

Philippines - Coron: Coral Gardens, Busuanga

Coron / Busuanga · surveyed 2017-01-27



What was done. No diver transect was run at this site. The figure is a computer-vision estimate over the site's own frames — DINOv3 35%, CoralSCOP 26%. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER

31%

computer vision: DINOv3 35%, CoralSCOP 26%

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

30.6°C **1.1°C-weeks**

16 Sep 2026 · +1.1°C vs the annual mean (29.5 °C)
· [NOAA](#) Bleaching Warning

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

3.2°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks below 4 °C-weeks, the bleaching threshold

MAX. DEPTH

15.24 m

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

27.8°C

-1.6°C vs the 2017 mean sea temperature (29.4°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

25

on file for this site

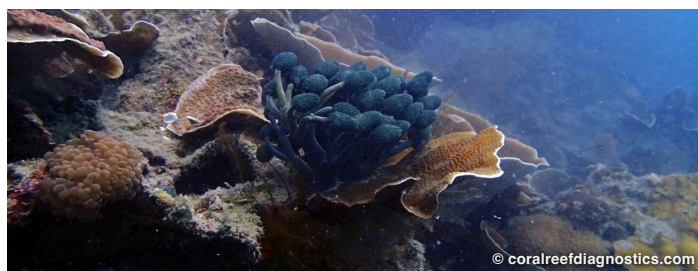
POSITION

11.9900, 120.2050

Approximate position: no GPS fix was logged for this dive.



Coral Gardens is the only true reef of the Coron day, dominated by overlapping foliose and plating corals including *Pachyseris* (elephant-skin coral) interleaved with staghorn *Acropora* thickets and brain corals - high genus richness with no site-wide bleaching, despite persistently poor visibility. Cover estimate is roughly 26-35%, averaging 31%.



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): In-house DINOv3 35.1 · CoralSCOP 25.9 · **Mean ($\pm$ SD) 30.5 $\pm$ 6.5** · Range 25.9–35.1 Mean $\pm$ SD and range are across the computer-vision methods shown.

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 25 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/philippines-coron-coral-gardens-busuanga.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 (Western Philippines) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.