# BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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**Drunei** Darussalam is situated on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo, between east latitudes 114° and 04′ and 11° 23′ and north latitudes of 4° 00′ and 5° 05′.

It is divided into four district: Brunei-Muara (570.7 square kilometres); Tutong (1,166 square kilometres); Belait (2,727 square kilometres); and Temburong (1,288 square kilometres).

The country resumed full independence on January 1, 1984 where the National Day is celebrated every February 23.

#### Capital

Bandar Seri Begawan is based in the Brunei-Muara District. Total land area of the capital is 100.36 square kilometres.

#### Area

Total land area is 5,765 square kilometres with a coastline of about 161 kilometres.

#### **Population**

The population was estimated at 399,800 (Brunei Darussalam Key Indicator - BDKI 2012). Majority of the population were Malays, followed by Chinese and other groups.

## Official religion

The official religion is Islam. However, other religions are also practised.

#### Official language

Malay is the official language but English is also widely spoken.

#### Climate

Brunei Darussalam has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

#### Currency

The local currency is the Brunei Dollar and written as BND which is issued at denominations of \$10,000; \$5,000; \$1,000; \$500; \$100; \$500; \$25; \$20; \$10; \$5; and \$1 notes. Coinage is issued at 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1 cent denominations.

It is pegged to the value of the Singapore Dollar and both currencies can be used in Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.

#### Time

Brunei Darussalam is eight hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT+8).

#### Vegetation

Seventy six per cent of the country's total land area is covered by forests with 40 per cent of the land is gazetted Forests Reserve.

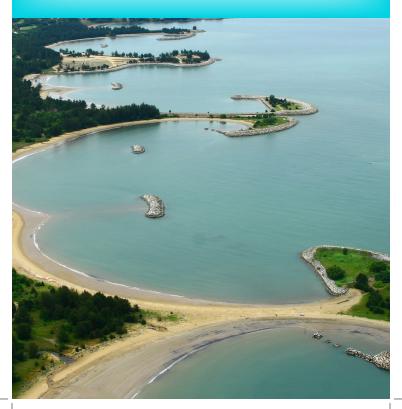


## Main industry

Petroleum and gas has fuelled the nation's economy for the past 80 years and more. The industry has come a long way from the very first commercial find in Seria of the Belait District in 1929.

A milestone was achieved in 1991 when the Seria field produced

its one billionth barrel and a monument was built near the original site of Well No.1 to mark the achievement. The Billionth Barrel Monument was officially opened by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on July 18, 1991.



#### National carrier

Royal Brunei (RB) or formerly known as Royal Brunei Airline (RBA) is the national carrier established on November 18, 1974. RB reveals its new livery and logo (RB) on October 30, 2012.

It is an independent corporation wholly owned by the Government of Brunei Darussalam.

RB provides scheduled services across Asia, the Middle East, Australasia and the United Kingdom. As an added convenience to its passengers, the airline has code-share agreements allowing passengers to coordinate flights for seamless travel to a wider choice of destinations.

RB now operates a fleet of six Boeing B777-200ER, two Airbus A319 and Airbus A320 aircraft.

## **Entry Checkpoints:**

Airport: Brunei International Airport is the nation's sole airport. It is located in Berakas, about 10 to 15 minutes away from the capital.

## Ferry Services and Immigration

Serasa Teminal: Located in Muara Town, about 25 minutes from the capital. You can take ferry services from here to the Malaysia's Federal Territory of Labuan. The journey is estimated to take around 45 minutes to an hour.

Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post: Located in Brunei-Muara District about 25 minutes from the capital. This control post is a gate connecting Brunei Darussalam to the Malaysian town of Limbang, Sarawak.

Labu Immigration Control Post: Located in Temburong District. This control post is a gateway connecting Brunei Darussalam to the Malaysian city of Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post: Located in Belait District. This control post is a gateway connecting Brunei Darussalam to the Malaysian town of Miri, Sarawak.



#### **Telecommunications**

There are various telecommunications services offered in Brunei Darussalam by three service providers Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru), DST Communications and BMobile Communications Sdn. Bhd.

Local calls cost 3 cents per minute and national calls cost 20 cents per minute.

For local calls, direct dial the local number. For national calls, dial the area codes 2 (for Brunei-Muara District); 3 (for Belait District); 4 (for Tutong District) or 5 (for Temburong District) followed by the number.

For international calls by reverse charge, dial 01. For direct international calls, dial 00 followed by the country code, area code and the number.

A number of economical telephone cards ranging from \$5 above are also available.

Wi-fi and hotspots are widely available at various dining outlets and commercial areas.

Mobile modem and router using a High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA) or 3G (Third Generation) Mobile Telephony Communication Protocol in high speed are also available in Brunei.

Current HSDPA deployment in Brunei Darussalam support downlink speed of up to 7.2 Megabits per second.

## Numbers to note

#### **Emergency calls**

Ambulance - 991 Police - 993 Fire & Rescue - 995

Search & Rescue - 998

#### Hotline

Water - 140 Electricity - 144/145 Health line - 2384234 Flight Info - 2331747

#### **National Celebrations**

National Day - February 23 Royal Brunei Armed Forces anniversary – May 31 His Majesty's Royal Birthday – July 15



Brunei Darussalam also celebrates: New Islamic Year (Hijrah), Maulidur Rasul, Israk Mikraj, First Day of Ramadan, Nuzul Al-Quran, Hari Raya Aidilfitri Feast, Feast of Sacrifice, New Year (January 1st), Chinese New Year, and Christmas. These days are announced as public holidays.

#### **Medical Services**

The Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital is the main referral hospital. It is about five to 10 minutes' drive from the capital. The hotline is 2242 424.

Government hospitals can also be found at the other three districts. There are also two private hospitals.

For convenience, 16 government health centres are available throughout the nation. Private clinics are also widely available.

#### **Driving Permits**

Brunei Darussalam recognises international driving permits issued under the 1949 Convention on Road Traffic.

#### **Transportation**

Bruneians drive on the left side of the road. The wearing of seat belts for drivers and front passengers is compulsory.

#### **Public Transportations**

Taxis services are available should you wish to hire one. For reservations, please contact: 2222 214 or 2226 853.

The taxis are mostly available in the capital. There is a surcharge fee for taxi rides from 11.00 pm to 6.00 am.

Taxis are also available at the Brunei International Airport.

For inquiries on destination fares, you may call the Land Transport Department at 2451 979 during office hours.

There are six bus routes operating around Bandar Seri Begawan. Each route has colour coded bus.

All of these bus routes end at the main bus terminal in the capital. The bus services begin from 6.00 am to 8.00 pm daily.

Bus fare starts from \$1.00.

There are also buses that depart for Tutong Town, Kuala Belait and Seria Town.

A popular means of transportation should you wish to explore the famous Kampung Ayer or Water Village is by using the water taxi. You can hail for a water taxi at jetties situated along Brunei River. Regular boat services to Temburong District are also available which operates from 7.45 am to 4.00 pm daily.





#### **Newspapers**

Pelita Brunei is the official government newspaper while Borneo Bulletin, The Brunei Times and Media Permata are the three leading privately-run newspapers. A number of foreign newspapers and magazines are also available.

#### Radio and Television

There are six television channels namely RTB1, RTB2, High Definition, International, RTB5, RTB6, and five radio networks run by the government through the Department of Radio and Television Brunei (RTB). Meanwhile one radio network is owned by a private telecommunication company. Foreign channels are also available through private cable television network Kristal-Astro.

#### Banks

There are two local banks, seven foreign branches of international and regional banks as well as one Islamic trust fund as follows:

Baiduri Bank Berhad
Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam
(BIBD)
Citibank N.A.
Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking
Corporation Ltd
Maybank
RHB Bank Berhad
Standard Chartered Bank
United Overseas Bank Ltd



State Street (Brunei) Sdn Bhd (limited license banking) Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB)

Credit cards are accepted at hotels and selected shops and restaurants. Most accepted credit cards are Visa and Master Card but some also accept American Express and Union Pay.

#### Remittance

There are 21 licensed remittance companies and 24 licensed money changer companies (including hotels) in Brunei Darussalam.





## Where to go?

A Tourist Information Centre is available at the Brunei International Airport.

Another centre is available at the Temburong District located at No. 13/14 Bangunan Perniagaan Rakyat Jati, Bangar Town.

Their operating hours are from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm daily and will close for Friday prayers from 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## Places of Interests:

Malay Technology Museum – The Malay Technology Museum is located next to the Brunei Museum at Kota Batu. The museum has three main exhibition halls, the water village's traditional homes; water village's traditional technology; and inland's traditional technology. (Brunei-Muara District)

Brunei Museum – Located about five kilometres from the capital, the Brunei Museum was officially opened on February 29, 1972 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. The museum has several galleries namely on Islamic arts, oil and gas, natural history, the National Day Gallery, Brunei's traditional culture and Brunei's archaeology and history. (Brunei-Muara District)

Brunei Arts & Handicraft Training Centre - Established in 1975 with the objective to preserve the skills of producing local handicrafts. The centre until today has produced many graduates who later are mostly involved in small-andmedium enterprises (SMEs) mainly producing local handicrafts like kain tenunan (weaved cloth), songkok (traditional headgear), and brass-making products. The centre has a gallery that displays various types of handicrafts made by the students where some exhibits are for sale. (Brunei-Muara District)

Berakas Forestry Recreational Park – This 199 hectares forestry recreation park is situated along the Muara-Tutong highway which is just about 10 kilometres from the capital in Berakas. At the park, you can witness the sun-dappled pathways meander past sheltered picnic spots and barbeque facilities. Besides this green forest, you can also enjoy the beach. (Brunei-Muara District)

Tasek Lama Recreation Park – It is one of the oldest recreational parks located in the capital. It has a natural waterfall and lake, and features a beautiful garden of trees and flowers. (Brunei-Muara District)

Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah - Built in 1994 to commemorate the silver jubilee anniversary of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's accession to the throne. It is located in Kampung Kiarong, and about five to 10 minutes drive from the capital. The mosque is one of the main venues for mass prayer in the nation. (Brunei-Muara District)

Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque – Named after the 28th Sultan of Brunei. Officially opened on September 26, 1958 by Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, it is one of the most magnificient mosques in Southeast Asia, is situated in the capital and has a majestic golden dome. Next to the mosque (in the middle of the lagoon) is a replica of a 16th century royal barge. (Brunei-Muara District)

Kampung Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery (KACTG) – Built with a style replicating a grand Kampung Ayer house and with a distinctive observation tower that gives visitors a bird's eye view of the water village and its surroundings, the KACTG has become the latest tourist attraction in Bandar Seri Begawan. There are galleries containing background information of the water village

from its historical origins until its present day. (Brunei-Muara District)

Royal Regalia Building – Situated in the heart of the capital, the building was built to commemorate the silver jubilee anniversary of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's accession to the throne. The building houses a collection of royal regalia and associated items to Brunei's royalty. (Brunei-Muara District)





Dermaga Diraja BSB - Brunei Darussalam has recorded yet another milestone with the inauguration of the Dermaga Diraja Brunei as a landmark which will enhance the attraction of Bandar Seri Begawan. The Dermaga Diraja BSB was launched by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office. The Waterfront with its facilities signifies the citizens' social support for achieving quality life, in line with the nation's Vision 2035 in the aspect of universal access to important public facilities. (Bandar Seri Begawan)

Bubungan Dua Belas – Also known as House of Twelve Roofs. Built in 1906, it is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Brunei based at Kota Batu. Located along Jalan Residency, the building was formerly used as the residence for previous British Residents and High Commissioners. It is now an exhibition gallery and offers a panoramic view overlooking the famous water village. (Brunei-Muara District)

Damuan Recreational Park – Situated next to the Istana Nurul Iman, the Damuan Recreational Park is the place to get the best view of the palace. It also offers park view along the riverbank of Jalan Tutong, and it is also a popular spot for joggers. (Brunei-Muara District)

Gadong Night Market – This market is opened daily from 6.00 pm until midnight. It offers various types of cooked food ranging from local to western dishes at affordable prices. Also available are fresh fruits and vegetables and some clothing items. (Brunei-Muara District)











Ulu Temburong National Park – This park is rich with unspoiled flora and fauna. It can be reached by using a long boat or locally known as Temuai. At the park, you can enjoy strolling on the extensive wooden boardwalk and witness the fresh environment. Other excitements here are the Canopy Walk and the waterfall. (Temburong District)











Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park – Located in Tutong District, about one hour 15 minutes drive from Bandar Seri Begawan. Administered by the Brunei Museum, the park aims to provide a safe haven for protected wildlife to breed, preserve flora and fauna and to provide a base for scientific research and study. For those interested in botany or bird watching, there is also a trail through the jungle. The park was declared as one of the ASEAN National Heritage Sites on November 29, 1984. (Tutong District)















## Where to stay?

## Brunei-Muara District

Abdul Razak Plaza Apartments **Badiah Hotel** Brunei Hotel D' Anggerek Service Apartments Goodview Hotel **Grand City Hotel** Jeluton Hotel Jubilee Hotel KH Soon Services & Resthouse Kiulap Plaza Hotel Kompleks Mohamad Yusof Service **Apartment** Le Gallery Suites & Hotel LR Asma Hotel Mangrove Paradise Resort Orchid Garden Hotel Palm Garden Hotel Riverview Hotel Rizgun International Hotel Radisson Hotel Terrace Hotel The Capital Residence Hotel The Centrepoint Hotel The Empire Hotel & Country Club The Holiday Lodge Times Hotel Traders Inn Voctech International House Youth Hostel

## **Tutong District**

Halim Plaza Hotel Telamba Homestay

#### **Belait District**

Hotel Kooperasi Seria Plaza Sutera Biru Riviera Hotel Roomz Hotel Rumah Persinggahan Kuala Belait Sea View Hotel Sentosa Hotel

## **Temburong District**

Awadah Guesthouse
Haji Radin Guesthouse
Hyerma Guesthouse
Homestay Kampong Senukoh
Homestay Kampung Sibut
KHP Guesthouse
Likut Intan Guesthouse
Lubuk Batu Mas Homestay
Nadi Utama Guesthouse
Rumah Persinggahan , Pekan Bangar
Stoneville Hotel
Ulu-Ulu Resort



## Leisure/recreation/dine in:

Agro Park, Tungku Gadong Anduki Jubilee Recreational Park, Belait Billionth Barrel Monument, Seria **Bukit Shahbandar Recreational** Park, Jerudona Bukit Patoi Recreational Park, **Temburong** Cineplex, The Mall Gadong Damuan Recreation Park The Empire Hotel & Country Club Jerudong Park Playground Kianggeh Food Court Lumut Beach Mangrove Paradise Resort, Sungai Belukut Menteri Besar Recreational Park Muara Beach Pusat Insani, Seria Cruise (Kampung Ayer) Selirong Island Serasa Beach Seri Kenangan Beach, Tutong Seri Qlap Cinema, Kiulap Taman Aie Tenap, Temburong Tamu Selera, Bandar Seri Begawan Tamu Serambangun, Tutong Tamu Seria Tamu Muhibbah Aneka Selera, Temburona Tasik Buluh Aie Merah Recreation Park, Temburong **Times Cineplex** Ulu-Ulu Resort Wasai Wong Kadir, Belait



Water Park, LLRC, Belait

Shopping/restaurant hours are from 10.00 am to 10.00 pm daily and will be closed for Friday prayers from 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm.







Airport Mall, Berakas Athirah Plaza, Jalan Tutong Citis Square, Berakas Delima Square Galleria YMRM, Jalan Tutong Hua Ho Mall, Tanjung Bunut Hua Ho Mall, Tutong Hua Ho Mall, Manggis Jaya Hypermart, Centrepoint Gadong Kompleks Utama Bumiputera, **Temburong** Mabohai Shopping Complex Nazmi Textile Mall, Delima Patani Mall, Tutong Regent Square Seri Qlap Mall Setia Kenangan Complex, Kiulap Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Shopping Complex The Mall, Gadong Times Square Shopping Complex, **Berakas** Seria Plaza Sumbangsih Mulia, Beribi Gadong

## Prime Minister's Office Buliding

Prime Minister's Office building stands magnificently in the heart of the capital's government offices along Jalan Menteri Besar. The building itself has a total build-up area of 92,000 square metres to house the operational accommodations and facilities for the Ministerial offices and its functions.

The central dome in the Atrium is suspended 40 metres high into its interior air spaces and spans 23 metres wide. The building complex houses the Office of the Prime Minister, alongside with office suites and general offices to cater for the ministers, officials and staff of the Prime Minister's Office.

Other major facilities include a terraced 1,000-seat Main Theatre with state-of-art audio and visual equipment, meeting the demands of productions and performances. The theatre features VIP viewing balconies and dining galleries suitable for all occasions. The vast atrium linked to the building's largest meetingvenue, which is a 30-seat Conference Chamber, suited to hosting world-class events. The Banquet Hall can accommodate around 1.000 quests. Other facilities include various large meeting venues and conference rooms, two fully equipped commercial kitchens with 300-seat staff cafeteria, fitness gymnasium, day-care centre, large door terraces, de-stressing gardens, water features and parade grand ground.

Other buildings in the complex's vicinity area are the Ash-Shaliheen Mosque, which can accommodate up to 1,000 worshippers, and the Prime Minister's Office Museum Gallery. Both building are open to the general public.

The key features of the building include low consumption LED lighting; corridors, restrooms and utility areas are operated by smart sensors; the airconditioning system is cooled using harvested rainwater; and 100 % Low-Emissivity Double-Glazing on all External Windows makes it Brunei's first Energy Efficient Ministry Building.

The building became the venue forthe 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Summit which took place in April 24-25, 2013.

Original text by: PMO Editorial Team.





## **National Housing Programme**

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in implementing its policy in providing all its citizen with proper accommodation in a pleasant environment, with the citizen households owning their own houses, various schemes had been introduced as early as the 1950's.

The resettlement programmes began as early as 1951 when the residents of Kampung Bendahara Lama from Kampung Ayer were resettled to Bunut Resettlement Area in Mukim Kilanas of the Brunei-Muara District. Two years later, in 1953, similar resettlement programmes was also carried out for residents of Kampung Burong Pingai Berakas, Kampung Pancha Delima, Kampung Pengiran SiRaja Muda, Kampung Anggerek Desa and Kampung Orang Kaya Besar Imas, all of which are in Mukim Berakas of the same district. In 1954, resettlement program was also carried out for Kampung Jaya Setia and Kampung Jaya Bakti, both in Mukim Berakas,

In the 1960's, the government built two-housing estates in Berakas, namely Kampung Setia Bakti and Kampung Jaya Bakti for some of Kampung Ayer residents who accepted government offers to resettle them to the mainland.

A nationwide survey was conducted in 1970's to identify

the people's housing needs. Hence as a result, the first of many housing schemes, the Lambak Kanan National Housing Scheme in the Brunei-Muara District was introduced covering a site of about 810 hectares where 84 houses under Phase One had been completed and allocated to the successful applicants in early 1986.

More similar and other housing schemes were introduced since then which include the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme (STKRJ), Temporary Occupation-of-land License (TOL) and Infill Scheme (IS).

**ThroughtheNationalDevelopment** Plan 2007 - 2012 more housing projects been introduced such as Resettlement and Housing Schemes for Kampung Rimba, Kampung Meragang, Kampung Tanah Jambu; National Housing Kampung Lambak Kanan, Kampung Mentiri, Kampung Tanah Jambu, Kampung Rimba (additional areas) and Kampung Salambigar; Relocation Kampung Ayer Scheme at Kampung Lumapas A; Landless Citizen Indigenous Housing Scheme at Kampung Sungai Buloh/Tanah Jambu and Katok B; and Relocation of Kampung Ayer Scheme at Kampung Katok B.



#### **Ministries**

The Prime Minister's Office www.pmo.gov.bn www.jpm.gov.bn

Ministry of Defence www.mindef.gov.bn

Ministry of Finance www.mof.gov.bn

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade www.mofat.gov.bn

Ministry of Education www.moe.edu.bn

Ministry of Health www.moh.gov.bn

Ministry of Development www.mod.gov.bn

Ministry of Communications www.mincom.gov.bn

Ministry of Home Affairs www.home-affairs.gov.bn

Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources www.bruneimipr.gov.bn

Ministry of Religious Affairs www.religious-affairs.gov.bn

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports www.kkbs.gov.bn

