

## ROMANIZATION OF KABARDIAN

### BGN/PCGN 2011 System

The BGN/PCGN system for Kabardian is designed for use in romanizing names written in the Kabardian Cyrillic alphabet. Kabardian, of the north-western Caucasian language family, is principally spoken in Russia's republics of Kabardino-Balkariya and Karachayev-Cherkesiya and has been written in a modified Cyrillic script since 1936. Also known as East Circassian<sup>1</sup>, Kabardian is, as other languages of this family, notable for its rich density of consonant phonemes (most commentators agree on an inventory of 47 or 48) and corresponding paucity of vowels. Given the language's phonological complexity, Kabardian letters have been addressed in the romanizations below as per their articulation, rather than necessarily reflecting their orthography or the BGN/PCGN romanization of Russian Cyrillic: specifically glottalised consonants have been marked with an apostrophe, and labialized consonants with /w/.

	Kabardian				Romanization		Kabardian				Romanization
1	А	а	А	а	a	17	И	и	И	и	i
2	Э	э	Э	э	ä	18	Й	й	Й	й	y
3	Б	б	Б	б	b	19	К	к	К	к	k
4	В	в	В	в	v	20	Ку	ку	Ку	ку	kw
5	Г	г	Г	г	g	21	КІ	кІ	КІ	кІ	k'
6	Гу	гу	Гу	гу	gw	22	КІу	кІу	КІу	кІу	kw'
7	Гъ	гъ	Гъ	гъ	gh	23	Къ	къ	Къ	къ	q'
8	Гъу	гъу	Гъу	гъу	ghw	24	Къу	къу	Къу	къу	qw'
9	Д	д	Д	д	d	25	Кхъ	къ	Кхъ	къ	q
10	Дж	дж	Дж	дж	j	26	Кхъу	къу	Кхъу	къу	qw
11	Дз	дз	Дз	дз	dz	27	Л	л	Л	л	l
12	Е	е	Е	е	e	28	Лъ	лъ	Лъ	лъ	lh
13	Ё	ё	Ё	ё	ë	29	ЛІ	лІ	ЛІ	лІ	l'
14	Ж	ж	Ж	ж	zh	30	М	м	М	м	m
15	Жъ	жъ	Жъ	жъ	ž	31	Н	н	Н	н	n
16	З	з	З	з	z	32	О	о	О	о	o

<sup>1</sup> West Circassian, or Adghe, is sufficiently different to be regarded a separate language. See also the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Adyghe.

	Kabardian				Romanization		Kabardian				Romanization
33	П	п	<i>П</i>	<i>n</i>	p	47	Ц	ц	<i>Ц</i>	<i>ц</i>	ts
34	Пи	пи	<i>Пи</i>	<i>nI</i>	p'	48	ЦИ	ци	<i>ЦИ</i>	<i>цI</i>	ts'
35	Р	р	<i>Р</i>	<i>p</i>	r	49	Ч	ч	<i>Ч</i>	<i>ч</i>	ch
36	С	с	<i>С</i>	<i>c</i>	s	50	Ш	ш	<i>Ш</i>	<i>ш</i>	sh
37	Т	т	<i>Т</i>	<i>m</i>	t	51	Цц	цц	<i>Цц</i>	<i>цц</i>	ś
38	ТИ	ти	<i>ТИ</i>	<i>mI</i>	t'	52	ЦИИ	ции	<i>ЦИИ</i>	<i>цI</i>	ś'
39	У	у	<i>У</i>	<i>y</i>	w, u <sup>1</sup>	53	Ъ	ъ	<i>Ъ</i>	<i>ъ</i>	'' <sup>2</sup>
40	Ф	ф	<i>Ф</i>	<i>φ</i>	f	54	Ы	ы	<i>Ы</i>	<i>ы</i>	y <sup>2</sup>
41	ФИ	фи	<i>ФИ</i>	<i>φI</i>	f'	55	Ь	ь	<i>Ь</i>	<i>ь</i>	' <sup>2</sup>
42	Х	х	<i>Х</i>	<i>x</i>	kh	56	Ю	ю	<i>Ю</i>	<i>ю</i>	yu
43	Ху	ху	<i>Ху</i>	<i>ху</i>	khw	57	Я	я	<i>Я</i>	<i>я</i>	ya
44	Хь	хь	<i>Хь</i>	<i>хь</i>	ħ	58	І	і	<i>І</i>	<i>і</i>	'
45	Хъ	хъ	<i>Хъ</i>	<i>хъ</i>	x	59	Іу	іу	<i>Іу</i>	<i>іу</i>	'w
46	Хъу	хъу	<i>Хъу</i>	<i>хъу</i>	xw						

## NOTES

1. У should be romanized as /w/ or /u/ according to context: /w/ should be used word-initially, and /u/ used elsewhere, except as in combinations occurring elsewhere in the table above.
2. The characters Ё, Ъ, Ы & Ь (except as they occur in character combinations addressed elsewhere in the table) appear only in Russian loan words, and are thus romanized in the same style as in the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Russian.
3. An inventory of letter-diacritic combinations, with their Unicode encoding, in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script is:

All apostrophes appearing in romanization are U+2019

Ä (U+00C4)	Ž (U+0179)	Š (U+015A)
ä (U+00E4)	ž (U+017A)	š (U+015B)
Ë (U+00CB)	Ĥ (U+0048+0031)	
ë (U+00EB)	ĥ (U+0068+0031)	

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