

Saudi Red Sea - Cement Reef (Thuwal)

Thuwal · 3 visits, 2023-09-02 – 2024-02-23



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Coral Health Index: TBD

What was done. The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 469 photographs. 2 further methods were run on the same frames and are reported on the site page. The written account of the site is a review of its photographs, not a second survey.

HARD CORAL COVER
22%
manual point count (469 photos) · other methods on the site page

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

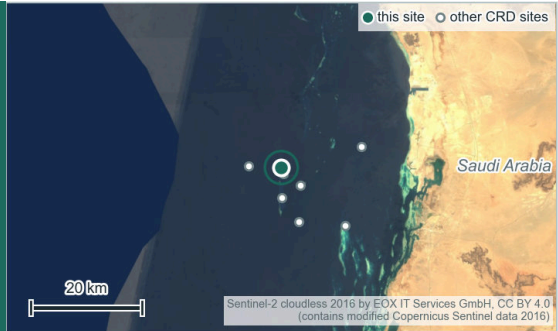
HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)
14.3°C-weeks 🔥
[NOAA](#) annual peaks averaging 12–16 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH
24.0 m
deepest of 4 logged dives

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)
33.0°C
+3.8°C vs the 2023, 2024 mean sea temperature (29.2°C) Note: [NOAA](#)'s regional station series averages 1.8°C warmer than the satellite pixel nearest this site (3.2 km away), which is used here instead.

PHOTOGRAPHS
9
on file for this site

POSITION
22.3981, 38.8567



Cement Reef, named for a nearby shipwreck, is a high-relief spur-and-groove structure honeycombed with swim-throughs, carrying the richest coral cover of the Thuwal sites reviewed here - dense pocilloporid thickets and cobalt digitate *Acropora* on the upper slope, thinning to sparse rubble and sand lower down. A camera malfunction left only one usable photograph across all four logged dives, so the published 22% cover and 19.9% bleaching figures are site-level manuscript summaries rather than per-visit counts; the single available frame does show a large *Porites* colony uniformly white alongside normally pigmented neighbors.

العربية: شعبة الأسمنت، المسماة على اسم حطام سفينة قريب، هي بنية نتوءات وأخاديد عالية التضاريس تتخللها ممرات للسباحة، وتحمل أعلى غطاء مرجاني بين مواقع ثول التي جرت مراجعتها هنا: أجسام كثيفة من المرجان الشوكي وأشجار *Acropora* الإصبعية بلون أزرق كوبالتي في أعلى المنحدر، تتناقص إلى حطام مرجاني متفرق ورمل في الأسفل. ترجمة هذا الملخص بالنكاه الاصطناعي: النص الإنجليزي هو المعتمد.

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 22.4 · In-house DINOv3 47.5 · Claude 23.9

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 1 of 9 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/saudi-red-sea-cement-reef-thuwal.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.