

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR BALUCHI

BGN/PCGN 2008 System

The following is the approved romanization system for deriving standard spellings of Baluchi geographic names. The romanization system is based on the Hunterian system of romanization, which has been used by the Surveys of India and Pakistan for romanizing Baluchi geographic names for more than one hundred years. The romanization system is compatible with all dialects of Baluchi, including Eastern Balochi, Western Balochi, and Southern Balochi. The BGN/PCGN system has two forms: a simplified form designed for desk users, and a rigorous form, which is fully reversible and is appropriate for databases and catalogues. In most cases, the same base characters are kept as are used in the Hunterian system. In rigorous romanization, retroflexion is marked by a sub-dot, and aspiration is marked by apostrophes, where confusion with fricative digraphs could arise. For letters used only in Arabic loan words, the rigorous forms have further been designed to harmonize with the BGN/PCGN Persian romanization system.

Note: because a suitable Nataliq font which supports vowel points has not been found, some examples are presented without vowel points. The source of all examples is Barker and Mengal (1969). In some cases, generic terms have been adduced as examples, where a suitable toponym has not yet been found.

1. Consonants and Special Characters

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Baluchi Example	Rigorous Transliteration	Notes
1	ب	بـ	ب	ب	0628	b	b	بينٺگ	benṭag ('cultivable patch of riverbed')	
2	پ	پـ	پ	پ	067E	p	p	جاپان	Jāpān ('Japan')	
3	ت	تـ	ت	ت	062A	t	t	اربستان	Arabistān ('Arabia')	
4	ٺ ٺ	ٺـ ٺـ	ٺ ٺ	ٺ ٺ	0679 067C	t	ṭ	بينٺگ	benṭag ('cultivable patch of riverbed')	
5	ث ث	ثـ ثـ	ث ث	ث ث	062B 067F	s	ṣ			Represents [θ] in Eastern Balochi, intervocalic and word-finally. Underbar distinguishes from aspirated [tʰ] (see digraphs table).
6	ج	جـ	ج	ج	062C	j	j	بنجاه	bunjāh ('capital city')	
7	چ	چـ	چ	چ	0686	ch	ch	بلوچستان	Balochistān	
8	ح	حـ	ح	ح	062D	h	ḥ	حلق	ḥalq ('village')	Also spelled بلك.
9	خ	خـ	خ	خ	062E	kh	ḵh			Largely identical to ح in pronunciation
10	د	دـ	د	د	062F	d	d	دامان	dāmān ('foothills or skirts of a mountain')	
11	ڊ	ڊـ	ڊ	ڊ	0688 0689	d	ḍ	ڊاڊر	Ḍaḍar	

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Baluchi Example	Rigorous Transliteration	Notes
	ڀ	ڀ	ڀ	ڀ						
12	ڙ	ڙ	ڙ	ڙ	0630	z	z̄	گمبڙ	gumbu z̄ ('tomb')	Represents [ð] in Eastern Balochi, intervocalic and word-finally. Keep separated from aspirated [dʰ] (see digraphs table).
13	ر	ر	ر	ر	0631	r	r	چارراه	chār rāh ('crossroads')	
14	ڙ	ڙ	ڙ	ڙ	0691 0693	r	ṛ			
15	ز	ز	ز	ز	0632	z	z	بازار	bāzār ('market')	
16	ڙ	ڙ	ڙ	ڙ	0698	zh	zh			
17	س	س	س	س	0633	s	s	سببى	Sebī	
18	ش	ش	ش	ش	0634	sh	sh	ايشيا	Eshyā ('Asia')	
19	ص	ص	ص	ص	0635	s	ʃ			
20	ض	ض	ض	ض	0636	z	ẓ			
21	ط	ط	ط	ط	0637	t	ṭ	وطن	waṭan ('homeland')	Also spelled وټن.
22	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	0638	z	ẓ			
23	ع	ع	ع	ع	0639	‘	‘	عباس	‘Abbās ('Bandar Abbas')	Usually not pronounced
24	غ	غ	غ	غ	063A	gh	gh	غدار	ghaddār ('waterless	

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Baluchi Example	Rigorous Transliteration	Notes
									desert')	
25	ف	فـ	ف	ف	0641	f	f	فارموسا	Fārmosā ('Taiwan')	Common in Eastern Balochi, occurs only sporadically in Western and Southern Balochi, where it is often replaced by پ.
26	ق	قـ	ق	ق	0642	q	q	حلق	ḥalq ('village')	Pronounced identically with ک.
27	ک ك	کـ	ک	ک ك	06A9 0643	k	k	ڈاک	Ḍāk	
28	گ	گـ	گ	گ	06AF	g	g	رنگراه	rungrāh ('narrow mountain path')	
29	ل	لـ	ل	ل	0644	l	l	ملّ	mall ('stream-irrigated area, pasture')	See note 3
30	م	مـ	م	م	0645	m	m	جاندم	jāndum ('south')	
31	ن	نـ	ن	ن	0646	n	n	بندر	Bandar ('port, harbor')	
32	ں	ںـ	-	ں	06BA	n	ñ	نیلبوین زر	Nīlboeñ Zīr ('Arabian Sea')	There is ongoing discussion about whether this letter should form part of

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Baluchi Example	Rigorous Transliteration	Notes
										the Baluchi alphabet; we follow Jahani in accepting it.
33	و	و	و	و	0648	w	w	مرو	Marw	
34	ه ¹	ه	ه	ه	0647	h / <i>final short vowel</i>	h / <i>final short vowel</i>	هیرات	Herāt	Final heh following a consonant represents a short vowel. See vowel table for Romanization.
34 A	ه ¹	ه	ه	ه	06C1	h / <i>final short vowel</i>	h / <i>final short vowel</i>			
35	ه	ه	-	ه	06BE	h	h	<i>See Digraphs table for romanization.</i>		'Two-eyed heh' used to represent aspirated consonants in Eastern Balochi.
36	ء	ئ ؤ أ	ء	ء	0621/ 0626	<i>Not romanized</i>	,	فِلپائِن	Filpā'in ('Philippines')	
37	ی	ی	ی	ی	0649	y	y	یونان	Yūnān ('Greece')	

2. Consonantal Digraphs

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Baluchi Example	Rigorous Transliteration	Notes
38	بھ	بھ	بھ	بھ	0628+06BE	bh	bh			Aspiration is only contrastive in Eastern Balochi.
39	پھ	پھ	پھ	پھ	067E+06BE	ph	ph			Aspiration is only contrastive in Eastern Balochi.
40	تھ	تھ	تھ	تھ	062A+06BE	th	th'			Aspiration is only contrastive in Eastern Balochi. Apostrophe distinguishes from fricative th .
41	ٹھ	ٹھ	ٹھ	ٹھ	0679+06BE	th	ṭh			Aspiration is only contrastive in Eastern Balochi.
42	جھ	جھ	جھ	جھ	062C+06BE	jh	jh			Aspiration is only contrastive in Eastern Balochi.
43	چھ	چھ	چھ	چھ	0686+06BE	chh	chh			Aspiration is only contrastive in Eastern Balochi.
44	دھ	دھ	دھ	دھ	062D+06BE	dh	dh'			Aspiration is only contrastive in

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Baluchi Example	Rigorous Transliteration	Notes
										Eastern Balochi. Apostrophe distinguishes from fricative dh .
45	ڏھ	ڏھ	ڏھ	ڏھ	0688+06BE	dh	ḍh			Aspiration is only contrastive in Eastern Balochi.
46	ڙھ	ڙھ	ڙھ	ڙھ	0631+06BE	rh	ṛh			Aspiration is only contrastive in Eastern Balochi.
47	ڪھ	ڪھ	ڪھ	ڪھ	06A9+06BE	kh	kh'			Aspiration is only contrastive in Eastern Balochi. Apostrophe distinguishes from fricative kh .
48	گھ	گھ	گھ	گھ	06AF+06BE	gh	gh'			Aspiration is only contrastive in Eastern Balochi. Apostrophe distinguishes from fricative gh .
49	لا	لا	لا	لا	0644+0627	lā	lā	مالئشيا	Malā'ishyā ('Malaysia')	

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Baluchi Example	Rigorous Transliteration	Notes
50	کا	کا	کا	کا	06A9+0627	kā	kā			
51	گا	گا	گا	گا	06AF+0627	gā	gā	مرگاپ	Murgāp	
52	کل	کل	کل	کل	06A9+0644	kl	kl			
53	گل	گل	گل	گل	06AF+0644	gl	gl			

3. Vowels, Diphthongs, and Diacritical Marks

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Baluchi Example	Rigorous Transliteration	Notes
54	یِ	یِ	ایِ	یِ	0650+0649	ī	ī	چین	Chīn ('China')	
55	ہِ	ہِ	اِ	ہِ	0650	i	i	دِلّی	Dillī ('Delhi')	Final ِ marks a short vowel.
56	ے	یِ	ایِ	ے	06D2	e	ē	سببِی	Sēbī	
57	اَ	اَ	آ	اَ	0627 / 0622	ā	ā	آپسر	Āpsar ('stream source, headwaters')	
58	اَ	اَ	آ	اَ	064E	a	a	الپ	Alap ('Aleppo')	Final اَ following a consonant marks a short vowel.
59	و	و	او	و	0648	o	ō	ڈور	ḍōr ('deep river canyon')	

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Baluchi Example	Rigorous Transliteration	Notes
60	هـ		أ		064F	u	u	بُنْجَاه	bunjāh ('capital city')	Final هـ following a consonant marks a short vowel.
61	و	و	أو	و	064F+0648	ū	ū	يُونَان	Yūnān ('Greece')	
62	ے	ی	آی	ے	064E+06D2	ay	ay	میدان	maydān ('plain, open ground')	See paragraph 4 in introduction for choice of romanization.
63	و	و	أو	و	064E+0648	aw	aw	اوگانستان	Awgānistān ('Afghanistan')	See paragraph 4 in introduction for choice of romanization.
64	◌	◌	◌	◌	0652	<i>Not Romanized</i>	<i>Not Romanized</i>	مرؤ	Marw	Indicates a consonant without a following vowel.
65	ی و	ی و			0670	a	á			
66	ځ	ځ	-	ځ	0651	<i>Double Consonant</i>	<i>Double Consonant</i>	ځځ	dagg ('highway')	
67				آ	0621 + 064E	ā	ā			Singular definite suffix, see note 4.

	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent	Unicode Value	Simplified Romanization	Rigorous Romanization	Baluchi Example	Rigorous Transliteration	Notes
68				ۛ	0621 + 0650	<i>ay</i>	<i>ay</i>			Possessive suffix, see note 4.

Table 4. Numerals

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
•	ۛ	ۛۛ	ۛۛۛ	ۛۛۛۛ	ۛۛۛۛۛ	ۛۛۛۛۛۛ	ۛۛۛۛۛۛۛ	ۛۛۛۛۛۛۛۛ	ۛۛۛۛۛۛۛۛۛ

Sequences of numerals are written left to right. A comma is inserted into longer sequences, either after thousands, millions, etc., according to the British system. (Barker and Mengal 1969: 48)

Notes

1. Occasionally, sequences of **z** or **s** plus **h** may be encountered, i.e. **z·h**, **s·h**. These are romanized with the Unicode 'center dot' (U+00B7) separating the two letters, to distinguish them from the digraphs 'zh' and 'sh'.
2. The letter *tā marbūta* ة is found very rarely in Baluchi, principally in certain Arabic religious terms, e.g. زَكَاة **zakaṭ** ('alms'). It should be romanized **t**.
3. When the letters ال are found, representing the Arabic definite article, the ل is assimilated to a following 'sun letter' ت, ث, د, ذ, ر, ز, س, ش, ص, ض, ط, ظ, ل, or ن and is romanized **t, ṣ, d, z, r, ḏ, s, sh, ṣ, z, ṭ, ḏ, l, n** accordingly.
4. In romanization, the suffixes ء (**ā**, singular definite) and ء (**ay**, possessive) are connected to the previous word, though they are often written separately in Baluchi orthography.
5. The word for 'and', written as و or ء, should be romanized as **-u-**, linked by hyphens to the two words it connects; e.g., سند و ٲند → **Sind-u-Hind** ('The Gangetic Plain').
6. Except as specified in notes 4 and 5, word division in romanization should follow word division in the Baluchi script.