

**Coastal features**

These are the irregular formations we can see on coasts, which are the areas that connect the ocean with the continental relief that rises above sea level. Coastal features are formed by the combination of the processes that cause continental relief and the action of the sea. In general, they can be categorized as either land exits such as capes and peninsulas, or water entries, such as bays and gulfs.

This is an area of land surrounded by water except for a relatively narrow strip, an isthmus, that connects it to a larger piece of land. For example, the peninsula of Santa Elena.

Land that is completely surrounded by water. Islands can be any size. A very small island is called an islet. Archipelagos are groups of islands located very close to each other.

Land located at the mouth of and between the branches of a river.

Cove

A water entry that is smaller than a bay. For example, the cove of Atacames.

A V-shaped mouth of a wide and deep river at the ocean's edge. The movement of the tides causes fresh and salt water to mix in an estuary.

Mouth

This is where a river or canal flows into the sea, another river, a stream, or a lake.

Cliff

In some areas, the sea bottom is steeply sloped. When these areas rise above sea level and are eroded by the water, they form high craters with steep and abrupt drop offs to the sea. These are called cliffs.

Cape

An opening in the coastline that allows the sea water to enter. For example, the Cape of San Lorenzo.

Isthmus**Gulf****Beach****Channel and canal**

Channels and canals are strips of water that connect two large bodies of water (oceans or seas) through a large land mass.

This is a water entry that is similar to, but smaller than a gulf. For example, the Bay of Caráquez. Unlike capes or peninsulas, bays are good locations for ports, because the surrounding land provides protection from the sea and the bay waters are calm.

➤ **Match the word and the meaning.**

❖ Island

❖ Bay

❖ Beach

❖ Cliff

❖ Peninsula

❖ Delta

➤ This is an area of land surrounded by water except for relatively narrow strip.

➤ A bank of almost flat, sandy land that runs along a sea.

➤ Land located at the mouth of and between the branches of a river.

➤ In some areas, the sea bottom is steeply sloped.

➤ Land that is completely surrounded by water.

➤ This is a water entry that is similar to, but smaller than a golf.