

St. Maarten - Mike's Maze

Caribbean · surveyed 2026-02-19



© coralreefdiagnostics.com



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 78 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
14%
Claude computer vision (78 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

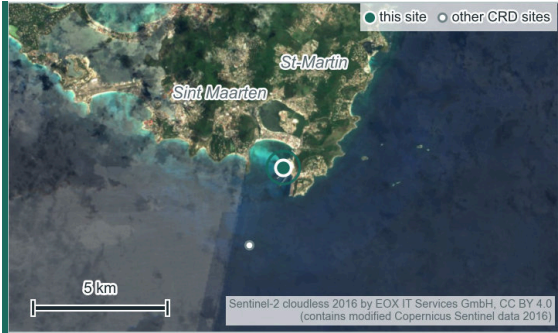
HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)
13.9°C-weeks 🔥
[NOAA](#) annual peaks averaging 12–16 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH
15.9 m
dive-log maximum

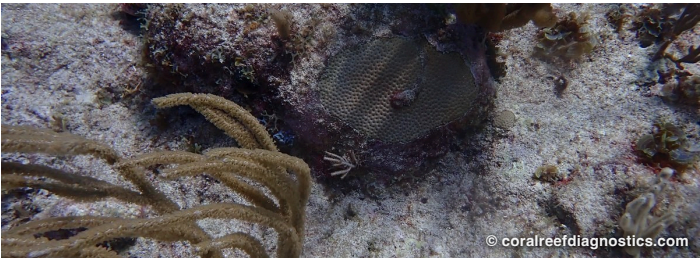
WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)
26.5°C
-1.5°C vs the 12 months to 2026-08 mean sea temperature (28.0°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS
52
on file for this site

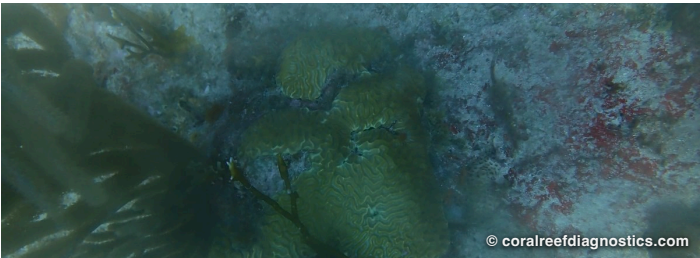
POSITION
18.0150, -63.0470
Sources place it "off Great Bay" with no published coordinate; positioned offshore of Great Bay/Philipsburg.



Mike's Maze is a playful network of low coral ridges and sandy swim-through corridors, notable for a genuinely thriving stand of elkhorn coral - now scarce across much of the Caribbean - alongside brain and boulder star corals. A blind Claude computer-vision point count puts coral cover around 14%. That is above nearby diver surveys (about 6%).



© coralreefdiagnostics.com



© coralreefdiagnostics.com

CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): In-house DINOv3 19.4 · CoralSCOP unedited 25.2 · Claude 13.5

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 52 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/st-maarten-mike-s-maze.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.