be used as marketing tool. I have gotten jobs through social media."

Peter began his golf photographer career in the early 90s. A photo job for the Ving Golf catalog was the beginning of a photographic journey that has yet found the final stop.

"Back in the 90's I was working with hand-colored black and white images with a transparent oil paint that I discovered in an artist's shop in Santa Cruz, California," Peter recalled. "Then, during a golf event, I was out on the fairway at the Ekerum Resort with a team of competitors. I remember someone sticking a wedge in my hand. That was how I started playing golf and now, I'm hooked."

There are dream courses on Peter's got-to-go list, for sure.

For instance there's Cape Kidnappers in New Zealand and the 19th hole at The Legends of South Africa, where one can find the world's most extreme par three.

There is a rumor going around that he now calls himself a ski photographer. "Well, mountain photography may well be an alternative to golf courses," he answered. "If I have to choose, I prefer the sea, the sand and grass instead of snow and cold. But I won't rule out anything after my last stay Ramundberget, Sweden. You never know," said Peter, with a little wry smile.

With the coffee finished, Peter rises to leave. "Sorry," he says, "We'll have to do the rest of this by e-mail. I have to go pack for Spain. When the client calls, it's time to go."

That's the life of a professional golf photographer. Either continually on the move or itching for the next assignment. For Peter Corden, fortunately, it's the former.