

Some sites have a boardwalk and interpretive signs to allow visitors to observe at their own pace while still offering information, for example at the Cape Foulwind Seal Colony on the west coast of New Zealand's South Island. In some cases visitors may have the option of viewing wildlife by themselves or joining a guided tour.

Organized **tour operators** can provide a skilled guide, who has a wealth of knowledge about the species and ecosystems visited. They will also operate by a set of guidelines in order to minimize the **impact** of the tour on the habitat and animals in question. There are also those areas that are either so fragile or so remote that the only viewing permitted is through a tour company, such as the Arctic, Antarctic and the Galapagos Islands. While many land-based excursions in the coastal **environment** are focused on the viewing of wildlife, there are many options for viewing fossilized remains, for example the Petrified Forest in the Catlins, New Zealand. The options for land-based marine and coastal tourism are endless, and often provide a unique way to observe wildlife that is unobtainable from a boat.

#### **Related internet sources**

Otago Peninsula Royal Albatross Colony: <http://www.albatross.org.nz>

Seals in Bays Loch: <http://www.isleofberneray.com/gallery/flora4>

Allan Power Dive Tours: <http://www.allan-power-santo.com>

Land-Based Galapagos Tours: <http://www.southernexplorations.com/galapagos-LandTours.htm>

Antarctic connection list of Antarctic tour operators: <http://www.antarcticconnection.com/antarctic/travel/touoperators/general.shtml>

Laura Boren

**Landfast Ice** Landfast ice (also fast ice) is sea ice that forms and stays attached to the coast. This ice is formed when seawater or **pack ice** freezes to the land, extending anywhere from a few metres to several hundred kilometres from the coast.

See also: Ice Edge, Ice Shelf.

#### **Related internet sources**

Arctic Institute of North America: <http://www.arctic.ualgary.ca>

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: <http://www.ipcc.ch>

Shannon Long

**Landing Fee** Landing fees are a charge paid by a vessel for landing at a particular port. The money generated is used to pay for the maintenance or expansion of the port's facilities and infrastructure. Income for administration of an island may also come from harbour and landing fees from tourist vessels, such as cruise ships.

Tourism can generate significant revenues for governments through a variety of taxes, including landing fees. As a result, tourism can play a critical economic role in developing countries, especially for those with limited income-generating alternatives. Some islands devote the landing fees to **conservation** and **heritage** projects and/or to provide facilities for visitors without commercializing them in any way. In some locales, there is concern that passengers and **cruise lines** are currently being misled into believing that landing fees are being spent on conservation initiatives, and therefore feel no need to support these further (e.g. by donations), and that conservation work in the islands is being deprived of additional funding support (see **greenwash**).

#### **Related internet source**

Lighthouse Foundation – Cruise Ship Tourism Industry: <http://www.lighthouse-foundation.org/index.php?id=112&L=1>

Dagmar Fertl

**Landscape** Landscape is a concept for the sum of the elements in the physical **environment**. The concept has historical roots from use for fiscal purposes, referring to the land controlled by a lord in the Middle Ages. In order to define the concept more precisely, it is often divided into: (i) natural landscape, i.e. the elements that are shaped by nature (e.g. a volcano); and (ii) cultural landscape, i.e. the elements that have been shaped by humans (e.g. a field). Newer directions among anthropologists and ethnologists consider landscapes as a cultural construction, so the interesting aspect is the changing border between the given natural landscape and the cultural landscape that in some way or another is shaped by humans.