

Earth Science World ImageBank (ESWIB): A Comprehensive Collection of Geoscience Images Being Developed by the American Geological Institute

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Introduction

Although there are many geoscience image sites available on the World Wide Web, there is no universal, all-inclusive digital archive where the general public can gather images related to all aspects of the earth sciences. To fill this need, the American Geological Institute (AGI) is developing the largest image database available with funding provided by the AGI Foundation: the ***Earth Science World ImageBank (ESWIB)***.

The database is searchable by browsing under main subject categories, selecting specific search criteria, or typing in a keyword. Once images are found, additional searches can be made by simply clicking on hyperlinked keywords and locations. For example, a user searching for a specific image of Delicate Arch in Arches National Park would search by *Continent*: North America, *Country*: United States, *Category*: Sedimentary Rocks, *Keyword*: Delicate Arch. A broader search might be made for the *Keyword*: Erosion, or *Category*: Beaches, with no location information specified.

ESWIB Main Subject Categories

Archaeology	Beaches	Coal
Dinosaurs	Dunes	Earthquakes
Environment	Exploration Geophysics	Floods
General Geology	Glaciers	Groundwater
Igneous Rocks	Impact Structures	Invertebrate Fossils
Lakes/Ponds	Landscape	Landslides
Metal	Metamorphic Rocks	Minerals
Micropaleontology	Mining	Oceans
People	Petroleum	Plants
Rivers	Satellite Imagery	Seismology
Sedimentary Rocks	Soil	Space
Structure	Surface Processes	Vertebrate Fossils
Volcanoes	Waterfalls	Weather

Methods

The goal of ESWIB is to provide a variety of users with free access to high-quality geoscience images and technical art gathered from photographers, scientists, and government organizations. Each image is cataloged by main subject category, location, author, image rights, and includes a detailed description. Additionally, each image is precisely indexed using a series of keywords from AGI's Georef Thesaurus. Students, teachers, scientists, and the general public can download these images for their own use. Example uses include slide-show presentations, papers, lectures, labs, posters, and any other educational or outreach purposes. All non-commercial uses are allowed for images in ESWIB, including non-profit publications with distributions less than 2,000 copies.

The ESWIB website provides a technical support page for users who are having difficulties, a feedback section to help with site and image improvements, and a detailed description of image uses and copyright details. ESWIB is also connected to the Earth Science World homepage - an educational resource that has been developed by AGI and of which ESWIB is a part.

Images are scanned at a very high resolution (20 x 30 inches, RGB, 8-bit, 72 dpi, 3000 pixels wide/high) and depending on the author's rights, AGI plans to make high-resolution copies (digital or print) available for non-commercial and commercial purposes. Non-commercial users can obtain high-resolution poster prints or digital copies for a nominal fee. Commercial users of the ImageBank will be pleased to learn that fees for use of ESWIB's geoscience images are far less than what most image providers charge. We anticipate fees no greater than \$100 to \$200 per image per use - half of which goes directly to the photographer, with the remainder going to support AGI educational programs.

This resource is designed to be used by any age group, and in any educational venue. Using this tool, students can study a broad spectra of geologic processes in a traditional classroom setting. We hope that educators will find these images useful in a variety of ways and that, in turn, students will gain a deeper understanding of the Earth around us.

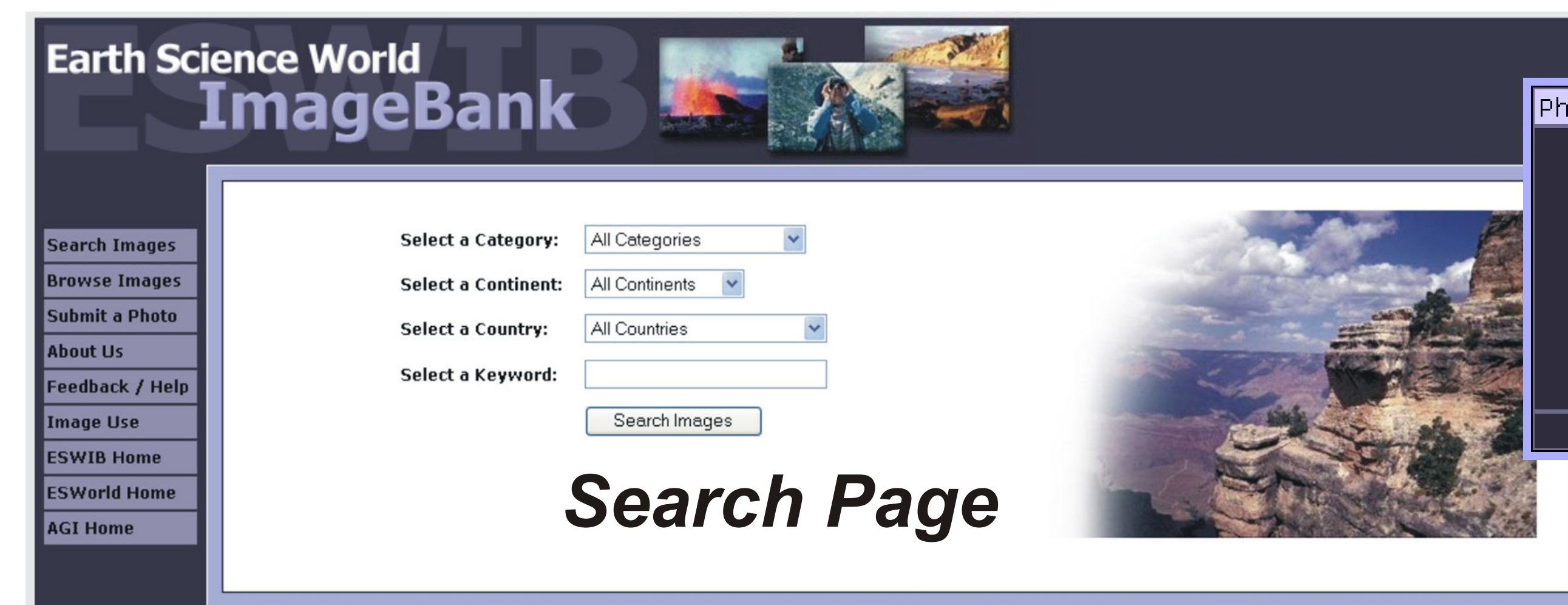


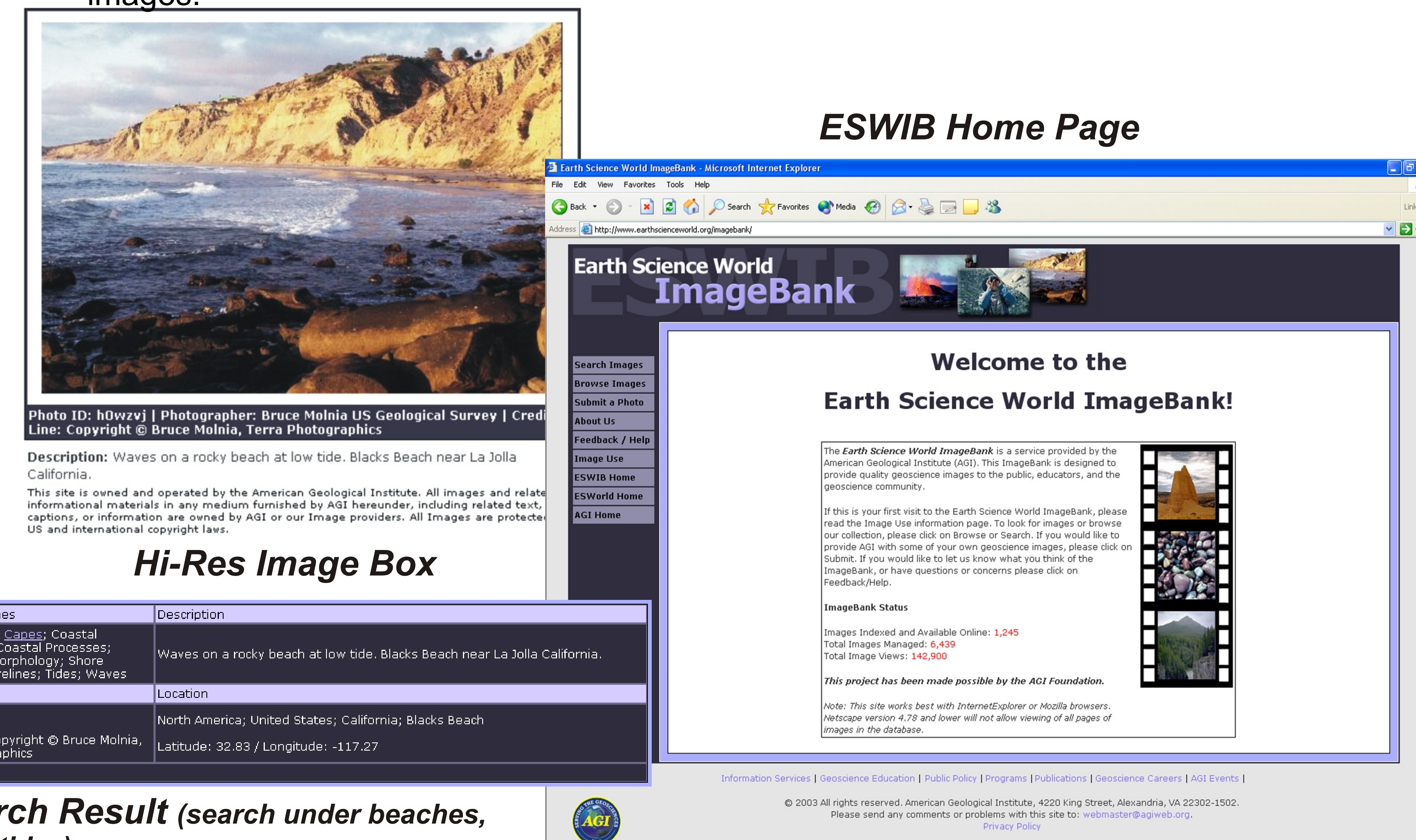
Photo ID: h0wzv	Subject: Beaches	Description
	Beach Profiles; Canyons; Coastal Environment; Coastal Processes; Erosion; Geomorphology; Shore Features; Shorelines; Tides; Waves	Waves on a rocky beach at low tide. Blacks Beach near La Jolla California.
Photo Quality View Hi-Res	Photographer: Bruce Molnia	Location: North America; United States; California; Blacks Beach
	Credit Line: Copyright © Bruce Molnia, Terra Photographics	Latitude: 32.83 / Longitude: -117.27

Sample Search Result (search under beaches, North America, tides)

Conclusion

Work on this project began in August 2002 with the initial collecting and scanning of images. Currently, more than **1,300** images are fully indexed and searchable within ESWIB. In addition to these images that are readily available, approximately **7,000** images are awaiting indexing, and more than **10,000** images have been identified for submission into ESWIB. The ImageBank debuted in June 2003, and within four weeks had over **100,000** image views. This ImageBank is different from other photo sites available in that the scope has more breadth and depth than other image resources, and the images are cataloged with a very high grade of detail and precision, which makes finding needed images fast and easy. The image services offered by ESWIB are also unique, such as low-cost commercial options and high quality image printouts. AGI is constantly soliciting images in an attempt to expand the database. Users can also contribute images of their own to the database by following instructions on the ESWIB website.

In the future, AGI plans on adding a 'photo of the day' section, connecting the ImageBank to the upcoming online version of the *Glossary of Geology*, having a section with lesson plans and activities using the ImageBank, as well as continuing to develop new enhanced features for the images.



<http://www.earthscienceworld.org/imagebank>
Questions? Comments? Write us at photo@agiweb.org