

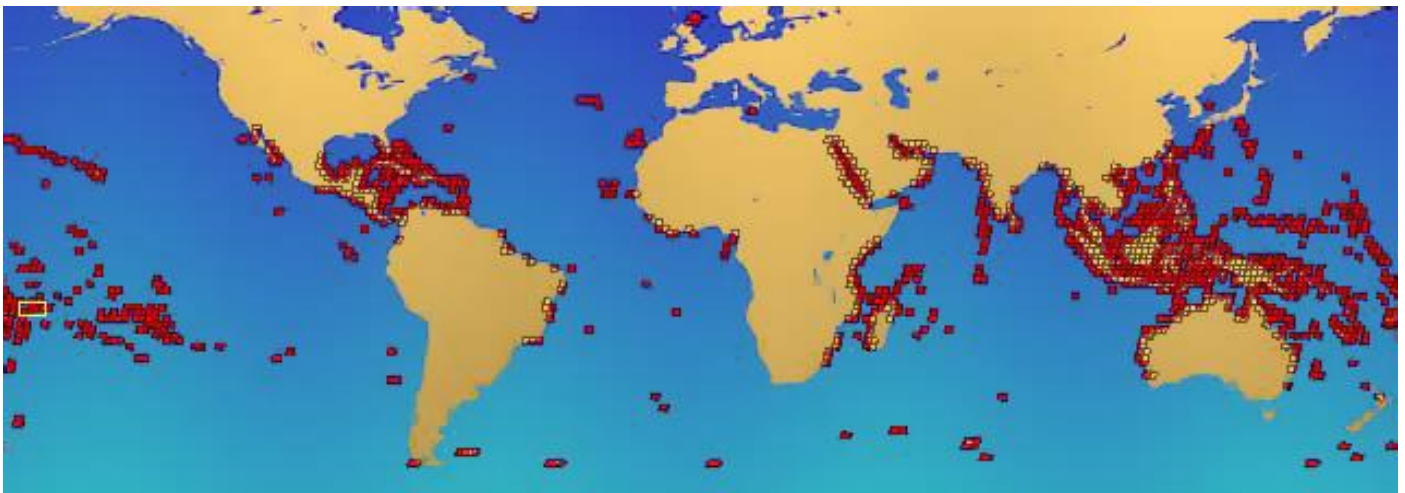
A DIVE INTO THE WORLD OF CORAL

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CORAL REEF LOCATIONS. CLUSTERED BETWEEN 30°N to 30°S OF THE EQUATOR.

Coral reefs are estimated to cover 284,300 km², just under 0.1% of the oceans' surface area.

- The **Indo-Pacific Region** (including the Red Sea, Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Ocean) account for **91.9%** of this total.
- **South-East Asia** accounts for **32.3%** of that figure, whilst
- The **Pacific Ocean Region**, including Australia, accounts for **40.8%**, with
- The **Atlantic** and **Caribbean CORAL REEFS** accounting for **7.6%**.



Location of coral reefs

Although coral reefs exist in both temperate and tropical waters, shallow-water reefs form only in a zone extending from approximately 30° N to 30° S of the equator. Tropical corals do not grow at depths of over 50-meters.

Here are some interesting facts about several of these coral reefs:

The **GREAT BARRIER REEF** is the largest, comprising over 2,900 individual reefs and 900 islands stretching for over 2,600km off Queensland, Australia.

The **MESOAMERICAN BARRIER REEF** is the second largest, stretching 1,000km from Isla Contoy at the tip of the Yucatán Peninsula down to the Bay Islands of Honduras.

The **NEW CALEDONIA BARRIER REEF** is the second longest double barrier reef, covering 1,500km.

The **RED SEA** includes 6,000-year-old fringing reefs located along a 2,000km coastline.

The **PHILIPPINES CORAL REEF** area is the second-largest in Southeast Asia, and estimated at 26,000km². 915 reef fish species and more than 400 scleractinian coral species, 12 of which are endemic are found there.

The **RAJA AMPAT ISLANDS** in Indonesia's West Papua Province offers the highest known marine diversity.

The **WORLD'S SOUTHERN MOST CORAL REEF** is at Lord Howe Island in the Pacific Ocean off the east coast of Australia.

Acknowledged and significantly sourced from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coral_reef