



Brunei Darussalam

In Brief

Revised 2018



Brunei Darussalam In Brief

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah
ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien,
Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam



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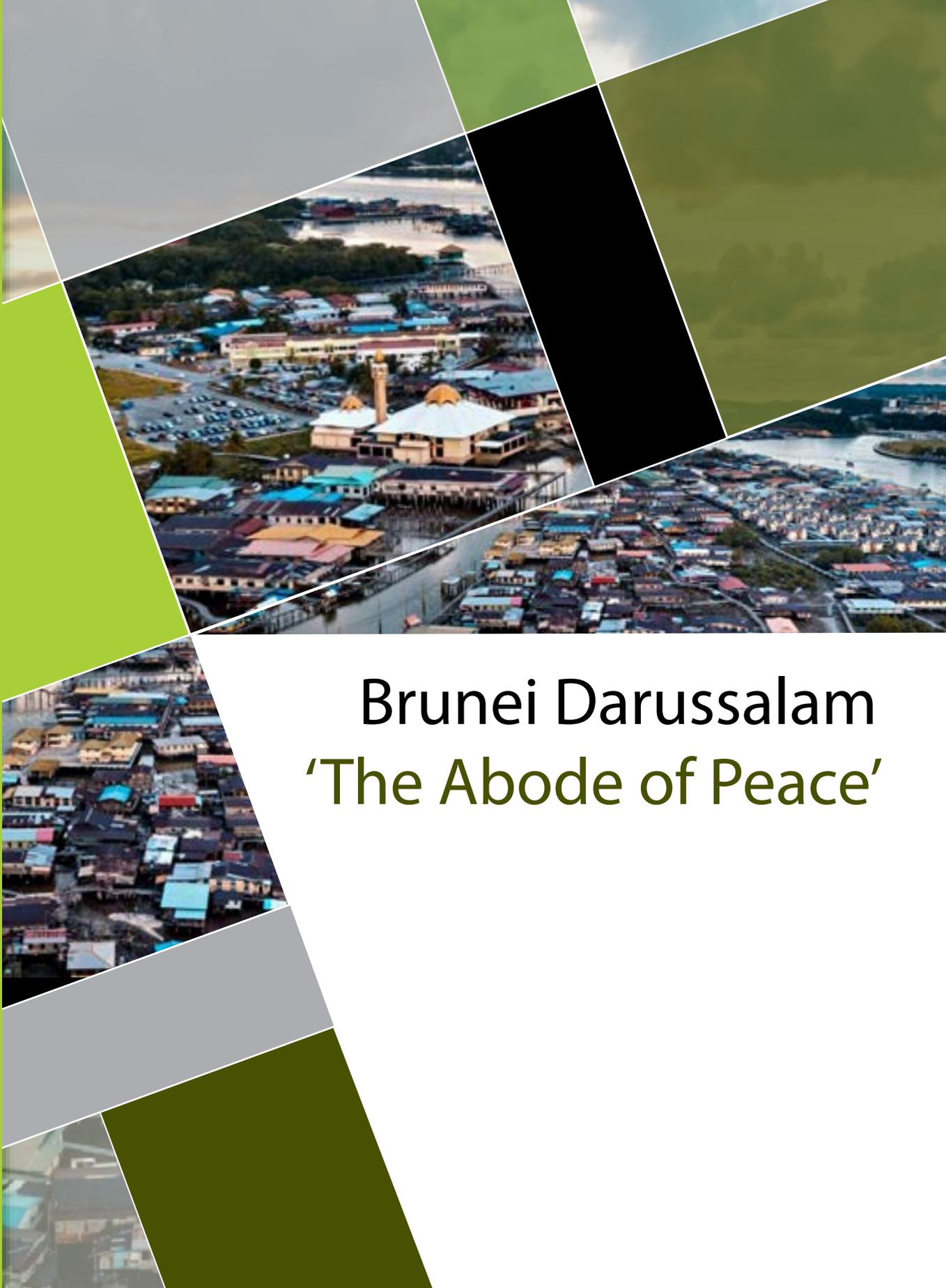
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An aerial photograph of Brunei Darussalam, showing a dense urban area with a prominent mosque featuring a tall minaret and a large white dome. The city is situated along a river or coastline. The image is overlaid with several geometric shapes: a large green triangle on the left, a black triangle on the right, and various grey and green polygons at the top and bottom, creating a modern, abstract design.

Brunei Darussalam
'The Abode of Peace'

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

SOUTH CHINA SEA



Brunei Darussalam 'The Abode of Peace'

Location	:	Northwest of the Island of Borneo, between latitudes, 4°00' and 5°05' North and longitudes 114°04' and 11°23' East
Land area	:	5,765 sq. km.
Highest point	:	1.841 metres above sea level (Bukit Pagon)
Climate	:	Temperature ranges between 23.8 degree Celcius and 32.3 degree Celcius with a mean relative humidity of 83.4 per cent and total rainfall of 3,366.1 millimetres (2018)
Population	:	442,400 (2018)
Official religion	:	Islam
Official language	:	Malay but English is widely spoken
Currency	:	Brunei Dollar which is on par with Singapore Dollar
GDP	:	\$18,300.7 million at current prices (2018)
Labour force	:	220,073 (2018) - *Only data for Government Employees are stated in the Brunei Darussalam Statistical Year-book 2018 i.e a total 48,514 Government Employees.
Literacy rate	:	97.1 per cent (aged 10 and above in 2018)
Main industry	:	Oil and gas
Mobile phone subscribers	:	565,949 (2018)
Internet subscribers (Fixed and mobile broadband)	:	607,336 (2018)



Brief Historical Background



Brief Historical Background



Bandar Seri Begawan in the old days.

Before the advent of Islam, Brunei Darussalam's early history is unclear, but archaeological and historical findings show that Brunei had wide contacts with its neighbours in Asia around 518 A.D. Chinese historians of that period, for example, made references to 'Puni' or 'Poli' in their writings: two of the many names Brunei was known for during ancient times.

Brief Historical Background

By the 15th and 16th centuries, especially during the reign of the fifth ruler, Sultan Bolkiah; and the ninth ruler, Sultan Hassan; Brunei was a dominant power in the region with sovereignty embracing the whole Island of Borneo and as far as the Philippines.

When European presence became acknowledged in the region around mid-16th century to the 19th century, Brunei began to lose its grip on the empire, which was besieged by problems such as wars, internecine strife, insurrection and piracy. By 1904, Brunei, which had become a British Protected State in 1888, had shrunk to a small sultanate on three sides by Sarawak and to the north by the South China Sea.

After the turmoil of the Second World War, life gradually returned to normal. However, progress only began to crystallise during the reign of the 28th ruler, Sultan Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, who utilised Brunei's oil revenue to finance, for the first time, a five-year development plan (1953-1958). This development plan gave Brunei an intensive infrastructure and transformed the country from a dull and quiet backwater into a modern thriving state.

The year 1959 saw the promulgation of a written constitution, which gave Brunei internal self-government and changed the post of the Brunei Resident, which started in 1906, to High Commissioner.

In 1967, after 17 years of benevolent reign, Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien voluntarily abdicated in favour of his eldest son, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, who pledged to carry on his father's policies. His Majesty's

Islam's early presence in Brunei began in the 14th century when its first ruler, Awang Alak Betatar, embraced Islam and changed his name to Sultan Muhammad Shah.

Brief Historical Background

succession to the throne further pushed Brunei Darussalam on the road to greater development.

In 1971, Brunei Darussalam and Great Britain signed an amended and revised version of the 1959 Agreement, making Brunei fully independent internally, and the post of the High Commissioner a normal diplomatic position. Only external affairs and defence matters remained in British hands.

The turning of Brunei's long history came in 1979, with the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation paving the way for Brunei's resumption after 1983 — marking its place in the community of nation-states.

As was anticipated during the months of preparations, a new chapter in Brunei's colourful history was opened shortly after midnight on December 31, 1983, when His Majesty declared Brunei Darussalam as a fully independent sovereign nation ready to resume its international responsibilities. Subsequently, His Majesty also announced the formation of a six-member Cabinet, with himself as the Prime Minister and concurrently holding the portfolios of Home Affairs and Finance.

In October 1986, His Majesty reshuffled the Cabinet, where he remained as the Prime Minister and relinquished the portfolios of the Home Affairs and Finance, and took over the Defence portfolio which had been held by his late father since 1984. His Majesty also announced the appointment of five new Ministers and eight Deputy Ministers.

Another Cabinet reshuffle took place in May 2005, where His Majesty appointed His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince, as the Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and announced a new post, which was the Minister of Energy under the Prime Minister's Office. Meanwhile, the State Mufti and the Attorney General posts now hold ministerial ranks.

On October 22, 2015, His Majesty established the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT) to enhance the growth of the primary resources sector (namely agriculture, fisheries and forestry), as well as the tourism sector in Brunei Darussalam.

The fourth Cabinet reshuffle was announced on May 29, 2010, where the changes in the Cabinet line-up included the placement of the Minister of Finance II under the Prime Minister's Office, as well as the appointment of the first female Deputy Minister.

Under His Majesty's leadership, the government has invested billions of dollars on one development plan after another, and will continue to do so in the effort to maintain and improve the quality of life of the population through economic growth, productivity enhancement and wider economic diversification.

His Majesty's Government, through its 10th National Development Plan from 2012 to 2017, allocated \$6.5 billion for the country's continuing development and progress.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal
Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni
Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali
Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien,
Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei
Darussalam

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni
Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien,
Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is the 29th Monarch in line of the succession, which dates back to the 14th century. Today, he is one of the longest reigning Monarchs in the world.

Born on July 15, 1946 at the Istana Darussalam in the capital, Brunei Town (now known as Bandar Seri Begawan), His Majesty became the Crown Prince in 1961 and ascended the throne on October 5, 1967, a day after his late father Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien's voluntary abdication. His Majesty was crowned the following year on August 1, 1968 in pomp and pageantry befitting Brunei's ancient customs and traditions. On October 5, 2017, Brunei celebrated His Majesty's 50 Years Golden Jubilee as the Monarch of the nation.

His Majesty received his early education in the form of a private tuition at Istana Darul Hana and attended top institutions in both Brunei and Malaya (Peninsular Malaysia). His Majesty continued his studies as an officer cadet at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the United Kingdom and was commissioned as a Captain in 1967. He left Sandhurst in October the same year he ascended the throne.

Besides being the Sultan, His Majesty is concurrently the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Minister of Finance, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the country's Head of Islam. As such, he is heavily involved in the development and implementation of Brunei state policy both at home and abroad.

Like his illustrious father, who is fondly remembered as the Architect of Modern Brunei, His Majesty continues the legacy by working tirelessly to ensure that his citizens continue to live in peace and harmony. Apart from the usual day-to-day administration of the government, the charismatic leader keeps tabs on the latest developments by constantly being on the move; personally visiting government departments and related institutions, and visiting villages including the remote parts of Brunei.

The promotion and strengthening of relations with the outside world is also one of His Majesty's top priorities. He has traveled widely in Southeast Asia, East Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. He also addressed the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on Brunei Darussalam's admission to the UN in September 1984.

His Majesty is an avid and enthusiastic sportsman and takes great interest in sports. Polo, badminton and squash are among the sports that His Majesty regularly partakes in.



His Royal Highness
Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His
Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah
Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah,
Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the
Prime Minister's Office

August 10, 1998, corresponding to 17 Rabiulakhir 1419 Hijrah in the Islamic Calendar, was a historic event for Brunei Darussalam. The date marked the royal proclamation of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah as the Crown Prince of Brunei Darussalam. The proclamation puts His Royal Highness in line to become the 30th Sultan of Brunei Darussalam.

Born on February 17, 1974 corresponding to 24 Muharram 1394 Hijrah, His Royal Highness is the third child of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam.

Throughout his academic life, His Royal Highness was not only industrious in his academic studies and extra-curricular activities but was also equally diligent, in which he devoted much time and attention to his religious education, and Islamic and welfare matters.

His Royal Highness progressed through the Brunei Junior Certificate of Education in 1988, the 'O' level examination of the General Certificate of Education (Cambridge) in 1991, and the 'A' level examination of the General Certificate of Education (Cambridge) in 1994. In 1995, His Royal Highness attended a course of tutorials at Universiti Brunei Darussalam and the prestigious Oxford University at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies in the United Kingdom.

His Royal Highness has also been preparing for his responsibilities as the future leader and head of state, with visits to various national and international organisations and institutions in the United Kingdom, Europe, and North America. At home in Brunei Darussalam, the Crown Prince has spent time on attachments at various government agencies as well as at a leading company in the private sector. These attachments gave His Royal Highness the widest possible exposure to Brunei's governing and administrative system.

On September 9, 2004, His Royal Highness married Dayangku Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab Rahaman, who during the Royal Wedding was conferred the title Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah. Their Royal Highnesses welcomed the birth of a prince, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim, their first child on March 17, 2007; the birth of a princess, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah, their second child on January 2, 2011; the birth of another prince, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman, their third child on June 7, 2015; and the birth of another princess, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah, their fourth child on December 1, 2017.

On May 24, 2005, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to announce the reshuffling of the Cabinet Ministers, which includes His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, as Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

His Majesty also conferred the rank of General of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) to His Royal Highness on March 24, 2004. The ceremony took place at the Officers' Mess, Berakas Garrison, during His Majesty's visit to the Ministry of Defence and the RBAF. It marked an important chapter for Brunei, particularly the RBAF.

On May 5, 2005, His Royal Highness was conferred the rank Deputy Inspector General of Police by His Majesty at a ceremony held at the Officers' Mess, Gadong. The conferment marks a historic milestone for the Royal Brunei Police Force. On September 4, 2006, during the 18th Convocation Ceremony of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), His Royal Highness was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Literature by His Majesty. His Royal Highness is also Pro-Chancellor of UBD, Brunei's first university.

In 2011, His Royal Highness was installed as Pro-Chancellor of Brunei's first Islamic university, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) and later on as Pro-Chancellor of Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) on November 28, 2013.



National Flag of
Brunei Darussalam



National Flag of Brunei Darussalam

The Brunei Darussalam state flag in its present form, except for the crest, has been in use since 1906 when Brunei became a protected state, following the signing of an agreement between Brunei and Great Britain. The crest was superimposed in 1959 after the promulgation of the Constitution of Brunei on September 29, 1959.



Prior to 1906, Brunei had no state flag; instead, individual flags or personal standards were in use. Of the personal standards, those of the Sultan and the wazirs were the most important. In the old days, Brunei had four wazirs or principal state officials to whom the Sultan delegated his executive and administrative powers in accordance with their ranks. Of the wazirs, the most senior at the time was the Pengiran Bendahara. The three other wazirs, in order of seniority, were the Pengiran Digadong, the Pengiran Pemancha, and the Pengiran Temenggong. A premier wazir with the title of Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar was appointed on February 6, 1970. As the title suggests the Pengiran Perdana Wazir takes precedence over all the other wazirs.

The Perdana Wazir also has a personal standard granted to him by His Majesty. The standard is white superimposed in the centre with the state crest in light yellow. The crest is supported by 'Si Kikil', a traditional Malay dagger crossed by its sheath.

The personal standards of the Pengiran Bendahara, the Pengiran Digadong, the Pengiran Pemancha and Pengiran Temenggong are white, green, black and red respectively. The Sultan also bestowed personal flags to lesser officials known as the Pengiran Cheteria and to the ordinary Pengiran and commoners.

When Brunei signed the agreement of 1906, it was felt that the state should fall in line with international practices in regard to the adoption of flags to represent the states. Suggestions were put forward and sketches were made on the proposed state flag. Finally, the design of the existing flag, which features yellow, white and black, was adopted.

The choices of those colours were symbolic of the principal signatories to the agreement: the Sultan, the Pengiran Bendahara, and the Pengiran Pemancha — whose colours of yellow, white and black respectively, were accordingly incorporated into the new flag.

National Flag of Brunei Darussalam

The reason why the colours of the wazirs were not incorporated in the flag was that at the time, there were only two living wazirs who were the signatories to the agreement. The Pengiran Digadong and Pengiran Temenggong had passed away and their positions had not been filled during the signing of the agreement.

After the adoption of the state flag, the flags that were already in existence continued to be in use and were flown on state occasions to indicate individual ranks. The new state flag was hoisted only at government buildings and by non-Bruneian residents of the state.

The use of flags was consolidated after the promulgation of the Constitution of Brunei on September 29, 1959, to reduce to a minimum the number of flags on state occasions. With the exception of those especially authorised by the Sultan to retain their personal standards, the individual flags of commoners and the ordinary pengiran were abolished.

They now hoist the state flag on all national occasions.

Among the Pengiran and dignitaries who are authorised to use personal standards are:

- (a) Decendants of the Sultan down to four generations;
- (b) Decendants of a Wazir down to three generations;
- (c) Decendants of a Cheteria down to two generations; and
- (d) From Menteri down to Damong.

Their personal standards incorporate the state crest in red on a yellow background at the top left corner of the flags.

Following the promulgation of the Constitution, minor alterations were made to the personal standards of His Majesty the Sultan and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri. His Majesty now has a personal standard of yellow incorporating the royal crest on red background at the centre of the standard. The standard of Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri is light yellow incorporating the royal crest on red background at the centre of the standard.

The rectangular shape state flag, which consists of four component portions (two parallelograms and two trapeziums), is cut cross by a parallelogram from a point 2 ½ inches below the top left corner to a point of the same distance from the bottom corner on the right side.

National Flag of Brunei Darussalam



The centre of the flag is superimposed by the state crest in red. The forefingers of the upright arms which support the red crest are equidistant at 24 inches from the left and right sides of the flag.

The state motto is incorporated in the crest. Written in the Arabic script in yellow letterings, it means 'Always render service by God's guidance'.

Four colours are incorporated in the flag, red for the crest, yellow for the trapeziums, white for the upper parallelogram and black for the lower parallelogram.



National Crest of Brunei Darussalam

National Crest of Brunei Darussalam

The crest consists of:



The national crest of Brunei Darussalam was developed from a royal emblem and in its original form still maintains its status as one of the royal emblems. The present national crest was superimposed on the national flag after promulgation of the 1959 Brunei Constitution.

The crest comprises of the following:

- Bendera – the flag.
- Payung Ubor-Ubor – the royal umbrella.
- Sayap – the wing.
- Tangan (kimhap) – the hand.
- Bulan – the crescent.

The Bendera and Payung Ubor-Ubor have been royal regalias since the creation of the crest.

The Sayap – the wing of four feathers – symbolises the protection of justice, tranquility, prosperity and peace in the country.

Tangan or Kimhap – the hand – signifies the government's pledge to promote welfare, peace and prosperity.

Bulan – the crescent – is the symbol of Islam, the national religion of Brunei Darussalam.

The characters inscribed on the crescent are the national slogan, 'Always render service by God's guidance'.

The scroll beneath the crest reads 'Brunei Darussalam' which means 'Brunei, the Abode of Peace'.



National Anthem



National Anthem

The composer of the tune of the National Anthem was the late Awang Haji Besar bin Sagap, whereas the writer of the lyrics was the late Pengiran Haji Mohamed Yusof bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahim (Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Setia Negara Pengiran Haji Mohamed Yusof bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahim).

Below are the lyrics of the National Anthem;

Allah Peliharakan Sultan

*Ya Allah lanjutkanlah usia
Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia
Adil berdaulat menaungi nusa
Memimpin rakyat kekal bahagia
Hidup sentosa Negara dan Sultan
Ilahi selamatkan Brunei Darussalam*

The National Anthem can be translated thus:

*Allah bless His Majesty
With a long life
Justly and nobly rule the Kingdom
And lead our people happily forever
Peacefully be, the Kingdom and Sultan
Lord, save Brunei, The Abode of Peace*



The Land and People





Location

Brunei Darussalam is situated on the north-west coast of the Island of Borneo, between east longitudes 114°04' and 11°23' and north latitudes 4°00 and 5°05'.

It has a total land area of 5,765 sq. km. and a coastline of about 161 km.

It is bounded on the north by the South China Sea, and on the other sides by the Malaysian state of Sarawak which also divides Brunei Darussalam into two parts.

The eastern part is the Temburong District while the western portion consists of three other districts; Brunei-Muara, Tutong and Belait.

The land surface is developed on bedrock of tertiary age, comprising of sandstones, shales and clay. The terrain in the western part of the country is hilly lowland, which rises in the hinterland to about 300 m. To the east, the wide coastal plain reaches up to a height point of 1,840 m above sea level at Bukit Pagon in the Temburong District.

Brunei Darussalam has a coastline of about 161 km. The beaches facing the South China Sea are largely sandy, while the areas away from the sea are covered in mixtures of sand and mangrove.

Climate

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

Vegetation and Wildlife

There are seven types of forests in Brunei Darussalam:

- Mangrove Forest
- Beach Type Forest
- Freshwater Swamp Forest
- Peat Swamp Forest
- Heath (Kerangas) Forest
- Mixed Dipterocarp Forest
- Montane Forest

76 per cent of the country's total land area is still covered with luscious green forest and more efforts have been taken to ensure its sustainability with 41 per cent being gazetted as Forest Reserves. Within this percentage, 50,000 hectares have been declared as National Parks.

Wildlife in Brunei includes honey bears, deers, monkeys and a myriad of reptiles and birds.



Districts

Brunei Darussalam has four administrative districts: Brunei-Muara, Tutong, Belait and Temburong.

Each district is administered by a District Officer.

There are three municipal authorities, which are known as the Municipal Board, located at Bandar Seri Begawan, Kuala Belait, and Tutong.

Capital and Other Towns

Brunei Darussalam's capital, Bandar Seri Begawan has an area of 100.36 sq. km. Located in the Brunei-Muara District, the most populous of the four

districts, Bandar Seri Begawan thrives with activities befitting its status as the hub of government offices and businesses.

Formerly known as Bandar Brunei or Brunei Town, it was renamed on October 4, 1970 in honour of the 28th Sultan of Brunei, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam II, who became known as Seri Begawan Sultan. During his 17th year of reign, the Seri Begawan Sultan, set in motion the modernisation of Brunei Darussalam.

Kampong Ayer is a cluster of small villages on the Brunei River and has been in existence for centuries. Prior to the

resettlement of the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan (Brunei Town), on to the mainland in 1906, Kampong Ayer was synonymous with Brunei itself.

A renowned Italian traveller, Antonio Pigafetta who sailed with Ferdinand Magellan arrived in 1521 and described Kampong Ayer as a city of 25,000 families. After the resettlement in 1906, the population of Kampong Ayer was further reduced as more people accepted the government's offer to resettle them on land. Today, Kampong Ayer is still home to thousands of people who live in houses huddled together and built on stilts, just as their ancestors did centuries ago.

The similarity, however, ends there: the existing houses feature luxuries normally associated with modern living. The government has virtually made Kampong Ayer self-sufficient in facilities, including electricity and piped water supplies, clinics and schools.

On the other hand, cottage industries which have been practiced since generations ago, such as cloth weaving, silver craft, brass casting, continue to flourish.

Most of the residents work with the government and the private sector, while many have businesses of their own or take up fishing as their means of livelihoods. Most of them have cars, which they keep on the mainland and they commute to and from the shore by motor boats.

Other towns are: Muara, which is 25 kilometres to the north-east of Bandar Seri Begawan; Kuala Belait, Pekan Tutong and

Bangar. These towns are the administrative centres of Belait, Tutong and Temburong Districts respectively.

Seria, another town in the Belait District, is the most vital as it has been the seat of Brunei's oil and gas industry since oil first struck there in 1929. Just outside this oil-town is Lumut, where one of the world's largest Liquefied Natural Gas Plants, and where another source of Brunei's wealth operates. Brunei's first world-class methanol plant also operates in this district.

Population

The latest 2018 statistical data showed that the population of Brunei Darussalam was estimated to be 442,400 with an annual growth rate of 3.0 per cent. Of the total, 223,400 were male and 209,000 were female.

Brunei Malays consists of Brunei indigenous communities of the Malay race: Belait, Bisaya, Brunei, Dusun, Kedayan, Murut and Tutong. The Malays constitute the major population group numbering at 290,700 persons followed by the Chinese with a recorded number of 45,600 persons and other races, which consists of 106,100 persons.

Brunei-Muara District is the most populous district with 307,000 people; followed by Belait District with 73,200 people; Tutong District with 51,300 people; and Temburong District with 10,900 people.

Overall, the population density of Brunei Darussalam was 76.7 persons per square



Young children reading the Al-Quran during a religious activity held at one of the mosques in Brunei Darussalam.

Religion

Islam is the official religion of Brunei Darussalam as stated in the written Constitution, with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the head of the Islamic faith. Thus, Islam plays a central role in the life of every Muslim in Brunei Darussalam. Christianity, Buddhism and other religions are also practised here.

Language

Malay is the official language but English is also widely spoken. A number of Chinese and Indian languages and other dialects are also used.



A weaver at the Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre weaving a beautiful cloth commonly known as 'Kain Tenunan Brunei'.

Culture

Brunei's culture is mainly derived from the Old Malay World, which encompassed the Malay Archipelago and from this, stemmed what is known as the Malay Civilisation. Based on historical facts, various cultural influences of the Brunei culture can be traced to four dominating periods of Animism, Hinduism, Islam and the West. Out of the four, Islam is the most influential. It has become a way of life and was adopted as the state's ideology and philosophy.

The setting up of Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre in 1975 is a living testimony to the preservation and the proliferation of the arts and crafts of the

bygone days in which Brunei was renowned for, such as boat-making, silversmithing, bronze casting, cloth weaving as well as mat and basket weaving. In 2011, Batik art was introduced as one of Brunei's newly established handicraft arts.

Relics and other various artistic heritage besides the ones mentioned above include Malay weaponry, wood carvings, traditional instruments, *silat* (the traditional art of self-defence) and decorative items for women. Some of these are kept in the Brunei Museum and the Malay Technology Museum, not only for the world to see but also most importantly for today's generation to admire and be proud of for future generations to emulate and remind them of the ancestor's natural skills, creativity and innovativeness.



The Government



The Government

Brunei Darussalam is an independent and sovereign nation-state, which is governed based on a written Constitution. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is the supreme executive authority.

Brunei's administrative system is centered on the Prime Minister's Office, which has provided the thrust behind His Majesty's aim to introduce greater efficiency in the public sector. In the 1987 National Day *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty pointed out that it was essential to keep the country's administrative machinery up-to-date in line with the development of Brunei as an independent nation-state. His Majesty has followed a combination of traditional and reforming policies, moving away from a structure of a Chief Minister and State Secretary, to a full ministerial system with specified portfolios.

The 1959 Constitution

Brunei Darussalam's political system rests on the twin pillars of the country's written Constitution and the tradition of Malay Muslim Monarchy. These two facts dominate both the formal political life and its government ethos. An additional and underlying feature is the country's adherence to the rule of law, a system based primarily on the English Common Law System and the independence of the judiciary.

Brunei's first written Constitution came into force in 1959, and has since been subject to amendments.

The 1959 Constitution established the Chief Minister as the highest official, with the British High Commissioner as the Government's adviser for all matters except those relating to the Muslim religion and Malay customs.

In 1971, the amended Treaty reduced the power of the Government of the United Kingdom, which retained responsibility only for foreign affairs, whilst defence became the joint responsibility of both countries.

The Constitution was amended with effect from January 1, 1984 to make provisions reflecting the status of Brunei Darussalam as a fully independent and sovereign nation-state. The Constitution was again revised and amended in 2004. The Constitution of Brunei Darussalam (Amendment) Proclamation took place on September 29, 2004 at the International Convention Centre, Berakas. This allowed the reinstatement of the State Legislative Council.



The State Legislative Council building.

Constitutional Bodies

The constitution of Brunei provides for a number of constitutional bodies, which includes:

- Council of Succession
- Privy Council
- Council of Cabinet Ministers
- Religious Council
- State Legislative Council
- Adat Istiadat Council

The High Court receives appeals from Magistrate's Court in the districts and is itself a court of first instance for criminal and civil cases. Appeal from the High Court is submitted to the Court of Appeals. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London is the final court of appeal for civil cases only.

In between, there is the Intermediate Court, with extensive civil and criminal jurisdiction, although it does not deal with capital offences. Matters related to the Islamic faith are dealt with by the Islamic Court or the Syariah. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah made the announcement on October 22, 2013 that the Syariah or Islamic Law will be enforced in stages.

Judiciary

The judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court and the Subordinate Courts. The Supreme Court comprises the High Court and the Court of Appeals, while the Subordinate Courts comprises the Magistrate's Court.

Cabinet Ministers



- His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam
Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Minister of Finance and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade



- His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah
The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office



- Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Di-Raja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim
Special Advisor to His Majesty and Minister at the Prime Minister's Office



- Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong
Minister of Home Affairs



- Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman
Minister of Religious Affairs



- Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Haji Apong
Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism



- Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohammad Yussof
Minister of Defence II

Cabinet Ministers of Brunei Darussalam



- Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar
Minister of Health



- Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd. Daud
Minister at the Prime Minister's Office



- Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah
Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II



- Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd Yussof
Minister of Foreign Affairs II



- Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar
Minister of Development

Cabinet Ministers of Brunei Darussalam



- Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Md. Hussein
Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry



- Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Hamzah bin Haji Sulaiman
Minister of Education



- Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof
Minister of Transportation and Infocommunications



- Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

Cabinet Ministers of Brunei Darussalam

Deputy Ministers



- Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar
Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs



- Yang Mulia Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Elinda binti C.A. Mohamed
Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office



- Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman
Deputy Minister of Finance



- Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd. Salleh
Deputy Minister of Education



- Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw
Deputy Minister of Energy, Manpower and Industry



Trade and Industry



Apart from depending on the revenue from exports of oil and gas, efforts will also be intensified for the development of oil and gas downstream activities and other industries that can create additional growth centres. The achievement of the non-oil sectors, particularly the small-and-medium industries, is also a contributor to the sustainable economic growth of the country.

Through a series of five-year National Development Plans (NDP), measures have been taken to diversify the economy by encouraging development in other fields. The national objective of NDPs is to create an integrated and dynamic development in every aspect that can lead to improvements in the people's quality of life. The year 2012 saw the launching of the 10th National Development Plan (2012 – 2017), in which \$6.5 billion was allocated to fund 682 projects.

Gross Domestic Product

Brunei Darussalam's 2018 total Growth Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices amounts to \$18,300.7 million; with the oil and gas industry contributing up to \$10,728.7 million; services up to \$6,833.0 million and agriculture forestry and fishery totaling up to \$186.2 million.

While GDP per capita at current prices increased from \$38,993.4 in 2017 to \$41,366.8 in 2018.

External Trade

Brunei Darussalam's total exports in the year 2018 amounted to \$8,871.8 million, where exports were still dominated by crude petroleum.

The main countries of destination of Brunei's crude petroleum in the year 2017 were: Republic of India (\$660.1 million); Thailand (\$839.9 million); Australia (\$775.1 million); Republic of Korea (\$331.2 million); Republic of Singapore (\$587.0 million); Japan (\$83.6 million); and Republic of Indonesia (\$40.8 million).

While total exports of natural gas in the year 2018 amounted to \$4,424.2 million with Japan as the top destination amounting to \$2,976.6 million; followed by the Republic of Korea - \$487.1 million and other countries - \$691.5 million.

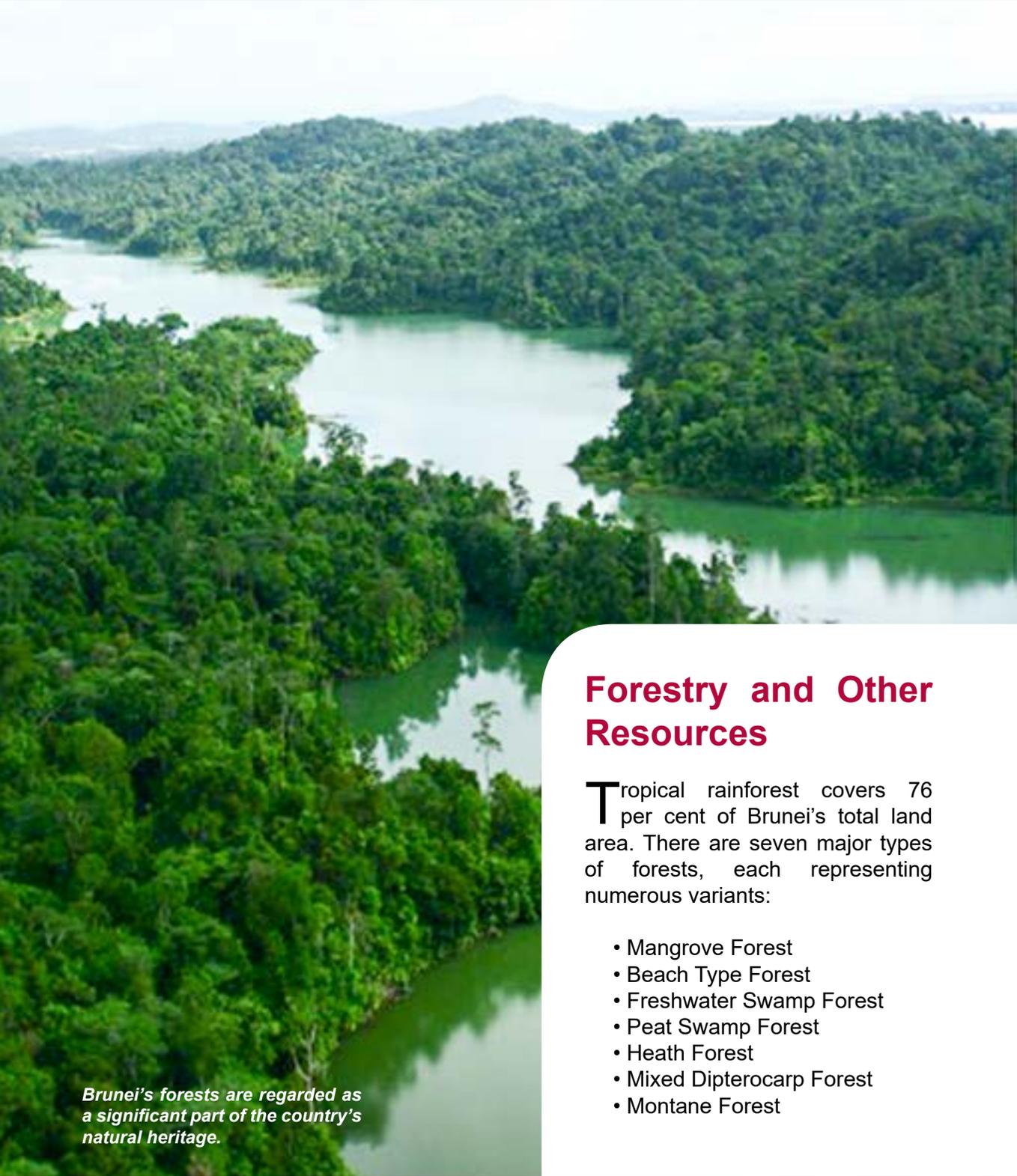


Nodding Donkey.

Oil & Gas Industry

Natural gas produced from Brunei oil fields is exported as liquefied natural gas to two major destinations which are Japan and Republic of Korea. The average production of crude oil in 2018 was at 112,000 barrels per day, whilst production of gas was at 234,000 barrels of oil equivalent (kBOE) per day.

In the same period, the oil price was at US\$73.17 per barrel; while liquefied natural gas was at US\$ 10.45 per million British Thermal Unit (MMBtu).



Brunei's forests are regarded as a significant part of the country's natural heritage.

Forestry and Other Resources

Tropical rainforest covers 76 per cent of Brunei's total land area. There are seven major types of forests, each representing numerous variants:

- Mangrove Forest
- Beach Type Forest
- Freshwater Swamp Forest
- Peat Swamp Forest
- Heath Forest
- Mixed Dipterocarp Forest
- Montane Forest

They represent one of the most diverse and unique vegetative assemblages in the world, comprising about 5,000 species of plants, including about 2,000 species of trees. Although a large part of Brunei is covered with timber, its contribution to the economy is minimal.

In the year 2018, forestry production of round timber and sawn timber amounted to 68,400 cubic metres and 30,800 cubic metres respectively.

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Imports

Imports by the commodity section in the year 2018 were \$5,622.3 million. The main imports were food and live animals (\$612 million); chemicals (\$358.6 million); manufactured goods (\$1,600.2 million); machinery and transport equipment (\$2,154 million); miscellaneous manufactured articles (\$396 million); and others (\$10.1 million).

The production of Mangrove Poles reached 37,100 pieces valued at \$0.3 million and charcoal briquettes reached 379.1 metric tonne valued at \$288,100.

Logging in Brunei Darussalam is confined to 100,000 cubic metres annually and is only 30 per cent of local consumption, while the rest is imported.

Brunei Darussalam has a National Herbarium, which has become an important institution of reference. The Brunei National Herbarium (BRUN) plays an important role as the centre for specimens collected in the country and those from neighbouring countries: the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, Indonesian province of Kalimantan, and Republic of Singapore. BRUN currently houses an impressive specimen collection amounting to nearly more than 29,000 species.



Agriculture





Paddy that are ready to be harvested

A worker picking vegetables at a greenhouse.

Agriculture remains an important sector in the country's bid to achieve a progressive and productive economy, while ensuring the security of food supply for the people of Brunei Darussalam.

Rice Production

In the year 2018, rice production amounted to 1,577.9 metric tonnes.

In 2018, 1,160.65 hectares of land were allocated for the cultivation of paddy with 777.49 hectares in Brunei-Muara District; 94.56 hectares in Belait District; 115.6 hectares in Tutong District; and 173 hectares in Temburong District.

Vegetable Production

The vegetable industry continues to hold a significant post with an estimated retail value of \$66.52 million in 2018.

The local production was about 11,039.6 metric tonnes and amounted to a retail value of \$30.11 million. A total of 12,680 metric tonnes of vegetables were imported.

As of 2018, an estimated 720.15 hectares of land were developed for vegetable production with 469.59 hectares in Brunei-Muara District; 117.96 hectares in Tutong District; 132.01 hectares in Belait District; and 0.59 hectares in Temburong District.

Fruit Production

In 2018, the fruits industry was valued at an estimated retail value of \$71.12 million with a total consumption of 26,148.1 metric tonnes.

Local production was at 9,752.1 metric tonnes with a retail value of \$21.91 million. A total of 16,396.0 metric tonnes were imported with an estimated retail value of \$49.21 million.

The local fruits produced in Brunei Darussalam according to quantity are young coconut, banana, durian, rambutan, musk lime, cempedak, old fruit, papaya, watermelon, jackfruit, tarap, mango, guava, pineapple and kembayau.

Miscellaneous Crop

The local production of miscellaneous crops in 2018 was 1,424.1 metric tonnes with a retail value of about \$3.28 million. The import was 15,282.7 metric tonnes.

Ornamental and Floriculture Industry

Local production of ornamental plants in 2018 amounted to 681,940 plants with a retail value of about \$4.47 million. A total of 320,856 plants were imported with an estimated retail value of \$0.81 million. The overall total consumption of ornamental plants was 1,002,796 plants with a retail value of \$5.28 million.

While the local production of cut flowers in 2018 was 69,866 cuts with retail value of \$56,647. The total import was 911,244 cuts valued at \$1.24 million.

Agrifood Industry

• Livestock Production

The total consumption of livestock production in 2018 for buffaloes were 2,741.84 metric tonnes; cattle at 2,418.72 metric tonne and 56.28 metric tonnes of goats.

Brunei Darussalam continues to be self-sufficient in the production of broiler chickens. In 2018, the production of broiler chickens reached 25,386.7 metric tonnes with a retail value of \$115.92 million.

- **Poultry Layer Production**

The target for poultry layer production is to secure and ensure continuous egg production at 100 per cent self-sufficiency level. Egg production in Brunei Darussalam has reached 100 per cent self-sufficiency since year 1994.

Agriculture production data shows that the production of chicken eggs in the year 2018 was worth at a retail value of about \$26.17 million or 154.62 million

eggs. Total consumption in the year 2018 was at 154.62 million eggs with a retail value of \$26.17 million.

- **Fisheries**

Fishery is one of the sustainable economic diversification. The Fisheries Industry comprises three sectors: Capture Industry; Aquaculture Industry; and Processing Industry.

The Capture Industry in 2018 saw a local production of 13,565.6 metric

tonnes; followed by Aquaculture Industry with 1,248.3 metric tonnes; and the Processing Industry with 3,852.6 metric tonnes.

- **Processing Industry**

The overall processing industry involves livestock and crops. In 2018, the livestock processing industry was worth at about \$244.63 million; and crops processing was valued at \$63.69 million.



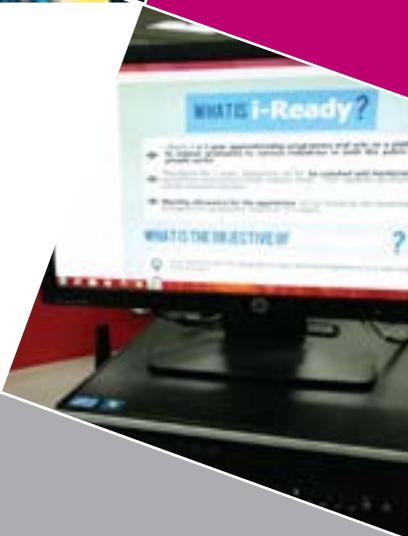
Chickens eggs are assembled and packed in a clean environment.

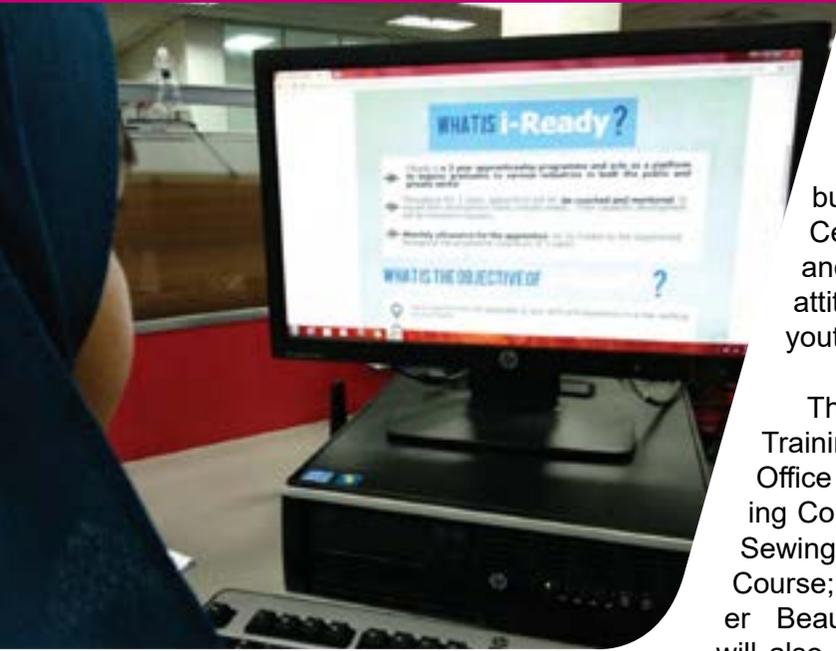


A fishing farm located at Tanjung Pelumpong, one of Brunei's main areas for aquaculture.



Human Resource





A graduate applying for i-Ready internship.

business and employment. The Center is responsible for teaching and guiding them in forming attitudes to becoming a useful youth in the country.

The programme holds Skills Training in Computer Course and Office Handling; Cooking and Catering Course; Cake and Pastry Course; Sewing Foundation and Embroidery Course; and Cosmetic and Hairdresser Beauty Therapy Course. Youths will also undergo the Self Development Programme and the Job Placement Programme.

In the National Development Plan 2012 – 2017, emphasis and priority was given on efforts to accelerate economic growth through a sustained increase in productivity that is based on knowledge and innovation.

According to Brunei Darussalam Statistical Yearbook 2018, Brunei Darussalam's labour force in 2018 was recorded at 48,514 government employees comprising of 21,999 male employees and 26,515 female employees.

Youth Development Programme

Located in Lambak Kanan, the setting up of Youth Development Center as part of the Youth Development Programmes aims to produce responsible, disciplined, dynamic and successful youth and to prepare them to venture into

JobCentre

JobCentre is managed by the Department of Energy and Industry, Prime Minister's Office. Located at Beribi, JobCentre Brunei is a One-Stop Career Center where local jobseekers may utilise available services to help improve their employability and marketability in the job market and where private companies may use its facilities for their local recruitment process.

Through JobCentre, i-Ready apprenticeship was also introduced in 2017 as a platform for Bachelor's Degree and Master holders to apply for apprenticeship within the private and government sectors. The apprenticeship aims to train them to be more ready for the employment field. JobCentre is managed by Department of Energy and Industry, Prime Minister's Office.



Banking and Finance



Brunei Darussalam issued its own currency in 1967, replacing the Malaya British Borneo money which was previously shared with Malaya and Singapore.

The currency consists of notes of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 and \$10,000; and coins of 1 cent, 5 cents, 20 cents and 50 cents. One dollar is equivalent to 100 cents.

The Brunei Dollar is on par with the Singapore Dollar.

The banking sector is comprised of conventional banks, Islamic banks, conventional finance companies, Islamic finance companies and offshore international bank.

The conventional banks include:

1. Baiduri Bank Berhad;
2. Bank of China (Hongkong) Limited;
3. Malayan Banking Berhad (Maybank);
4. RHB Bank Berhad;
5. State Street Sdn Bhd;
6. Standard Chartered Bank; and
7. United Overseas Bank (UOB) Limited.

The Islamic banks are:

1. Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) Berhad; and
2. Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei Berhad (TAIB).

The conventional finance company is:

1. Baiduri Finance Berhad

The only Islamic finance company is BIBD At-Tamwil Berhad, whereas the only offshore international bank is Sun Hung Kai International Bank (Brunei) Limited.

Commemorative Coins, Currency and Note

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, officiated the launching of the \$50 Commemorative Polymer Note, Commemorative Coins and the 5th Series of Coins in Circulation, in Conjunction with the Golden Jubilee Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Accession to the Throne.

The new \$50 polymer note represents a number of significant features to mark the Golden Jubilee Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei



The \$50 Commemorative Polymer Note in Circulation, in Conjunction with the Golden Jubilee Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Accession to the Throne.

Darussalam's Accession to the Throne. In addition, AMBD also issued the limited edition commemorative coins in gold and silver, as well as the 5th series coin for circulation.

The \$0.50 cents coin was designed with a special jawi inscription that reads "Sempena Sambutan Jubli Emas Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Menaiki Takhta" (In Conjunction with the Golden Jubilee Celebration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Accession to the Throne). Issued in limited a quantity of 500,000 pieces for circulation, the coins were distributed to students in all pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, as well as sixth-from centres in all four districts nationwide.



Transport and Communications





A fireworks display at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) bridge during its Opening Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Golden Jubilee Celebration.

The transport and communications sector plays a crucial role in supporting the economic growth and ensuring a balanced socio-economic development of the country.

With the continuous economic growth, Brunei Darussalam has developed an efficient transportation network and runs one of the most modern telecommunications systems among developing countries.

Airport

The Brunei International Airport, the main gateway to Brunei Darussalam, is located in Berakas: about 15 minutes' drive from Bandar Seri Begawan.

On the other hand, Brunei Shell Petroleum also has a small airport at Anduki in the Belait District for its own operations.

Air Transport

Statistics showed that in 2018, the number of aircraft movements that were scheduled were 13,896, whereas those that were unscheduled were 639.

At the same time, the numbers for passenger movement during the period were 765,482 for inward passengers; 764,782 for outward passengers; and 244,278 transit passengers.



Royal Brunei Airline's Dreamliner Boeing 787 taking off.

The amount of freight handled in the same period was 12,491,126 kilogrammes (inward); and 10,445,281 kilogrammes (outward).

Royal Brunei Airlines (RB)

On November 18, 1974, Brunei's national carrier, the Royal Brunei Airlines (RB), was established as an independent corporation wholly owned by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

In its first year of operations, the airline's flying services started with Republic of Singapore; Hong Kong; Kota Kinabalu and Kuching, Malaysia. To date, RB provides scheduled services to destinations across Asia, the Middle East, Australasia and to the United Kingdom.

As an added convenience to its passengers, the airline has code-share agreements with a number of airlines, allowing passengers to coordinate flights for seamless travel to a wider choice of destinations. In October 2013, RB became the first South East Asian carrier to fly the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft.

RB now operates a fleet of four Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner with 18 Business Class seats and 236 Economy Class seats, four Airbus A320s with 12 Business Class seats and 132 Economy Class seats and two new Airbus A320s with 12 Business Class seats and 138 Economy Class seats.

Road Transport

The number of vehicles have increased over the years due to subsidised fuel, low road tax and driving license fees. Most vehicles are imported from South Korea, Malaysia, Republic of Indonesia, Japan, The United Kingdom of Great Britain, The Federal Republic of Germany and Italy.

Cars in Brunei Darussalam are right-hand drive and every vehicle must be covered with a valid insurance policy. Drivers must have valid licenses issued by Brunei Darussalam or international driving licenses.

Public transportation system in the country had also undergone rapid development. In 2018, 11,139 new non-government vehicles were registered comprising 10,442 private vehicles; 333 goods vehicles; 36 taxis; 72 buses; 241 motorcycles and scooters; and 15 were of other categories. In addition, only one newly registered Government vehicle was recorded.



Dart is a transport service available for the public.

Roads

Brunei Darussalam in 2018 has 3,674.24 kilometres of roads ranging from highways to private roads. There are also 27 flyovers, 95 signalised traffic lights and about 30 major roundabouts around the country.

Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha Bridge (Sungai Kebun Bridge)

Officiated by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on October 14, 2017, the bridge (also known as the Sungai Kebun Bridge) is a cable-stayed bridge: the first of its kind in Brunei and the second-longest single-pylon cable-stayed bridge in the world.

Its design is strongly rooted in the Bruneian identity, with the incorporation of Islamic characteristics and symbols of national sovereignty, such as the shape of the Royal Crest and the placement of a replica of the dome of the Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque on a 157-meter-tall pylon structure.

Connecting Jalan Residency and Kampung Sungai Kebun across Sungai Brunei, the bridge also serves to enhance the beauty of the environment in Bandar Seri Begawan and is an attraction for visitors and tourists.

Sea Transport and Water Taxis Services

Boats and water taxis are the means of transportation for most residents of Kampong Ayer. The fares are cheap and charged according to distance. Others



A view of the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha Bridge (Sungai Kebun Bridge).

Postal Services

There are reliable domestic and international postal services provided at 23 post offices and several postal agencies throughout the nation. The Mail Processing Centre (MPC) at the Old Airport Complex in Berakas acts as the processing centre for letters and parcels regardless of categories of mail from ordinary to Express Mail Service (EMS) items, while the General Post Office in the capital operates as the administration for the Department of Postal Services.

The EMS Speedpost network was extended to 64 countries in 2010, an impressive increase of 100 per cent from 32 countries in 1990. In 2018, the postal services handled 6,521,483 letter mails; 268,032 parcel, small packets & other; 43,671 postcards; 166,677 printed matters; and 219,172 registered articles.

prefer footbridges, which are available throughout Kampong Ayer.

There are regular water taxis and boat operating daily to and from Bandar Seri Begawan and Temburong between 7.45 am to 4.00 pm daily and services to the Malaysian towns of Lawas, Sundar and Labuan. Sea transport services to the Malaysian Federal Territory of Labuan depart from Serasa Terminal in Muara.

Marine and Ports

The main port of Brunei Darussalam is Muara, which is about 28 kilometres from the capital. It was opened for commercial operations in February 1973 and commissioned as the Department of Ports on May 1, 1974. The department took over the management and operations of all ports on January 1, 1986 from the Department of Royal Customs and Excise.

Being the main point for the exports and imports of goods, Muara Port plays a crucial role in providing various required facilities such as containers, storage and transshipment.

The dedicated container terminal at Muara Port, Muara Container Terminal is equipped with up-to-date machinery and equipment. It is operated by experienced and skilled manpower that delivers high levels of efficiency and productivity.

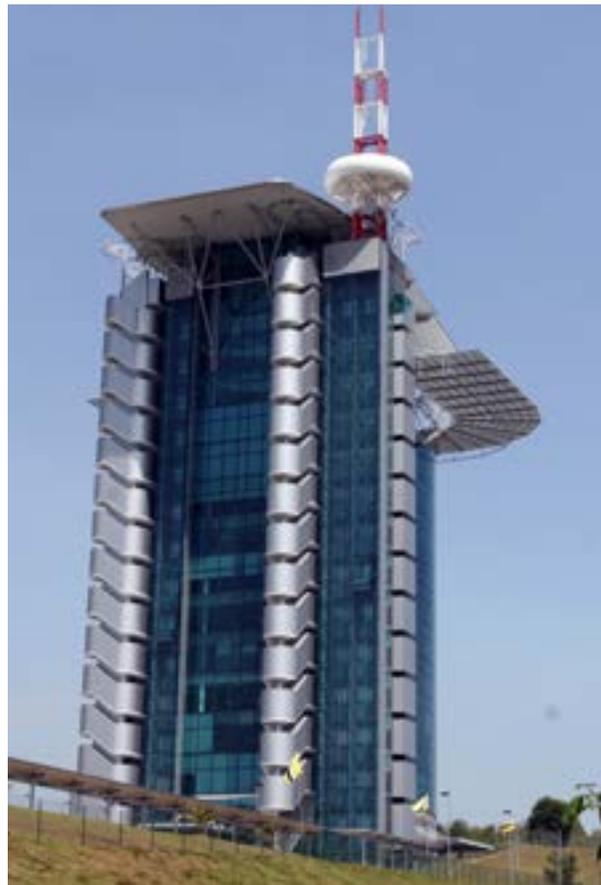
In 2018, the terminal handled 1,816,469 tonnes of discharged and loaded cargo compared to 1,872,494 in year 2017.



Water taxi is mainly used by the residents of Kampong Ayer.



A Commemorative Pack issued by Department of Postal Services in Conjunction with the Golden Jubilee Accession to the Throne of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



DST is one of the mobile telephone service providers in Brunei Darussalam.

Telecommunications

Telecommunication services have improved considerably over the years. Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru), formerly known as the Department of Telecommunications before it was privatised on April 1, 2006, is responsible for the provision, management and maintenance of domestic as well as international telecommunications services consisting of telephone, facsimile, telex, telegraph, cellular mobile telephone, radio paging and data packet switch.

Fixed Line Service telephone services, despite facing stiff challenges from cellular mobile telephone services, is still highly subscribed.



Customers at a TelBru service counter.

Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

Cellular mobile telephone services have become an increasing trend with 544,732 subscribers in 2017, and 565,949 in 2018 with 137,328 postpaid subscribers and 428,621 prepaid subscribers, surpassing the local population.

The cellular mobile telephone service was introduced in 1990 and was privatised in 1995, when it was taken over by Datastream Technology (DST) Communications Sdn. Bhd. Today, there are two cellular mobile telephone service providers - DST Communications Sdn. Bhd. and Progresif Cellular Sdn. Bhd.

Internet

In 2018, the total number of Internet subscribers (fixed and mobile broadband) was 607,336.

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continue to ensure the welfare of its citizens. Some of the measures taken include the provision of good health services as well as education to the citizens living in both urban and rural areas with minimal cost; heavily subsidised housing schemes; and pensions as well as allowances for those eligible.



Social Services



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Medical and Health

As of 2018, there are four government-run hospitals with one in each district: Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital (Brunei-Muara District); Suri Seri Begawan Hospital (Belait District); Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Hospital (Tutong District); and Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam Hospital (Temburong District). There is also a cancer centre, known as The Brunei Cancer Centre (TBCC), located in Jerudong (Brunei-Muara District).



Medical services are offered at its best.

Community-based outpatient services and primary health care for mothers and children are provided through a large network of health clinics and health centres distributed throughout the country. Currently, there are six hospitals (four government and two private hospitals); 15 health centres (14 government and one private health centres); seven health / maternal and child health clinics; three traveling health clinics; and two flying medical services.

The private health sector comprises of two hospitals, namely: the Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC); the Gleneagles-JPMC Centre and one health centre: the Panaga Health Centre.

Other government specialised medical centres are the National Cancer Centre and the National Stroke Rehabilitation Centre – both of which are housed in JPMC.

The number of medical personnel in 2018 was 787 doctors; 109 dentists; 81 pharmacists; 2,797 nurses and 94 midwives. The population per doctor was 562 persons per doctor.

Statistics showed that the three major cause of death in 2018 was Cancer (Malignant Neoplasms) - 304 people; followed by heart diseases (248 people); and Diabetes Mellitus (160 people). Other major causes of death include Cerebrovascular Diseases; Bronchitis, Chronic and unspecified Emphysema and Asthma; Hypertensive Diseases; Transport Accidents; Congenital Malformations; Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities; Septicaemia; and other diseases.

To further promote awareness on the importance of living a healthy lifestyle among the community, a Health Promotion Centre (HPC) was established. Officially opened in 2008, HPC offers a number of interactive activities including exhibitions suitable for all ages.

Education

The government provides free education to all Brunei citizens who attend government schools/educational institutions. Text books; transport where necessary; and accommodation in the form of hostels for students from rural areas are provided for free to all citizens. Students who are not eligible for hostel accommodation are provided free transportation to and from school. The government has a school feeding system, whereby meals are given to

rural schools, while light meals are provided to those in urban areas.

In 2018, there are altogether 252 educational institutions ranging from kindergartens to universities in both the government and private sectors.

There were a total of 175 government schools in 2018, which includes 122 pre-primary (pre-school/primary) schools; 39 secondary/sixth form (pre-university) schools; and nine technical/vocational schools.

In addition, there were also eight Arabic schools in 2018, which includes five Arabic tertiary schools; and three Arabic preparatory schools.

Meanwhile, the total number of private schools is 77, which includes 71 pre-primary (pre-primary (pre-school/primary) schools/secondary/sixth form



Mulaut Primary School located in Jalan Mulaut, Kilanas.

(pre-university) schools; three technical/vocational schools and three tertiary schools.

The total number of teachers was 10,940 with 899 for pre-school/ kindergarten; 3,989 for primary schools; 4,671 secondary/sixth form (pre-university) teachers; 543 technical/vocational teachers; and 838 university lecturers.

The total number of students enrolled in 2018 was 108,881 with 13,869 in pre-school/ kindergarten; 39,472 in primary schools; 34,247 in secondary schools; 4,575 in sixth form;

5,082 in technical/vocational institutions; and 11,636 in universities.

The literacy rate for aged 10 and above was 97.1 per cent with 98.1 per cent for male and 96.0 per cent for female.

Housing

Various schemes have been introduced from as early as the 1950's in the pursuit of providing all Brunei citizens with proper accommodation in pleasant environments.



The resettlement programmes began as early as 1951, when the residents of Kampung Bendahara Lama of Kampong Ayer were resettled to the Bunut Resettlement Area in Mukim Kilanas of the Brunei-Muara District.

A nationwide survey was conducted in 1970's to identify the people's housing needs. 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 on which 84 houses under Phase One had been completed and allocated to successful applicants in early 1986.

Similar and other housing schemes were introduced since then, which include the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme (STKRJ), Temporary Occupation License Land (TOL) Scheme, and Infill Scheme (IS).

Since 2011, more citizens have been awarded with land grants and keys to their new homes. From the day it was introduced until today, more than 70,000 houses have been built through the National Housing Scheme within the country.

Social Welfare Services

On January 1, 1955, the Old Age Pensions and Disable Act 1954 were introduced. The monthly provisions of welfare, old age pensions and disability allowance are not only maintained until today, but they have been expanded to include the less fortunate and those facing social mishaps. Under this act, the elderly are given a monthly allowance of \$250.

Apart from the government, non-government organisations (NGOs) also provide services to the society.

One of the houses located at Kampung Lugu National Housing Scheme.



Mass Media



Radio

Radio transmission in Brunei Darussalam goes all the way back to May 1957, where programmes were transmitted for only two and a quarter hours each day.

Today, there are two radio networks operating in the country. The government-owned network has five channels broadcasting in Malay – Nasional FM, Pelangi FM, Harmoni FM, Nur Islam and Rangkaian Pilihan which broadcasts in English, Mandarin and Gurkhali.

The only privately-owned radio network is Kristal FM, where its broadcast is a mixture of Malay and English.

Radio Brunei launched its NetRadio service to enable global listeners to listen to Radio Brunei on July 9, 2011 through www.liveonlineradio.net/brunei.

Television

Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) is a state-owned television network. It has three channels.

One of which is RTB Perdana. With its informative concept, the channel serves as the premier medium in the fastest circulation of fully verified Government policies, information as well as latest news. RTB Perdana also acts as a referential platform for accurate information, as well as the sharing of current affairs and international matters.

On the other hand, RTB Aneka is a TV channel which is aimed towards family entertainment. With its educational, family and entertainment values, the channel broadcasts a wide variety of quality TV programmes that are appropriate for all age levels. The last of the local TV channels, RTB Sukmaidera, plays a significant role in globally disseminating all sorts of information related to Brunei Darussalam. It can be viewed terrestrially across the country and via online streaming through RTB's official website www.rtb.gov.bn.

Since 2009, RTB has moved from analog to Digital broadcasts. Citizens are now given more options with the availability of Kristal-Astro Sdn. Bhd.: a private cable TV provider which gives extensive coverage of channels from news to sports.

Press

Pelita Brunei is the government's official newspaper. Published in Malay with three editions per week, the local newspaper has a circulation of 8,000 copies. It consists of various content: including local news, current affairs, religious issues, government advertising and sports.

On July 19, 2008, the Department of Information introduced the online version of Pelita Brunei (updated daily through www.pelitabrunei.gov.bn). Years later, on August 16, 2016, Pelita Brunei was officially introduced in e-paper format.

The government also publishes a monthly newsletter in the English Language, known as the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter (available on www.information.gov.bn).

There are two privately owned newspapers: which are the Borneo Bulletin (published in English) and Media Permata (published in Malay). Online news is also available on The Scoop and The Bruneian.

Foreign daily newspapers, periodicals and other publications are also available on sale.

Brunei regularly receives visits from foreign journalists and media organisations to cover events and news items in the country. The Department of Information is responsible for issuing press accreditation/passes for practising journalists visiting in the country.



International Relations





His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the ASEAN 50 Conference in the Philippines.

Brunei Darussalam is a member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the United Nations (UN), the Commonwealth, the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

Brunei Darussalam also plays a leading role in the economic zone known as the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

Since the resumption of independence, the sultanate has been pursuing an active foreign policy designed to improve understanding and strengthen cultural, religious and economic ties.

The country has diplomatic missions with either embassies or high commissions in all ASEAN capitals; as well as in other countries, namely: Canberra, Manama, Dhaka, Brussels, Ottawa, Beijing, Cairo, Paris, Berlin, New Delhi, Tehran, Tokyo, Amman, Seoul, Rabat, Muscat, Islamabad, Doha, Moscow, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, London and Washington.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during a banquet held for the State Visit of His Excellency Tran Dai Quan, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and spouse at Istana Nurul Iman.

In addition, apart from setting up a Trade and Tourism Office in Taipei, Brunei Darussalam also has permanent representatives to the UN in Geneva and New York.

Diplomatic Missions in Brunei

Countries that have diplomatic missions in Brunei Darussalam include: the fellow members of ASEAN, Britain, the

United States of America, Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, The Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, Pakistan, Bangladesh, France, The Sultanate of Oman, the People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Some 69 other countries have also officially accredited their ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.



Tourism



Tourism

Brunei Darussalam has identified the tourism industry as one of the sectors that can be further developed to diversify its economy. One of its efforts is by promoting ecotourism.

With more than 70 per cent of the country's land area covered with tropical rainforests, one of the world's richest and diverse, the country offers tourists with a wide range of natural habitats and opportunity to foster environmental education.

Brunei's tourism industry is divided into several market areas: ASEAN, Far East, Europe, Middle/West/Central Asia, Australia/New Zealand, Americas and other.

In 2018, a total of 278,136 tourists visited the country. The number of tourists comprised of those from ASEAN (47.9 per cent); the Far East (29.7 per cent); those on long-haul travels (10.6 per cent); and those from Australia and New Zealand (4.0 per cent).

There are three Tourist Information Centres in the country, which can be found at:

1. Brunei International Airport's arrival hall
Opening hours:
Monday to Sunday: 9.00am to 6.00pm
2. The Royal Wharf (Dermaga Diraja)
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday and Saturday: 9.00am to 4.30pm
Closed on Friday, Sunday and public holidays
3. Kampong Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery
Opening hours: Monday to Thursday and Saturday: 9.00am to 4.30pm
Closed on Friday, Sunday and public holidays



A tourist taking an opportunity to take a photo with one of the young performers during Brunei's National Day Celebration.



Places of Interest





Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque.



Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.



A view of Kampong Ayer at sunset.

There are two great mosques in Bandar Seri Begawan. The first is located at the city centre of Bandar Seri Begawan.

Completed in 1958, the mosque is named after the 28th Sultan of Brunei Darussalam: Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam II, who was referred to as the Architect of Modern Brunei. The mosque features classical Islamic architecture; with marble, gold mosaic, stained glass, and a 52-metre golden dome flanked by a 54-metre minaret.

Linked to the mosque and built in the middle of a lagoon, is a replica of a 16th century royal barge known as 'Bahtera'. The Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque is one of the most magnificent mosques in Southeast Asia – symbolising Brunei's perpetual adherence to Islam.

The mosque is open for visitors from Saturday to Wednesday – between 8.00 am to 12.00 noon; 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm; and 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm.

The second great mosque is another inspirational example of Islamic architecture in the capital: the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah. It was built in 1994 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the reign of the 29th Sultan, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

Located midway between the Bandar Seri Begawan town centre and the rapidly developing growth centre of Gadong, the mosque is a recent example of carefully crafted Islamic design — symbolising modern Brunei, with its gold-topped domes tower over artfully landscaped garden and fountains.

Its visiting hours are from Saturday to Wednesday - between 8.00 am to 12.00 noon; 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm; and 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

Both mosques are closed to non-Muslims on Thursdays and Fridays.

Kampong Ayer

Kampong Ayer (Water Village), the world's largest water settlement area, is centuries-old. It comprises of six mukims, namely: Saba, Sungai Kedayan, Peramu, Burung Pingai Ayer, Tamoi and Sungai Kebun.

The country's historical attraction is home to more than 30,000 inhabitants. The place consists of stilt houses joined by a maze of inter-connecting wooden walkways on the Brunei River.

Modern facilities such as schools, clinics, police stations and mosques are also provided for residents who are living at Kampong Ayer. On the other hand, water taxis serve as the most efficient and popular means of transportation to travel across the Brunei River to the mainland.

Lapau and Dewan Majlis

Another magnificent building within Bandar Seri Begawan is the Royal Ceremonial



Lapau and Dewan Majlis.

Hall (locally known as Lapau) and the House of Parliament (locally known as the Dewan Majlis). They form a sprawling complex, featuring a blend of traditional Malay and western architecture.

Beautifully decorated in exquisite gold motifs, the Lapau, which contains the Patarana (Throne), is also where numerous solemn ceremonies in the country are held. It was here, on August 1, 1968, that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was crowned the 29th ruler of Brunei Darussalam.



The Mausoleum of Sultan Bolkiah.

The Mausoleum of Sultan Bolkiah

The mausoleum is situated at Jalan Kota Batu, facing the Brunei River. The tomb of Sultan Bolkiah, the 5th Sultan of Brunei lies within the mausoleum.

Known as the Nakhoda Ragam, which means 'The singing Captain', Sultan Bolkiah was one of the greatest Sultans of Brunei. During his rule, Brunei's sovereignty extended over the whole of the coastal kingdom of Borneo. The mausoleum, therefore, commemorates the golden age of Brunei.



Brassware and Silverware collections displayed at the Brunei Arts & Handicrafts Training Centre.

Brunei Arts & Handicrafts Training Centre

The Brunei Arts & Handicrafts Training Centre was established in 1975, with the objective to preserve the skills of producing local handicrafts. Until today, the centre has produced many graduates who become heavily involved in small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs); mainly in producing handicrafts like kain tenunan tradisional Brunei (woven cloth), Batik art, songkok (traditional



An exhibition displaying the utensils used in the old days at the Malay Technology Museum.



Gadong Night Market.

headgear), and brass-making products. The centre also has a gallery that displays various handicrafts made by the students, some of which are for sale.

Historical Findings & Artefacts

There are two significant buildings that house the country's historical findings and artefacts: the Brunei Museum and the Malay Technology Museum.

Situated along the river banks of Brunei River at Jalan Kota Batu, the Brunei Museum showcases the origins of Brunei's culture and heritage. A walking distance away is the Malay Technology Museum, which offers an insight into the kind of tools ancient Bruneians used for their daily routines, particularly for the cottage industry.

The museum features goldsmith techniques, boat-making, fishing, brass-smith, and woodworks, as testaments to the ingenuity of the earlier generations in utilising available materials and resources.

Gadong Night Market

The Pasar Pelbagai Barangan or the night market is opened daily from 4.00 pm until midnight. It offers various types of cooked food; ranging from local to western dishes at affordable prices. Also available at the market are fresh fruits, vegetables and some clothing items.

Istana Nurul Iman

The Istana Nurul Iman is the largest residential palace in the world and the home of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

With its golden domes, vaulted roof and riverside setting, the palace is a spectacular subject for photography. The palace is opened to the public during Hari Raya Aidilfitri or Eid Mubarak, when citizens and visitors have the opportunity to personally greet His Majesty and members of the royal family.



Istana Nurul Iman from an angle.

With its golden domes, vaulted roof and riverside setting, the palace is a spectacular subject for photography.

The palace is opened to the public during Hari Raya Aidilfitri or Eid Mubarak when citizens and visitors have the opportunity to personally greet His Majesty and members of the royal family.

The Royal Regalia Museum

The Royal Regalia, strategically located in the heart of Bandar Seri Begawan, is a building that was established to commemorate the 1992 Silver Jubilee of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's accession to the Throne.

The building houses items of ceremonial regalia; including the royal chariot, gold and silver ceremonial armoury, the traditional jewel-encrusted coronation crowns and a replica of the throne used by His Majesty on state occasions.



Displays at the Royal Regalia Museum.

Oil and Gas Discovery Centre

The Oil and Gas Discovery Centre is located in Pekan Seria, Belait District. It was set up by the Brunei Shell Petroleum with an aim to educate the public on matters of science, technology and the environment.

Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery

Located just across from the downtown area of Brunei's capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, the Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery (KACTG) was officially opened on August 19, 2009.

The gallery features an attractive touch-screen information display, five mini galleries containing background information on the Kampong Ayer, as well as a number of photographs and museum artefacts.



Students during a school visit at the Oil and Gas Discovery Centre.

Handicraft displays, live craft-making demonstrations, and a souvenir kiosk are also available to allow visitors to bring back memories and mementos of their Kampong Ayer experience. The KACTG is a new landmark for Bandar Seri Begawan and a point of pride for Kampong Ayer residents.

Health Promotion Centre

Located about 10 minutes' drive from the capital, the centre was officially opened by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on November 13, 2008. The centre consists of modern exhibits that feature health related items. Besides viewing the attractive and innovative modern displays, visitors are also able to participate in interactive activities.

Billionth Barrel Monument

Located in the Belait District, the Billionth Barrel Monument memorialises and celebrates the billionth barrel of oil produced



The Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery.



The Billionth Barrel Monument.



Health Promotion Centre.



A beautiful view at Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park.



Ulu Temburong National Park.



Taman Persiaran Damuan.

in the onshore oil field in Seria. The monument was built in 1991 and was commemorated by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien on July 18, 1991.

Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park

Located in Tutong District (about one hour and 15 minutes' drive from Bandar Seri Begawan); the Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park aims to provide a safe haven for protected wildlife to breed, as well as to preserve flora and fauna and to provide a base for scientific research and study. For those interested in botany or bird watching, the park also offers a jungle trail to be explored. On November 29, 1984, the park was declared as one of the ASEAN National Heritage Sites.

Ulu Temburong National Park

This park is rich with unspoiled flora and fauna. Visitors can go there by using a long boat (locally known as Temuai). At the park, one can enjoy strolling on the extensive wooden boardwalk and witness the fresh environment. Other excitements here include the canopy walk and the waterfall.

Taman Persiaran Damuan

The park is situated next to the Istana Nurul Iman where visitors can get the best view of the palace. Because of this magnificent view, this park is known as one of the popular places of interest in Brunei. Taman Persiaran Damuan offers a beautiful scenery along the riverbank off Jalan Tutong, and it is a popular spot for joggers. Other distinctive decorations, which include six outdoor sculptures by ASEAN artists, are also available for viewing at the park.

Bukit Shahbandar Forest Recreational Park

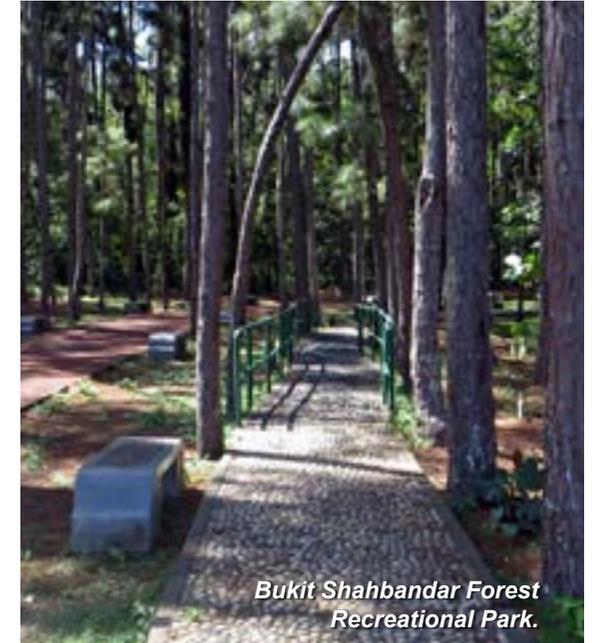
The Bukit Shahbandar Park is a popular recreational park located along the Muara-Tutong Highway. It is set on a 70-hectare undulating landscape – providing a challenge for even the most dedicated joggers, hikers and bikers. An observation tower provides a bird's eye view over the whole terrain from this huge park. Located in Jerudong, the park has become well-known among sports lovers as it has nine hills for adventurous hiking.

Beaches

Located close to the Bukit Shahbandar Recreational Park are two beaches: the Tungku Beach and the Jerudong Beach. Besides these two, other famous beaches include the Muara and Serasa beaches. These popular beaches are well equipped with picnic grounds, changing rooms, restrooms, yacht activities and food stalls.

Berakas Forest Reserve Recreational Park

Situated along the Muara-Tutong Highway, the 199-hectare-wide recreational park is just 10 kilometres from Bandar Seri Begawan. There are pathways, sheltered picnic spots, barbecue facilities and the soaring observation tower. The lush green forest is filled with keranga and casuarina trees which tumble to the edge of the nearby South China Sea.



Bukit Shahbandar Forest Recreational Park.



Sunset scenery at Pantai Seri Kenangan at sunset.



Berakas Forest Reserve Recreational Park.



A boat display at the Brunei Maritime Museum.

Brunei Maritime Museum

Located about 15 minutes' drive from Bandar Seri Begawan in Kota Batu, the Brunei Maritime Museum is for those with nautical interests. With an architectural design representing a ship, this museum features and exhibits more than 13,000 artefacts discovered in 1997, which was obtained from a shipwreck that set sail from China, and was believed to be from either the late 15th century or 16th century. These artefacts were meant to be exchanged with Brunei local products. Porcelains and ceramic potteries from China, Viet Nam and Thailand obtained from the shipwreck are displayed in the galleries of the museum.



A scenery at the Jerudong Park Playground.

Jerudong Park

The Jerudong Park is known as the biggest amusement park in Borneo with over 34 attractions; including a water theme park and Brunei's only musical fountain.

There is also a wide choice of over 30 restaurants at the Jerudong Park Food Court. From Western cuisine, to frozen yoghurt and local cuisine – visitors can come here and indulge in everything!

Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas

Officially on October 22, 2017, the name of the park was selected in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee Celebration

of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Ascension to the Throne. The park is part of the capital's Master Plan to beautify Bandar Seri Begawan and turn it into a city with a world-class waterfront area.

The crescent moon at the centre of the bridge symbolises Islam and blends in with the park's atmosphere – creating a new city landmark.



Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas.



Tourist Information



Passport and Visa Requirement

All persons entering Brunei Darussalam must possess valid passports or travel documents recognised by the Government of Brunei Darussalam. The passport must have a validity of six months before expiry when entering the country.

As required by the Brunei Passport Act, all foreign nationals need a valid visa to enter Brunei Darussalam. However, the following countries stated below are exempted from the requirement for social, business or professional visits for certain number of days:

Cambodia, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Myanmar, Norway, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Peru, Qatar, Switzerland, Republic of Thailand, Ukraine, and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam – 14 days.

Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, The Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Kuwait, Italy, Iran, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Malaysia, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates – 30 days.

The United States of America – 90 days.

Transit pass is issued for visitors from all countries for a stay for up to 72 hours only, provided they have assurance (ticket) of travelling to another destination, and a sponsorship letter or guarantor from the airlines.

For further information and clarification, please contact:

Department of Immigration and National Registration Headquarters
Ministry of Home Affairs, Jalan Menteri Besar
Bandar Seri Begawan
Brunei Darussalam BB3910
Tel: (673) 238 3106
Fax: (673) 238 0222

Website: www.immigration.gov.bn

Where to Stay



The interiors of a room at Wafa Hotel and Apartment

The Empire Hotel and Country Club
Jerudong BG3122
Telephone: (+673) 241 8888
Fax: (+673) 241 8999
E-mail: info@theempirehotel.com
Website: www.theempirehotel.com

The Rizqun International Hotel
The Mall, Abdul Razak Complex,
Gadong, Bandar Seri Begawan, BE3519
Telephone: (+673) 242 3000
Fax: (+673) 242 8000
E-mail: reservation@rizquninternational.com
Website: www.rizquninternational.com

Radisson Hotel
Jalan Tasek
Bandar Seri Begawan
Telephone: (+673) 224 4272
Fax: (+673) 222 1579
E-mail: reservations.brunei@radisson.com
Website: www.radisson.com/brunei

Mulia Hotel
Lot 31954, Simpang 9,
Kampung Anggerek Desa
Jalan Berakas BB3713
Telephone: (+673) 233 5544
Fax: (+673) 233 5444
E-mail: reservations@muliahotelbrunei.com
Website: www.muliahotelbrunei.com

The Centrepoin Hotel
Abdul Razak Complex
Gadong BE3519
Bandar Seri Begawan
Telephone: (+673) 243 0430
Fax: (+673) 243 0200
E-mail: reservation@thecentrepoinhotel.com
Website: www.thecentrepoinhotel.com

Le Gallery Suites Hotel
Km 2.5, Jalan Tutong
P.O Box 344, Seri Complex
Bandar Seri Begawan BA1799
Telephone: (+673) 222 1228
Fax: (+673) 222 1132
E-mail: rooms@legallerysuitseshotel.com
Website: www.legallerysuitseshotel.com

Kiulap Plaza Hotel
Lot 57046, Kampung Kiulap
Bandar Seri Begawan
Telephone: (+673) 223 2251/2
Fax: (+673) 223 2253
E-mail: reservation@kiulap-plaza-hotel.com
Website: www.kiulap-plaza-hotel.com

Jubilee Hotel
Jubilee Plaza, Jalan Kampung Kianggeh
Bandar Seri Begawan
Telephone: (+673) 222 8070
Fax: (+673) 222 8080
E-mail: info@jubileehotelbrunei.com /
jubilee@brunet.bn
Website: www.jubileehotelbrunei.com

Grand City Hotel
Kampung Beribi, Gadong
Bandar Seri Begawan
Telephone: (+673) 245 2188
Fax: (+673) 245 2110
E-mail: grandcity@brunet.bn

Times Hotel
2nd Floor, Times Square Shopping Centre
Simpang 13-29, Jalan Berakas
Kampung Jaya Setia, Mukim Berakas 'A'
Telephone: (+673) 233 7878
Fax: (+673) 233 7879
E-mail: reservation@timeshotelbrunei.com
Website: www.timeshotelbrunei.com

The Brunei Hotel
95, Jalan Pemancha,
Bandar Seri Begawan BS8811
P.O Box 50, Bandar Seri Begawan, BS 8670
Telephone: (+673) 2244 828
E-mail: info@thebrunehotel.com /
reservations@thebrunehotel.com
Website: www.thebrunehotel.com

Traders Inn
Block D, Lot 11620
Jalan Gadong
Bandar Seri Begawan
Telephone: (+673) 244 2828
Fax: (+673) 243 1188
E-mail: traders@brunet.bn
Website: www.tradersinn-bn.com

Star Lodge
Lot 27192, Jalan Pulau Kubu,
Kampung Jerudong,
Bandar Seri Begawan, BG3122
Telephone: (+673) 261 1618 / 261 1420
Fax: (+673) 261 1619
E-mail: hello@starlodgebrunei.com
Website: www.starlodgebrunei.com

Wafa Hotel and Apartment
Annajat Complex, Lot 71077,
Kampung Mata-Mata, Mukim Gadong,

Bandar Seri Begawan
Telephone: (+673) 242 6889 / 242 5889
E-mail: reservations@wafahotelbn.com
Website: wafahotelbn.com

Hotel Sentosa (Belait District)
92-93, Jalan McKerron
P.O Box 252, Kuala Belait KA1189
Telephone: (+673) 333 4341/2 or 333 1345/7
Fax: (+673) 2+33 1129
E-mail: enquiry@bruneisentosahotel.com
Website: www.bruneisentosahotel.com

Sea View Resort Hotel & Apartment (Belait District)
Lot 3678, Km 2.6, Jalan Maulana
P.O Box 127
Kuala Belait KA 1139
Telephone: (+673) 333 2651/55, 333 4901/05
Fax: (+673) 334 2770
E-mail: seaviewhotel@brunet.bn

V-Plaza (Belait District)
Lot 1300, Jalan Sungkai,
Kuala Belait, KA2331
Telephone: (+673) 3347868
Fax: (+673) 3347868
E-mail: info@v-plaza.com.bn
Website: http://www.v-plaza.com.bn

Stoneville Hotel (Temburong District)
Mukim Bangar,
Temburong, Brunei
Telephone: (+673) 5222252
Fax: (+673) 5222249
E-mail: stoneville@yahoo.com

Ulu Ulu National Park Resort (Temburong District)
Temburong, Brunei
Telephone: (+673) 2441791 / 2446812
Fax: (+673) 2441790
E-mail: booking@uluuluresort.com
Website: www.uluuluresort.com



Mangrove Paradise Resort.

Parkview Hotel
Lot 36204, Jalan Pertanian Luahan
Jerudong
Bandar Seri Begawan, BG3312
Telephone: (+673) 222 1686
Fax: (+673) 222 1687
E-mail: fbd@parkviewhotelbn.com/ sales@
parkviewhotelbn.com
Website: http://www.parkviewhotelbn.com

Palm Garden Hotel
Lot 45328, Simpang 88
Kampung Kiulap
Bandar Seri Begawan, BE1518
Telephone: (+673) 223 3448
Fax: (+673) 223 4448
E-mail: palmgarden@brunet.bn
Website: http://www.palmgarden-hotel.com

Badi'ah Hotel
Badi'ah Complex, Mile 1
1/4, Jalan Tutong
Bandar Seri Begawan, BA1712
Telephone: (+673) 222 2888
Fax: (+673) 222 2889
E-mail: reservation@badiahhotel.com
Website: http://www.badiahhotel.com

Jeruton Hotel
Unit 1-12, Block C, Lot 6905
Simpang 396, Jalan Jerudong
Mukim Sengkurong BG3122
Negara Brunei Darussalam
Telephone: (+673) 261 2233/ 261 2213
Fax: (+673) 261 1892
E-mail: frontend@jerutonhotel.com
Website: www.jerutonhotel.com

Mangrove Paradise Resort
Simpang 912, Kampung Sungai Belukut
Jalan Kota Batu
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Where to Eat

There are many restaurants and cafes in the capital and in all major towns. Many are first class and generally serve Asian and European dishes. Varieties of local cuisine are available at the Tamu Selera (open-air market), which is open in the evening and located opposite Radisson Hotel; or the new Pasar Pelbagai Barangan Gadong (night market) located opposite the Gadong Market. There are also several international fast-food restaurants and numerous cafes located in the commercial areas.



Brunei offers an array of dishes from local palate to international cuisines.

Public Holidays

New Year

Chinese New Year

National Day

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Birthday

Israk Mikraj

First Day of Ramadan

Nuzul Al-Quran

Hari Raya Aidilfitri

Hari Raya Aidiladha

Royal Brunei Armed Forces Anniversary

First day of Hijrah

Maulidur Rasul

Christmas