



ALASKA NATURAL LANDSCAPES

4 ILLUSTRATIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE LANDSCAPE TYPES

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These illustrations are examples of representative landscape types from within the broad geographical areas shown on the small Alaska map below.

- Relief
- These numbers, combined with the landform abbreviations below, identify the various visual character types
1. Plains and Lowlands
 2. Gentle Uplands
 3. Lower Mountains and Hills
 4. Higher Mountains
 5. Very High Mountains

- Landform
- Upper case letter indicates the primary characteristic; the following lower case letter indicates the most significant secondary characteristic.
- Flat to gently rolling lowlands.
- F Flat, few ponds.
Fp Flat, many ponds.
Fo Flat, oriented ponds.
Fg Glacial deposition, gently rolling, many ponds.
- Erosional environments, generally of low to moderate relief.
- Er Outcrops and rough irregular hilly surface.
El Long ridges on undulating plain.
Er River incised or dissected.
Eg Gorges, hogbacks, domes, i.e. gentle canyonlands topography.
Eb Badlands.
Em Mountains of mesa and canyon character, relatively greater relief.
- Mountains:
- M Mountains generally of rounded form or wide spacing.
M Generally rounded mountains with little or no glacial carving.
Mw Bedrock shaped and dissected by flowing water.
Mt Ridges with sloping trend.
Ms Mountains or ranges widely spaced on uplands.
Mb Narrow basin within mountains.
- Igneous intrusive mountains, generally glacial-carved and rugged.
- I Crystalline mountains, moderately rugged, some glaciers.
Ir Rugged crystalline mountains, glaciers generally widespread.
Ig Sheer granite peaks and cliffs, often exfoliating.
- Sedimentary (depositional) mountains.
- S Mountains of sedimentary rocks, in some cases lightly metamorphosed.
Sv Valleys and troughs exceptionally wide, in above type.
Sr Ruggedly glacier-carved sedimentary mountains.
Se Ruggedly eroded sedimentary mountains, predominantly limestone.
- Volcanic mountains or lava flows, of single type or with other types of mountains.
- V Volcanoes and lava flows.
Vo Irregular volcanic islands or uplands with outcrops.
Vi Volcanoes with igneous intrusive mountains.
Vs Volcanoes with sedimentary and layered metamorphic mountains.
- Glacial
- G Glacier and icefield dominated environments.
- River-shaped topography and riparian zones.
- R River dominated environments.
- Coastal landscapes. Note that only selected types of coastlines and coastal landscapes which are particularly distinctive have been delineated. Others are considered to be merely the edges of the types of landscapes adjacent to them, for the purposes of this study.
- Cm Coastal marshes, spits, and low islands.
Cb Beach and forest coast.
Ci Bay and inlet coast.
Ca Bay and inlet to fiord coast set into banded sedimentary rocks, in many cases mixed with volcanic rocks.
Cf Fiord coast.
Cg Fiord coast set into sheer granite (Ig) mountains.