

■ Geography of Music – Landscape Inspiration Checklist

Coastal & Island Landscapes

- Tropical islands / beaches → Chill-out, reggae, calypso, soca, surf rock
- Cold northern coasts / fjords → Ambient, indie folk, post-rock
- Harbours / port cities → Jazz, blues, funk (linked to migration & trade)

Urban Landscapes

- Skyscrapers / megacities → Hip-hop, rap, trap, EDM, techno
- Industrial / post-industrial cities → Punk, grunge, heavy metal, industrial music
- Historic European cities (cobble streets, squares) → Classical, opera, chanson, flamenco

Rural & Agricultural Landscapes

- Countryside / farmland → Country, folk, bluegrass
- Vineyards & Mediterranean landscapes → Acoustic, jazz, singer-songwriter styles
- Savannah / grasslands → Afrobeat, traditional African rhythms, world music

Mountain & High-Altitude Landscapes

- Snowy alpine peaks → Orchestral, epic soundtracks, metal, electronic trance
- Andes / Himalayas → Panpipes, traditional folk, spiritual / meditation music

Desert Landscapes

- Sandy deserts (Sahara, Arabian, Outback) → Desert blues, Tuareg guitar, psychedelic rock
- Rocky deserts (American Southwest) → Country rock, Americana, indie alternative

Forest & Wilderness Landscapes

- Tropical rainforest → Percussion-heavy world music, tribal rhythms
- Northern pine forests / taiga → Dark ambient, Scandinavian metal, folk

River & Water Landscapes

- Mississippi Delta / bayous → Blues, jazz, gospel
- Flowing rivers → Folk ballads, acoustic, classical

Extreme / Marginal Landscapes

- Arctic / polar regions → Ambient, experimental electronic, soundscapes
- Volcanic / geothermal landscapes → Experimental rock, Icelandic post-rock, electronic

■ **Tip for students:** *You don't have to stick to the stereotype — some of the most interesting albums come from mixing an unexpected landscape with an unusual genre (e.g. techno inspired by glaciers, reggae in the Alps).*