

Saudi Red Sea - Rose Reef (Thuwal)

Thuwal · 6 visits, 2023-09-08 – 2024-10-04



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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 720 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
15%
manual point count (720 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](#)

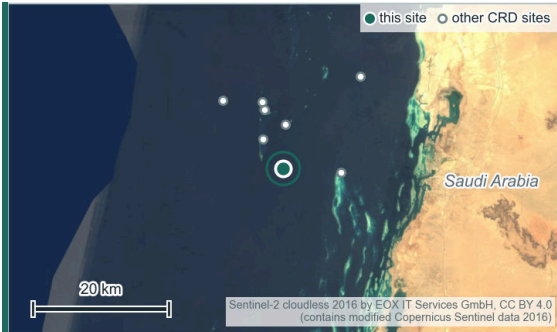
HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)
14.3°C-weeks 🔥
[NOAA](#) annual peaks averaging 12–16 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH
36.0 m
deepest of 5 logged dives

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)
—
not logged

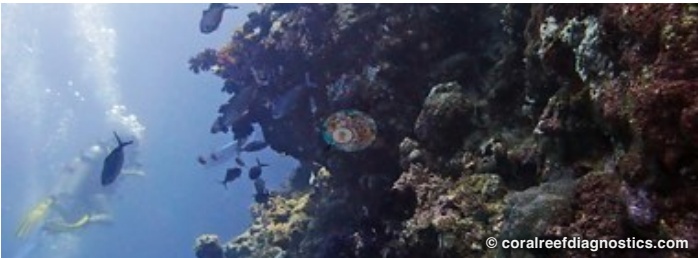
PHOTOGRAPHS
11
on file for this site

POSITION
22.3106, 38.8867



Rose Reef is the most heavily surveyed Thuwal site (720 photographs across six visits), a near-vertical wall dropping to 32–36 m with a fine mosaic of encrusting faviids, small pocilloporids, and foliose plates, plus black wire corals off the lip. Its shallow reef flat showed unambiguous mass bleaching in November 2023 - multiple tabulate and corymbose *Acropora* colonies glowing white alongside pigmented neighbors, and even host anemones bleaching white while their resident anemonefish stayed in place - and the paper's bleaching figures here range from 24.3% to 61.8% of coral tissue, the widest swing of any site in the set.

العربية. شعبة الورد هي الأكثر مسحاً بين مواقع ثول (720 صورة عبر ست زيارات)، وهي جدار شبه عمودي يهبط إلى عمق 32–36 م بفسيفساء دقيقة من المرجان المتقشر من فصيلة Faviidae، ومرجانيات شوكية صغيرة، وصفائح ورقية، إضافة إلى المرجان الأسود السلبي عند حافة الجدار. ترجمة هذا الملخص بالنكاء الاصطناعي؛ النص الإنجليزي هو المعتمد.



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CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): Manual (published) 14.5 · In-house DINOv3 47.5 · Claude 23.9

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 11 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/saudi-red-sea-rose-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.