

YEMEN

Country name	Yemen
State title	Republic of Yemen
Name of citizen	Yemeni
Official language	Arabic (ara) ¹
Country name in official language	اليمن (Al Yaman)
State title in official language	الجمهورية اليمنية (Al Jumhūrīyah al Yamanīyah)
Script	Arabic
Romanization System	BGN/PCGN Romanization system for Arabic 1956 for official names; PCGN Soqotri alphabet for Soqotri names in Socotra Archipelago (see Geographical names policy below)
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	YE/YEM
Capital - conventional name	Sanaa ²
Capital in official language	صنعاء (Şan'ā')
Area/population	527,968 sq km / 31,565,602 (2023 est.) ³

Introduction

Yemen has land borders with Saudi Arabia and Oman, and has coastline on the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea. It occupies a geo-strategic location at the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula, controlling access to the Red Sea, through the Bāb al Mandab (Bab el Mandeb) strait. Its territory includes several islands in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea.

Yemen is a relatively young country; the Republic of Yemen was created in 1990, with the unification of the two post-colonial states of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) and the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen). However, Yemeni unity has always been fragile and disputed.

Following the 2011 Arab Uprisings, which saw street protests in Yemen, President Saleh was replaced by President Hadi. The situation has since deteriorated into a complex civil war involving multiple local and foreign actors. The conflict is multi-faceted; North/South, tribal, geographical and political, and has taken on sectarian language. The North Yemen-based Houthis currently control Sanaa (the official capital of Yemen) and much of north-west Yemen, including most of the Red Sea coast. The Shia Houthis are backed by Iran. For a time, they were in alliance with their erstwhile

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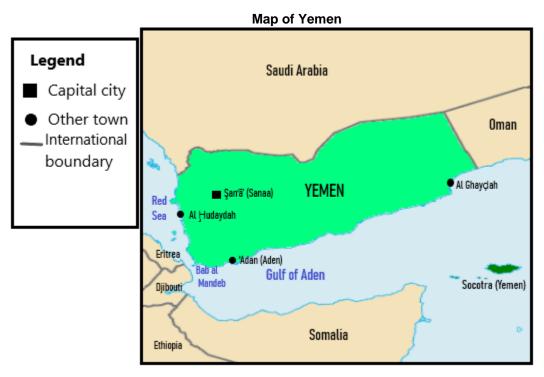
¹ The language codes in this Factfile are ISO 639-3 codes.

² Following the unification of North and South Yemen in 1990, Sanaa became Yemen's constitutional capital. It is currently the seat of government for the Houthi insurgency, which has de facto control over much of former North Yemen. In February 2015, President Hadi declared Aden the temporary capital, when he fled there from Sanaa. He subsequently left for Saudi Arabia.

³ https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/yemen/



enemy, former President Saleh, but in 2017 the Houthis assassinated Saleh. The Hadi government controlled much of the rest of the country, including their "temporary capital" of Aden. In March 2015, after Hadi fled to Saudi Arabia, a Saudi-led coalition launched military operations against the Houthis. In 2022 Hadi and his Vice-President were replaced by an eight-person Presidential Leadership Council (PLC). The PLC is the internationally recognised government of Yemen and currently controls the east of Yemen, some central areas and Ta'izz. In 2018 the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council, which advocates secession for the South, took control of Aden. They currently control parts of south-west Yemen and the island of Socotra. Fighting continues and contributes to a growing humanitarian crisis in the country. Meanwhile Al Qaeda and Islamic State have both taken advantage of the situation to gain pockets of territory in the east.



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Geographical names policy

Despite the ongoing instability in Yemen, PCGN policy regarding the treatment of geographical names in Yemen remains unchanged.

ARABIC:

Geographical names are usually found written in Arabic, which is Yemen's official language. Arabic-script names should be taken from official Yemeni sources⁴ and romanized using the <u>BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic</u>. While many of the toponyms found in Yemen are of Arabic origin, there is also considerable influence from South Arabian languages. Street signs in both Arabic and English/Roman-script may be found in the big cities. It should be noted that Roman-script forms found locally may differ from those arising from the application of the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic and that the Arabic-script spellings of Yemeni toponyms may not always be consistent. Furthermore, the spelling of names found on maps and those used locally may sometimes differ⁵.

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⁴ Arabic-script mapping produced by the Republic of Yemen would be the first-choice source for names. However, if such sources are unavailable, names may be taken from pre-unification (pre-1990) mapping, produced by North or South Yemen governments.

⁵ See language section, below, for further details.



SOQOTRI:

Usual PCGN policy is to show names in a country's official language(s) (romanized when necessary), but on some occasions, for usefulness on the ground, 'local' languages are shown instead of, or in addition to, the official language. Soqotri (or Socotri) (sqt), the language of relevance in the Socotra archipelago⁶, falls into this category.

PCGN policy is to treat the archipelago as bilingual. Some features have both an Arabic and a Sogotri name; others have only one or the other. Many places on the coast have Arabic names, while Sogotri names are more common in the interior. Furthermore, some names may combine an Arabic generic with a Soqotri name or vice versa. PCGN policy is to show dual names where these exist in the form Sogotri/Arabic, e.g. Hadīboh/Hadībū, and a single Sogotri or Arabic name if that is the only name available.7

In 1967, PCGN was asked to deal with place names collected on an expedition to Socotra. Prof. Johnstone was part of this expedition and had collected the names in a script of his own devising. Subsequently, Prof. Johnstone and the then Secretary PCGN, collaborated to produce an alphabet for Soqotri, which is that used by PCGN for the writing of Soqotri names⁸. The names collected on this expedition are the primary source of Sogotri names.

Hadīboh/Hadībū Sugutrá (Socotra) 'Abd al Küri Samhah Darsah

Map of Socotra Archipelago

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⁶ The Socotra archipelago is located off the southern coast of the Yemen. It comprises the islands of Socotra, 'Abd al Kūrī, Samhah and Darsah (these last two are collectively known as the Brothers (Al Ikhwān)). Since 2013, Muḥāfazat Arkhabīl Suqutrá (Socotra Archipelago) is the governorate which covers the archipelago (see page 9).

⁷ A list of PCGN recommended names for Socotra can be found in the PCGN paper on Socotra presented at the 30th BGN/PCGN Conference and is available on request.

⁸ See 'Inventory of characters' (page 5).



Language

ARABIC:

MODERN SOUTH ARABIAN LANGUAGES:

Four other languages are spoken in Yemen, in addition to Arabic. These are Bathari (*bhm*) (c.200 speakers in Yemen & Oman¹⁰), Hobyót (*hoh*)¹¹, Mehri (*gdq*) (70,600 speakers in Yemen¹²) and Soqotri (43,000 speakers¹³)¹⁴. These are all classified as South Arabian Semitic languages and are closely related to the Semitic languages of Eritrea and Ethiopia. Collectively known as Modern South Arabian Languages (MSALs), these are spoken languages and do not have a standard written form. A provisional Arabic script orthography for Soqotri was determined at a meeting of politicians and linguists held on November 12th 2018 organised by the governor of Socotra. Academics based at Leeds University have devised a Roman-script alphabet that can be used to write the MSALs¹⁵. Toponyms derived from these languages will usually be written using the Arabic alphabet. Bathari and Hobyót are considered endangered languages. Bathari, Hobyót and Mehri are spoken in Southern Yemen. Soqotri is the language of the native population of the islands of the Socotra archipelago¹⁶.

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⁹ In isolation this character is romanized –ah. When followed by another noun in an *Idāfah* construction the final *Tā' Marbūţah* is romanized and pronounced –at, although the Arabic written form does not change (see *Notes* section of the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic for further information).

¹⁰ Source: www.ethnologue.com.

¹¹ No figure is available for the number of Hobyót speakers. Very few remain.

¹² Source: <u>www.ethnologue.com</u>.

¹³ 2004 census figure.

¹⁴ Figures on number of speakers are approximate. Accurate numbers are difficult to obtain.

¹⁵ https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/modern-south-arabian-languages/doc/resources-2

¹⁶ See Geographical names policy for Soqotri (page 3) and Inventory of characters (page 5) for details of the alphabet used by PCGN to write Soqotri.



Inventory of Characters (and their Unicode encodings)¹⁷:

The **BGN/PCGN** Romanization System for Arabic contains the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script¹⁸:

Romanization	Unicode encoding	Romanization	Unicode encoding
•	2018 or 02BB	Ī	012A
,	2019 or 02BC	ī	012B
Á	00C1	Ş	015E
á	00E1	ş	015F
Ā	0100	Ţ	0162
ā	0101	ţ	0163
	1E10	Ū	016A
ģ	1E11	ū	016B
ŀ	1E28	Ţ	005A+0327*
ј	1E29	Ž.	007A+0327*

^{*}Note, the z + cedilla is not available as a single encoding.

The alphabet used by PCGN for Soqotri¹⁹ is as follows²⁰:

The Soqotri alphabet includes the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

Romanization	Unicode encoding	Romanization	Unicode encoding
,	2018/02BB	,	2019/02BC
Ā	0100	ā	0101
Ņ	1E10	ģ	1E11

¹⁷ www.unicode.org

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¹⁸ Characters can be manually input into Microsoft word documents by typing in these character codes and then holding down the ALT key and pressing /x/. The code will change to the required character. The letter can be copied and pasted into other programmes if required. Alternatively, the 'Insert – Symbol' command can be used; the code can be entered into the 'Character code' box which will show the corresponding letter. A GeoNames Soft-Copy Keyboard can be downloaded from the NGA website and used to enter the required letter-diacritic combinations for a particular region:

https://geonames.nga.mil/geonames/GNSHome/services.html

¹⁹ Devised by Prof. Johnstone and then Secretary PCGN.

²⁰ The letters or sounds which do not feature in Modern Standard Arabic are marked with an asterisk.



Romanization	Unicode encoding	Romanization	Unicode encoding
Ē	0112	ē	0113
ŀ	1E28	ј	1E29
Ī	012A	ī	012B
Ō	014D	ō	014C
Ş	015E	ş	015F
Ś	015A	Ś	015B
1	0162	ţ	0163
Ū	016A	ū	016B

Administrative structure

Prior to 2011, Yemen was divided into 22 first-order administrative divisions (ADM1s): 21 governorates (*Mulyāfazah* in Arabic) and one municipality or capital district. These governorates were subdivided into 333 districts (ADM2s)²¹ (*Mudīrīyah* in Arabic), which are themselves divided into subdistricts. The governorates of Yemen are listed below (pages 7-12). While the *de facto* situation in Yemen means that this structure is no longer administered by a single central government, it can still be used to refer to and label locations in Yemen. In practice, administration is occurring at a local level, although post-2011, the struggle for control over local councils has weakened their administrative capacity and ability to carry out the daily functions of governance²².

In 2014 a new federal administrative structure, consisting of 6 regions was announced by the Hadi government. It was intended to address some of the tensions within Yemen, in particular tensions between the north and south. However, the 2011 uprising and consequent civil war has meant this structure has not been implemented, nor is it likely to be. Nevertheless, it is likely that any resolution to end the conflict will include some form of federation of the republic and local councils are expected to be a significant component of any settlement to the conflict²³.

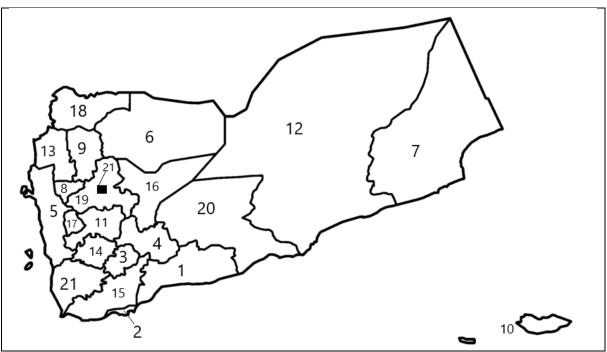
²¹ For the district names see the appendix to this document.

²² http://www.sanaacenter.org/files/the_essential_role_of_local_en.pdf

http://www.sanaacenter.org/files/the_essential_role_of_local_en.pdf



Administrative divisions of Yemen



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The Governorates (ADM1s) of Yemen

1. Abvan (13°47′10″N 046°08′30″E)

1: Abyan (15 47 10 N 040 00 50 E)		
Name in Arabic Script		أبين
Long form name	Muḩāfazat Abyan	
Long form name in Arabic Script		محافظة أبين
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-AB	
Centre	Zinjibār	
Centre in Arabic Script		زنجبار
Variant names of centre	Zanjibar, Zinjubar	
Consists of 11 districts		

2. 'Adan (12°50'00"N 044°55'00"E)

Name in Arabic Script		عدن
Long form name	Muḩāfazat 'Adan	
Long form name in Arabic Script		محافظة عدن
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-AD	
Centre	'Adan (Aden)	
Centre in Arabic Script		عدن
Consists of 8 districts		



3. Ad Dāli' (13°55′21″N 044°46′06″E)

Name in Arabic Script	الضالع
Long form name	Muḩāfazat aḍ Ḍāliʻ
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة الضالع
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-DA
Centre	Aḍ Ḍāliʻ
Centre in Arabic Script	الضالع
Variant names	Ad Dhalea'a; Al-Dhale; Al Dali; Dhala; Dhalie
Consists of 9 districts	

4. Al Bayḍā' (14°20'30"N 045°23'40"E)

11711 Day 44 (11 20 30 11 0 13 20 10 2)	
Name in Arabic Script	البيضاء
Long form name	Muḩāfazat al Bayḍā'
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة البيضاء
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-BA
Centre	Al Bayḍā'
Centre in Arabic Script	البيضاء
Variant names	Al Beida; Al-Baidā; Al-Baidhah; Al Beidha; Beidha
Consists of 20 districts	

5. Al Hudaydah (14°55′02″N 043°11′34″E)

Name in Arabic Script	الحديدة
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat al Ḩudaydah
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة الحديدة
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-HU
Centre	Al Ḩudaydah
Centre in Arabic Script	الحديدة
Variant names	Al Hodeidah; Hodeyda; Hudaida; Hudayda; El-
	Hodeidah
Consists of 26 districts	

6. Al Jawf (16°41′23″N 045°36′42″E)

0. Al Jawi (10 41 25 N 045 50 42 E)	
Name in Arabic Script	الجوف
Long form name	Muḩāfazat al Jawf
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة الجوف
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-JA
Centre	Hazm al Jawf ²⁴
Centre in Arabic Script	حزم الجوف
Variant names	Al Hazm (الحزم); Al Jawf (الجوف); Al-Jauf; Al-Hazm al-
	Jawf
Consists of 12 districts	

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²⁴ Also known as Al Ḥazm (الجزم) and Al Jawf (الجوف). The name Al Ḥazm may be included in brackets.



7. Al Mahrah (17°00′00″ 051°30′00″E)

Name in Arabic Script		المهرة
Long form name	Muḩāfazat al Mahrah	
Long form name in Arabic Script	المهرة	محافظة
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-MR	
Variant names of ADM1	Mahra	
Centre	Al Ghayḍah	
Centre in Arabic Script		الغيضة
Variant names of centre	Al Ghayzah; الغيظة	
Consists of 9 districts		

8. Al Maḥwīt (15°23′31″N 043°32′10″E)

Name in Arabic Script	المحويت
Long form name	Muḥāfaẓat al Maḥwīt
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة المحويت
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-MW
Centre	Al Maḩwīt
Centre in Arabic Script	المحويت
Variant names	Mahweet; Mahwait; Mahweit; El-Maḩwīt
Consists of 9 districts	

9. 'Amrān (16°13'49"N 043°54'35"E)

Name in Arabic Script		عمران
Long form name	Muḩāfazat 'Amrān	
Long form name in Arabic Script		محافظة عمران
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-AM	
Centre	'Amrān	
Centre in Arabic Script		عمران
Consists of 20 districts		

10. Arkhabīl Suquţrá (Socotra Archipelago)²⁵

zor / in initiabili baddaji a (bocoti a / inclinipelago)	
Name in Arabic Script	ارخبیل سقطری
Long form name	Muḩāfaẓat Arkhabīl Suquţrá
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة ارخبيل سقطرى
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-SU
Centre	Ḥadīboh/Ḥadībū
Centre in Arabic Script	حديبو
Variant names of centre	Hadibo; Ḩudaybū; Tamarida; Tamrida; Tamarīdah
Consists of 2 districts	

²⁵ Until 2013, Socotra was part of Ḥaḍramawt governorate but in October 2013 a new Socotra Archipelago governorate (Arabic: Muḥāfazat Arkhabīl Suquţrá) was created.



11. Dhamār (14°40′59″N 044°16′23″E)

Name in Arabic Script	ر	ذمار
Long form name	Muḩāfaẓat Dhamār	
Long form name in Arabic Script	افظة ذمار	مد
ISO 3166-2	YE-DH	
Centre	Dhamār	
Centre in Arabic Script	ر	ذمار
Variant names	Damar; Zamar	
Consists of 12 districts		

12. Hadramawt²⁶ (16°00′00″N 049°00′00″F)²⁷

12. jiagiamawt (10 00 00 N 043 00 00 L)	
Name in Arabic Script	حضرموت
Long form name	Muḩāfazat Ḩaḍramawt
Long form name in Arabic Script	محافظة حضر موت
Variant names of ADM1	Hadramaut, Hadhramaut,
	Hathramoot, Hadramut
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-HD
Centre	Al Mukallā
Centre in Arabic Script	المكلا
Variant names of centre	Mukalla
Consists of 30 districts	

13. Hajjah (16°00′00″N 043°15′00″E)

Name in Arabic Script		حجة
Long form name	Muḩāfazat Ḩajjah	
Long form name in Arabic Script		محافظة حجة
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-HJ	
Centre	Ḩajjah	
Centre in Arabic Script		حجة
Variant names	Haja; Hajja; Hage; Haggah; Hajje	
Consists of 31 districts		

14. lbb (14°00′00″N 044°10′00″E)

Name in Arabic Script		إب
Long form name	Muḩāfazat Ibb	
Long form name in Arabic Script		محافظة إب
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-IB	
Centre	Ibb	
Centre in Arabic Script		إب
Variant names	Ib	
Consists of 20 districts		·

People from Ḥaḍramawt are called Hadramis.
 The Socotra archipelago was formerly part of the Ḥaḍramawt governorate. It is now a separate governorate.



15. Lahij (13°10′00″N 044°35′00″E)

25. 24] (15. 15. 55. 56. 2)		
Name in Arabic Script		لحج
Long form name	Muḩāfazat Laḩij	
Long form name in Arabic Script		محافظة لحج
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-LA	
Centre	Al Ḩawţah ²⁸	
Centre in Arabic Script		الحوطة
Variant names	Lahj, Lahej	
Consists of 15 districts		

16. Ma'rib (15°25′00″N 045°21′00″E)

Name in Arabic Script		مأرب
Long form name	Muḩāfaẓat Ma'rib	
Long form name in Arabic Script		محافظة مأرب
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-MA	
Centre	Ma'rib	
Centre in Arabic Script		مأرب
Variant names	Mareb, Marib	
Consists of 14 districts		

17. Raymah (14°38′00″N 043°40′00″E)

Name in Arabic Script		ريمة
Long form name	Muḩāfazat Raymah	
Long form name in Arabic Script		محافظة ريمة
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-RA	
Variant names of ADM1	Reima; Raimah	
Centre	Al Jabīn	
Centre in Arabic Script		الجبين
Variant names of centre	Jabin; Jabeen	
Consists of 6 districts		

18. Şa'dah (17°03'48"N 043°54'54"E)

18. Şa'dan (17 03 48 N 043 54 54 E)		
Name in Arabic Script		صعدة
Long form name	Muḩāfaẓat Şa'dah	
Long form name in Arabic Script		محافظة صعدة
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-SD	
Centre	Şa'dah	
Centre in Arabic Script		صعدة
Variant names	Saada, Saadah	
Consists of 15 districts		

 $^{^{28}}$ Sometimes seen as Hawdah and also known as Lahij (الحج).



19. Şan'ā' (15°15'38"N 044°25'30"E)²⁹

Name in Arabic Script		صنعاء
Long form name	Muḩāfazat Şan'ā'	
Long form name in Arabic Script		محافظة صنعاء
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-SN	
Centre*	Şan'ā' (Sanaa)	
Centre in Arabic Script		صنعاء
Consists of 16 districts		

20. Shabwah (15°00′00″N 047°00′00″E)

Name in Arabic Script		شبوة
Long form name	Muḩāfazat Shabwah	
Long form name in Arabic Script		محافظة شبوة
Variant names of ADM1	Shabwa	
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-SH	
Centre	'Ataq	
Centre in Arabic Script		عتق
Variant names of centre	Atak; Attak	
Consists of 17 districts		

21. Ta'izz (13° 30'N 044°00'E)

Name in Arabic Script		تعز
Long form name	Muḩāfaţat Taʻizz	
Long form name in Arabic Script		محافظة تعز
ISO 3166-2 code	YE-TA	
Centre	Ta'izz	
Centre in Arabic Script		تعز
Variant Names	Taiz; Taez	
Consists of 23 districts		

22. Amānat al 'Āṣimah (Sanaa City) (15°21′00″N 044°12′00″E)

22. Amanat ar Aşıman (Sanaa City) (13 21 00 N 044	12 00 2/
Name in Arabic Script	أمانة العاصمة
Long form name	-
Long form name in Arabic Script	-
ISO 3166-2	YE-SA
Centre*	Şan'ā' (Sanaa)
Centre in Arabic Script	صنعاء
Consists of 10 districts	

 $^{^{\}star}$ According to our sources, for administrative purposes Sanaa is the administrative centre of both Sanaa Governorate and the Sanaa City administrative divisions.

²⁹ People from Sanaa are known as Sanaanis.





Other Significant Locations

Romanized Arabic Name	Name in Arabic Script	Conventional Name ³⁰	Variant Names or Spellings	Location	Feature Type
Ar Rub' al Khālī	الربع الخالي	The Empty	Rub Khali; al-	21° 00' 00" N	Desert
Al Baḩr al Aḩmar	البحر الاحمر	Quarter* Red Sea*	Rub' al-Khali -	051° 00' 00" E 13° 34' 22" N 042° 45' 00" E	area Sea
Bāb al Mandab	باب المندب	Bab el Mandeb*		12° 35' 00" N, 043° 21' 00" E	Strait
Khalīj 'Adan	خلیج عدن	Gulf of Aden*	Khooriga Cadmeed; Badyarada Cadmeed; Khalīj al Barbari	12° 00' 00" N, 048° 00' 00" E	Gulf
Tihāmah	تهامة	-	Tihāmat al Yaman; At Tihāma; El Tihama; Tehama; Tihama; El Tihama	14° 30' 00" N, 043° 15' 00" E	Plain
Jazīrat Mayyūn	جزيرة ميون	Perim Island	Barīm بریم	12° 39' 25" N, 043° 25' 12" E	Island
Suquţrá	سقطرى	Socotra	Sokotra; Soqotra; Suqatra	12° 30′ 00" N, 054° 00′ 00" E	Island
Al Ikhwān	الأخوان	The Brothers	Al Akhawayn; الأخوين	12° 08' 00" N, 053° 10' 00" E	Island group
Samḩah	سمحة	-	Samha	12° 09' 00" N, 053° 03' 00" E	Island
Darsah	درسة	-	Darsa; Darzah	12° 07' 14" N, 053° 16' 25" E	Island
'Abd al Kūrī	عبد الكوري	-	-	12° 12' 00" N, 052° 13' 00" E	Island
Al Mukhā'	المخاء	Mocha	Mukha; Al Mukhā	13° 19' 08" N, 043° 15' 11" E	Populated place
Jazīrat Kamarān	جزيرة كمران	-	Kamran	15° 21' 13" N, 042° 35' 40" E	Island
Wādī Ḩaḍramawt	واد <i>ي</i> حضر موت	-	Wādī Hadhramaut; Wadi Hadramaut	15° 59' 36" N, 048° 50' 50" E	Wadi

³⁰ The names marked with an asterisk are classed as international features, consequently the English-language conventional name should be used. For features within Yemen the conventional name should be shown in brackets after the romanized Arabic name.



Useful references

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- Unicode Consortium: www.unicode.org
- Yemen National Information Centre: http://www.yemen-nic.info/

Edition 2 Updated January 2024 Compiled by PCGN www.gov.uk/pcgn info@pcgn.org.uk



Appendix

Administrative Structure of Yemen – ADM2s

The second-order administrative divisions or districts (*Mudīrīyah* in Arabic) as at May 2011 are listed below by governorate. The *de facto* situation in Yemen means that this structure is no longer administered by a single central government, but it can still be used to refer to and label locations in Yemen.

Notes:

- 1. Some names in the list below differ from those in PCGN's 2007 paper on Yemen's administrative divisions as more recent sources have been acquired.
- 2. The letters $T\bar{a}$ $Marb\bar{u}\xi ah$ and $H\bar{a}$ are often used interchangeably in Arabic script data on Yemeni toponyms. It is common to see the same name written with the two dots on the final letter (\tilde{i}) in one place and without (\hat{i}) in another. This does not affect the romanization, which remains -ah/-at. As this affects all names ending in $T\bar{a}$ $Marb\bar{u}\xi ah$ or $H\bar{a}$ the variants have not been listed individually below.
- 3. The BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Arabic³¹ reflects the elided pronunciation of the definite article 'Al' when this occurs. Romanizations encountered elsewhere may however reflect the spelling and show the definite article as 'Al'. Compare for example Ad Dīs or Al Dis³². Again, these variations have not been listed individually below.
- 4. Many toponyms in Yemen have been influenced by South Arabian languages. This creates forms which may look unnatural or unusual to an Arabic speaker.
- 5. In addition to the Arabic-script name and the PCGN romanization, other spellings (both Arabic and Roman script) which might be encountered are listed below. These are mostly variant romanizations but on occasion there are variant spellings in Arabic script or a short and long version of the district name.

³¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/637df1aae90e076b73e074c7/ROMANIZATION_OF_ARABIC_--Nov_22.pdf

³² The first of these is the PCGN Romanization.



<u>Abyan</u>

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	احور	Aḩwar	-	-
2	المحقد	Al Maḩfid	Al Mahfad	-
3	الوضيع	Al Wadīʻ	Al Wade'a	-
4	جيشان	Jayshān	-	-
5	خنفر	Khanfir	Khanfar	-
6	نودر	Lawdar	-	-
7	موديه	Mūdīyah	-	-
8	رصد	Raşad	Ruşud	-
9	سباح	Sabāḩ	Sibah	-
10	سرار	Sarār	-	-
11	زنجبار	Zinjibār	Zinjubar	-

<u>'Adan</u>

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	البريقة	Al Burayqah	Al Buraiqeh	-
2	المنصورة	Al Manşūrah	-	-
3	المعلا	Al Muʻallā	-	-
4	الشيخ عثمان	Ash Shaykh	Ash Shaikh Outhman	-
		'Uthmān		
5	التواهي	At Tawāhī	Attawahi, Steamer Point	-
6	دار سعد	Dār Sa'd	-	-
7	خور مکسر	Khawr Maksar	Khur Maksar	-
8	صیرة (کریتر)	Şīrah (Crater)	Craiter, Kraytar, Sira	-

Aḍ Ḍālī'

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	الضالع	Aḍ Ḍāliʻ	Ad Dhalea'a	-
2	الأزارق	Al Azāriq	-	-
3	الحصين	Al Ḩuşayn	Al Hussein	-
4	الحشاء	Al Ḩushā'	-	-



5	الشعيب	Ash Shuʻayb	Ash Shaʻīb	-
6	دمت	Damt	-	-
7	جحاف	Jiḩāf	Jahaf	-
8	جبن	Juban	-	-
9	قعطبة	Qaʻţabah	-	-



Al Bayḍā'

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	العرش	Al 'Arsh	-	-
2	البيضاء	Al Bayḍā'	-	-
3	الملاجم	Al Malājim	Al Malājam, Al Malagim	-
4	القريشية	Al Qurayshīyah	Al Quraishyah	-
5	الرياشية	Ar Riyāshīyah	Ar Ryashyyah	-
6	الصومعة	Aş Şawmaʻah	-	-
7	السوادية	As Sawwādīyah	As Sawadiyah	-
8	الشرية	Ash Sharīyah	Ash Sharyah	-
9	الطفة	Aţ Ţaffah	-	-
10	الزاهر	Az Zāhir	-	-
11	ذي ناعم	Dhī Nāʻim	-	1
12	مدينة	Madīnat al	Al Bayda City	1
	البيضاء	Bayḍā'		
13	مسورة	Maswarah	-	1
14	مكيراس	Mukayrās	-	-
15	نعمان	Na'mān	-	-
16	ناطع	Nāţi'	-	-
17	رداع	Radā'	-	-
18	ردمان	Radmān	Radmān al 'Awād	ردمان أل عواض
19	صباح	Şabāḩ	-	-
20	ولد ربيع	Walad Rabīʻ	Wald Rabi'	-

Al Ḩudaydah

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	الضحي	Aḍ Ḍaḥī	-	-
2	الدريهمي	Ad Durayhimī	-	-
3	الحالي	Al Ḩālī	-	-
4	الحوك	Al Ḩawak	-	-
5	الحجيلة	Al Ḩujaylah	Al Ḩajjaylah	-
6	الجراحي	Al Jarrāḩī	Al Garrahi	-
7	الخوخه	Al Khawkhah	-	-
8	اللحية	Al Luḩayyah	Alluheyah	-



	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
9	المنصوريه	Al Manşūrīyah	-	-
10	المراوعة	Al Marāwi'ah	-	-
11	المغلاف	Al Mighlāf	-	-
12	الميناء	Al Mīnā'	-	-
13	المنيرة	Al Munīrah	-	-
14	القناوص	Al Qanāwiş	-	-
15	الصليف	Aş Şalīf	-	-
16	السخنة	As Sukhnah	-	-
17	التحيتا	At Tuḩaytā	-	-
18	الزيدية	Az Zaydīyah	-	-
19	الزهرة	Az Zuhrah	-	-
20	باجل	Bājil	-	-
21	بيت الفقيه	Bayt al Faqīh	Bayt al Faqiah	-
22	برع	Bura'	-	-
23	حيس	Ḥays	-	-
24	جبل رأس	Jabal Ra's	-	-
25	كمران	Kamarān	-	-
26	زبيد	Zabīd	-	-

Al Jawf

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	الغيل	Al Ghayl	-	-
2	الحميدات	Al Ḩumaydāt	-	-
3	الخلق	Al Khalq	-	-
4	المصلوب	Al Maşlūb	-	-
5	المطمة	Al Maţammah	-	-
6	المتون	Al Matūn	Al Maton	-
7	الزاهر	Az Zāhir	-	-
8	برط العنان	Baraţ al 'Inān	Bart al Anan	-
9	حزم الجوف	Hazm al Jawf	Al Ḩazm, Al Jawf	الحزم، الجوف
10	خب والشعف	Khabb wa ash	-	-
		Sh'af		



11	خراب المراش <i>ي</i>	Kharāb al Marāshī	-	-
12	رجوزه	Rajūzah	-	-

Al Mahrah

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	الغيضة	Al Ghaydah	-	الغيظة
2	المسيلة	Al Masīlah	-	-
3	حصوين	Ḥaṣwayn	Huswain	-
4	حات	<u></u> Hāt	-	-
5	حوف	Hawf	-	-
6	منعر	Min'ar	Man'ar	-
7	قشن	Qishn	Qashan	-
8	سيحوت	Sayḩūt	Saihut	-
9	شحن	Shiḩan	Shahan	-



<u>Al Maḩwīt</u>

	Arabic Script	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
		Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	الخبت	Al Khabt	-	-
2	المحويت	Al Maḩwīt	Mahweet	-
3	الرجم	Ar Rujum	-	-
4	الطويلة	Aţ Ţawīlah	-	-
5	بني سعد	Banī Sa'd	Beni Saad	-
6	حفاش	Ḩufāsh	-	-
7	مدينة المحويت	Madīnat al Maḩwīt	Mahwit City, Mahweet City	-
8	ملحان	Milḩān	-	-
9	شبام كوكبان	Shibām	-	-
		Kawkabān		

'Amrān

	Arabic Script	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
		Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	عمران	'Amrān	-	-
2	العشة	Al 'Ashshah	Al 'Ashah	-
3	المدان	Al Madān	-	-
4	السود	As Sawd	-	-
5	السوده	As Sūdah	-	-
6	بني صريم	Banī Şuraym	Bani Suraim	-
7	ذي بين	Dhī Bīn	Dhībīn	ذيبين
8	حبور ظليمة	Ḥabūr Zulaymah	Zulaymat Habūr	ظليمة حبور
9	حرف سفيان	Harf Sufyān	-	-
10	حوث	Juth	-	-
11	عيال سريح	ʻlyāl Surayḩ	-	-
12	جبل عيال يزيد	Jabal 'lyāl Yazīd	-	-
13	خمر	Khamir	-	-
14	خارف	Khārif	-	-
15	مسور	Maswar	-	-
16	قفلة عذر	Quflat 'Udhr	Qaflah, Al Quflah	القفلة
17	ريدة	Raydah	-	-
18	شهارة	Shahārah	-	-
19	صوير	Şuwayr	-	-



-					
	20	ثلاء	Thulā'	-	-

Arkhabīl Suguţrá (Socotra Archipelago)33

	Arabic Script	PCGN Romanization	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
			Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	حديبو	Ḩadīboh (Ḩadībū)	Hidaybu; Hadibo	-
2	قلنسية وعبد	Qalansīyah wa 'Abd	Qulensya wa Abd al Kuri	-
	الكورى	al Kūrī		

³³ Ḥadīboh (Ḥadībū) and Qalansīyah wa 'Abd al Kūrī are the two districts which make up the Socotra Archipelago. In this region Soqotri language names (where they are known) should be shown, with the Arabic name (if it differs) shown in brackets.



<u>Dhamar</u>

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	الحداء	Al Ḩadā'	-	-
2	المنار	Al Manār	-	-
3	عنس	'Ans	Anss	-
4	ضوران عنس	Dawren 'Ana	Dawran Anss, Dawran	ضوران انس
	عنس	Dawrān 'Ans	Aness	
5	جبل الشرق	Jabal ash Sharq	-	-
6	جهران	Jahrān	-	-
7	مدينة ذمار	Madīnat Dhamār	Dhamar City	-
8	مغرب عنس	Maghrib 'Ans	-	-
9	ميفعة عنس	Mayfaʻat 'Ans	Mayfaʻah ʻAns	-
10	عتمة	'Utmah	-	-
11	وصاب السافل	Waṣāb as Sāfil	Wusab as Safil	-
12	وصاب العالي	Waṣāb al 'Ālī	Wusab al Ali	-

Haqramawt

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant RomanScript	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	عمد	'Amad	Amd	-
2	الضليعه	Aḍ Ḍalīʻah	Adh Dhlia'ah	-
3	الديس	Ad Dīs	-	-
4	العبر	Al 'Abr	Aber	-
5	المكلا	Al Mukallā	-	-
6	القطن	Al Qaţn	-	-
7	القف	Al Quff	Al Qaf	-
8	الريدة	Ar Raydah wa	Ar Raydah wa Qusayar	-
	وقصيعر	Quşayʻir		
9	السوم	As Sawm	-	-
10	الشحر	Ash Shiḩar	Ash Shahr	-
11	بروم ميفع	Barūm Mayfaʻ	Brom Mayfa	-
12	دو عن	Daw'an	-	- -
13	غیل با وزیر	Ghayl Bā Wazīr	-	-



	Arabic	PCGN	Variant RomanScript	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
14	غیل بن یمین	Ghayl Bin	Ghayl Bin Yamin,	-
		Yumayn		
15	حجر	Ḩajr	Hajar, Hajjar, Hagr	-
16	حجر الصيعر	Ḩajr aş Şay'ar	Hagr As Sai'ar	-
17	حريضة	Huraydah	Huraidhah	-
18	مدينة المكلا	Madīnat al	Mukalla City	-
		Mukallā		
19	رخيه	Rakhīyah	Rakhyah	-
20	رماة	Rumāh	•	•
21	ساه	Sāh	•	•
22	سيئون	Say'ūn	Seyun, Sei'yun	•
23	شبام	Shibām	Shebam	-
24	تريم	Tarīm	•	•
25	ثمود	Thamūd	Thamoud	-
26	وادي العين	Wādī al 'Ayn	-	-
	(و ح وره)			
27	يبعث	Ya'buth	Yib'ath	-
28	زمخ ومنوخ	Zamakh wa	Zamakhwa Manwakh	زموخ و منوخ
		Minwakh		

<u>Ḩajjah</u>

	Arabic Script	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
		Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	عبس	'Abs	-	-
2	افلح اليمن	Aflaḩ al Yaman	-	-
3	افلح الشام	Aflaḩ ash Shām	-	-
4	الجميمة	Al Jamīmah	-	-
5	المغربة	Al Maghrabah	-	-
6	المحابشة	Al Maḩābishah	-	-
7	المفتاح	Al Miftāḩ	-	-
8	الشغادرة	Ash Shaghādirah	-	-
9	الشاهل	Ash Shāhil	-	-
10	اسلم	Aslam	Aslem	-
11	بكيل المير	Bakīl al Mayr	Bakil al Mir	-





			T .	
12	بني العوام	Banī al 'Awwām	Bani Al Awam	-
13	بني قيس الطور	Banī Qays aţ Ţawr	Bani Qa'is, Beni Qays	-
14	حجة	Ḩajjah	Hajah	-
15	حرض	Ḩaraḍ	-	-
16	حيران	Ḩayrān	-	-
17	خيران المحرق	Khayrān al	-	-
		Muḩarraq		
18	كعيدنه	Kuʻaydinah	-	-
19	كحلان عفار	Kuḩlān 'Affār	-	-
20	كحلان الشرف	Kuḩlān ash Sharaf	-	-
21	كثىر	Kushar	-	-
22	مبین	Mabyan	-	-
23	مدينة حجة	Madīnat Ḩajjah	Hajjah City	-
24	ميدي	Mīdī	-	-
25	مستباء	Mustabā'	-	-
26	نجرة	Najrah	-	-
27	قارة	Qārah	-	-
28	قفل شمر	Qufl Shamr	Qafl Shamir, Qufl	-
			Shammar	
29	شرس	Sharas	Sharis	-
30	وضره	Waḍrah	Wadhrah	-
31	وشحه	Washḩah	-	-



<u>lbb</u>

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	العدين	Al 'Udayn	-	-
2	المخادر	Al Makhādir	-	-
3	المشنة	Al Mashannah	-	-
4	القفر	Al Qafr	-	-
5	النادرة	An Nādirah	-	-
6	الرضمة	Ar Radmah	-	-
7	السبرة	As Sabrah	-	-
8	السد ة	As Saddah	-	-
9	السياني	As Sayyānī	-	-
10	الشعر	Ash Sha'ir	Ash Shi'r	-
11	الظهار	Az Zihār	Al Dhihar	-
12	بعدان	Ba'dān	-	-
13	ذي السفال	Dhī as Sufāl	-	-
14	فرع العدين	Far' al 'Udayn	-	-
15	حزم العدين	Hazm al 'Udayn	-	-
16	حبیش	Hubaysh	-	-
17	إب	lbb	-	-
18	جبله	Jiblah	-	-
19	مذيخره	Mudhaykhirah	-	-
20	يريم	Yarīm	-	-

Laḩij

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	الحد	Al Ḩadd	Al Had	-
2	الحوطه	Al Ḩawţah	Al Hawdah	-
3	المضاربة والعارة	Al Maḍāribah wa	-	-
	والعاره	al 'Ārah		
4	المفلحي	Al Maflaḩī	Al Maflahy	-
5	المقاطرة	Al Maqāţirah	-	-
6	الملاح	Al Milāḩ	-	-
7	المسيمير	Al Musaymīr	-	-
8	القبيطة	Al Qabayţah	Al Qabbaytah	-





9	حبيل جبر	Ḩabīl Jabr	Ḩabīl Jabar	-
10	حالمين	Ḩālimayn	-	-
11	ردفان	Radfān	-	-
12	تبن	Tuban	-	-
13	طور الباحة	Ţūr al Bāḩah	Ţawr al Bāḩah	-
14	يافع	Yāfi'	-	-
15	يهر	Yahir	Yahr	-



<u>Ma'rib</u>

	Arabic Script	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
		Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	العبدية	Al 'Abdīyah	-	-
2	الجوبة	Al Jūbah	Al Jawbah	-
3	بدبده	Bidbidah	Bidbadah	-
4	حريب	<u></u> Harīb	-	-
5	حريب القرامش	Ḩarīb al Qarāmish	Ḩarīb al Qarāmīsh	حريب القراميش
6	جبل مراد	Jabal Murād	-	-
7	مأرب	Ma'rib	-	-
8	مدغل الجدعان	Madghal al Jad'ān	Madghal, Medghal	مدغل
9	مدينة مأرب	Madīnat Ma'rib	Marib City	-
10	ماهلیه	Māhilīyah	-	-
11	مجزر	Majzar	-	-
12	رغوان	Raghwān	-	-
13	رحبه	Raḩabah	-	-
14	صرواح	Şirwāḩ	-	-

Raymah

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	الجعفرية	Al Ja'farīyah	-	-
2	الجبين	Al Jabīn	-	-
3	السلفية	As Salafīyah	-	-
4	بلاد الطعام	Bilād aţ Ţaʻām	-	-
5	كسمه	Kusmah	-	-
6	مزهر	Mazhar	-	-

Şa'dah

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	الحشوة	Al Ḩishwah	Al Hashwah	-
2	الصفراء	Aş Şafrā'	-	-
3	الظاهر	Az Zāhir	Al Dhaher	-
4	باقم	Bāqim	-	-
5	غمر	Ghamir	Ghamr	-



6	حيدان	Ḥaydān	-	-
7	كتاف والبقع	Kitāf wa al Buqʻ	Kitaf wa Al Boqe'e	-
8	مجز	Majz	-	-
9	منبه	Munabbih	Monabbih	-
10	قطابر	Qaţābir	-	-
11	داذح	Rāziḩ	-	-
12	صعد ة	Şaʻdah	Saada, Saadah	-
13	سحار	Saḩār	Sāḩar	ساحر، صحار
14	ساقين	Sāqayn	-	-
15	شداء	Shidā'	Shada'a	-

Şan'ā'

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	الحيمة	Al Ḩaymah ad	-	-
	الداخلية	Dākhilīyah		
2	الحيمة	Al Ḩaymah al	-	-
	الخارجية	Khārijīyah		
3	الحصن	Al Ḩuşn	Al Ḩaşan	-
4	أرحب	Arḩab	-	-
5	الطيال	Aţ Ţiyāl	Attyal	-
6	بني ضبيان	Banī	Bani Dhabyan	-
7	بني حشيش	, ,	-	-
8	بني مطر	Banī Maţar	-	-
9	بلاد الروس	Bilād ar Rūs	-	-
10	همدان	Hamdān	-	-
11	جحانة	Jiḩānah	-	-
12	خولان	Khawlān	Khwlan	-
13	مناخة	Manākhah	-	-
14	نهم	Nihm	-	-
15	صعفان	Şaʻfān	-	-
16	سنحان وبن <i>ي</i> بهلول	Sanḩān wa Banī	Sanḩān	-
	بهلول	Bahlūl		

Shabwah





	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	عرماء	'Armā'	-	-
2	عتق	'Ataq	'Atāq	-
3	عين	'Ayn	Al 'Ayn	-
4	عسيلان	'Usaylān	-	-
5	الروضه	Ar Rawdah	-	-
6	الصعيد	Aş Şa'īd	-	-
7	الطلح	Aţ Ţalḩ	-	-
8	بيحان	Bayḩān	-	-
9	دهر	Duhur	Dhar	-
10	حبان	Ḩabbān	-	-
11	حطيب	Ӈаţīb	Ḩuţayb	-
12	جردان	Jardān	Jarādān	-
13	مرخه العليا	Markhah al 'Ulyā	Merkhah al Ulya, Markhat	-
			al Ulya	
14	مرخه السفلى	Markhah as	Merkhah as Sufla,	-
		Suflá	Markhat as Sufla	
15	ميفعه	Mayfa'ah	-	<u> </u>
16	نصاب	Niṣāb	-	-
17	رضوم	Ruḍūm	-	-



Taʻizz

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	المعافر	Al Ma'āfir	Ma'afer	-
2	المواسط	Al Mawāsiţ	-	-
3	المسراخ	Al Misrākh	-	-
4	المخا	Al Mukhā	Mocha, Al Makha	المخاء
5	المظفر	Al Muzaffar	Mudhaffar	-
6	القاهرة	Al Qāhirah	-	-
7	الوازعية	Al Wāziʻīyah	-	-
8	الصلو	Aş Şilw	Aş Şalw	-
9	الشمايتين	Ash Shamāyatayn	Ash Shamā'itayn	الشمائتين
10	التعزية	At Taʻizzīyah	-	-
11	ذباب	Dhubāb	-	-
12	حيفان	Ḥayfān	-	-
13	جبل حبشي	Jabal Ḩabashī	Jabal Habashy	-
14	خدير	Khadīr	Dhimnat Khadīr	ذمنة خدير
15	مقبنة	Maqbanah	-	-
16	مشرعة	Mashra'ah wa	Mishra'ah wa Ḩadnān	-
	وحدنان	Ḩadnān		
17	ماوية	Māwīyah	-	-
18	موزع	Mawza'	-	-
19	صبر الموادم	Şabir al Mawādim	-	-
20	صالة	Şālah	Salh	-
21	سامع	Sāmi'	Sama	-
22	شرعب	Sharʻab ar	-	-
	الرونة	Rawnah		
23	شرعب السلام	Sharʻab as Salām	-	-

Amānat al 'Āşimah (Sanaa City)

	Arabic	PCGN	Variant Roman Script	Variant Arabic Script
	Script	Romanization	Spellings or Names	Spellings or Names
1	الوحدة	Al Waḩdah	-	-
2	السبعين	As Sabaʻīn	Al Sabaeen	-
3	الصافية	Aş Şāfīyah	Assafiyah	-





4	التحرير	At Taḩrīr	-	-
5	الثورة	Ath Thawrah	Ath'thaorah	-
6	آزال	Āzāl	Az'zal	-
7	بني الحارث	Banī al Ḩārith	-	-
8	معين	Maʻīn	Ma'ain	-
9	صنعاء برور	Şan'ā' al	Old Sanaa, Old City	-
	القديمة	Qadīmah		
10	شعوب	Shuʻūb	Shu'aub, Sha'ub	-



Sources:

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- 6. Satellite Image Atlas of the Republic of Yemen, produced by Yemen Remote Sensing and GIS Centre (YRSGISC). ISBN: 978-3-85313-135-0