

YEMEN

Yemen officially known as the Republic of Yemen is an Arab country in Southwest Asia, occupying the southwestern to southern end of the Arabian Peninsula. Yemen is the second largest country in the peninsula. The coastline stretches for about 2,000 km. It is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the north, the Red Sea to the west, the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea to the south, and Oman to the east. Although Yemen's constitutionally stated capital is the city of Sana'a, the city has been under rebel control since February, 2015. Because of this Yemen's capital has been temporarily relocated to the port city of Aden, on the southern coast. Yemen's territory includes more than 200 islands; the largest of these is Socotra.

Yemen was home of the Sabaeans (biblical Sheba), a trading state that flourished for over a thousand years and probably also included parts of modern day Ethiopia and Eritrea. Islam spread quickly in the 7th century and Yemenite troops were crucial in the expansion of the early Islamic conquests.

Yemen is a developing country. Under the rule of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen was described as a kleptocracy.

Yemen is a culturally rich country with influence from many civilizations, such as the early civilization of Sheba. Among Yemen's natural and cultural attractions are four World Heritage sites.

The Old Walled City of Shibam in Wadi Hadhramaut, inscribed by UNESCO IN 1982, TWO YEARS AFTER Yemen joined the World Heritage Committee, is nicknamed "Manhattan of the Desert" because of its "skyscrapers". Surrounded by a fortified wall made of mud and straw, the 16th century city is one of the oldest examples of urban planning based on the principle of vertical construction.

The ancient Old city of Sana'a, at an altitude of more than 2,100 metres, Sana'a became a major Islamic centre in the 7th century, and the 103 mosques, 14 hammams (traditional bath houses), and more than 6,000 houses that survive all date from before the 11th century.

All of you should try to pay a visit to this beautiful country, Yemen and enjoy the beauty of the country.