

# **Yemen**

**Continent:** Asia

**Languages Spoken:** Arabic

**Population:** 33,000,000

**Currency:** Yemeni Rial (YER)

**Area:** 527,968

## **Main Landmarks:**

- {'name': "Old City of Sana'a", 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site known for its unique architectural style with multi-story buildings decorated with geometric patterns.'}
- {'name': 'Shibam', 'writeup': "Often called the 'Manhattan of the Desert,' this ancient city features mudbrick high-rise buildings dating back to the 16th century."}
- {'name': 'Socotra Island', 'writeup': 'Famous for its unique biodiversity and alien-like dragon blood trees, Socotra is a UNESCO biosphere reserve.'}
- {'name': 'Al-Mahwit', 'writeup': 'A mountainous region known for its terraced agriculture and traditional villages.'}
- {'name': 'Dar al-Hajar', 'writeup': 'A rock palace built on a large rock spire, it was a summer residence for the Yemeni Imam.'}

## **Head of State / Government:**

Rashad al-Alimi (Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council as of 2024)

## **Main Cultural Events:**

- {'name': 'Eid al-Fitr', 'writeup': 'A major Islamic festival marking the end of Ramadan, celebrated with prayers, feasts, and social gatherings.'}
- {'name': 'Eid al-Adha', 'writeup': 'An important Islamic festival commemorating the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son, involving prayers and animal sacrifices.'}
- {'name': 'Mawlid al-Nabi', 'writeup': "The celebration of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday, observed with religious lectures and communal meals."}
- {'name': 'Al-Mahra Festival', 'writeup': 'A cultural festival showcasing traditional music, dance, and poetry from the Al-Mahra region.'}

## **Food & Cuisine:**

Yemeni cuisine features staple dishes like saltah (a meat stew with fenugreek), fahsa, and mandi (spiced rice with meat). Bread such as khubz and a variety of spices are integral to Yemeni meals.

## **Brief History:**

Yemen has a rich history dating back to ancient kingdoms like Saba and Himyar. It was later part of the Islamic Caliphates, Ottoman Empire, and British protectorates. Modern Yemen was unified in 1990, but has faced ongoing conflict since 2014.

## **Important People:**

- Ali Abdullah Saleh - Former President of Yemen

- Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi - Former President
- Rashad al-Alimi - Current Chairman of the Presidential Leadership Council
- Queen Arwa al-Sulayhi - Influential medieval Yemeni queen
- Ahmed al-Ghashmi - Former President

#### **Current Conflicts:**

Yemen is experiencing a complex civil war involving the Houthi movement, the internationally recognized government, southern separatists, and various militant groups, leading to a severe humanitarian crisis.

#### **Youtube Links:**

- Yemen: A Country in Crisis - BBC News
- Exploring the Ancient City of Sana'a, Yemen
- The Unique Biodiversity of Socotra Island, Yemen
- Yemeni Cuisine: Traditional Dishes and Flavors
- Understanding the Yemen Conflict - Al Jazeera Documentary