Superlatives & Comparatives - أفعل التفضيل - صنعاء القديمة

Whenever tourist sites are described, these descriptions are usually full of superlatives and comparatives.
But what does that mean?!
The superlative means: of, pertaining to, or noting the highest degree of the comparison of adjectives and adverbs. Smallest, best, and most carefully are the superlatives of small, good, and carefully.
Comparatives means words that compare two things, such as ‘smaller than that city’ and ‘better than that museum.’

We are only learning the basic form of superlatives and comparatives in Arabic! Because they follow a basic form:
the أَـْـَـْ- pattern, where the three blanks are the root.

جميل ← أجمل pretty; prettiest
طويل ← أطول tall; tallest
قليل ← أقلّ a little; the fewest

أحسن doesn't fit this pattern (just like English) -
جيد ← أحسن good; best

Here are some examples from our text:

وهو **<u>أكبر</u>** جامع في اليمن

and it is **<u>the largest</u>** mosque in Yemen

هذا أشهر باب اسمه "باب اليمن"

This is **<u>the most famous</u>** door, its name is “Bab al-Yemen.”

Note that superlatives don’t take an الـ even though they do in English (<u>the</u> largest, <u>the</u> smallest, etc.)
They also don’t take a ة !
They come in front of the noun as well!!

Here are more superlatives in action:

The biggest city أكبر مدينة

The best professor in the world أحسن أستاذة في العالم

What about comparatives?

What if you want to say “a bigger room than his” or “a better professor than that mean one”, i.e. compare two things? JUST ADD A من

A **<u>better</u>** professor **<u>than</u>** that mean one هذا الأستاذ السيء **<u>أحسن من</u>** أستاذ

A **<u>bigger</u>** city **<u>than</u>** that city هذه المدينة **<u>أكبر من</u>** مدينة

Note here the comparative comes *after* the noun.