

Saba - Ladder Labyrinth

surveyed 2026-02-21



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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 82 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
8.9%
Claude computer vision (82 photos)

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD
29.5°C **4.7°C-weeks**
16 Sep 2026 · +1.3°C vs the annual mean (28.2 °C)
· [NOAA](#) Alert Level 1

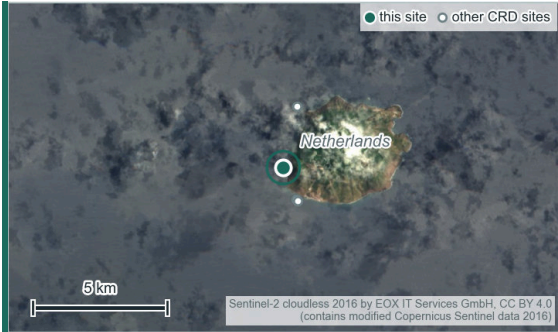
HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)
13.9°C-weeks 🔥
[NOAA](#) annual peaks averaging 12–16 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH
—
not logged

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)
—
not logged

PHOTOGRAPHS
54
on file for this site

POSITION
17.6264, -63.2598



A true labyrinth of low volcanic walls separated by winding sand alleys where several nurse sharks rest, with a spiny lobster under a ledge and an old fish trap wedged in the sand. The wall tops hold the busiest coral ground of the Saba dives, dense fields of small brain, star, and mustard hill corals, though almost all colonies are small.



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CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): In-house DINOv3 18.3 · CoralSCOP unedited 22.3 · Claude 8.9

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 54 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/saba-ladder-labyrinth.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 (Leeward Caribbean Islands) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.