

Kurdish Cities, Towns and Geographical Vocabulary

Bajar, Bajarok û Ferhenga Erdnîgariyê — Kurmanji-English reference

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This guide groups selected Kurdish-used place names across four cultural-geographical regions. English entries give commonly used international or present-day administrative names, not English translations of the original toponyms. Inclusion does not imply that every locality is exclusively Kurdish, nor that cultural regions have identical political status. Spellings and usage vary by dialect and source.

1. Kurdish-English geographical vocabulary

Kurmancî — Kurdish	English
Welat	Country
Paytext	Capital
Bajar	City
Bajarok	Town
Navçe	District
Gund	Village
Tax	Neighbourhood / quarter
Herêma	Region
Parêzgeha	Province / governorate
Şaredarî	Municipality
Sînor	Border
Navê cihê	Place name
Nexşe	Map
Erdnîgarî	Geography
Bakur	North
Başûr	South
Rojhilat	East
Rojava	West
Çiya	Mountain
Çem	River
Gelî	Valley
Deşt	Plain
Daristan	Forest
Zozan	Highland pasture
Gol	Lake

2. Four geographical regions

Kurmancî — Kurdish	English	Present-day state
Bakur / Bakurê Kurdistanê	Northern Kurdistan	Türkiye
Rojhilat / Rojhilatê Kurdistanê	Eastern Kurdistan	Iran
Başûr / Başûrê Kurdistanê	Southern Kurdistan	Iraq
Rojava / Rojavayê Kurdistanê	Western Kurdistan	Syria

These names are cultural-geographical labels, not interchangeable administrative jurisdictions. Administrative boundaries and city statuses vary among the four states.

3. Bakur — Northern Kurdistan (Türkiye) — 30 entries

Navê Kurdî — Kurdish name	English / common official name	Settlement type
Agirî	Ağrı	City
Amed	Diyarbakır	City
Bazîd	Doğubayazıt	Town / district centre
Bedlîs	Bitlis	City
Bismil	Bismil	Town / district centre
Cizîra Botan	Cizre	Town / district centre
Colemêrg	Hakkâri	City
Dêrsim	Tunceli	City / historical regional name
Dîlok	Gaziantep	City
Erxenî	Ergani	Town / district centre
Farqîn	Silvan	Town / district centre
Gever	Yüksekova	Town / district centre
Gimgim	Varto	Town / district centre
Hezex	İdil	Town / district centre
Kop	Bulanık	Town / district centre
Mêrdîn	Mardin	City
Mûş	Muş	City
Nisêbîn	Nusaybin	Town / district centre
Qers	Kars	City
Qoser	Kızıltepe	Town / district centre
Riha	Şanlıurfa	City
Sêrt	Siirt	City
Tetwan	Tatvan	Town / district centre

Navê Kurdî — Kurdish name	English / common official name	Settlement type
Wan	Van	City
Xarpêt	Elazığ / Harput	City / historic town
Xelfetî	Halfeti	Town / district centre
Xîzan	Hizan	Town / district centre
Çewlîg	Bingöl	City
Şemzînan	Şemdinli	Town / district centre
Şîrnex	Şırnak	City

4. Rojhilat — Eastern Kurdistan (Iran) — 22 entries

Navê Kurdî — Kurdish name	English / common official name	Settlement type
Bane	Baneh	City
Bokan	Bukan	City
Ciwanro	Javanrud	City
Dewre	Dehgolan	City
Hewraman	Hawraman / Uraman	Region / settlement
Kamiyaran	Kamyaran	City
Kirmaşan	Kermanshah	City
Mahîdeşt	Mahidasht	Town
Mehabad	Mahabad	City
Merîwan	Marivan	City
Nexede	Naqadeh	City
Pawe	Paveh	City
Pîranşar	Piranshahr	City
Qesra Şîrîn	Qasr-e Shirin	City
Qurve	Qorveh	City
Selmas	Salmas	City
Seqiz	Saqqez	City
Serdeşt	Sardasht	City
Sine	Sanandaj	City
Wirmê	Urmia	City
Îlam	Ilam	City
Şîno	Oshnavieh	City

5. Başûr — Southern Kurdistan (Iraq) — 21 entries

Navê Kurdî — Kurdish name	English / common official name	Settlement type
Akrê	Aqrah / Akre	Town / district centre
Amêdî	Amadiya	Town / district centre
Dihok	Duhok	City
Helebce	Halabja	City
Hewlêr	Erbil	City
Kelar	Kalar	City
Kerkûk	Kirkuk	City (disputed territory)
Kifrî	Kifri	Town / district centre
Koye	Koy Sanjaq	Town / district centre
Pirdê	Altun Kupri	Town
Pêncwên	Penjwen	Town / district centre
Ranye	Ranya	Town / district centre
Rewandiz	Rawanduz	Town / district centre
Seyîdsadiq	Said Sadiq	Town / district centre
Silêmanî	Sulaymaniyah	City
Soran	Soran	City
Xaneqîn	Khanaqin	City
Zaxo	Zakho	City
Çemçemal	Chamchamal	Town / district centre
Şingal	Sinjar	Town / district centre
Şêxan	Shekhan / Ain Sifni	District / town

6. Rojava — Western Kurdistan (Syria) — 13 entries

Navê Kurdî — Kurdish name	English / common official name	Settlement type
Amûdê	Amuda	Town
Dêrik	Al-Malikiyah	Town
Efrîn	Afrin	City
Girkê Legê	Al-Muabbada	Town
Hesekê	Al-Hasakah	City (multilingual / mixed population)
Kobanê	Ayn al-Arab / Kobani	City
Qamişlo	Qamishli	City

Navê Kurdî — Kurdish name	English / common official name	Settlement type
Reco	Rajo	Town
Rimêlan	Rmelan	Town
Serê Kaniyê	Ras al-Ayn	City
Til Temir	Tell Tamer	Town
Tirbespî	Al-Qahtaniyah	Town
Çilaxa	Al-Jawadiyah	Town

Editorial notes and sources

City, town and district-centre labels are descriptive approximations; some jurisdictions are municipalities, subdistricts or provincial centres depending on the state.

The Kurmanji forms are selected from regional usage and published lists. Sorani, Zazaki, Hawrami and other varieties may use different spellings; some places have more than one Kurdish form.

Some towns and cities have mixed populations, and cultural or historic Kurdish names are not statements about the ethnicity of every resident.

Primary comparison: NLKA, “Kurdish City Names of Kurdistan” (2023), <https://nlka.net/eng/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Kurdish-City-Names-of-Kurdistan.pdf>

Additional comparison: KNAB, Kurdish geographical names, https://arhiiv.eki.ee/knab/ex/ex_ku.htm ; Wahby & Edmonds place-name appendix, <https://lex.vejin.net/ck/text/wahby-edmonds/Appendix%20II>

Background: Haig & Öpengin (2018), Northern Kurdish (Kurmanjî), University of Bamberg; Kurdata open-source datasets, <https://www.kurdata.eu/>

This is a curated teaching list, not an exhaustive census of every Kurdish village, town or district. Corrections and region-specific spellings are welcome.