

## Topic Page: [Barchan](#)

Definition: **barchan** from *The Macquarie Dictionary*

### 1.

a crescent-shaped sand dune with the horns pointing downwind, the profile being asymmetric with the gentler slope on the convex side, and the steeper slope on the concave or leeward side.

**Plural:** barchans

**Etymology:** Russian *barkhán*, ? from a Turkic language

barchanoid *adjective*

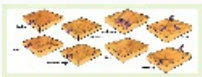


Image from: [Major dune types Source: Redrawn from... in Encyclopedia of Geography](#)

### Summary Article: **barchan**

From *The Dictionary of Physical Geography*

A crescent-shaped sand dune, in which the horns point downwind in the direction of dune migration. Barchans are a type of transverse dune that tends to form where either sand transport rates are high and/or sand supply is limited; thus, they frequently occur on the margins of sand seas and migrate over nonsandy surfaces. Barchan dunes are not necessarily a very common type of dune, but the frequent simplicity of form has made them the source of investigations into aeolian sand transport on dune forms. (See dune.)

### Reading

- Hastenrath, S. (1987) The barchan sand dunes of south Peru revisited. *Zeitschrift fur Geomorphologie, Neue Folge*, 31, 167-178.
- Moosavi, V.; Moradi, H.; Shamsi, S.R.F.; Shirmohammadi, B. (2014) Assessment of the planimetric morphology of barchan dunes. *Catena*, 120, 12-19.

David S G Thomas  
University of Oxford

### **APA**

Chicago

Harvard

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Thomas, D. S. (2016). Barchan. In D. S. G. Thomas, & Goudie Andrew (Eds.), *The dictionary of physical geography* (4th ed.). Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishers. Retrieved from <https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/barchan>

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## APA

Thomas, D. S. (2016). Barchan. In D. S. G. Thomas, & Goudie Andrew (Eds.), *The dictionary of physical geography* (4th ed.). Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishers. Retrieved from <https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/barchan>

## Chicago

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## Harvard

Thomas, D.S. (2016). Barchan. In D.S.G. Thomas & Goudie Andrew (Eds.), *The dictionary of physical geography*. (4th ed.). [Online]. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers. Available from:  
<https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/barchan> [Accessed 17 November 2019].

## MLA

Thomas, David S G. "barchan." *The Dictionary of Physical Geography*, edited by David S. G. Thomas, and Goudie Andrew, Blackwell Publishers, 4th edition, 2016. *Credo Reference*, <https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/barchan>. Accessed 17 Nov. 2019.