

Malayalam

Vowels and Diphthongs (see Note 1)

അ	a	ഓ	ō
ആ	ā	ഐ	ī
ഓ	ā̇ (see Note 2)	എ	e
ഇ	i	ഈ	ē
ഈ	ī	ഐ	ai
ഉ	u	ഓ	o
ഊ	ū	ഔ	ō
ഋ	ṛ	ഔ	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
ററ	ṛṛa (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)

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 ^u (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 *an* appears as a subscript in a cluster, it is transliterated *ṭa*.
5. Exception: *Anusvāra* is transliterated by:
 - ṅ* before **gutturals**,
 - ṇ* before **palatals**,
 - ṇ* 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