

# Saudi Red Sea - Abu Galawa (Yanbu)

Yanbu · surveyed 2024-04-19



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Coral Health Index: TBD

**What was done.** The figure comes from point annotation of this site's photographs in [CoralNet](#), 138 photographs — a photographic point count, published, not a diver transect. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER  
**18%**  
Point-intercept photo analysis ([CoralNet](#))

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD  
**33.4°C** **3.6°C-weeks**  
16 Sep 2026 · +2.9°C vs the annual mean (30.5 °C)  
· [NOAA](#) Bleaching Warning

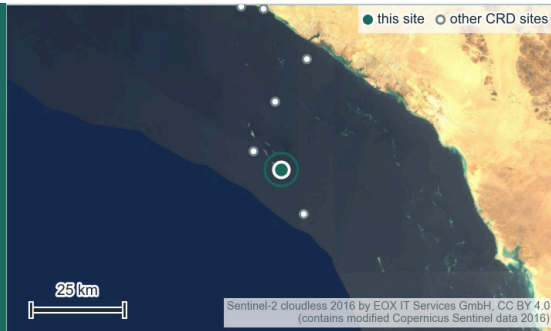
HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)  
**14.3°C-weeks** 🔥  
[NOAA](#) annual peaks averaging 12–16 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH  
**32.4 m**  
dive-log maximum

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)  
**26.5°C**  
-2.1°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (28.6°C)  
Note: [NOAA](#)'s regional station series averages 2.5°C warmer than the satellite pixel nearest this site (2.3 km away), which is used here instead.

PHOTOGRAPHS  
**50**  
on file for this site

POSITION  
**23.7546, 37.9741**



Abu Galawa is a long fringing reef where a bare rubble-and-pavement shoulder gives way to a coral-covered ridge of bushy *Acropora*, *Porites*, and soft corals, with a requiem shark and pairs of masked butterflyfish (a Red Sea endemic) among the fauna. This April 2024 visit fell in an unusually cool window - zero accumulated heat stress, water at 26.5°C - yet the published record still shows 25.3% of coral tissue bleached, even though the un-strobed photographs are too washed-out to confirm bleaching visually.

العربية. أبو جلاوة شعبة بَرِّيَّة طويلة يفسح فيها كتف عارٍ من الحطام والرصيف الصخري المجال لحيد مغطى بالمرجان من *Acropora* الشجري و *Porites* ومرجانيات رخوة، ومن كائناته سمكة قرش من فصيلة الريكويم وأزواج من سمك الفراشة المقتنع (نوع متوطن في البحر الأحمر). ترجمة هذا الملخص بالنكاء الاصطناعي: النص الإنجليزي هو المعتمد.



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Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 50 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/saudi-red-sea-abu-galawa-yanbu.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 (Makkah-Madine Saudi Arabia) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.