

Yemen



Full name: Republic of Yemen

Government: republic

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

Capital: Sanaa

Area: 536,869 sq km (207,286 sq miles); slightly larger than twice the size of Wyoming

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 Hazards: sandstorms and dust storms in summer

Population: 21.5 million (UN, 2005)

Ethnicity: predominantly Arab; but also Afro-Arab, South Asians, Europeans

Major Language: Arabic

Religion: Muslim including Shaf'i (Sunni) and Zaydi (Shi'a), small numbers of Jewish, Christian, and Hindu

Life expectancy: 59 years (men), 62 years (women) (UN)

Currency: 1 Yemeni rial = 100 fils