

AvianLexiconAtlas: Glossary & Gazetteer

*Updated March 17, 2025

*Click here for the live Google Docs version of this document (will be updated periodically as name categorization continues with eBird/Clements updates):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iX4ijVse5MeFCnK3OFGGrFO09EIE7gmeu3O3GL1_lmQU/edit?usp=sharing

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CATEGORIES

- a. **Behavior:** Description of a specific behavior (ex: shy). Includes birds named after what their song sounds like, and if a species is named after another species because it has similar behavior.
- b. **Miscellaneous:** Select if unique identification includes the following terms that do NOT fit into any of the other categories:
 - i. Common, Elegant, Festive, Imperial, Magnificent, Royal, Sacred, Wild, King (case specific, could be size or trait)
 - ii. Species name is in reference to an historical event, myth, story or descriptor (like 'sultan') that is unrelated to any of the other categories. Please include the reference you used to make this categorization.
- c. **Geographic Location:** Name of geographic location, includes general geography descriptors (ex: eastern, western). Includes regions/ranges named after the local indigenous cultures.
 - i. You need to be able to point to a specific location or region on a map using the given name. If a descriptor refers to a habitat that occurs in multiple places and is not a contiguous region and it describes a general habitat then it is Natural History (e.g. paramo).
- d. **Natural History:** Description of a natural history trait - includes habitat (paradise, mountain, grassland, highland, nest type, upland, lowland), diet, smell (musk)

- e. **Local language:** Species name is the phonetic English pronunciation of what the species is called by local indigenous cultures (ex: Initi tanager)
- f. **Person:** Name of a person.
 - i. Consult the **Survey of Honorifics** tab on the [Eponyms List](#) (compiled by Bird Names for Birds, used with permission). Species are listed in alphabetical order by English common name. *This is a Google sheets file so it will be easier to search
 - ii. Consult the [Whose Bird Index](#) for a working list of species named after people. Species are listed in alphabetical order by binomial nomenclature. Thank you to Shauna Rasband for transcribing the scanned PDF we had of this index!
- g. **Physical trait:** Physical characteristics such as the color or patterns of feather/skin/beak/feet/eyes or the description of a particular physical feature (curved-bill, wattle). This can be a specific part of the body/plumage (ex: beak, legs, crown, rump) or broadly related to plumage patterning. See glossary for common words for physical traits, colors, and patterns. General terms related to plumage complexity (e.g., painted, beautiful, handsome, drab, ornate, plain) should be listed as physical traits.

Further clarification about determining occurrence of trait in both sexes or only one sex: If you were naming the species just based on the female bird, would you name the bird that name? If it has brown wings you would not name it black-winged (for example). Otherwise, if the patterning is still present in both sexes, but duller in the female (for example), that would be considered a physical trait in both sexes. Ex: Both sexes have a yellow throat but the female's is duller.

 - i. **Both sexes physical trait:** Species named after physical characteristic that occurs in both males and females
 - ii. **Male physical trait:** Species named only after male physical characteristics (may apply to sexually dimorphic species).
 - iii. **Female physical trait:** Species named only after female plumage characteristics (may apply to sexually dimorphic species).
- h. **Size:** Description of general size of species (lesser, greater, giant, pygmy, little)

GLOSSARY

Barred [physical trait] = pattern with sharp/distinct lines or bars

Bay [physical trait] = reddish-brown color

Beautiful [physical trait]

Booted [physical trait] = as if wearing boots

Buff [physical trait] = light brownish yellow

Celestial [physical trait] = sky-blue

Campo [natural history] = lives in grassland habitat in South America, particularly in Brazil

Chestnut [physical trait, in most cases, but double check] = reddish shade of brown color

Cinereous [physical trait] = ash-gray

Comb [physical trait] = Fleshy growth or crest on the top of the head

Common [miscellaneous]

Diademed [physical trait] = forecrown

Dimorphic [physical trait if in reference to morphs within a species, or miscellaneous depending on context]]

Dusky [physical trait, in most cases, but double check] = Somewhat dark in color, shadowy in color, marked by slight or deficient light

Dwarf [size]

Eastern [geographic location]

Elegant [miscellaneous or physical trait depending on intention]

Fairy [size] = small

Fasciated [physical trait] = Marked by broad, colored bands

Fawn [physical descriptor] = “cinnamon buff”

Ferruginous [physical descriptor] = reddish brown colored; rust-colored

Festive [miscellaneous]

Fiery [physical trait] = bright red color

Flammulated [physical trait] = flame-like

Fronted [physical trait] = term for forehead

Fulvous [physical trait] = glowing yellow, brownish

Fuscous [physical trait] = darken, black

Giant [size]

Gilded [physical trait] = covered thinly with gold leaf

Glaucous [physical trait] = pale

Glowing [physical trait]

Gorgeted [physical trait] = a patch of color on the throat

Grassland [natural history trait]

Greater [size]

Guttulate [physical trait] = patterns with little spots, speckled, tear drop

Handsome [physical trait]

Highland [natural history trait]

Hoary [physical trait] = Pale silvery gray color

Hooded [physical trait] = a crest, color, or formation of feathers on the head that looks like a hood

Horned [physical trait, in most cases, but double check] = feather tufts that look like horns

House [natural history trait]

Imperial [miscellaneous]

Isabelline [physical trait] = grayish-yellow color

Joyful [miscellaneous]

King [miscellaneous]

Lesser [size]

Little [size]

Lunulated [physical trait] having markings shaped like crescents

Magnificent [miscellaneous]

Magpie [physical trait] = black and white coloration (*When used as a descriptor for species that aren't classified as magpies)

Mottled [physical trait] = marked with spots or smears of color

Mountain [natural history trait]

Moustached [physical trait] = feathers resembling a mustache

Nankeen [physical trait] = color of plumage resembling nankeen cloth.

Northern [Geographical location] = can mean northern hemisphere OR northern portion of country/region

Olivaceous [physical trait] = Olive-green, dusky yellowish color

Ocellated [physical trait] = refers to a pattern that looks like eye spots (black and white eye looking spots)

Ocherous/Ochraceous/Ochre [physical trait] = brownish-yellow color

Ornate [general descriptor]

Painted [physical trait]

Pallid [physical trait] = pale or lacking color

Paradise [natural history] = Colonial reference to a warm place in the tropics

Perplexing [miscellaneous] = referring to taxonomic confusion

Pied [physical trait] = having two or more different colors.

Pileated [physical trait] = having the pileum covered by a crest

Pinnated [physical trait] = feathered

Plain [physical trait]. Opposite of ornate. Make sure that this does not refer to habitat.

Plumbeous [physical trait] = dull gray; color of lead

Plain [physical trait]

Plumbeous [physical trait] = dull gray, lead-colored

Pygmy [size]

-quit Caribbean term for small bird, used as part of a compound- e.g., "Bananaquit", "Grassquit"

Royal [miscellaneous]

Ruddy [physical trait] = rust red color

Rufescent [physical trait] = reddish

Rufous [physical trait] = reddish brown color

Russet [physical trait] = dark brown color with a reddish-orange tinge

Saturnine [physical trait] = Gloomy, leaden color (grayish-black)

Sacred [miscellaneous]

Saffron [physical trait] = orange-red color

Scaled [physical trait] = referring to a pattern that looks like plate-like armor

Scarlet [Physical Trait]= color related to red

Scintillant [physical trait] = referring to flashy/sparkling color

Semipalmated [physical trait] = partially-webbed feet

Shy [behavior]

Simple [miscellaneous]

Speckled [physical trait] = pattern marked with small spots of color

Spangled [physical trait] = pattern that looks like small plates of shining metal/small glittering objects

Striated [physical trait] = marked with long, thin parallel streaks

Stygian [physical trait] = very dark (relating to the Styx River)

Superb [miscellaneous]

Tawny [physical trait] = of an orange-brown or yellowish-brown color

Unadorned [physical trait]

Varied [physical trait or miscellaneous depending on context]

Variegated [physical trait] = Refers to patterns marked by multiple distinct colors

Vented [physical trait] = having an opening or openings of the wings to help in flight

Vermiculated [physical trait] = marked with sinuous or wavy lines

Versicolor [physical trait] = means 'various colors'

Vinous [physical trait] = reddish color of wine

Vitelline [physical trait] = egg yolk yellow

Wattle [physical trait] = Fleshy outgrowth that hangs on the head or neck of several groups of birds

Western [geographic location]

Field Marks:

Click on the following links for websites that identify English names and locations of specific physical traits on birds

1. All About Birds. (2009 April 20). Bird ID Skills: Field Marks. *Cornell Lab of Ornithology*.
<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/bird-id-skills-field-marks/>
2. Jacob, J. (n.d.). External Anatomy of Chickens. *USDA Poultry Extension: Small and Backyard Poultry*. <https://poultry.extension.org/articles/poultry-anatomy/external-anatomy-of-chickens/>

GAZETTEER: Specific place names. If toponym varies from spelling indexed under, listed at end of entry.

**Disclaimer: These descriptions are not meant to be exhaustive. Descriptions are based on what was needed to identify a term used in English common names for birds as an historic or current term associated with a geographic location. We recognize that the regions listed here may be associated with different terminology in different cultures and languages.*

Abd al Kuri: island between NE Somalia and Socotra

Aberdare: mountain range in C Kenya

Abyssinia: antiquated term for Ethiopia; Abyssinian, Abysinian

- Acadia:** former colony of France, composed of parts of Maritime Canada and Maine.
- Aceh:** region of N Sumatra, Indonesia
- Acre:** 1) state in W Brazil 2) district of the former Ottoman Empire, modern Israel
- Adamawa:** Adamawa Plateau, a highland region in Nigeria, Cameroon, and Central African Republic.
- Adélie Land:** French-claimed territory in Antarctica. Anglicized as Adelie.
- Afghanistan:** country in C Asia; Afghan
- Africa:** second largest continent (not a country).
- Aguiguan:** island in the Northern Marianas, N Pacific
- Agulhas:** southernmost tip of the Cape of Good Hope, S Africa
- Ahanta:** Ahanta = Ashanti, aka Ghana, a country in West Africa and also formerly a kingdom whose borders do not necessarily align with the modern nation.
- Ala Shan:** plateau region of the SW Gobi, C Asia
- Alagoas:** region of NE Brazil
- Alaotra:** Largest lake in Madagascar
- Albertine:** Albertine rift, geologic feature in E Africa
- Aldabra:** atoll in the Seychelles, Indian Ocean
- Aleutian Islands:** chain of islands in the north Pacific, stretching from Alaska to Russia through the Bering Sea.
- Algeria:** country in N Africa
- Allpahuayo:** region and nature preserve in NE Peru
- Alor:** Archipelago in Indonesia
- Altai:** Mountain chain in Central Asia
- Altamira:** port city in Tamaulipas, NE Mexico
- Alta Floresta:** area in Mato Grosso, Brazil
- Amami:** Island group in the Ryukyu Islands.
- Amani:** nature reserve in Usambaras, NE Tanzania
- Amazon:** The river, rainforest, and general geographic region.
- Amber Mountain:** massif in N Madagascar
- Ambon:** Island in the Maluku Islands, Indonesia. In historic uses, it is spelled Amboyna or Amboina.
- America:** North and/or South America, or the Western Hemisphere in general.
- Amsterdam, île:** Island in French Antarctic Island territory.
- Amur:** Amur River region, extreme NE Russia, Korea, and China.
- Ancash:** region in WC Peru
- Andaman:** Group of islands and surrounding sea, between India and Thailand.
- Andes:** mountain range in South America; Andean
- Angola:** country on SW coast of Africa
- Anjouan:** Island in the Comoros, Indian Ocean
- Ankober:** town in C Ethiopia, E Africa
- Annam:** colonial French protectorate in modern C Vietnam
- Annobón:** island in Gulf of Guinea
- Antarctic:** The continent of Antarctica, or more broadly, latitudes greater than roughly 66° S (Antarctic Circle).

Antilles: Island chain in the Caribbean, consisting of the Greater Antilles (Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, Jamaica) and Lesser Antilles; Antillean

Antioquia: region of Colombia

Antipodes: generally, the Southern Hemisphere, referring to the exact opposite location from a point on the other side of the globe. Specifically, the Antipodes Islands, a group of subantarctic islands S of NZ

Apo: mountain in Mindanao, Philippines

Apurímac: region in S Peru, along with a river of the same name

Arabia: Arabian Peninsula, or more specifically, the country of Saudi Arabia; Arabian.

Arafura: Sea between Australia and western Papua New Guinea

Araripe: region in NE Brazil

Arctic: areas north of approximately 66° N latitude.

Arfak: highest point in West Papua, New Guinea

Aripuanã: city in Mato Grosso, Brazil

Arizona: state in the SW USA.

Armenia: Country in the Caucasus Mtns; Armenian.

Ascension: Island in the S Atlantic.

Ashambu: locality in Tamil Nadu, India

Asia: Continent attached to Europe

Asir: 'Asir Highlands, in SW Saudi Arabia

Atherton: plateau in N Queensland, Australia

Atitlán, Lake: Deepest lake in Central America, located in Guatemala.

Atiu: Island in the Cook Islands, Pacific.

Atlantic: 1) ocean **2)** rainforest on the Atlantic coast of Brazil.

Atlas: mountain range in NW Africa

Auckland Islands: Island group south of the main islands of NZ.

Austral: 1) Southern. Typically used in reference to Australia and New Zealand, or to the oceans to the south. **2)** Austral Islands, the southernmost group in French Polynesia.

Australia: small continent or large island near New Zealand.

Australasia: term for the geographic region encompassing Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific islands. In biogeography, it refers to those areas plus the islands east of the Wallace Line.

Austronesia: Somewhat overlaps Australasia, but refers specifically to areas where Austronesian languages are spoken: Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Polynesia, Melanesia, islands throughout SE Asia.

Ayacucho: region in S Peru

Ayeyarwady: region of Myanmar

Azuay: Province in Ecuador

Azores: island chain in C Atlantic

Aztec: refers to the rough area of the Aztec Empire. Use as a geographic term outdated, as the Aztec Empire did not use the name for themselves or their homeland.

Bagobo: Indigenous group in Mindanao, Philippines. Refers to their homeland between the Davao Gulf and Mount Apo

Bahamas: islands in the Caribbean

Bahia: state in NE Brazil

Baikal: Lake in Russia, deepest in the world.

Balearic: Islands in the Mediterranean, including Mallorca and Ibiza.

Bali: island in Indonesia

Baliem: valley in New Guinea

Balsas: river in SW Mexico

Baltimore: city in Maryland, E USA

Bamenda: city in NW Cameroon

Bananal: island in the Araguaia river, Brazil

Banasura: mountain in Wayanad, Kerala, India

Banda Sea: sea around Maluku Islands, Indonesia

Banggai: Island in Indonesia

Bangwa: locality in NW Cameroon

Barbados: island in the Caribbean

Barbary: Antiquated term for North Africa, particularly the coast.

Barbuda: island in the Caribbean, part of the nation of Antigua and Barbuda

Barusan: Barusan Islands, near Sumatra.

Basra: port city on the Persian Gulf coast of Iraq

Bass: strait between Australia and Tasmania

Baudó: river and mountain range in NW Colombia

Beijing: capital of China

Bengal: region of S Asia including Bangladesh and parts of India.

Benguela: city and state in Angola

Benguet: state in Luzon, Philippines

Bermuda: island in the Caribbean

Bhutan: country in the Himalayas

Biak: Island NW of New Guinea

Bicol: peninsula on SE tip of Luzon, Philippines

Bioko: island in the Gulf of Guinea, part of the country of Equatorial Guinea

Bismarck: sea, archipelago, and mountain range in New Guinea

Blue Mountains: mountain range in Jamaica

Boa Nova: municipality and park in Bahia state, Brazil

Bogotá: Capital of Colombia

Bohemia: W portion of Czechia.

Bohol: island in Visayas, Philippines

Bolivia: country in South America

Bonin: Islands between Japan and Guam

Boran: people group in C Ethiopia

Boreal: Northern. Usually refers to the boreal forest belt. (likely classified as Natural History)

Borneo: large island in SE Asia

Bougainville: island in the Solomon Island chain (although an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea)

- Bounty Islands:** group of tiny islands in the Pacific, governed by NZ
- Brazil:** country in South America; Brazilian
- Bûgûn:** people of Arunachal Pradesh, north-eastern India.
- Bukidnon:** landlocked province on the island of Mindanao, Philippines
- Burma:** former name of the country of Myanmar, SE Asia
- Buru:** island in the Maluku islands of Indonesia. Formerly spelled Boeroe, Boro, or Bouru
- Caatinga:** ecoregion in NE Brazil, characterized by semi-arid shrubland
- Cachar:** district in Assam, India
- Cajamarca:** region in N Peru
- Calayan:** island in N Philippines
- California:** state on the west coast of the USA
- Cajamarca:** important cultural and commercial center in the northern Andes, Peru
- Cambodia:** country in SE Asia
- Cameroon:** country in WC Africa, on the Bight of Biafra (the sharp southern turn the coast makes from W Africa)
- Camiguin:** Island off Mindanao, Philippines
- Campbell Islands:** subantarctic islands governed by NZ
- Campina:** ecoregion of open grassland and shrubland in Brazil (should be classified as Natural History)
- Campo:** tropical savanna region of Brazil (should be classified as Natural History)
- Canada:** country in North America; Canada, Canadian
- Canary Islands:** group of islands off the coast of Morocco
- Caquetá:** river in Colombia
- Cape:** in biogeographic terms, the southernmost part of Africa, named for the Cape of Good Hope. Can also refer to former Cape Colony, Cape provinces, and Cape Town, which share the same origin.
- Cape Barren:** island in the Bass Strait, north of Tasmania
- Cape May:** peninsula in NJ, USA, that is a important bird migration site
- Cape Verde:** island nation off W Africa
- Caracas:** capital of Venezuela
- Caribbean:** sea separating N and S America in the Atlantic Ocean. Also Carib, for the Indigenous people of the area that are the source of the name
- Carolina:** two states on E coast of USA; formerly a single British colony under the name
- Caroline Islands:** group of tiny islands north of New Guinea, in Micronesia and Palau
- Carpentarian:** Refers to Gulf of Carpentaria Secondary Area in Northern Australia
- Caspian:** From the name of an ancient nomadic group in the area, the Caspian Sea and/or depression in Central Asia. More broadly applied to the region of the Caucasus, Iranian highlands, south-central Russia, and the steppes of Central Asia.
- Cassia:** county in Idaho, NW USA
- Cauca:** river in Colombia
- Caucasus:** mountainous region between the Black and Caspian Seas, consisting of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and parts of Russia
- Caura:** river in Venezuela, tributary of the Orinoco
- Cayenne:** river and capital city of French Guiana

- Ceará:** state in NE Brazil
- Cebu:** island in the Philippines
- Chachapoyas:** province in Amazonas, Peru
- Chaco:** lives in the chaco region of South America; Chaco, Chacoan
- Chami:** Chami language is an Embera language of Colombia
- Chatham Islands:** group of islands E of NZ
- Chile:** country in S South America; Chilean
- Chiloé:** archipelago (and also largest island of group) off the coast of Chile
- Chin Hills:** hills i W Myanmar
- China:** large country in Asia
- Chinchipe:** river in N Peru
- Chiribiquete:** Serranía de Chiribiquete, mountain range in Colombia
- Chirinda:** forest in Gazaland, Mozambique
- Chiriquí:** province in SW Panama
- Choco:** Coastal Colombian department (administrative area like a state).
- Choiseul:** island in the Solomons
- Cholo:** alternate spelling of Thyolo, mountain in Malawi
- Christmas Island:** island in the Indian Ocean, controlled by Australia. Historically also referred to the island of Kiritimati, in the Pacific.
- Clarión:** one of the Revillagigedo Islands, W of Mexico, Pacific
- Cochabamba:** city in C Bolivia
- Cocos Island:** island in the Pacific, part of Costa Rica
- Coiba:** island off the S coast of Panama
- Colima:** state in W Mexico
- Colombia:** country in South America
- Comoros:** Archipelago nation in Indian Ocean near Africa; Comoro, Comoros
- Congo:** the region around the Congo River. Often used to refer to Central Africa as a whole, not just the Republic of Congo or the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Connecticut:** state on US E coast
- Cook Islands:** island group in the S Pacific
- Cordillera:** chain of mountain ranges; specifically: 1) the American Cordillera, the vast chain of mountains from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego and the Antarctic Peninsula, including the Rockies, Cascade, Sierra Nevada, Sierra Madres, Andes, and many others 2) Cordillera Central, Luzon, Philippines (should be classified as Natural History)
- Cordillera Azul:** range and protected area in C Peru
- Córdoba:** province in C Argentina
- Corsica:** island in Mediterranean between Italy and France
- Costa Rica:** country in Central America
- Cozumel:** island in the Caribbean off the coast of Yucatan
- Crozet:** subantarctic island group in the Indian Ocean
- Cuba:** largest island in the Greater Antilles
- Cundinamarca:** region in C Colombia

Cuzco: city and region in S Peru. Sometimes spelled Cusco.

Cyprus: island in the E Mediterranean between Greece and Turkey

Dalat: city in SC Vietnam

Dalmatia: ancient Roman province, now part of Croatia

Damar: island in Maluku, Indonesia

Damara: region of Namibia, named for its native people

Darjeeling: city in West Bengal, India, in the Himalayas

Dartford: town near Kent, England

Dauria: historical name for SE Siberia, from nomadic Dauuri/Daguuri people native to area; Daurian

Dayak: ethnic group in New Guinea, referring to their homeland in the SC interior areas

Dead Sea: inland saltwater lake between Israel, Jordan, and the West Bank

Diamantina: plateau in Bahia state, Brazil

Dja River: river in along the Cameroon/Republic of Congo border, WC Africa

Djibouti: small country in NE Africa

Drakensberg: escarpment on the southern edge of the South African plateau

Duida: tepui mountain in Venezuela

Dulit: mountain in Borneo

East Coast: in the case of the akalat, the east coast of Africa

Ecuador: country in equatorial South America

Egypt: country in NE Africa

Eiao: island in the NW Marquesas

Elgon: mountain on border of Uganda and Kenya

El Oro: Province in Ecuador

Emei: mountain in Sichuan, China

Enggano: island off the coast of Sumatra

Equator: latitudinal midpoint of the Earth, and those regions around it.

Esmeraldas: province and river in Ecuador

Española: island in the Galapagos

Ethiopia: landlocked country on the Horn of Africa (E Africa)

Eungella: alternative name for Clarke range, E Queensland, NE Australia

Eurasia: the landmass containing both Asia and Europe

Europe: small portion of Eurasia

Eyrean: Lake Eyre (now known as Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre) system in the desert of central Australia, in northern South Australia

Falklands: islands off coast of Argentina

Fanti: people of S Ghana, used to refer to their homeland between Accra and Sekondi-Takoradi

Far East: the Pacific coastal regions of Asia, particularly China, Japan, Korea, and Russia

Fatu Hiva: island in the S Marquesas

Fiji: island nation in S Pacific

Fiordland: bioregion in NZ

Floreana: island in the Galapagos

Flores: island in Indonesia

Flores Sea: sea in Indonesia, bordering the island of Flores

Fly River: large river in New Guinea

Foja: mountains in NW New Guinea

Fuerteventura: island in the Canaries, E Atlantic

Fujian: province in SE China. Sometimes spelled Fukien or Hokkien.

Fynbos: small belt of natural shrubland or heathland vegetation located in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces of South Africa

Gabela: town in W Angola

Gabon: country in WC Africa

Galápagos: islands in Pacific

Gambaga: city in NE Ghana

Ganongga: Possibly a misspelling or alternate writing of where it is found: Ranongga, in WC Solomon Is.

Gansu: province in NW China

Geelvink: Bay off of New Guinea

Genovesa: island in the Galápagos

Ghana: country in W Africa

Gila: river and two mountain ranges along it, in Arizona

Gough Island: island in the S Atlantic

Gran Canaria: island in the Canaries

Grand Cayman: island in the Caymans, Antilles

Grand Comoro: largest island in the Comoros

Greater Antilles: part of the Antilles chain, mostly larger islands- Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and the Caymans

Grenada: island nation in the Caribbean

Guadalcanal: island in the Solomon islands

Guadalupe: a small island off the coast of Baja California

Guadeloupe: island in the Caribbean, French territory

Guam: island in Micronesia

Guanay: refers to the guano islands off the coast of Peru

Guatemala: country in C America

Guayaquil: city in Ecuador and surrounding region

Guiana: region of N South America, consisting of Suriname, Guyana, and French Guiana. More narrowly, it refers to the last. Can also be a reference to the Guiana Shield, a major geologic feature

Guinea: broadly, the coastal regions of West Africa along the Gulf of Guinea. Can also refer to the modern nations of Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, or Guinea-Bissau. Occasionally used in early modern times to evoke any far away location, such as in "guinea pig".

Gunnison: river basin in W Colorado, USA

Hainan: island province of China, South China Sea, usually referencing the largest island in said province

Halmahera: largest island in the Malukus, Indonesia

Hawai'i: island chain in Pacific Ocean; Hawaiian

Heard Island: desolate island in the Antarctic Ocean, SW of Australia

Henderson Island: small island in the Pitcairn group, S Pacific. Henderson, Henderson Island.

Herero: ethnic group in SW Africa, referring to their homeland in Namibia, Angola, and Botswana

Hispaniola: large island in the Greater Antilles, comprised of the nations of Haiti and the Dominican Republic

Himalayas: large mountain range separating the Indian subcontinent from the rest of Asia

Honduras: country in C America

Hudson Bay: large bay in NE Canada; Hudsonian

Huon: peninsula in E PNG

Humaitá: town and district in S Paraguay

Humboldt Current: cold low-salinity current that flows S to N along the W coast of S America. Some birds named Humboldt are for this current, but others are directly for its namesake, Alexander Humboldt- requires careful checking.

Ibadan: capital of Oyo state, W Nigeria

Iberia: peninsula in W Europe, containing Spain and Portugal

Iceland: island nation in the N Atlantic

Imeri: Serra Imeri prominent mountain on the borders of Brazil and Venezuela

Inaccessible Island: tiny isolated island in the S Atlantic, with a harbor only usable a few days each year

Inca: Indigenous people of Andean South America. Used to refer to areas of Peru especially, but also larger areas of W South America

Inagua: island in the Bahamas

Inambari: tributary of the Amazon in Peru, but also applied downstream in Bolivia and Brazil

India: country S of Himalayas, and more broadly the subcontinent it is part of

Indochina: historical term for SE Asia, particularly those under French colonial control

Iquitos: region of the Peruvian Amazon, specifically its largest city, but also an ecoregion of várzea in Peru and Brazil

Iran: country in W Asia

Iraq: country in W Asia

Iringa: district in SC Tanzania

Iriomote: island in the S Ryukyus, W Pacific

Isabela: Isabella Province, N Luzon, Philippines

Isthmus (of Panama): the narrow land connecting N and S America; Isthmian

Italy: country in Europe, primarily consisting of a peninsula in the Mediterranean

Itatiaia: Itatiaia is a Brazilian municipality of the state of Rio de Janeiro.

Itombwe: mountain in E DRC

Ituri: large forest in C Africa

Izu: island group S of Honshu, Japan

Jalca: La Jalca is a district of the Chachapoyas Province in the Amazonas Region, Peru.

Jamaica: island nation in the Greater Antilles

Japan: island nation off the E coast of Asia

Java: island in Indonesia

Jos Plateau: plateau in C Nigeria

Juan Fernández: island chain off the coast of Chile

Junín: lake in province of the same name, Peru

- Kabobo:** mountain in E DRC
- Kadavu:** island in Fiji
- Kai:** Group of islands in southeastern part of the Maluku Islands, Indonesia
- Kalahari:** desert in S Africa, including parts of Botswana, South Africa, and Namibia
- Kalkadoon:** Indigenous Australian tribe living in the Mount Isa region of Queensland, Australia
- Kalao:** island in S Sulawesi, Indonesia
- Kamchatka:** Peninsula in E Russia
- Kangean:** island N of Bali, Indonesia
- Karamoja:** region in NE Uganda
- Karoo:** region of inland South Africa, characterized by arid semi-desert ecosystem
- Kashmir:** historically, valley between the Great Himalaya and Pir Panjal range. Modern region consists of areas under Chinese, Indian, and Pakistani control
- Katanga:** region of S DRC, C Africa
- Kaua'i:** island in the W Hawai'ian islands. Anglicized as Kauai.
- Kent:** county in England; Kentish
- Kentucky:** US state, located in the Appalachians
- Kenya:** country in E Africa
- Kerguelen Islands:** subantarctic islands in the S Indian Ocean. Also known as the Desolation Islands.
- Kermadec Islands:** subtropical archipelago NE of NZ
- Key West:** island off the S tip of Florida
- Kikuyu:** largest ethnic group in Kenya, geographically refers to C Kenya homeland
- Kilimanjaro:** tallest mountain in Africa, located in Tanzania, E Africa
- Kilombero:** district in C Zambia
- Kimberley:** northern part of Western Australia
- Kiritimati:** atoll in the Pacific, part of Kiribati. Historically called Christmas Island, but that name refers to an Australian territory in the Indian Ocean.
- Knysna:** Town and nature reserve in South Africa.
- Kofiau:** island W of New Guinea
- Kolombangara:** island in the New Georgia chain, Solomon Islands
- Kona:** area of western part of island of Hawai'i
- Kopje:** a small hill in a generally flat area. (should be classified as Natural History)
- Kordofan:** historic province of C Sudan, NE Africa
- Kosrae:** island in Micronesia
- Kungwe:** locality in DRC
- Kurdistan:** geographic area home to the Kurdish people, in W Asia, comprising parts of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria.
- La Selle:** highest point in Haiti
- Labrador:** province in NE Canada
- Lake Lufira:** artificial lake in SE DRC
- Lana'i:** island in Hawai'i
- Lapland:** historic name for Sápmi, homeland of the Sámi people in Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia
- Latakoo:** former name for Kuruman, oasis town in Kalahari, N South Africa

- Laysan:** island NW of the main Hawai'ian islands
- Lesser Antilles:** chain of small islands in E Caribbean, part of the Antilles as a whole
- Levant:** historic term for the eastern coast of the Mediterranean, including Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, and Palestine.
- Leymebamba:** locality in Amazonas, Peru
- Leyte:** island in the Visayas, C Philippines
- Liben:** area on the border between Somalia and Ethiopia
- Lifou:** island in the Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia
- Lita:** Locality in Imbabura, Ecuador
- Loanga:** national park in W Gabon
- Lompobattang:** mountain in SE Sulawesi, Indonesia
- Lord Howe:** island between Australia and NZ
- Louisiade:** archipelago E of New Guinea
- Louisiana:** A state in the USA. Historically could also refer to any part of North America west of the Mississippi (e.g., the Louisiana Purchase)
- Luapula:** province in N Zambia, SC Africa
- Luzon:** island in the Philippines
- Maccoa:** misspelling of Macau, China, which also has nothing to do with the bird in question. May have been used as a general term for a far-off place (similar to older uses of "Guinea")
- Macquarie:** island between Australia and NZ
- Madagascar:** Island country in SW Africa; Madagascar, Mascarene, Malagasy
- Madeira:** island group in Atlantic, off coasts of Portugal and N Africa
- Magdalena:** river valley in N Colombia
- Magellanic Strait:** straits separating mainland South America from Tierra del Fuego
- Maghreb:** NW Africa, including Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, and Western Sahara. Historically, it denoted the western ("al-Maghrib") portion of the Arabic world.
- Makatea:** atoll in the Tuamotus, French Polynesia
- Makira:** island in the Solomon Islands. Also called San Cristóbal
- Malabar:** SW coast of India
- Malaita:** island in Solomons
- Malawi:** country in SE Africa
- Malaysia:** Island country in SE Asia. Also broadly used for the region as a whole. Malay, Malayan, Malaysian.
- Mali:** country in NW Africa
- Malindi:** bay and town on Indian Ocean, Kenya
- Mallee:** Region in northwestern Victoria and southeastern South Australia
- Mamberamo:** River basin in northern Papua
- Manchuria:** far NE region of China, bordering Russia and the Korean Peninsula
- Mangareva:** island in French Polynesia
- Manipur:** state in India
- Manicoré:** Municipality in the state of Amazonas, Brazil
- Man, Isle of:** island between Britain and Ireland; Manx

- Manú:** region and river in Peru
- Manus:** island NE of New Guinea
- Mantanani:** island group off the N tip of Borneo
- Maracaibo:** lake, city, and surrounding area in NW Venezuela
- Marañon:** river and valley in Peruvian Andes
- Mariana:** island chain in the N Pacific, south of Japan
- Marianne:** island in Seychelles, W Indian Ocean
- Mariqua:** river in S Africa. Also spelled Marico.
- Marquesas:** island group in French Polynesia
- Martinique:** island in the Lesser Antilles
- Masatierra:** island off the coast of Chile. literally “más a tierra”, Spanish for “closer to land”. Current name Robinson Crusoe Island, for the shipwrecked sailor who lived there 5 years and partially inspired the novel.
- Mascarene Islands:** Group of islands in the Indian Ocean east of Madagascar. Includes Republic of Mauritius, Rodrigues Island, and Reunion Island.
- Matinan:** mountains in Sulawesi, Indonesia
- Mato Grosso:** state in WC Brazil
- Maui:** island in Hawai’i
- Maui-nui:** prehistoric extent of Maui, which included modern Moloka’i, Lana’i, and Kaho’olawe
- Maupiti:** island in the Leeward Islands, French Polynesia
- Mauritius:** island in the Indian Ocean, E of Madagascar
- Mayotte:** island NW of Madagascar
- Mbulu:** district in Tanzania
- Mediterranean:** large sea separating Europe, Africa, and Asia
- Mekong:** river in Cambodia
- Melanesia:** geographic region and cultural grouping of the Pacific, including New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, and the Solomon Islands
- Mentawai:** island chain and strait off the W coast of Sumatra, Indonesia
- Meratus:** mountain range in S Kalimantan, Indonesia
- Mérida:** Andes of Venezuela in Mérida and Táchira.
- Mexico:** large country in North America
- Micronesia:** geographic and cultural region of the Pacific, composed of around 2000 islands. The four largest groups are the Carolines, Marianas, Gilberts, and Marshalls.
- Middle America:** somewhat outdated term for Central America
- Minahassa:** peninsula of Sulawesi, Indonesia
- Minas Gerais:** state in SE Brazil
- Mindanao:** island in the Philippines
- Mindoro:** island in the Philippines
- Miombo:** a type of tropical savannah in C Africa, Miombo woodlands form a broad belt across south-central Africa, running from Angola in the west to Tanzania in the east. (Natural History)
- Mishana:** Allpahuayo-Mishana National reserve, is a protected area in Peru located southwest of Iquitos in the region of Loreto

- Mishmi:** mountain range at border of India and China
- Mississippi:** river and state in the USA
- Moheli:** island in the Comoros, Indian Ocean
- Moluccas:** Islands in Indonesia. Also spelled Maluku.
- Mombasa:** Kenyan coastal city.
- Mongolia:** landlocked country in Asia, between Russia and China. Also refers more broadly to the homelands of the nomadic Mongolian peoples, including parts of China (Inner Mongolia), Russia, and elsewhere in C Asia.
- Monte:** ecoregion of arid scrub, Argentina
- Montserrat:** island in the Lesser Antilles
- Mo'orea:** Anglicized as Moorea. Island near Tahiti, French Polynesia
- Morotai:** island in Maluku, Indonesia
- Morrison:** Tallest mountain peak in Taiwan, named after a U.S. official, but currently known as Yushan or Jade Mountain
- Mount Cameroon:** Active volcano in SW Cameroon
- Mount Kupe:** mountain in W Cameroon, W Africa
- Mount Victoria:** colonial name for Na Ma Taung, mountain in W Myanmar
- Muisca:** Indigenous group in C Colombia, used to refer to their homelands in the Eastern Cordillera
- Munchique:** massif in Colombia
- Muscovy:** antiquated name for Russia, particularly European Russia centered on Moscow
- Mussau:** island in St. Matthias group, N Bismarck Archipelago
- Naga:** Nagaland, state in NE India
- Namaqua:** refers to SW Africa- homeland of Nama people, with the Khoekhoe suffix "place-of"
- Namuli:** second-highest mountain in Mozambique
- Napo:** province and river in Ecuador
- Narcondam:** Island in the Andaman Islands, India.
- Nashville:** city in Tennessee, USA
- Natal:** former province in South Africa, reorganized in 1994 into KwaZulu-Natal
- Natewa:** peninsula in Fiji
- Naung Mung:** village in Kachin, N Myanmar
- Nauru:** island nation in C Pacific
- Nazca:** city and region of S coastal Peru, home of the ancient Nazca culture
- Nechisar:** national park in S Ethiopia
- Negros:** island in the Philippines
- Neotropics:** the tropical regions of the Western Hemisphere (aka "New World tropics")
- Negros:** island in the Philippines
- Nepal:** country in the Himalayas
- New Britain:** island in the Bismarck Archipelago, W Papua New Guinea
- New Caledonia:** island W of Australia
- New Georgia:** island in the Solomon Islands
- New Guinea:** large island north of Australia. Consists of West Papua (Indonesia) and the nation of Papua New Guinea

New Hanover: island in New Ireland province, PNG

New Holland: antiquated colonial name for Australia

New Ireland: island NE of New Guinea

New Zealand: chain of large islands E of Australia in the Pacific

Nias: island off coast of Sumatra, Indonesia

Niau: small island in French Polynesia

Nicaragua: country in C America

Nicobar: island chain in the Indian Ocean, S of the Andamans. Also refers to individual islands (Car Nicobar, Great Nicobar, Little Nicobar)

Nightingale Island: island in the S Atlantic

Nihoa: island in NW Hawai'i

Nile Valley: valley around the Nile, including parts of Egypt, Sudan, South Sudan, and Ethiopia

Nilgiri: mountain range in the Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala

Nimba: mountain of border of Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, W Africa

Niuafo'ou: anglicized Niuafoou. Island in Tonga, S Pacific

Nonggang: natural reserve in Guangxi Zhuang, China

Norfolk: island group E of Australia and N of NZ, S Pacific

Noronha: Fernando de Noronha Archipelago (main island and Rata I), off the coast of NE Brazil (Pernambuco).

North Island: one of the two primary islands of NZ

Nubia: region of desert along the Nile River

Nuku Hiva: island in the Marquesas

Nullarbor: arid plain in S Australia. Latin for "no trees"

Numfor: island NW of New Guinea

Nyanza: Kinyarwanda for "lake", specifically referring to Lake Victoria, E Africa

O'ahu: anglicized Oahu. island in Hawai'i

Oaxaca: state in S Mexico

Obi: island chain in Maluku, Indonesia

Obbia: Hobyo, Somalia

Ogea: two islands, Ogea Driki and Ogea Levu, in SE Fiji

Okarito: town on W coast of South Island, NZ

Okinawa: island in the Ryukyus, N Pacific

Oman: country on the Arabian Peninsula, forming one part of the Strait of Hormuz

Opalton: Winton-Oplatton region of western Queensland, Australia

Orange River: large river in South Africa and Namibia

Orient: outdated term for "eastern", i.e. Asian

Oriente: eastern region of Cuba

Orinoco: river in South America

Ouvéa: island near New Caledonia, S Pacific

Ovambo: ethnic group in SW Africa, used to refer to parts of Namibia and Angola

Oxapampa: province in C Peru

Pacific: large ocean

- Pagan:** island in the Northern Marianas, NW Pacific
- Palani:** town and a taluk headquarters in Dindigul district of the western part of Tamil Nadu state in India
- Palau:** island nation in the WC Pacific
- Palawan:** island chain in the Philippines
- Palestine:** disputed country in the Middle East. Modern political usage applies to Gaza and West Bank, but historically applied to a larger region
- Pampas:** grassland region in S South America, including parts of Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil
- Panama:** country in C America
- Panao:** town in C Peru
- Pantanal:** wetland area in Mato Grosso do Sul, SW Brazil
- Panay:** island in C Philippines
- Pangani:** town in Tanga, NW Tanzania
- Pantepui:** another term for tepuis
- Papua:** pre-colonial name for the island of New Guinea. Modern usage applies it to the Indonesian province of West Papua, or the independent nation of PNG
- Papuan:** Papua or New Guinea
- Pará:** state in N Brazil
- Paraguay:** country in South America
- Paramillo:** mountain ranges in the Colombian Andes
- Paramo:** alpine tundra ecosystem in the Andes, South America **(should be classified as Natural History)**
- Paria:** peninsula in Venezuela
- Patagonia:** region of South America, including much of Chile and Argentina
- Pemba:** island in Zanzibar chain, Tanzania
- Pechora:** river in Komi Republic, Siberia, Russia
- Perijá:** The Serranía del Perijá, Cordillera de Perijá or Sierra de Perijá [pe.ri.'xa] is a mountain range, an extension of the eastern Andean branch (Cordillera Oriental), in northern South America, between Colombia and Venezuela
- Pernambuco:** state in NE Brazil
- Persia:** historic name for a large portion of Central Asia, primarily modern Iran. Also refers to the Persian Gulf.
- Peru:** country in South America
- Philadelphia:** city in Pennsylvania, USA
- Philippines:** island country in E Asia, N of Indonesia
- Phoenix:** tiny uninhabited island in the C Pacific
- Pirre:** Cerro Pirré, mountain in E Panama
- Pitcairn:** island in the S Pacific
- Pitt Island:** island in the Chathams, NZ
- Piura:** province and river in NW Peru
- Planalto:** highland plateau of Brazil
- Pohnpei:** island in the Caroline islands, Micronesia

Polynesia: geographic and cultural region of the Pacific, including most of the oceanic islands E of Fiji from Hawai'i in the north, NZ in the SW, and Easter Island in the E. French Polynesia is a colonial territory that encompasses some, but not all, of this region.

Príncipe: one of the eponymous islands of the country of São Tome and Príncipe, Gulf of Guinea, W Africa

Puerto Rico: island in the Greater Antilles, Caribbean

Puna [should be categorized as natural history]: region of South America

Purus: River in Brazil

Ra'iatea: island in the Society Islands, French Polynesia, S Pacific

Raja Ampat: archipelago located off the northwest tip of Bird's Head Peninsula on the island of New Guinea

Rapa: island in the Bass Islands, French Polynesia, S Pacific

Rarotonga: largest of the Cook Islands, S Pacific

Razo: islet in Desertas group, Cape Verde

Red Sea: sea between Africa and the Arabian Peninsula

Rennell: island in the Solomons, W Pacific

Restinga: coastal sand-ridge habitat in northeastern Brazil (should be categorized as natural history)

Réunion: island in the W Indian Ocean, E of Madagascar

Rimitara: island in Austral Islands

Rinjani: mountain on Lombok, Indonesia

Rio Branco: tributary of the Rio Negro, Brazil

Rio de Janeiro: city and surrounding state, Brazil

Rio Madeira: largest tributary of the Amazon, Brazil

Rio Negro: one of several rivers in South America, most notably a tributary of the Amazon

Río Orinoco: river in Venezuela and Colombia, draining into the Atlantic S of Trinidad and Tobago

Río Suno: river in E Ecuador

Rodrigues: island in the W Indian Ocean

Romblon: province in the Philippines

Rondonia: State in Brazil

Roraima: Tepui mountain in Venezuela

Rota: island in the Marianas

Rote: island SW of Timor, Indonesia

Rotuma: island in N Fiji

Roviana: lagoon on New Georgia, Solomon Islands

Ruaha: river and park in SC Tanzania

Rubeho: town in Morogoro, C Tanzania

Ruvu: river in Morogoro, E Tanzania

Rwenzori: Mountain range in Uganda and DRC

Ryukyu: island chain S of Japan

Saipan: island in the Northern Marianas, NW Pacific

Sahel: arid region south of the Sahara

Sakalava: ethnic group in Madagascar, used to refer to their homeland in W Madagascar

Sakhalin: island claimed by both Russia and Japan, located between the two N of Hokkaido

Salinas: salt plains in N Argentina

Samar: Island in the Philippines

Samoa: Island in the Pacific

San Andrés: island in the Caribbean, E of Nicaragua

San Blas: city in Nayarit, WC Mexico

San Cristóbal: island in the Galápagos

Sandhills: bioregion in the central Great Plains, especially Nebraska

Sandwich Islands: outdated colonial name for Hawai'i

Sangihe: Island in the Philippines

Santa Cruz: 1) island chain in the Solomon Islands 2) island in the Channel Islands, CA, USA

Santa Marta: Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, an isolated mountain massif located on northern Colombia, South America

Santarem: city in Brazil

São Francisco: river in EC Brazil

São Paulo: city and state in S Brazil

São Tomé: one of the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe. Gulf of Guinea

Sapayoa: River in Ecuador

Sardinia: island in the Mediterranean between Italy and Iberia

Scotland: country in northern part of island of Britain

Selva: nature preserve in Peru

Sepik-Ramu: River basins in northern Papua New Guinea

Senegal: country in W Africa

Sennar: city and state in E Sudan

Seram: island in Indonesia

Serendib: ancient name for Sri Lanka

Serra do Mar: mountain range in SE Brazil

Seychelles: island group in the Indian Ocean

Siam: Antiquated name for Thailand; Siamese

Siau: Island in Indonesia

Siberia: vast region of N Asia, from the Urals to the Pacific, in Russia

Sichuan: province in SW China. Alternate historic spellings Szechuan or Szechwan.

Sierra [should be categorized as natural history]: Spanish for “mountain range”; refers to several ranges in Central and South America

Sierra de Lema: mountain range in SE Venezuela

Sierra Leone: country in W Africa

Sierra Madre: 1) Sierra Madre Occidental, mountain range in W Mexico 2) mountain range in Luzon, Philippines

Sierra Nevada: Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, mountain range in N Colombia

Sikkim: state in the Himalayas, N India

Simeulue: island in Indonesia, W of Sumatra

Sinai: peninsula in Egypt, between the Red and Mediterranean Seas

- Sinaloa:** state in NW Mexico
- Sincorá:** Serra do Sincorá, part of the Espinhaço Mountains in Bahia, Brazil
- Sind:** province of Sindh, Pakistan
- Sira:** mountain range in C Peru
- Snares Islands:** group of islands in S Pacific, S of NZ
- Snow Mountain:** one of the tallest mountain ranges in New Guinea
- Sokoke:** forest in coastal Kenya
- Solomon Islands:** a group of islands in the C Pacific, and also a nation of the same name that partially overlaps said archipelago
- Somalia:** country in E Africa; Somali
- Society Islands:** island group including Tahiti, French Polynesia, S Pacific
- Socorro:** island off Pacific coast of Mexico
- Socotra:** island in the Indian Ocean, south of the Arabian Peninsula
- Sooretama:** town and biological reserve in Espírito Santo, Brazil
- South Africa:** large country on southern tip of African continent
- South America:** continent south of North America
- South Georgia:** island in the S Atlantic
- South Island:** one of the two primary islands in NZ
- South Pare:** mountain range in E Tanzania
- Spain:** largest country on the Iberian peninsula
- Spice (Islands):** Maluku or Molucca islands, Indonesia
- Sri Lanka:** island nation SE of India
- St. Helena:** island in the S Atlantic
- St. Kitts:** island in the Lesser Antilles
- St. Lucia:** island in the Lesser Antilles
- St. Vincent:** island in the Lesser Antilles
- Steppe:** a large area of flat unforested grassland in southeastern Europe or Siberia
- Stephens Island:** island between the North and South Islands of NZ
- Stewart Island:** island S of NZ
- Subantarctic:** region of Southern Hemisphere north of 66° S
- Sucre:** state in Venezuela
- Sudan:** country in NE Africa
- Sula:** 1) island in the Philippines 2) short for Sulawesi
- Sulawesi:** island in Indonesia
- Sulu:** island chain in the Philippines
- Sumatra:** island in Indonesia
- Sumba:** island in Indonesia
- Sunda:** island chain in Indonesia
- Swahili:** coast of E Africa, especially NE Tanzania, named for the largest ethnic group
- Syria:** country in the Middle East; historically applied to a much larger area now consisting of multiple countries
- Tabar:** island group E of New Guinea

- Tabon:** island in C Philippines
- Tabora:** region of C Tanzania
- Tacarcuna:** mountain area in Darién, E Panama
- Tacazze:** also spelled Tekezé, river in NE Ethiopia
- Táchira:** state in E Venezuela
- Tagula:** island in the Louisiade Archipelago, SE of New Guinea
- Tahiti:** island in French Polynesia
- Taita:** small mountain range in Kenya, E Africa.
- Taiwan:** small island nation in the South China Sea.
- Talamanca:** Cordillera de Talamanca, a mountain range in Costa Rica and western Panama.
- Talaud:** island groups in Indonesia
- Taliabu:** island in the Maluku
- Tamaulipas:** state in NE Mexico
- Tana River:** river in Kenya
- Tanganyika:** colonial name for mainland Tanzania (excluding Zanzibar). Name retained by one of the African Great Lakes.
- Tanimbar:** island group in the Maluku
- Tanna:** island in Vanuatu
- Tanzania:** country in E Africa, consisting of mainland Tanganyika (historic term) and the islands of Zanzibar.
- Tapajos:** The Tapajós is a river in Brazil
- Tarim:** region of W China
- Tasmania:** island south of Australia
- Tatamá:** Tatamá National Nature Park is located in the western Colombian mountain range.
- Taveta:** town in S Kenya, basically in Tanzania
- Taveuni:** island in Fiji
- Tawitawi:** island in the Philippines
- Tboli:** area of Cotabato, Philippines
- Temotu:** province of the Solomon Islands
- Tenerife:** island in the Canaries
- Tenggara:** island group in the Sundas, Indonesia
- Tennessee:** state in C US, in Appalachian Mountains
- Tepui:** Tepui region of South America, highland region mostly in Venezuela (table top mountains - classified as Natural History)
- Terek:** river in the N Caucasus, flowing into the Caspian Sea
- Tibet:** high elevation plateau N of the Himalayas
- Tierra del Fuego:** large island off the tip of South America; Fuegian
- Timor:** island in the Lesser Sundas, split between Indonesia and the nation of East Timor
- Tinian:** island in the Marianas, N Pacific
- Titicaca:** lake in the Andes, on the border of Bolivia and Peru
- Transvolcanic:** mountain range in C Mexico
- Tres Marías:** island chain off coast of Nayarit, WC Mexico

- Trindade, Ilha da:** island in Atlantic, E of Brazil
- Trinidad:** island in Caribbean NE of Venezuela
- Tristan da Cunha:** island in S Atlantic
- Tropeiro:** Rota de Tropeiros, a historic cattle-droving route in Brazil
- Tropics:** region surrounding the Equator between roughly 23° N and S.
- Truk:** former name for Chuuk Atoll, Micronesia
- Tsavo:** river and region in Kenya
- Tsingy:** unique limestone karst landscape only found in Madagascar
- Tocuya:** locality in Lara, Venezuela
- Togian:** island group in Indonesia, W of Sulawesi
- Togo:** country in W Africa
- Tolima:** volcano and surrounding region in Colombia
- Tonga:** island nation in the S Pacific
- Torres Strait:** strait separating Australia and New Guinea
- Tuamotu:** group of islands in French Polynesia
- Tucumán:** province in N Argentina
- Tumbes:** ecoregion in coastal Ecuador and Peru, consisting of dry forests
- Turkestan:** region of C Asia home to multiple Turkic people groups, mostly incorporated into the Chinese province of Xinjiang.
- Tuxtla:** Sierra de los Tuxtlas, mountain range in Veracruz, SW Mexico
- Ua Pou:** 'Uapou, island in the Marquesas, S Pacific
- Udzungwa:** mountain range in Tanzania, E Africa
- Uganda:** landlocked country in EC Africa
- Uluguru:** mountain range in Tanzania, E Africa
- Usambara:** mountain range in Tanzania, E Africa
- Ural:** mountain range in Eurasia
- Urrao:** in the subregion southwest of the department of Antioquia, Colombia
- Urubamba:** province in S Peru
- Utcubamba:** (hispanicized spelling), in Quechua Utkhupampa: is one of seven provinces of the Amazonas Region, Peru.
- Vanikoro:** island in the Santa Cruz group, Solomon Islands
- Vanuatu:** Island nation in the south Pacific
- Várzea:** specific type of seasonally flooded forest in the Amazon
- Venezuela:** Country in South America; Venezuelan
- Veraguas:** province in Panama
- Vietnam:** country in SE Asia
- Vilcabamba:** mountain range and former city in Cuzco region, Peru
- Virginia:** US state on east coast; historically, could refer to anywhere in the Mid-Atlantic region, "Virginia Colony"
- Visayan Islands:** Chain of islands within the Philippines
- Vogelkop:** colonial Dutch name for the Bird's Head Peninsula, New Guinea
- Waigeo:** island in West Papua, Indonesia

Wakatobi: islands off the coast of Sulawesi

Wake Island: atoll in Micronesia

Wakolo: lake on Buru island, Moluccas

Wallacea: biogeographic region for area E of the Wallace line, including Australia, New Guinea, and the eastern part of Indonesia.

Warsangli: refers to Warsangali clan, a major Somali group

Wayanad: district in Kerala, India

West Indies: Islands of the Caribbean; West Indian

West Solomons: western portion of Solomon Islands

Westland: district of NZ

Wetar: island in Indonesia

Xingu: river in Brazil, major tributary of the Amazon

Xinjiang: far western portion of China. “Xinjiang” is the official Chinese name, while “Turkestan” refers to mostly the same area and is used by some of the Turkic peoples who live there.

Yap: group of islands in Micronesia

Yapacana: tepui in S Venezuela

Yemen: country on the Arabian Peninsula bordering the Red Sea

Yucatan: peninsula province of Mexico

Yungas: bioregion of the Andes, transitional between the highlands and the eastern forests

Yunnan: subtropical province in S China

Zamboanga: peninsula of Mindanao, Philippines

Zanzibar: island group off the coast of Tanzania

Zapata: swamp in Cuba