

Language

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Arabic is the official language of Libya and the government has decreed that all street and business signs and radio programmes must be in Arabic. Generally, the Arabic spoken in the east of the country leans more towards that spoken in Egypt, while to the west it's closer to the Tunisian variety. All publications and signs are written in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), which is the common written form in all Arabic-speaking countries. Unusually, however, both Western and Arabic numbers are used almost universally in Libya (for example for road distances).

Although Libya has its own distinct culture, hundreds of thousands of Egyptians and Tunisians live and work there, and their presence has served to lessen the differences between the dialects. The dominance of the Egyptian film and music industries as the entertainment of choice among many Libyans has also worked to minimise the differences. There are nonetheless some subtle differences in pronunciation that are worth noting, though they're unlikely to impact upon beginners. These include a tendency towards more guttural pronunciations, especially in Cyrenaica, and some of the long vowel sounds are discernibly shorter than in other

dialects. The content we provide here has been specifically tailored to suit the Libyan dialect, so you should encounter few problems – and with the popularity of group tourism, an interpreter is never likely to be too far away if you do get stuck.

If you take the time to learn even a little of the language, you'll discover and experience much more while travelling through the country. For a more comprehensive guide to the major regional varieties of Arabic, get hold of Lonely Planet's *Middle East Phrasebook*.

TRANSLITERATION

Converting what for most outsiders is just a bunch of squiggles into meaningful words (ie those written using the Roman alphabet) is a tricky business – in fact, no really satisfactory system of transliteration has been established, and probably never will be. For this book, an attempt has been made to standardise some spellings of place names and the like.

There is only one article in Arabic: *al* (the). It's also sometimes written as 'il' or 'el', occasionally contracted to 'l' and sometimes modifies to reflect the first consonant of the following noun, eg in Saladin's name, Salah ad-Din (righteousness of the faith), the 'al' has been modified to 'ad' before the 'd' of 'Din'.

The whole business of transliteration is fraught with pitfalls, and the reality is that it simply isn't possible to devise a truly 'correct' system. The locals themselves can only guess at how to make the conversion – and the result is often amusing. Don't be taken aback if you start noticing half a dozen different spellings for the same thing.

For some reason, the letters **q** and **k** have caused major problems, and have been interchanged willy-nilly in transliteration. For a long time, Iraq (which in Arabic is spelled with what can only be described in English using its nearest-sounding equivalent: 'q') was written, even by scholars, as 'Irak'. Other examples of an Arabic **q** receiving such treatment are *souq* (market), often written 'souk', and *qasr* (literally castle, but actually fortified granaries), sometimes written 'kasr'. It's a bit

THE STANDARD ARABIC ALPHABET

Final	Medial	Initial	Alone	Transliteration	Pronunciation
ا			ا	aa	as in 'father'/as the long 'a' sound in 'air'
ب	ب	ب	ب	b	as in 'bet'
ت	ت	ت	ت	t	as in 'ten'
ث	ث	ث	ث	th	as in 'thin'
ج	ج	ج	ج	j	as in 'jet'
ح	ح	ح	ح	H	a strongly whispered 'h', like a sigh of relief
خ	خ	خ	خ	kh	as the 'ch' in Scottish <i>loch</i>
د	د	د	د	d	as in 'dim'
ذ	ذ	ذ	ذ	dh	as the 'th' in 'this'; also as d or z
ر	ر	ر	ر	r	a rolled 'r', as in the Spanish word <i>caro</i>
ز	ز	ز	ز	z	as in 'zip'
س	س	س	س	s	as in 'so', never as in 'wisdom'
ش	ش	ش	ش	sh	as in 'ship'
ص	ص	ص	ص		emphatic 's' (see below)
ض	ض	ض	ض		emphatic 'd' (see below)
ط	ط	ط	ط		emphatic 't' (see below)
ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ		emphatic 'dh' (see below)
ع	ع	ع	ع	,	the Arabic letter 'ayn'; pronounce as a glottal stop – like the closing of the throat before saying 'Oh-oh!' (see Other Sounds on p252)
غ	غ	غ	غ	gh	a guttural sound like Parisian 'r'
ف	ف	ف	ف	f	as in 'far'
ق	ق	ق	ق	q	a strongly guttural 'k' sound; also often pronounced as a glottal stop
ك	ك	ك	ك	k	as in 'king'
ل	ل	ل	ل	l	as in 'lamb'
م	م	م	م	m	as in 'me'
ن	ن	ن	ن	n	as in 'name'
ه	ه	ه	ه	h	as in 'ham'
و			و	w	as in 'wet'; or
				oo	long, as in 'food'; or
				ow	as in 'how'
ي	ي	ي	ي	y	as in 'yes'; or
				ee	as in 'beer', only softer; or
				ai/ay	as in 'aisle'/as the 'ay' in 'day'

Vowels Not all Arabic vowel sounds are represented in the alphabet. For more information on the vowel sounds used in this language guide, see Pronunciation on p252.

Emphatic Consonants To simplify the transliteration system used in this book, the emphatic consonants have not been differentiated from their non-emphatic counterparts.

like spelling English 'as she is spoke'; imagine the results if Australians, Americans, Scots and Londoners were all given free rein to write English the way they pronounce it!

PRONUNCIATION

Vowels

a	as in 'had' (sometimes very short)
aa	like the 'a' in 'father'
e	as in 'bet' (sometimes very short)
ee	as in 'beer', only softer
i	as in 'hit'
o	as in 'hot'
oo	as in 'food'
u	as in 'put'

Diphthongs

ow	as in 'how'
ai	as in 'aisle'
ay	as in 'day'

Consonants

Pronunciation of Arabic consonants is covered in the alphabet table (p251). Note that when double consonants occur in transliterations, each consonant is pronounced. For example, *il-Hammaam*, (bathroom), is pronounced 'il-ham-maam'.

Other Sounds

Arabic has two sounds that are very tricky for non-Arabs to produce, the 'ayn and the glottal stop. The letter 'ayn represents a sound with no English equivalent that comes even close - it is similar to the glottal stop (which is not actually represented in the alphabet) but the muscles at the back of the throat are gagged more forcefully and air is allowed to escape, creating a sound that has been described as reminiscent of someone being strangled! In many transliteration systems 'ayn is represented by an opening quotation mark, and the glottal stop by a closing quotation mark. To make the transliterations in this language guide (and throughout the rest of the book) easier to use, we have not distinguished between the glottal stop and the 'ayn, using the closing quotation mark to represent both sounds. You'll find that Arab speakers will still understand you.

ACCOMMODATION

I'm looking for a ...	<i>inlowij 'ala ...</i>
hotel	<i>fundug</i>
youth hostel	<i>daar ash-shabaab</i>

Where can I find a cheap hotel?	<i>wayn fundug rakhees?</i>
What is the address?	<i>shinnee l-'unwaan?</i>
Could you write the address, please?	<i>mumkin tiktib lee l-'unwaan</i>
Do you have rooms available?	<i>'andkum ghiraaf faarigha?</i>

I'd like (a) ...	<i>inHebb ...</i>
I'd like to book (a) ...	<i>inHebb naHjiz ...</i>
bed	<i>sareer</i>
single room	<i>ghurfa li waaHid</i>
double room	<i>ghurfa li shakhsayn</i>
room with two beds	<i>ghurfa ma' sareerayn</i>
room with a bathroom	<i>ghurfa ma' ham-maam</i>
room with a fan	<i>ghurfa ma' mirwaha</i>

in the name of ...	<i>bi 'ism ...</i>
date	<i>taareekh</i>
from (date) to (date)	<i>min yowm (...) li yowm (...)</i>
credit card ...	<i>karta ...</i>
number	<i>ragum</i>
expiry date	<i>taareekh al-'intihaa</i>

How much is it ...?	<i>bi-gaddaash ...?</i>
per night	<i>bi gaddaash kul layla</i>
per person	<i>lil waaHid</i>

Do you have any cheaper rooms?	<i>'andkum ghiraaf arkhas?</i>
May I see it?	<i>mumkin inshoofoo?</i>
Where is the bathroom?	<i>wayn il-ham-maam?</i>
I'm/We're leaving today.	<i>(ana nimshi/aHna nimsheeo)/nimsheeyowm.</i>

CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

Hello.	<i>ahlan</i>
(response)	<i>ahlan beek</i>
Hello/Welcome.	<i>marHaba beek (to one person)</i>
	<i>marHaba beekum (to a group)</i>
	<i>oo beek/beekum</i>
Good morning.	<i>sbaaH al-kheer</i>
(response)	<i>sbaaH an-noor</i>
Good evening.	<i>masa' l-khayr</i>
(response)	<i>masa' an-noor</i>
Good night.	<i>tisbaH 'ala khayr</i>
(response)	<i>tisbaH 'ala khayr</i>
Goodbye.	<i>ma' salaama</i>
Yes.	<i>ayy (or na'am - more formal)</i>
No.	<i>la</i>
Excuse me.	<i>saamaHnee (to one person)</i>
	<i>saamHoonee (to group)</i>

Please.

birabbi (used when asking for something in a shop)
tfaddel/ftaddloo (to man/group; used when offering something or inviting someone)
itfaddel/itfaddloo (to man/group; similar, or can mean 'Please, go ahead and do something')

Thank you.	<i>barkalla oo feek (response)</i>
That's fine/You're welcome.	<i>min ghayr muziyya</i>

Sorry. (ie forgive me)	<i>mitaasif/a (m/f)</i>
What's your name?	<i>shismek?</i>
My name is ...	<i>ismee ...</i>
Pleased to meet you.	<i>nitsharrafoo (pol)</i>
How are you?	<i>shinnee Haalek? (to one person)</i>
	<i>shinnee Haalkum? (to a group)</i>

I'm fine.	<i>ilHamdu lillah</i>
Where are you from?	<i>minayn inti?</i>
I'm from ...	<i>ana min ...</i>
I like/don't like ...	<i>ana inHebb/manHebbish</i>
Just a minute.	<i>dageega waaHida</i>

DIRECTIONS

Where is ...?	<i>wayn ...?</i>
Go straight ahead.	<i>tool</i>
Turn left.	<i>door al-lisaar</i>
Turn right.	<i>door al- limeen</i>
at the (next) corner at the traffic lights behind	<i>fi iz-zaaweeya (il-gaadima)</i>
in front of far (from)	<i>fi simaafaaroo</i>
near (to) opposite	<i>wara</i>
here	<i>guddaam</i>
there	<i>ba'eed ('ala)</i>
this address	<i>greeb (min)</i>
north	<i>moogaabil</i>
south	<i>hinna</i>
east	<i>ghaadee</i>
west	<i>haadha l-'unwaan</i>
	<i>shamaal</i>
	<i>janoob</i>
	<i>sharg</i>
	<i>gharb</i>

beach	<i>il-bHar</i>
bridge	<i>il-gantara</i>
castle	<i>il-gala'</i>
main square	<i>is-saaHa l-kabeera</i>
mosque	<i>il-jaami'</i>
museum	<i>il-matHaf</i>
old city	<i>il-madeena</i>
palace	<i>il-gasr</i>
ruins	<i>il-athaar</i>
sea	<i>il-baHr</i>
square	<i>is-saaHa</i>
street	<i>ish-shaara'</i>
village	<i>al-qarya</i>

EMERGENCIES

Help!	<i>saa'adnee!</i>
There's been an accident.	<i>kaan haaditha</i>
I'm lost.	<i>ana dhaayi'/dhaay'a</i>
Go away!	<i>khalleenee raayidh/a!</i>
Call a doctor!	<i>jeeboolee it-tabeeb!</i>
Call the police!	<i>jeeboolee ish-shurta!</i>
I've been robbed.	<i>sargoolee</i>
Where are the toilets?	<i>wayn il-mirhaad?</i>

HEALTH

I'm ill.	<i>ana mreedh/a (m/f)</i>
My friend is ill.	<i>sadeegee mreedh/sadeegatee mreedha (m/f)</i>
It hurts here.	<i>yuwja'ni hinna</i>

I'm ...	<i>ana mreedh/a bi ... (m/f)</i>
asthmatic	<i>ir-raboo</i>
diabetic	<i>is-sukkar</i>
epileptic	<i>l-epilepsee</i>

I'm allergic ...	<i>'andee Hasaseeya ...</i>
to antibiotics	<i>min antiotiik</i>
to aspirin	<i>min asbireen</i>
to bees	<i>min naHl</i>
to nuts	<i>min looz</i>
to peanuts	<i>min fool soodaanee</i>
to penicillin	<i>min penisileen</i>

I have ...	<i>'andee ...</i>
diarrhoea	<i>ishaal</i>
fever	<i>humaa</i>
headache	<i>wjee'ti il-raas</i>

antiseptic	<i>kreem mootahhar</i>
aspirin	<i>asbireen</i>
condoms	<i>preservateef</i>
contraceptive	<i>wasaa'il mana' il Haml</i>
hospital	<i>mustashfa</i>
medicine	<i>dwaah</i>
pharmacy	<i>saydaliyya</i>
pregnant	<i>Haamila</i>
prescription	<i>wargit at-tabeeb</i>
sanitary napkins	<i>foota saHeeya</i>
stomachache	<i>wjee'ti il-maada</i>
sunblock cream	<i>kreema did ish-shams</i>
tampons	<i>tamponay</i>

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

Do you speak English?	<i>titkallim ingleeziyya?</i>
Does anyone here speak English?	<i>skhoon yitkallim bi l-ingleeziyya?</i>

How do you say ... in Libyan Arabic?	<i>kifaash tagool ... bi lahja leebeeya?</i>
What does ... mean?	<i>aash ta'nee ...</i>
I understand.	<i>nifnim</i>
I don't understand.	<i>ma nifhimsh</i>
Please write it down.	<i>mumkin tiktibhaalee</i>
Can you show me (on the map)?	<i>mumkin twareenee (fi l- khareeta)?</i>

NUMBERS

Arabic numerals are simple to learn and, unlike the written language, run from left to right. Pay attention to the order of the words in numbers from 21 to 99. When followed by a noun, the pronunciation of *meeya* changes to *meet* for the numbers 100 and 300–900, and the noun is always used in its singular form.

0	<i>sifr</i>	٠
1	<i>waahid</i>	١
2	<i>ithneen</i>	٢
3	<i>thalaatha</i>	٣
4	<i>arb'a</i>	٤
5	<i>khamasa</i>	٥
6	<i>sitta</i>	٦
7	<i>sab'a</i>	٧
8	<i>thamaanya</i>	٨
9	<i>tis'a</i>	٩
10	<i>'ashra</i>	١٠
11	<i>Hadaasher</i>	١١
12	<i>ithnaasher</i>	١٢
13	<i>thlattaasher</i>	١٣
14	<i>arba'taasher</i>	١٤
15	<i>khamastaasher</i>	١٥
16	<i>sittaasher</i>	١٦
17	<i>saba'taasher</i>	١٧
18	<i>thamantash</i>	١٨
19	<i>tisa'tash</i>	١٩
20	<i>'ashreen</i>	٢٠
21	<i>waahid oo 'ashreen</i>	٢١
22	<i>ithnayn oo 'ashreen</i>	٢٢
30	<i>thalatheen</i>	٣٠
40	<i>arba'een</i>	٤٠
50	<i>khamseen</i>	٥٠
60	<i>sitteen</i>	٦٠
70	<i>sab'een</i>	٧٠
80	<i>thamaneen</i>	٨٠
90	<i>tis'een</i>	٩٠
100	<i>meeya (meet before a noun)</i>	١٠٠
200	<i>meeyatayn</i>	٢٠٠
1000	<i>alf</i>	١٠٠٠
2000	<i>alfayn</i>	٢٠٠٠

PAPERWORK

name	<i>ism</i>
nationality	<i>jinsiyaa</i>
date/place of birth	<i>tareekh/maHal il-milâd</i>
sex (gender)	<i>jins</i>
passport	<i>jawaaz is-safar</i>
visa	<i>tasheera</i>

QUESTION WORDS

Who?	<i>shkoon?</i>
What?	<i>shinnee/aash?</i>
When?	<i>wagtaash?</i>
Where?	<i>wayn?</i>
How?	<i>keefaash?</i>
Which?	<i>aama?</i>
How many?	<i>gaddaash min?</i>

SHOPPING & SERVICES

I'd like to buy ...	<i>inHebb nishree ...</i>
How much is it?	<i>bi-gaddaash haadha?</i>
I don't like it.	<i>ma y'ajibneesh</i>
May I look at it?	<i>mumkin inshoofu?</i>
I'm just looking.	<i>qa'ad inshoof bass</i>
It's cheap.	<i>hiyya rakheesa</i>
It's too expensive.	<i>ghaalee shwayya</i>
No more than ...	<i>mush akthaar min ...</i>
I'll take it.	<i>nishreeha</i>

Can you give me ...?	<i>tagder t'amelee ...?</i>
a discount	<i>takhfeedh</i>
a good price	<i>soom behee</i>

Do you accept ...?	<i>taakhudh ...?</i>
credit cards	<i>karta</i>
traveller cheques	<i>sheekaata siyaHiyya</i>

more	<i>akthir</i>
less	<i>agall</i>
smaller	<i>asghar</i>
bigger	<i>akbar</i>

I'm looking for ...	<i>inlowij 'ala ...</i>
a bank	<i>bank</i>
the bazaar/market	<i>is-soog</i>
the city centre	<i>wist il-blaad</i>
the (...) embassy	<i>as-sifaara (...)</i>
an internet café	<i>internet café (as in English)</i>
the post office	<i>il-maktab bareed</i>
the telephone centre	<i>telfoon 'umoomee</i>
the tourist office	<i>maktab is-siyaaHa</i>

I want to change ...	<i>inHebb nijbid ...</i>
money	<i>floos</i>
travellers cheques	<i>sheekaata siyaHiyya</i>

TIME & DATES

What time is it?	<i>gaddaash il-wagt?</i>
It's (8 o'clock).	<i>tawwa (ith-thamaanya)</i>
in the morning	<i>fi s-sbaaH</i>
in the afternoon	<i>fi l-'ashaya</i>
in the evening	<i>fi l-layl</i>
today	<i>il-yowm</i>
tomorrow	<i>ghudwa</i>
yesterday	<i>ilbaaraH</i>
day	<i>yowm</i>
month	<i>sh-har</i>
week	<i>jim'a</i>
year	<i>snaa</i>
early	<i>bikree</i>
late	<i>makhkhir</i>
daily	<i>kull yowm</i>

Monday	<i>yowm il-ithnayn</i>
Tuesday	<i>yowm ith-thalaatha</i>
Wednesday	<i>yowm il-arba'</i>
Thursday	<i>yowm il-khamees</i>
Friday	<i>yowm ij-juma'</i>
Saturday	<i>yowm is-sibt</i>
Sunday	<i>yowm al-aHadd</i>

January	<i>yanaayer</i>
February	<i>febraayer</i>
March	<i>mars</i>
April	<i>abreel</i>
May	<i>maayoo</i>
June	<i>yooneeyoo</i>
July	<i>yooleeyoo</i>
August	<i>aghustus</i>
September	<i>sebtember</i>
October	<i>uktoober</i>
November	<i>noofember</i>
December	<i>deesamber</i>

TRANSPORT

Public Transport	
When does the ...	<i>wagtaash timshee/tuwsil ...?</i>
leave/arrive?	
boat	<i>il-flooka</i>
bus	<i>il-baas</i>
ferry	<i>il-ferry</i>
plane	<i>it-tayyaara</i>
train	<i>il-gitaar</i>
I'd like a ... ticket.	<i>inHebb tidhkira ...</i>
one-way	<i>maashee bass</i>
return	<i>maashi oo jayy</i>
1st-class	<i>daarija oola</i>
2nd-class	<i>daarija thaaneeya</i>

I want to go to ...	<i>inHebb nimshee ...</i>
What is the fare to ...?	<i>gaddaash it-tidhkira li ...?</i>
The train has been delayed.	<i>il-gitaar wakher</i>
The train has been cancelled.	<i>naHaaoo il-gitaar</i>
Which bus goes to ...?	<i>enayhee il-baas yimshee li ...?</i>
Does this bus go to ...?	<i>il-baas haadhee yimshee li ...?</i>
Please tell me when we arrive in ...	<i>birabbi gullee imta nuwsiloo fi ...</i>
Stop here, please. Wait!	<i>birabbi wagif hinaa istanna!</i>

the first	<i>il-awwil/oola (m/f)</i>
the last	<i>il-aakhir</i>
the next	<i>il-gaadim</i>
airport	<i>il-mataar</i>
bus station	<i>mHattat il-baas</i>
bus stop	<i>mHatta</i>
city	<i>il-madeena</i>
platform number	<i>ragum ir-raseef</i>
station	<i>il-maHatta</i>
ticket office	<i>il-geeshay</i>
timetable	<i>jadwal awgaat</i>
train station	<i>maHattat il-gitaar</i>

Private Transport

I'd like to hire a/an ...	<i>inHebb nikree ...</i>
car	<i>sayaara</i>
4WD	<i>sayaara feeha dabal</i>
motorbike	<i>mutoor</i>
bicycle	<i>bisklaat</i>
camel	<i>jimal</i>
donkey	<i>himmaar</i>
guide	<i>geed</i>
horse	<i>Hsaan</i>

Is this the road to ...? (How long) Can I park here?	<i>it-treeg haadha eehizz li ...? mumkin inwaggif sayaartee hinaa (Hatta wagtaash)?</i>
Where do I pay?	<i>wayn inkhallis?</i>
I need a mechanic.	<i>Haajti bi mekanisyan</i>
The car/motorbike has broken down (at ...)	<i>is-sayaara maksoora (fee...)</i>
The car/motorbike won't start.	<i>is-sayaara/mutoor matikhdimsh won't start.</i>
I have a flat tyre.	<i>'andee' ajla mafshoosha</i>
I've run out of petrol.	<i>oofaalee il-benzeena</i>
I've had an accident.	<i>'amelt haadith</i>
Where's a service station?	<i>wayn il-kiyos?</i>

Please fill it up.	<i>birabbi 'abbehaalee</i>
I'd like (30) litres.	<i>inHebb thalaatheen eetra</i>
diesel	<i>diyaysel</i>
leaded petrol	<i>benzeena normaal (regular)</i>
benzeena	<i>sooper (super)</i>
unleaded petrol	<i>benzeena senza ploma</i>

TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN

Is there a/an ...?

fee ...?

I need a/an ...

Haajti bi ...

car baby seat

kursi mtaa' baybiyaat li sayaara

child-minding service

kresh

children's menu

menyu mtaa' awlaad

(disposable) nappies/diapers

koosh

infant milk formula

Haleeb baybiyaat

(English-speaking) babysitter

babysitter (illi titkallim bi l-ingleeziyya)

highchair

kursi baybiyaat

potty

kasreeya

stroller

karoosa

Are children allowed? *tigbloo awlaad?*

Glossary

For culinary terms see p66.

acanthus – stylised leaf used in Greek and Roman decoration

agora – main public square or marketplace of ancient Greek cities

ain – well or spring

akerbai – loose-fitting Tuareg pants

akhle – haphazard network of sand dunes without discernible pattern

'alaam – traditional musical form

Al-Qubba – canopy for women in some Ghadames houses

An-Nahr Sinai – Great Man-Made River

apodyteria – changing rooms in Roman baths complex

aquifer – layers of rock holding underground water

ashaersh – Tuareg turban

bab – gate or door

baladiya – municipal or town hall

barchan – crescent-shaped sand dune

basilica – court or assembly building (Roman) or church (Byzantine)

bey – provincial governor or leader in the Ottoman Empire

buyut ash-shabaab – youth hostel

calidarium – hot room in Roman baths complex

caliph – Islamic ruler

Camel Period – period of Saharan rock art from 200 BC to the present

capital – decorated top part of a column

cardo – main road running north-south through a Roman city

cavea – seating area in a Roman theatre

cipolin – white marble with veins of green or grey

croix d'Agadez – Tuareg cross of stylised silver with filigree designs

cryptae – Roman promenade corridors

curia – senate house or municipal assembly in ancient Rome

cuzca – Tripolitanian dance

dammous – underground, troglodyte (Berber) houses

decumanus – main road running east-west through a Roman city

divan – court or council of senior officers who advised the *pasha* in Ottoman times

djinn – a genie in Muslim belief; a being that can assume human or animal form

emir – Islamic ruler, military commander or governor
exedra – semicircular recess, frequently used for games in Roman times

fakhar – pottery, also *gital*

foggara – underground channels leading to water

forica – latrines in ancient Rome

frigidarium – cold room in Roman baths complex

funduq – hotel

galabiyya – full-length loose-fitting robe worn by men
gheeta – clarinet-like musical instrument from north-western and southern Libya

ghibli – hot, dry wind of northern Libya

ghurfas – Berber fortified granaries, see also *qasr*

gital – pottery, also *fakhar*

ghelta – natural spring

haj – pilgrimage to Mecca; one of the five pillars of Islam

hamada – plateaus of rock scoured by wind erosion

hammam – bathhouse

haram – prayer hall in a mosque

harathin – ploughers and cultivators

Horse Period – period of Saharan rock art from 1000 BC to AD 1

idehan – vast area of shifting sand dunes known as sand seas; see also *ramlat*

ijtihad – individual interpretation of sacred texts and traditions

ikhwan – followers of the Grand Sanusi

imam – man schooled in Islamic law; religious leader of Muslim community

jamahiriya – 'state of the masses' in post-revolutionary Libya

jammour – crescent atop a minaret

janissaries – professional soldiers committed to life of military service who became rulers of Ottoman Libya

jawazzat – passport office

jebel – mountain range

al-kadus – literally, bottle; system of water regulation in Ghadames

khutba – sermon delivered by imam, especially at Friday noon prayers

kishk – dance from eastern Libya

laconica – sweat baths in a Roman baths complex

Lebdah – Arabic name for Leptis Magna

madrassa – school where the Quran and Islamic law are taught

maidan – square or large intersection

majruda – dance from eastern Libya

malouf – musical form that originated in Andalusia and now played in Tripolitania

maqbara – cemetery

ma'sered zeytoun – olive press

masraf – bank

mat'am – restaurant

mathaf – museum

miftah – key

mihrab – vaulted niche in wall of mosque indicating direction of Mecca

minbar – pulpit that stands beside the mihrab in a mosque

mriskaawi – musical form that's the basis for the lyrics of many Libyan songs

msak – Tuareg for mountain

muezzin – man who calls the faithful to prayer from the minaret

nay – flute-like musical instrument

nargileh – water pipe or sheesha for smoking

natatio – entrance hall to Roman baths complex

nymphaeum – building with fountains; dedicated to nymphs

osban – dish of sheep's internal organs

palaestra – exercise area or sporting ground in Roman times

pasha – Ottoman governor appointed by the sultan in Constantinople

Pastoral Period – period of Saharan rock art from 5500 BC to 2000 BC, also known as the Bovidian Period

Pentapolis – ancient federation of five cities (Tolmeita, Cyrene, Eusperides, Tocra and Apollonia) in Greek Libya

peristyle – colonnade or portico of columns surrounding building or courtyard

Punic – ancient Phoenician people in North Africa

qaryat as-siyahe – tourist village

qasr – literally, castle, palace; Berber fortified granary stores; see also *ghurfas*

Ramadan – ninth month of lunar Islamic calendar during which Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset

ramlat – sand sea; see also *idehan*

ras – headland

Riconquista – 1922 policy of reconquest of Libya by the Italians under Mussolini

Ar-Ridda – Islamic principle of confinement for women after husband's death

Round Head Period – period of Saharan rock art from 8000 BC to 6000 BC

saadi – dominant tribes with lineage from Bani Salim and living in Cyrenaica

sabkha – low-lying area of marshland or salt pans

sahn – courtyard of mosque

Sanusi Movement – organised Islamic opposition to Ottoman and Italian occupation

seif – Arabic for sword; also the name for sand dunes with long, sweeping ridges

sharia – street or road

sheikh – tribal chief; religious leader

souq – market or bazaar

Sufi – follower of Islamic mystical orders that emphasise dancing, chanting and trances in order to attain unity with God

suras – verses or chapters in the Quran

tagelmoust – Tuareg turban

Tamashek – Tuareg language

Tamazight – Berber language

tawle – backgammon

tende – a drum made of skin stretched over a mortar

tepidarium – warm room in a Roman baths complex

Tfinagh – letters of the Tuareg alphabet

Tripolis – literally Three Cities; referring to Leptis Magna, Oea and Sabratha in Roman Libya

wadi – a dry watercourse (except after rains)

Wild Fauna Period – period of Saharan rock art from 10,000 BC to 6000 BC

zawiya – religious college or monastery especially under the *Sanusi Movement*

Az-Zlabin – Tripolitanian dance performed at weddings

zakra – bagpipe-like musical instrument

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