# Bahrain

Regional summary of 4 dive sites. Figures are averages across the sites that report them (n = sites with a value); each site's own page has its individual values.

0 — 5

## Coral Health Index: 1.50/5



Photo: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain)

COUNTRY

**Bahrain**

SITES

**4**

each linked below

HARD CORAL COVER (REGIONAL MEAN; CLAUDE COMPUTER VISION)

**2.8% ± 4.7%** (std. dev.)

n=4. range 0.0–9.9%

WATER TEMP. DURING SURVEYS (REGIONAL MEAN)

**34.0°C**

n = 3 of 4 sites; surveyed Sep 2023–Aug 2024

CORAL HEALTH INDEX (REGIONAL MEAN)

**1.50 / 5**

n = 1 of 4 sites; scale of zero to five, higher is healthier

MOST RECENT WATER TEMPERATURE RECORD

**32.6°C**

26 Oct 2026 · Bahrain

MOST RECENT HEAT STRESS RECORD

**11.1°C-weeks**

26 Oct 2026 · NOAA alert that day: no stress (water now below the bleaching threshold; 11.1°C-weeks built up over the last 12 weeks)

MEAN ANNUAL MAX DEGREE HEATING WEEKS (DHW), LAST 5 YEARS

**9.9°C-weeks**

2021–2025 · Bahrain

HIGHEST ANNUAL HEAT STRESS

**14.1°C-weeks** 🔥

in 1986 · Bahrain

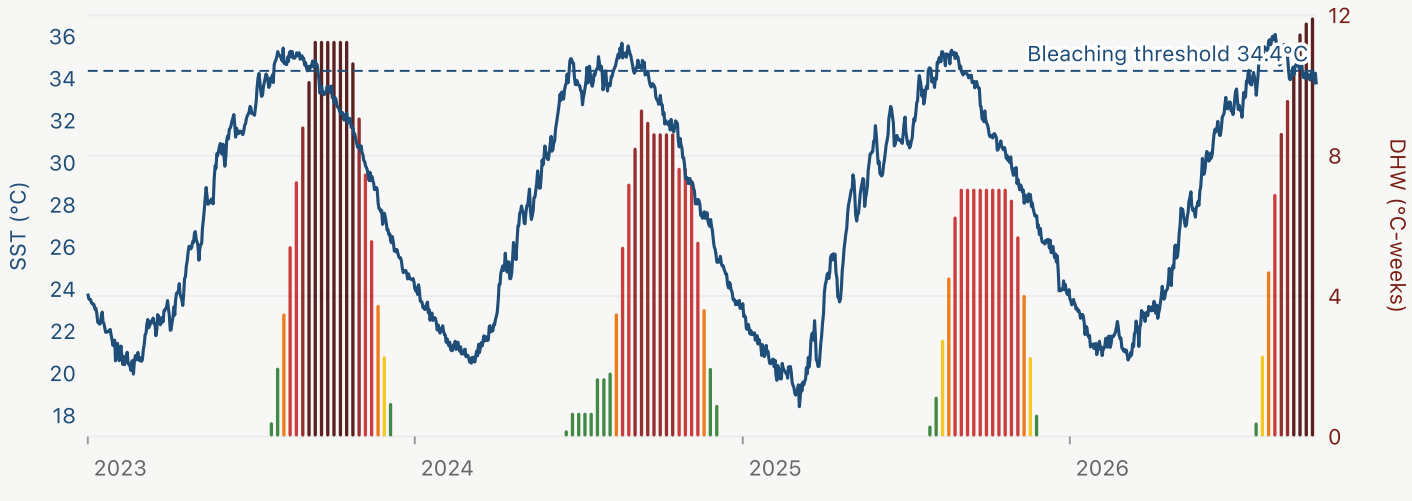
SEVERE HEAT-STRESS YEARS

**9**

1985–2025 · 6 in the last 10 years

Heat-stress figures: NOAA Coral Reef Watch — Bahrain 5-km virtual station. Each pill links its source record and carries the values behind it.

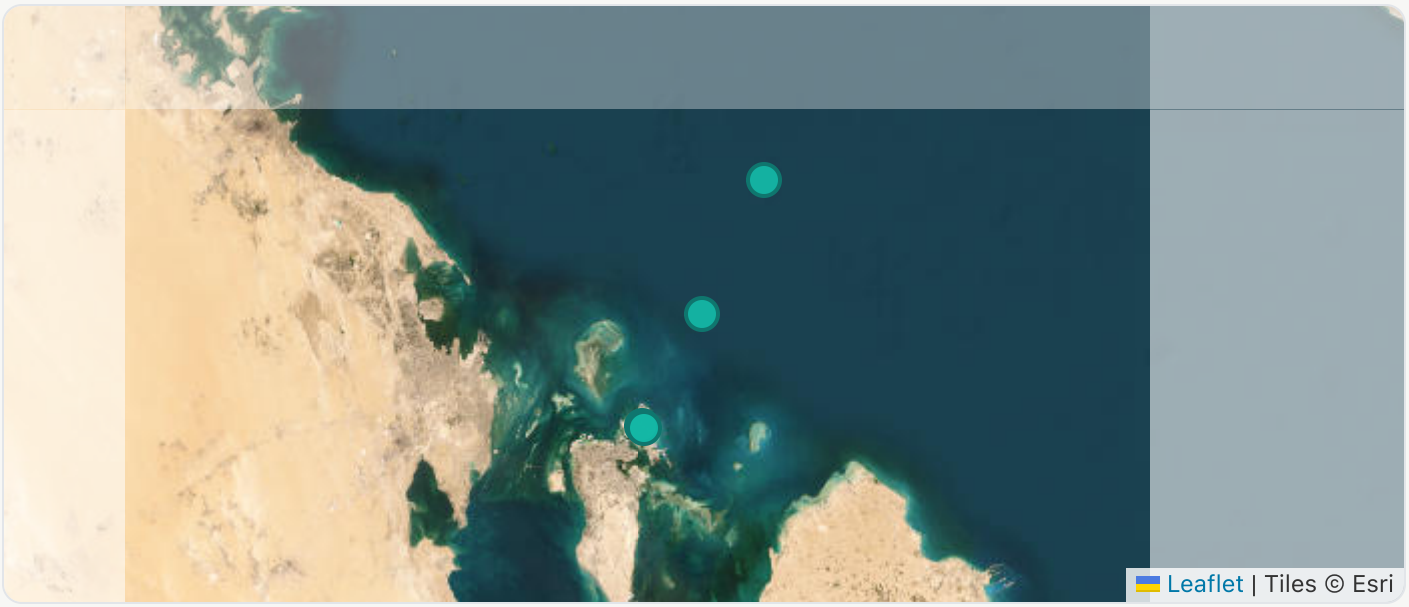
## Heat stress




Daily SST (line) and weekly maximum Degree Heating Weeks (bars), Jan 2023–Oct 2026, NOAA Coral Reef Watch 5-km Bahrain virtual station. Dashed line: bleaching threshold (maximum monthly mean 33.4°C + 1°C). DHW ≥ 4:

bleaching likely; ≥ 8: severe bleaching and mortality likely. A bar is drawn only where DHW exceeds zero, so a stretch with no bar is accumulated heat stress of zero, not missing data — the SST line runs the full period.

Long-term record: 9 years from 1985 through 2025 reached 8 or more °C-weeks at NOAA's Bahrain station. Download the annual DHW data (CSV).




4 sites in this region — click a marker to open that site.

## Overview

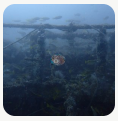
Bahrain's 4 sites come from two days in the Arabian Gulf. On 23 September 2023 Anderson dived Dilmunia Rock, a shallow rocky ledge less than 2 km off the coast, and a nearby artificial reef of dome-shaped units on sand in turbid water. On 23 August 2024 Anderson went offshore with Sea Addicts from Amwaj Marina, first to the Al-Boom wreck and then to Hayr Bul Thamah (Bul Thamah), an offshore reef about 80 km northeast of the main island inside a marine protected national park.

Coral cover is low everywhere. Blind Claude computer-vision point counts of Anderson's photographs give 0.5% at Dilmunia Rock and 0.9% at the artificial reef, where turf and sediment rather than coral cover the structures, and 9.9% at Hayr Bul Thamah, where red algal turf covers most of the rock between scattered brain and meandroid colonies, sea fans, and fields of whip corals. Hayr Bul Thamah also holds a single healthy-looking golden branching colony, notable because a 2017–2018 survey found no branching corals there. Some brain colonies there show patches of tissue loss now overgrown by algae, and a few colonies are pale or white. The Al-Boom wreck, an upright, heavily fouled hull wrapped in schools of yellow snappers, gave 0.0%; as a wreck it is counted in the regional mean like every other site.

Other programs' older surveys mostly put Bul Thamah above today's photo-based value: Reef Check recorded 24–46% hard coral in 1998–1999 but about 12% in 2000, published surveys found about 15–16% in the 2010s, and the 2010 bleaching event is estimated to have cost the

reef about two-thirds of its coral. The 2024 dives were in late August, when Gulf water is at its warmest (34°C on Anderson's dive computer).

## Highlights

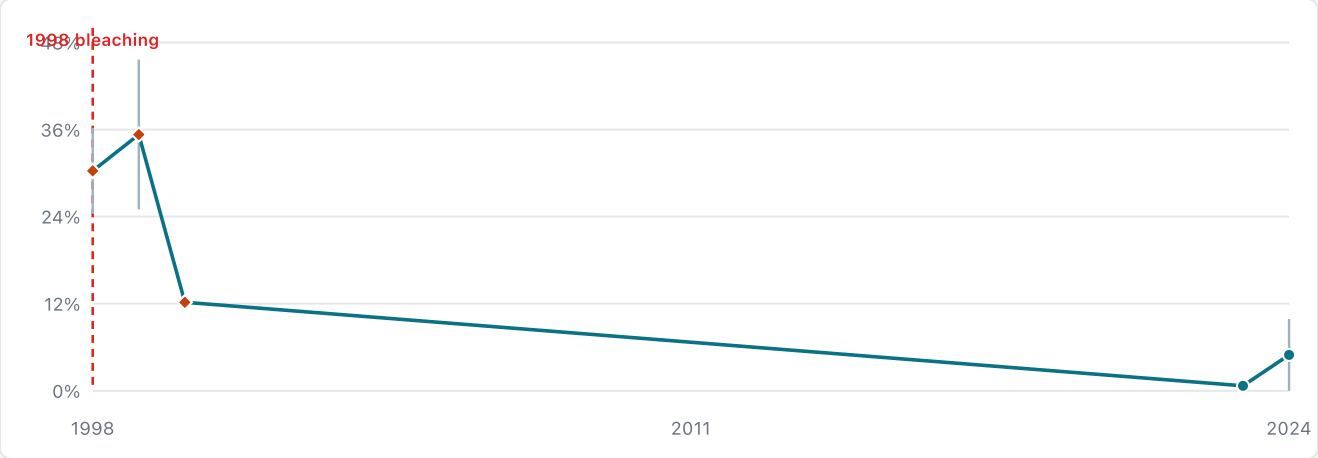
- Hayr Bul Thamah: 9.9% coral cover, with a golden branching colony  photo: Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain)
- Reef Check recorded 24–46% hard coral at Bul Thamah in 1998–1999 and about 12% in 2000
- Al-Boom Wreck: an upright, fouled wreck full of yellow snappers (wreck habitat; counted in the regional mean)  photo: Al-Boom Wreck (Bahrain)
- Wire fish traps photographed on both Hayr Bul Thamah and the Al-Boom wreck  photo: Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain)

## Notable observations

- Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain): A healthy-looking golden branching colony, at a reef where no branching corals were found in 2017 or 2018 
- Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain): A wire fish trap with fish inside it on the reef 
- Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain): Brain colonies with patches of tissue loss now overgrown by algae, and a few pale or white colonies, including a small disc-shaped colony that appears to be a mushroom coral 
- Al-Boom Wreck (Bahrain): A wire fish trap resting on the wreck 

## Coral cover over time (pooled)

One point per year: the mean of every hard coral cover value available for this region that year — Anderson's own dives and every independent survey station within 5 km of them. The vertical bar is the full range behind that mean. Different programs use different methods at different stations, so this is a regional summary, not a single comparable series. Years resting on fewer than three values are drawn as smaller points (1998, 1999, 2000, 2023, 2024). Non-CRD points are from Reef Check Foundation. Marker shape: ● Anderson's own dives, ◆ other organizations' surveys.




## Sites in this region

- Al-Boom Wreck (Bahrain) — 0.0% coral cover
- Artificial Reef (Bahrain) — 0.9%* coral cover
- Dilmunia Rock (Bahrain) — 0.5%* coral cover
- Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain) — 9.9% coral cover

* Based on only 10–19 reef-habitat photos; this estimate is less certain.

## Nearby external survey stations

6 independent survey records within 5 km of a site in this region (each record counted once).

- Reef Check — Abul Thama (1998): 24% hard coral cover, 0.00 km from Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain)
- Reef Check — Abul Thama 1 (1999): 46% hard coral cover, 0.44 km from Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain)
- Reef Check — Abul Thama 1 (2000): 13% hard coral cover, 0.44 km from Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain)
- Reef Check — Abul Thama 2 (1998): 36% hard coral cover, 0.13 km from Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain)
- Reef Check — Abul Thama 2 (1999): 25% hard coral cover, 0.13 km from Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain)
- Reef Check — Abul Thama 2 (2000): 12% hard coral cover, 0.13 km from Hayr Bul Thamah (Bahrain)

All images from Coral Reef Diagnostics. Data are from Coral Reef Diagnostics and Reef Check Foundation.

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