

# Malayalam Romanization Table

1997 version

Malayalam

## Malayalam

### Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 1)

അ	a	ഓ	ō
ആ	ā	ഐ	ī
ഊ	ā̄ (see Note 2)	ഈ	e
ഇ	i	ഊ	ē
ഈ	ī	ഈ	ai
ഉ	u	ഊ	o
ഊ	ū	ഊ	ō
ഋ	ṛ	ഊ	au

### Consonants (see Note 3)

#### Gutturals

ക	ka
ഖ	kha
ഗ	ga
ഘ	gha
ങ	ṅa

#### Palatals

ച	ca
ഛ	cha
ജ	ja
ഝ	jha
ഞ	ṅa

#### Cerebrals

ട	ṭa
ഠ	ṭha
ഡ	ḍa
ഢ	ḍha
ണ	ṇa

#### Dentals

ത	ta
ഥ	tha
ദ	da
ധ	dha
ന	na

#### Labials

പ	pa
ഫ	pha
ബ	ba
ഭ	bha
മ	ma

#### Semivowels

യ	ya
ര	ra
റ	ṛa
ഠ	ṭa (see Note 4)
ല	la
ള	ḷa
ഴ	ḷa
വ	va

#### Sibilants

ശ	śa
ഷ	ṣa
സ	sa

#### Aspirate

ഹ	ha
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Anusvāra  
(see Note 5)

◌̣      ṁ

Visarga

◌̣      ḥ

Avagraha

◌̣      ’  
(apostrophe)

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### Notes

1. Only the vowel forms that appear at the beginning of a syllable are listed; the forms used for vowels following a consonant can be found in grammars; no distinction between the two is made in transliteration.
2. When **u** is used in combination with the vowel **u** (ൗ), the combination is also transliterated by **â**.
3. The vowel **a** is implicit after all consonants and consonant clusters and is supplied in transliteration, with the following exceptions:
  - (a) when another vowel is indicated by its appropriate sign;
  - (b) when the absence of any vowel is indicated by the superscript sign **ᵃ** (also used for the vowel **â**); and
  - (c) when the following modified consonantal forms are used:

ക	k	ന	n	ല	l	ര	r
ങ	ṅ	ത	t	ഞ	ḷ		

4. When **ᵃ** appears as a subscript in a cluster, it is transliterated **ṭa**.
5. Exception: *Anusvāra* is transliterated by:
  - ṅ** before **gutturals**,
  - ṇ** before **palatals**,
  - ṣ** before **cerebrals**,
  - n** before **dentals**, and
  - m** before **labials**.

### CHARACTER MODIFIERS IN ROMANIZATION

<i>Character modifiers</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>USMARC hexadecimal code</i>
á	acute	E2
ñ	tilde	E4
ā	macron	E5
ȳ	dot above	E7
ȳ	dot below	F2
̣	underscore	F6