

Backgammon in Different Languages

Let's imagine you are in a holiday in some magical island with turquoise sea, golden sands, coconut trees and all. But after you get tired of swinging on the hammock and counting the stars and you feel like doing something more productive. Like playing backgammon for example.

The laptop is not on you, so you cannot play backgammon online like you use to and with all the sunscreens you forget to pack a backgammon board with you. You try to find out with that beautiful French girl if she happens to have one, but the word "backgammon" isn't familiar to her. Nor does it ring any bells to the group of Israeli fellows. God dam it, you must be cursing now, how many phrase books should you take for a holiday?

Now open your eyes and wipe up your forehead. After reading this exclusive and comprehensive guide to saying backgammon in different languages, this horrifying nightmare will never come to life.

How to Say Backgammon in Other Languages?

Backgammon is very popular worldwide. But it does not carry the same name everywhere in the world. In fact, the name backgammon was not in use until the 17th century, which is about 2000 years after the game was invented. The argument on whether the word "backgammon" means "little battle" in Welsh or back game in middle English is still unsettled.

You won't need to carry a phrase book to the United States, England, Australia and New Zealand, but note that in Scotland, backgammon is simply called **Gammon**.

The term backgammon is pretty familiar among [German backgammon](#) players, yet the term **Puff** (sometime spelled Poof) refers to the same game.

If you are travelling to France, you should know that the backgammon in French is called [Tric-Trac](#).

In Spain, they call backgammon **Tablas Reales** and in [Italy, backgammon](#) is called **Tavole Reale**. In both countries, the meaning is "real board".

It is believed that Ancient Greece is the motherland of backgammon. No wonder the game is so popular there! Backgammon is called [Tavli](#) by the Greeks. It means table, and it contains three different games, all of them played on a backgammon board: Portes, Plakoto, and Fevga.

In Turkey, backgammon is called [Tavla](#) and it is played without the doubling cube. Same game with the same rules is called **Takteh** in Iran.

[Shesh Besh](#) is the term that describes backgammon in Hebrew while in Arabic you call it [Tawla](#) (which also means "a table" in Arabic). The origin of the name is Turkish, by the way.

In Russia, backgammon is called **Narde** and its rules are closer to the Turkish variant of backgammon than to the Western backgammon played in most countries around the world.

Finally, if you are visiting Brazil or Portugal, be on familiar terms with the term **Gamao**.

To make things easy this is a small summary of how to say backgammon in other languages. Feel free to print it and take it with you on your next trip...

English	Backgammon
German	Puff (poof)
French	Tric Trac
Spanish	Tablas Reales
Italian	Tavole Reale
Greek	Tavli (Portes, Plakoto, Fevga)
Turkish	Tavla
Iranian	Takteh
Hebrew	Shesh Besh
Russian	Narde
Brazil / Portugal	Gamago
Arabic	Tawla