

## YEMEN

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax):++967**

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**Capital:** Sana'a **Time:** GMT + 3

**Background:** North Yemen became independent of the Ottoman Empire in 1918. The British, who had set up a protectorate area around the southern port of Aden in the 19th century, withdrew in 1967 from what became South Yemen. Three years later, the southern government adopted a Marxist orientation. The massive exodus of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis from the south to the north contributed to two decades of hostility between the states. The two countries were formally unified as the Republic of Yemen in 1990. A southern secessionist movement in 1994 was quickly subdued.

**Location:** Middle East, bordering the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Red Sea, between Oman and Saudi Arabia

**Map References:** Middle East

**Area:** total: 527,970 sq km, land: 527,970 sq km, water: 0 sq km, note: includes Perim, Socotra, the former Yemen Arab Republic (YAR or North Yemen), and the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY or South Yemen)

**Climate:** mostly desert; hot and humid along west coast; temperate in western mountains affected by seasonal monsoon; extraordinarily hot, dry, harsh desert in east

**Terrain:** narrow coastal plain backed by flat-topped hills and rugged mountains; dissected upland desert plains in center slope into the desert interior of the Arabian Peninsula

**Natural Resources:** petroleum, fish, rock salt, marble, small deposits of coal, gold, lead, nickel, and copper, fertile soil in west

**Population:** 17,479,206 (July 2000 est.)

**Nationality:** noun: Yemeni(s), adjective: Yemeni

**Ethnic Groups:** predominantly Arab; but also Afro-Arab, South Asians, Europeans

**Religions:** Muslim including Shafi'i (Sunni) and Zaydi (Shi'a), small numbers of Jewish, Christian, and Hindu

**Languages:** Arabic

**Economy:** Yemen, one of the poorest countries in the Arab world, reported strong growth in the mid-1990s with the onset of oil production, but was harmed by low oil prices in 1998. Yemen has embarked on an IMF-supported structural adjustment program designed to modernize and streamline the economy, which has led to foreign debt relief and restructuring. Aided by higher oil prices in 1999, Yemen worked to maintain tight control over spending and implement additional components of the IMF program. The high population growth rate of 3.4% and internal political dissension complicate the government's task.

**Industries:** crude oil production and petroleum refining; small-scale production of cotton textiles and leather goods; food processing; handicrafts; small aluminum products factory; cement

**Currency:** Yemeni rial (YER) = 100 fils

**Railways:** 0 km

**Highways:** total: 67,000 km, paved: 7,700 km, unpaved: 59,300 km (1996 est.)

**Ports and Harbors:** Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Mukalla, As Salif, Mocha, Nishtun est.)

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**Airports:** 50 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 13, over 3,047 m: 2, 2,438 to 3,047 m: 8, 1,524 to 2,437 m: 1, 914 to 1,523 m: 1, under 914 m: 1 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 37, over 3,047 m: 2, 2,438 to 3,047 m: 9, 1,524 to 2,437 m: 8, 914 to 1,523 m: 13, under 914 m: 5 (1999 est.)

**Visa:** required by all except the following nationals of: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Syria.

**Duty Free:** 600 cigarettes or 60 cigars or 500g of tobacco; 2 bottles of alcoholic beverages (non-Muslims only); 1 bottle of perfume or eau de toilette; gifts up to a value of YR100,000; gold ornaments (women only) weighing up to 350 grams.

**Health:** a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers arriving from infected areas. Malaria risk exists all year throughout the country. Where mains water is chlorinated it may cause mild abdominal upsets.

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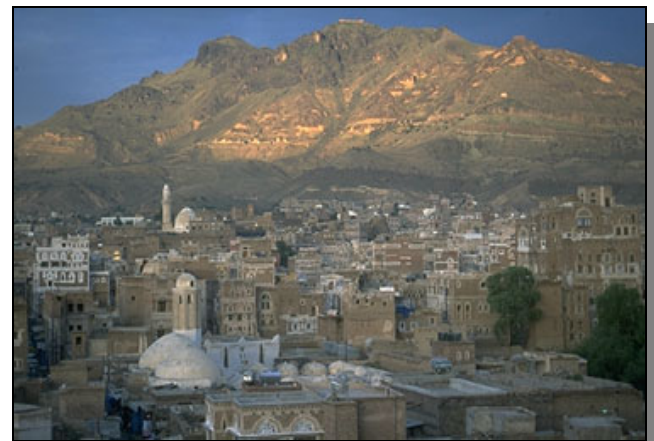
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