

Indonesia - Halmahera: Merida Cavern

Halmahera (North Maluku) · surveyed 2026-08-14



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Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. No diver transect was run at this site. The figure is a blind Claude computer-vision point classification of 125 photographs by the author, read without sight of any other method's result; other computer-vision methods are compared on the site page. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER
27%
Claude computer vision (125 photos)

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD
28.7°C **0.0°C-weeks**
16 Sep 2026 · -0.9°C vs the annual mean (29.6 °C)
· NOAA No heat stress

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)
5.1°C-weeks
NOAA annual peaks averaging 4–8 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH
15.0 m
dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)
—
not logged

PHOTOGRAPHS
52
on file for this site

POSITION
0.1438, 127.2093
Position placed on the dive site.



Merida Cavern is two dives in one - a nearly coral-free limestone swim-through with shafts of light, and a reef outside it studded with enormous meter-wide tabulate *Acropora* and massive *Porites* domes. A crown-of-thorns starfish was found under an overhang beside a freshly grazed, stark-white massive coral and further clean feeding scars on neighboring colonies - a real, active stressor. A blind Claude computer-vision point count puts coral cover around 27%. The wide spread reflects the cavern-versus-reef split rather than measurement noise.

Bahasa Indonesia. Merida Cavern adalah dua penyelaman dalam satu — terowongan renang batu gamping yang nyaris tanpa karang dengan berkas-berkas cahaya, dan terumbu di luarnya yang bertaburan *Acropora* tabulat raksasa selebar satu meter serta kubah *Porites* masif. Seekor bintang laut mahkota duri ditemukan di bawah ceruk, di samping karang masif yang baru saja digerosoti hingga putih bersih, dengan bekas pemangsaan bersih lainnya pada koloni-koloni tetangga — sebuah pemicu tekanan yang nyata dan aktif. *Terjemahan ringkasan ini oleh AI; versi bahasa Inggris yang berlaku.*

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): In-house DINOv3 24.3 · CoralSCOP unedited 31.4 · Claude 27.3

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 1 of 52 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/indonesia-halmahera-merida-cavern.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 (North Maluku) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.