

# Saudi Red Sea - Coral Gardens (Jeddah)

Jeddah · 2 visits, 2024-08-10 – 2024-08-17



**What was done.** The figure is the author's own manual point count, annotated by hand over 300 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.

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| <b>HARD CORAL COVER</b><br><b>28%</b><br>manual point count (300 photos) · other methods on the site page | <b>TODAY'S HEAT LOAD</b><br><b>33.4°C</b> <b>3.6°C-weeks</b><br>16 Sep 2026 · +2.9°C vs the annual mean (30.5 °C)<br>· <a href="#">NOAA</a> Bleaching Warning                                                                                                        | <b>HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)</b><br><b>14.3°C-weeks</b> 🔥<br><a href="#">NOAA</a> annual peaks averaging 12–16 °C-weeks |
| <b>MAX. DEPTH</b><br><b>15.2 m</b>                                                                        | <b>WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)</b><br><b>27.8°C</b><br>-1.5°C vs the 2024 mean sea temperature (29.3°C)<br>Note: <a href="#">NOAA's</a> regional station series averages 1.8°C warmer than the satellite pixel nearest this site (1.2 km away), which is used here instead. | <b>PHOTOGRAPHS</b><br><b>9</b><br>on file for this site                                                                               |
| <b>POSITION</b><br><b>21.7820, 38.8337</b>                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                       |

Coral Gardens lives up to its name - a reef built on giant, several-meters-wide massive *Porites* mounds and tall pinnacles rising almost to the surface, layered with staghorn and corymbose *Acropora* and rose-colored pocilloporids. Across two August 2024 visits a week apart, cover held steady around 27-28% while the bleached fraction of coral tissue climbed from 41% to 45% as accumulated heat stress rose, with the reef's largest defining corals - the giant *Porites* mounds - showing near-universal paling.

العربية. حدائق المرجان جديرة باسمها: شعبة مبنية على تلال كتلية عملاقة من *Porites* يبلغ عرضها عدة أمتار وأبراج عالية ترتفع حتى تكاد تلامس السطح، تكسوها طبقات من *Acropora* القرنى والعنقودي المسطح ومرجانيات شوكية وردية اللون. ترجمة هذا الملخص بالذكاء الاصطناعي: النص الإنجليزي هو المعتمد.

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 27.6 · In-house DINOv3 34.9 · Claude 27.3

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