

Turks and Caicos - Coral Stairway

surveyed 2022-08-02



Coral Health Index: 1.75/5

What was done. No diver transect was run at this site. The figure is a blind Claude computer-vision point classification of 150 photographs by the author, read without sight of any other method's result; other computer-vision methods are compared on the site page.

HARD CORAL COVER

14%

Claude computer vision (150 edited photos) · median 7.7%

TODAY'S HEAT LOAD

30.2°C

12.1°C-weeks

3 Oct 2026 · +1.8°C vs the annual mean (28.4 °C) · NOAA Alert Level 2

HEAT STRESS (5-YR MEAN ANNUAL MAX. DHW)

11.0°C-weeks

NOAA annual peaks averaging 8–12 °C-weeks

MAX. DEPTH

31.7 m

deepest of 2 logged dives

WATER TEMP. (SURVEY)

28.3°C

+0.6°C vs the 2022 mean sea temperature (27.7°C)

PHOTOGRAPHS

150

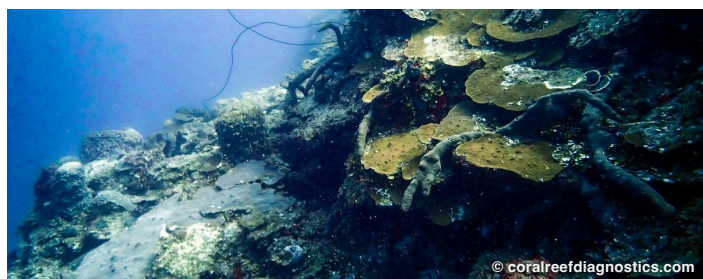
47 on the site page

POSITION

21.8275, -72.3445



Coral Stairway, off Northwest Point, Providenciales, is a wall where brain and plating corals climb the face in terraced, step-like tiers, visited by hawksbill turtles and Caribbean reef sharks. It also carries a lot of standing dead coral, including whole brain corals reduced to skeleton, and active tissue loss on several colonies; numbered permanent monitoring tags show the reef is formally surveyed.



CV model comparison (hard-coral cover, %): CoralSCOP edited 24.4 · Claude (edited photos) 13.6

Photographs: Anderson Mayfield/Coral Reef Diagnostics — 3 of 150 on file; watermarked · Full site record: <https://api.coralreefdiagnostics.com/site-pages/turks-and-caicos-coral-stairway.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 (Turks and Caicos) — a five-year heat history for the station's waters, not a measurement at this site on the dive date.