

Mangroves (Part 1)

Mangrove swamps are communities of mangrove trees located in tropical or subtropical coastal areas because they cannot tolerate cold temperatures. In Vietnam, mangroves are common in the South, especially in the Mekong Delta.

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Mangrove trees are sometimes called "survivors," because they have special roots that grow out of the water, in hot conditions, and in brackish water where there is high salinity and low oxygen. Each mangrove tree has a filtration system to protect it from sea salt intrusion, along with a specialised root system that allows the tree to breathe in mud or during high tide.

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Mangroves also have an extremely diverse ecosystem. They are home to many wildlife species, such as crocodiles, birds, tigers, deer, monkeys, and bees. Many migratory birds depend on mangroves, including cranes, pelicans, and storks. The area under the complex network of mangrove roots is also a unique habitat – a quiet, safe environment for the children of many animals. Mud shrimp and lobster use the mud below the mangroves to build houses, and mangrove crabs eat the trees' leaves, which also add nutrients to the mud, becoming a food source for many other bottom-dwelling creatures.

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In what kind of environment do mangroves grow?

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What special features of mangroves allow them to live in harsh conditions?

What species of animal can be found in mangroves?