

Mangroves

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Mangroves

What Are Mangroves?

Mangroves are a special group of plants that live around water. They grow in muddy, salty places close to the seashore.

Mangrove forests can be found beside bays and inlets.

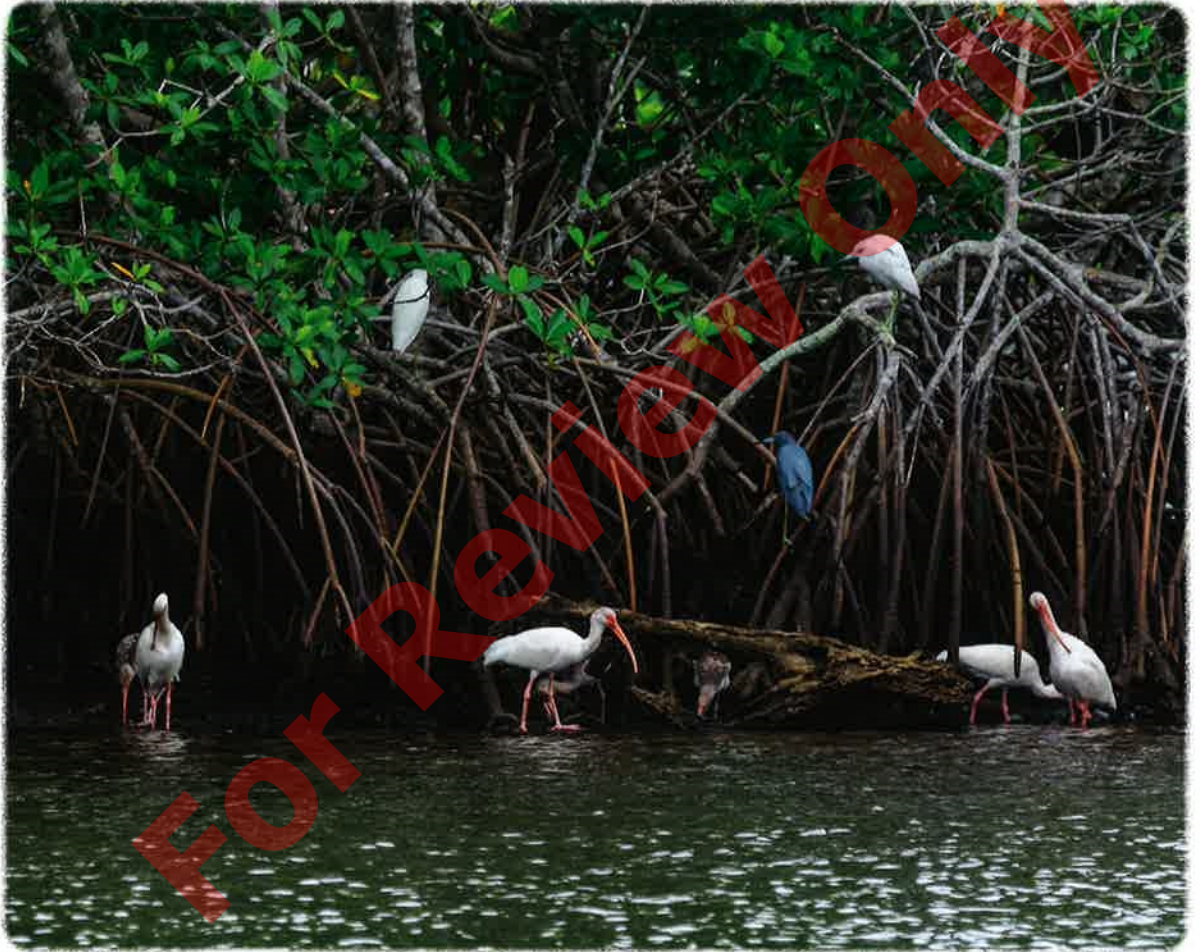
They are also found at places where rivers flow into the sea, called estuaries (say: *es-choo-a-rees*).

Mangroves grow in the “intertidal zone”. This is the name for the area of land that is covered with water when the tide comes in. It is uncovered when the tide goes out.



Mangrove plants have big roots that grow in water.

Mangrove forests are home to thousands of different animals. Small creatures live in the water around mangrove roots. Birds and other animals live among the trees and shrubs, too.



Water birds are some of the animals that live near mangroves.

Mangrove forests grow in warmer parts of the world.
They do not grow in places where it is frosty or very cold.

How Mangroves Live and Grow

Different kinds of mangrove trees and shrubs grow in mangrove forests. All mangroves are able to survive in a salty environment.

There are very tall mangroves that grow into huge trees and smaller mangroves that grow lower to the ground.

Some mangroves have strong roots that grow above the ground.

Other mangroves have very wide roots that grow along the ground.

The roots help the mangroves to stay in place when water washes around them as the tide goes in and out.

Wet soil in mangrove forests has very little **oxygen** in it to help plants grow. Some mangroves have small “breathing roots” that help them to get oxygen.



This mangrove has wide roots.



The breathing roots of this mangrove are sticking out of the water.

Many plants cannot survive in places where there is lots of salt. Salty water and salty ground are very harmful to them.

However, mangrove trees and shrubs have several different ways of preventing salt from damaging them.

Some mangroves get rid of salt through tiny openings in their leaves.



This mangrove is getting rid of salt through its leaves.

Other mangroves store salt inside their bark and leaves. Over time, the bark and leaves grow old and fall off, and the mangroves get rid of the salt.



Old, dead leaves have fallen off this mangrove.

Some mangroves also have roots that can **filter** out most of the salt and stop it from getting inside the plant.