

ROMANIZATION OF NEPALI

BGN/PCGN 2011 Agreement

The BGN and the PCGN have adopted the Nepal Survey Department (NSD) system for the romanization of Nepali names. This system, below, should be applied to Nepali names for which Roman-script spellings in materials produced by the government of Nepal are not available.

CONSONANT CHARACTERS

	Nepali	Romanization	
1.	क	k	ka
2.	ख	kh	kha
3.	ग	g	ga
4.	घ	gh	gha
5.	ङ	ṅ	ṅa
6.	च	ch	cha
7.	छ	chh	chha
8.	ज	j	ja
9.	झ	jh	jha
10.	ञ	ñ	ña
11.	ट	ṭ	ṭa
12.	ठ	ṭh	ṭha
13.	ड ²	ḍ	ḍa
14.	ढ ²	ḍh	ḍha
15.	ण	ṇ	ṇa
16.	त	t	ta
17.	थ	th	tha
18.	द	d	da

	Nepali	Romanization	
19.	ध	dh	dha
20.	न	n	na
21.	प	p	pa
22.	फ	ph	pha
23.	ब	b	ba
24.	भ	bh	bha
25.	म	m	ma
26.	य	y	ya
27.	र	r	ra
28.	ल	l	la
29.	व	v/w ^{Note 3}	va/wa
30.	श	sh	sha
31.	ष	ṣ	ṣa
32.	स	s	sa
33.	ह	h	ha
34.	क्ष	kṣ	kṣa
35.	त्र	tr	tra
36.	ज्ञ	jñ	jña

VOWEL CHARACTERS

Nepali		Romanization
Initial	Medial	
1. अ		a
2. आ	ा	ā
3. इ	ि	i
4. ई	ी	ī
5. उ	ु	u
6. ऊ	ू	ū
7. ऋ	ृ	ṛi (iṛ in word-medial position)
8. ॠ	ॄ	rī (īṛ in word-medial position)
9. ए	े	e
10. ऐ	ै	ai
11. ओ	ो	o
12. औ	ौ	au

OTHER SYMBOLS

◌ः is rendered **h**

◌ं is rendered by ~ over the vowel letter(s) affected

◌ँ is rendered by

- ṅ** before **k, kh, g, and gh**
- ñ** before **ch, chh, j, and jh**
- ṇ** before **ṭ, ṭh, ḍ, and ḍh**
- n** before **t, th, d, and dh**
- m** before **y, r, l, v, sh, s, and h**

◌ँ is rendered by **r** at the end of the preceding syllable.

◌् indicates absence of the inherent short [a] vowel. This symbol, called the *halanta*, is not normally written in Nepali except in the verb system and in the case of unabbreviated first elements in conjuncts. Knowledge of the pronunciation of Nepali names is necessary for the proper treatment of the inherent short [a] vowel.

NUMERALS									
०	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

NOTES

1. Only the isolated forms of the characters are given in the consonant table. See any grammar of Nepali (or other language using the Devanagari alphabet) for variant forms used in conjunct characters.
2. These two consonant characters appear sometimes to represent **ṛ** (cerebral r), e.g., पहाड → **pahārṛ** instead of **pahāḍḍ**. At one time they were written with dots below, i.e., as ढ and ढ, though this is no longer normal practice in Nepali. The romanizations **ṛ** and **ṛh**, respectively, are optional for documentary purposes if such dots appear in Nepali writing.
3. Line 29 of the consonant table, व, can be romanized as either **v** or **w**. This character is primarily romanized as **v** in consonant initial, medial, and final position; however, initial, medial, and final **w** romanizations can occur. The **w** romanization is a special case which is believed to be dependent on dialect, pronunciation, or stress.
4. An inventory of letter-diacritic combinations, with their Unicode encoding, in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script is:

Ñ(U+1E44)	ñ (U+1E45)
Ñ̃ (U+00D1)	ñ̃ (U+00F1)
Ṭ (1E6C)	ṭ (1E6D)
Ḍ (1E0C)	ḍ (1E0D)
Ṇ (1E46)	ṇ (1E47)
Ṣ (1E62)	ṣ (1E63)
Ā (U+0100)	ā (U+0101)
Ī (U+012A)	ī (U+012B)
Ū (U+016A)	ū (U+016B)
Ṛ (1E5A)	ṛ (1E5B)

5. The Romanization column shows only lowercase forms but, when romanizing, uppercase and lowercase Roman letters as appropriate should be used.