

Mauritius - Aquarium / Big Rock

Le Morne / Flic-en-Flac area, southwestern Mauritius · surveyed 2025-02-04



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What was done. The figure is the site cover estimate reported in the author's Mauritius manuscript: the unweighted mean of his manual point count and CoralNet's automated classifier, over 72 photographs. The manual point count alone reads 14%. 8 further methods are compared on the site page.

HARD CORAL COVER
17%
site cover estimate: manual point count and CoralNet, weighted equally (72 photos) · other methods on the site page

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD
24.3°C **0.0°C-weeks**
16 Sep 2026 · -2.3°C vs the annual mean (26.6 °C)
· NOAA No heat stress

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)
9.0°C-weeks
NOAA annual peaks averaging 8–12 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH
22.6 m
dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)
28.0°C
+1.4°C vs the 2025 mean sea temperature (26.6°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS
50
on file for this site

POSITION
-20.2889, 57.3617



Two adjacent sites off Le Morne dived together, built from huge volcanic boulders and rock spurs separated by pavement and dead coral framework, mostly covered in turf, brown algae, and coralline crust. Coral is sparse, mainly *Porites* and *Pocillopora* with one large table coral, and highlights included a day octopus and a resting sea turtle.

Français. Deux sites adjacents au large du Morne, plongés ensemble, constitués d'énormes blocs volcaniques et d'éperons rocheux séparés par de la dalle et une charpente corallienne morte, majoritairement recouverte de gazon algal, d'algues brunes et de croûtes corallines. Le corail est rare, surtout *Porites* et *Pocillopora* avec un grand corail de table ; un poulpe diurne et une tortue au repos figurent parmi les observations. *Traduction par IA de ce résumé ; la version anglaise fait foi.*

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Site cover estimate 16.8 · Manual (draft manuscript) 14.0 · CoralNet 7.0 · In-house DINOv3 15.3 · CoralSCOP unedited 13.0 · Claude 8.3

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 1 of 50 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/mauritius-aquarium-big-rock.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 (Southern Mauritius) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.