

Chagos Archipelago - Victory Bank (BIVB81)

Victory Bank · surveyed 2015-04-21



Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. Coral cover here was measured on in-situ benthic transects run by divers on the [Living Oceans Foundation Global Reef Expedition](#) — a diver measurement, not an estimate read off photographs. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER

52%

Benthic surveys

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

28.9°C

0.0°C-weeks

16 Sep 2026 · -0.1°C vs the annual mean (29.0 °C)
· [NOAA](#) No heat stress

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)

4.4°C-weeks

[NOAA](#) annual peaks averaging 4–8 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

31.1 m

dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

29.7°C

+0.7°C vs the 2015 mean sea temperature (29.0°C)

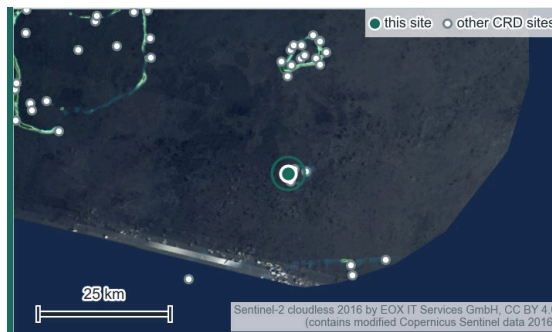
PHOTOGRAPHS

5

on file for this site

POSITION

-5.5344, 72.2159



A sheltered lagoon-rim reef on Victory Bank at 29 m with 51.7% coral, mostly *Acropora*, over unusually silty turf and macroalgae. Cover jumps from 34% at mid-depth to 78% on the deepest transect, and photos show a near-continuous stand of whorled plate coral the survey did not record. Surveyed on the [Living Oceans Foundation's Global Reef Expedition](#).



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Transect (published) 51.7 · [CoralNet](#) 37.8 · In-house DINOv3 44.7 · CoralSCOP edited 49.2 · Claude 56.7

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 5 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/gre-chagos-archipelago-victory-bank-bivb81.html> · Heat stress is the mean of the latest five annual maxima of NOAA Coral Reef Watch degree-heating weeks for this reef's [NOAA CRW](#) virtual station (Chagos) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.