

## ROMANIZATION OF MALDIVIAN (DHIVEHI)

### BGN/PCGN 1988 Agreement, with modifications 2009

An official romanization system was submitted to PCGN by the Maldivian government in 1987 and approved by BGN and PCGN in 1988<sup>1</sup>. The system presented here reflects the 1988 Agreement with minor modifications introduced by the government of the Maldives in 2009<sup>2</sup>.

### CONSONANT CHARACTERS

	Maldivian	Romanization	Example Maldivian script	Example Romanization
1	ހ	h	ހަހުމަތް	Hahdhunmathi
2	ޝ	sh <sup>Note 4</sup>	ވަފުޝު	Vaffushi
3	ނ	n <sup>Note 5</sup>	ނިލަންދެ	Nilandhe
4	ރ	r	ރާޙާ	Rahaa
5	ބ	b	ބިޔާއުދޯ	Biyaadhoo
6	ލ	lh	މާލްޝުމަދުލު	Maalhosmadulu
7	ކ	k	މުލަކަތުލު	Mulakatholhu
8	އ	Notes 3 & 4	އަރި	Ari
9	ވ	v	ވޭވާޙ	Veyvah
10	މ	m	މާލެ	Maale
11	ފ	f	ފާއުޙްޖިލު	Faadhippolhu
12	ދ	dh	މިލަދުނުމަދުލު	Miladhunmadulu
13	ތ	th <sup>Note 6</sup>	ތިލަދުނުމަތްޔެ	Thiladhunmathee
14	ލ	l	މާލެ	Maale
15	ޅ	g	ވިލިންގިލި	Vilin'gili
16	ޖ	gn	ޖ	Gnaviyani <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This Romanization System supersedes that approved by BGN and PCGN in 1972.

<sup>2</sup> Modifications as found in the *Official Atlas of the Maldives*, Ministry of Planning and National Development, 2009, (ISBN 99915-9540-6).

<sup>3</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> letter of the Dhivehi alphabet (i.e. ޖ ވިލިންގިލި *gnaviyani*), and the Maldivian code letter for Fuvammulah atoll.

	Maldivian	Romanization	Example Maldivian script	Example Romanization
17	س	s	سَوَاحِލِي	Savaaheli
18	د	d	މުނְدޯޅު	Mundoo
19	ز	z	ޒިޔާރާއިފުޅި	Ziyaaraiyfushi
20	ތ	t	ކަލްހެއްޅު	Kalhehuttaa
21	ނ	y	ނެޔު	Neyo
22	ފ	p	ފާއްޅުފުލު	Faadhippolhu
23	ޖ	j	ދިވެހިރާއްޖެ <sup>4</sup>	Dhivehi Raajje (=Maldives (country name))
24	ޗ	ch	ޗާޕު <sup>4</sup>	chaapu (=printing)

## VOWEL CHARACTERS

	Maldivian	Romanization	Example Maldivian script	Example Romanization
1	ަ	a	އަދި	Ari
2	ާ	aa	މާލެ	Maale
3	ެ	e	ފެންފުލު	Fenfushi
4	ޭ	ey	އެއްޅުފުލު	Eydhafushi
5	ި	i	ހަލަވަލު	Halaveli
6	ީ	ee	ތިލަދުނުމަތީ	Thiladhunmathee
7	ޯ	o	ފާއްޅުފުލު	Faadhippolhu
8	ޯ	oa	ފޮކައިދޯ	Foakaidhoo
9	ު	u	ދުނުފަނު	Dhonfanu
10	ޯ	oo	ހިތަދޯ	Hithadhoo

<sup>4</sup> These letters are used in Arabic loanwords, and are unlikely to be found much in place names. Dhivehi Raajje is 'country of the Maldives'; the state title also contains a further /j/: ދިވެހިރާއްޖޭގެ ޖުމްހޯރިއްޔާ (Dhivehi Raajjeyge Jumhooriyyaa – Republic of Maldives, where Jumhooriyyaa is an Arabic loanword).

## DIACRITICAL MARK

Maldivian	Romanization	Example Maldivian script	Example Romanization
◌̣	not romanized <sup>but see notes 4 &amp; 6</sup>	މިލަދުނުމަދުލު	Miladhunmadulu

## NOTES

1. Maldivian is read from right to left.
2. The symbol ◌̣ appearing in the Vowel Characters table represents any Maldivian consonant character.
3. The character ހ is not romanized. If it bears a vowel character, that vowel character alone is romanized (e.g. ޞަލާޞްޞަލާޞް *En'boodhoo*).
4. When characters ސ and ހ appear in combination with a supercircle (the 'sukun', which usually marks the absence of a vowel, see the Diacritical Mark table above): ސ̣ ; ހ̣, these characters are not romanized but the following consonant is doubled (e.g. ޯޯޯޯޯ *Kalhehuttaa*), unless the following consonant is a digraph in the romanized form, in which case they are romanized **h** (e.g. ހަހަހަހަ *Kerehdhoo*). ސ̣ and ހ̣ appearing at the end of a word are romanized **h** (e.g. ވަވަވަ *Veyvah*).
5. ސ is romanized **n'** when appearing without any vowel or auxiliary sign (e.g. ސަސަސަ *Kan'dufushi*).
6. ސ̣ is romanized **iy** when appearing in combination with a supercircle (ސ̣̣), (e.g. ސ̣̣ަސ̣̣ަސ̣̣ަ *Ziyaarayfushi*).
7. The 'Romanization' columns in the tables show only lowercase forms but, when applying the table, uppercase and lowercase Roman letters as appropriate should be used, as in the Romanized examples in the final columns.