



BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

In Brief
Revised 2016



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,
The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam



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In Brief
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Brunei Darussalam ‘The Abode of Peace’

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Brunei Darussalam 'The Abode of Peace'

SOUTH CHINA SEA



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Location | : | Northwest of the Island of Borneo, between latitudes 4° 40' and 5° 05' North and longitudes 114° 04' and 110° 23' East |
| Land area | : | 5,765sq.km. |
| Highest point | : | 1,841 metres above sea level (Bukit Pagon) |
| Climate | : | Temperature ranges between 24.10C and 33.00C with relative humidity and total rainfall of 2,182.2 millimetres (2016) |
| Population | : | 422,678 (2016) |
| Official religion | : | Islam |
| Official language | : | Malay but English is widely spoken |
| Currency | : | Brunei Dollar which is on par with Singapore Dollar |
| GDP | : | \$15,747.7 million at current prices (2016) |
| Labour force | : | 195,635 (2014 est) - *Only data for Government Employees are stated in the Brunei Darussalam Statistical Yearbook 2016 i.e a total 49,514 Government Employees. |
| Literacy rate | : | 96.6 per cent (aged 10 and above) |
| Main industry | : | Oil and gas |
| Mobile phone subscribers | : | 523,453 (2016) |
| Internet subscribers (Fixed and mobile broadband) | : | 541,843 (2016) |



Brief Historical Background

Brief Historical Background

Before the advent of Islam, Brunei Darussalam's early history is unclear but archaeological discoveries supported by historical data indicate that Brunei had wide contacts with its neighbours on the Asian continent around 518 A.D. Chinese historians of that period, for example, made references in their writing of 'Puni' or 'Poli', two of the many names which Brunei was known during ancient times.

Islam took root in Brunei in the 14th century when its first ruler, Awang Alak Betatar, embraced Islam and changed his name to Sultan Muhammad Shah.

By the 15th and 16th centuries, especially during the reigns 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 made itself felt 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 became 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 but 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) which has transformed Brunei an intensive infrastructure and transformed it 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 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 succession to the throne further pushed Brunei Darussalam on the road to greater development.

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

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

As anticipated months of preparations, a new chapter in Brunei's colourful history opened shortly after midnight December 31, 1983 when His

Majesty declared Brunei Darussalam as a fully independent sovereign nation ready to resume its international responsibilities.

In consequence, His Majesty announced 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. He remained as Prime Minister and relinquished the portfolios of Home Affairs and Finance, and took over the Defence portfolio which his late father had held since 1984. His Majesty also announced the appointment of five new Ministers and eight Deputy Ministers.

On November 30, 1988, His Majesty announced another reshuffle of the Cabinet, which took effect from January 1, 1989. In the reshuffle, aimed primarily to boost the country's development, His Majesty created the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and elevated a state dignitary to a full minister.

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

The fourth Cabinet reshuffle was announced on May 29, 2010. Among the

Cabinet line-up change saw the post of Minister of Finance II being put under the Prime Minister's Office and the appointment of the first female Deputy Minister.

Under His Majesty's leadership, the government has invested billions of dollars on development plan after another and will continue to do so in an 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, which begins from 2012 to 2017 has 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, The 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,
The 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 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.

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 to ascend 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 this tradition by working tirelessly to ensure that his citizens continue to live in peace and harmony. The charismatic leader, apart from the usual day-to-day administration of the government, 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 priority. He has traveled widely in Southeast Asia, East Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the United States. He 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, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office

August 10, 1998, corresponding to 17 Rabiulakhir 1419 Hijriah 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.

Born on February 17, 1974 corresponding to 24 Muharram 1394 Hijriah, 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 to various government agencies as well as to a leading company in the private sector. These attachments gave His Royal Highness the widest possible exposure to the 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; and the birth of another prince, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman, their third child on June 7, 2015.

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 an 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 but 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 *wazir*, 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 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 practice in regard to the adoption of the flag for the state.

Suggestions were put forward and sketches were made on the proposed state flag. Finally, the design of the existing flag that features yellow, white and black was adopted.

The choice of those colours were symbolic of the fact that the principal signatories to the agreement were the Sultan, the Pengiran Bendahara and the Pengiran Pemancha whose colours of yellow, white and black respectively, were accordingly incorporated in the new flag.

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

After the adoption of the state flag, flags already in existence continued to be in use and flown on state occasions to indicate individual ranks. The new state flag is hoisted only at government buildings and by non-Brunei 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 Sultan down to four generations,
- (b) Decendants of Wazir down to three generations,
- (c) Decendants of Cheteria down to two generations,
- (d) 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 The 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 The Raja Isteri is light yellow incorporating the royal crest on red background at the centre of the standard.

The rectangular shape state flag 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.

The standard measures 72 inches long by 36 inches wide.

The parallelogram dividing the rectangle in this manner leaves two similar trapeziums at the top and bottom of the flag, with the lower trapezium assuming the inverted form of the upper trapezium.

The parallelogram is again divided into two parallelograms of unequal depths, the upper being one inch wider than the lower which is 7 ½ inches in width.

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 and the writer of the lyrics were the late Awang Haji Besar bin Sagap and 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) respectively.

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



About 76 per Cent of Brunei Darussalam's total land area is covered with rainforest

Location

Brunei Darussalam is situated on the north-west coast of the Island of Borneo, between east longitudes 114004 and 11023' and north latitudes 40 and 505'. It has a total land area of 5,765 sq. km. and a coastline of about 161 kilometres. 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 metres. To the east, the wide coastal plain reaches up to a height point of 1,840 metres above sea level at Bukit Pagon in the Temburong District.

Brunei Darussalam has a coastline of about 161 kilometres. The beaches facing the South China Sea are largely sandy and a mixture of sand and mangrove in areas away from the sea.

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

Seventy-six 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 have been gazetted as Forest Reserve in which 50,000 hectares have been declared as a National Park.

Wildlife 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 is known as the Municipal Board, located at Bandar Seri Begawan, Kuala Belait, and Tutong.



An aerial view of a part of the famous water village locally known as Kampung Ayer (top); Proboscis Monkey, only found in Borneo Island, easily sighted along Brunei River (middle); Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park is one of ASEAN'S national heritage parks (bottom)

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 who became known as Seri Begawan Sultan. During his 17-year reign, the Seri Begawan Sultan set in motion the modernisation of Brunei Darussalam.

Kampung 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, Kampung Ayer was synonymous with Brunei itself.

A renowned Italian traveller, Antonio Pigafetta who sailed with Ferdinand Magellan arrived in 1521 and described Kampung Ayer as a city of 25,000 families.

After the resettlement in 1906, the population of Kampung Ayer was further reduced as more people accepted the government's offer to resettle them on land. Today, Kampung 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 Kampung Ayer self-sufficient in facilities, including electricity and piped water supplies, clinics and schools.

Cottage industries such as cloth-weaving, silver craft, brass casting, practised generations ago 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 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 2016 statistical data showed that the population of Brunei Darussalam was estimated to be 422,678 with an annual growth rate of 1.5 per cent. Of the total, 216,832 were males and 205,846 were females.

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 277,700 persons followed by Chinese with 43,554 persons and other races 101,424 persons.

Brunei-Muara District is the most populous district with 292,705 people; followed by Belait with 69,992 people; Tutong with 49,438 people; and Temburong with 10,543 people.

With an area of 571 square kilometres, Brunei-Muara District is also the most densely populated with 50.8 person per square kilometre of land area. While the largest district, which is the Belait District, had 12.1 person per square kilometre. Overall, Brunei Darussalam remained sparsely populated with 73.3 person per square kilometre.

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.



Young children completing the reading of the Al-Quran.

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.

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.

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 generation to emulate. Perhaps it is something to remind us of ancestor's natural skill, creativity and innovativeness, which over generations have been ingrained as one of the richest traditional culture in the Malay world.



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



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, has since been subject to amendments.

The 1959 Constitution established the Chief Minister as the highest official, with the British High Commissioner as adviser to the Government on 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.

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

Judiciary

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.

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 offence. Matters related to the Islamic faith are dealt with by the Islamic Court or the Syariah. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah made the announcement on 22 October, 2013, saying the Syariah or Islamic Law will be enforced in stages.

- His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The 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
- YB Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong
Minister of Home Affairs
- YB Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman
Minister of Education
- YB Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim
Minister at PMO and Minister of Finance II
- YB Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng
Minister at PMO and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II
- YB Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Paduka Hj Mohammad Yasmin Hj Umar
Minister of Energy and Industry at PM's Office
- YB Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Awang Haji Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman
Minister of Religious Affairs
- YB Dato Paduka Haji Bahrin bin Abdullah
Minister of Development
- YB Dato Paduka Haji Ali bin Haji Apong
Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism
- YB Dato Paduka Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat
Minister of Communications

- YB Pehin Datu Laila Raja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohammad Yusuf
Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports
- YB Dato Paduka Dr Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi
Minister of Health

Deputy Ministers

- YM Dato Paduka Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar
- YM Dato Paduka Haji Md Roselan bin Haji Daud
Deputy Ministers at Prime Minister's Office
- YM First Admiral Dato Seri Pahlawan Abdul Aziz bin Haji Mohd Tamit
Deputy Minister of Defence
- YM Dato Paduka Haji Hisham bin Haji Hanifah
- YM Dato Paduka Dr Hj Md Amin Liew Abdullah
Deputy Ministers of Finance
- YM Dato Paduka Haji Erywan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Jaya Haji Md Yussof
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- YM Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Bahrom bin Pengiran Haji Bahar
Deputy Minister of Education
- YM Dato Paduka Haji Abd Mokti bin Haji Md Daud
Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs
- YM Dato Paduka Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gapar
Deputy Minister of Development



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 objectives of NDPs are to create an integrated and dynamic development in every aspect that could lead to improvements in quality of life of the people. The year 2012 saw the launching of the 10th National Development Plan (2012 – 2017) \$6.5 billion has been allocated to fund 682 projects.

Gross Domestic Product

Brunei Darussalam's 2016 Total Growth Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices \$15,747.7 million; oil and gas industry \$8,284.7 million, non-oil and gas industry \$737.1 million; services \$6,767.7 million and agriculture forestry and fishery \$189.5 million.

While GDP per capita at current prices declined from \$52,594.30 in 2014 to \$37,257.0 in 2016.

External Trade

Brunei Darussalam's total exports in the year 2016 amounted to \$6,789.97 million where exports were still dominated by crude petroleum.

The main countries of destination of Brunei's crude petroleum in the year 2016 were: India (\$627.4 million); Thailand (\$548.1 million); Australia (\$317.5 million); New Zealand (\$189.7 million); Republic of Korea (\$169.9 million); Singapore (\$124.2 million); Japan (\$115.3 million); Indonesia (\$109.3 million); and Viet Nam (\$73.1 million).

While total exports of natural gas in the year 2016 amounted to \$3,379.4 million with Japan as the top destination amounting to \$2,287.2 million; followed by Republic of Korea - \$751.0 million.

Oil and 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 2016 was at 121,000 barrels per day, whilst production of gas was at 238 thousand Barrel of Oil Equivalent (KBOE) per day.

In the same period, the oil price was at US\$44.63 per barrel per day; while liquefied natural gas was at US\$ 7.26 per MMBtu (Million British thermal unit).



Oil Rig at the South China Sea

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 2016, forestry production of round timber and sawn timber amounted to 69,175.15 cubic metres and 41,150.80 cubic metres respectively.



Forests in Brunei Darussalam

Imports

Imports by the commodity section in the year 2016 were \$3,688.97 million. The main imports were food and live animals (\$599.54 million); chemicals (\$335.52 million); manufactured goods (\$736.35 million); machinery and transport equipment (\$1,214.72 million); miscellaneous manufactured articles (\$343.34 million); and others (\$13.09 million).

The production of Bakau Poles reached 102,451 pieces and charcoal at 494,255 kilogrammes.

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.



A unique fauna found in Brunei Darussalam.



Agriculture

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

Rice Production

In the year 2016, rice production amounted to 1,578.8 metric tonnes.

In 2016, 1,013.22 hectares of land were allocated for the cultivation of paddy with 427.37 hectares in Brunei-Muara District; 171.30 hectares in Belait District; 146.05 hectares in Tutong District; and 268.50 hectares in Temburong District.

Vegetable Production

Vegetable Production continues to hold a significant post with an estimated retail value of \$65.62 million in 2016.

The local production was about 13,952.2 metric tonnes and amounted to a retail value of \$34.78 million. A total of 10,793.1 metric tonnes of vegetables were imported.

As of 2016, 692.9 hectares of land were developed for vegetable production with 502.27 hectares in Brunei-Muara District; 89.01 hectares in Tutong District; 92.55 hectares in Belait District; and 9.07 hectares in Temburong District.

Fruit Production

In 2016, the fruits industry was valued at an estimated retail value of \$50.58 million with a total consumption of 21,039.7 metric tonnes.

Local production was at 5,791 metric tonnes with a retail value of \$9.55 million. A total of 15,248.7 metric tonnes were imported with an estimated retail value of \$25.2 million.

The local fruits produced in Brunei Darussalam according to quantity are banana, young coconut, limau kasturi, old coconut, papaya, watermelon, musk lime, jackfruit, mango, guava, pineapple, cempedak, rambutan, longan and pamelolo.

Miscellaneous Crop

The local production of miscellaneous crops in 2016 was 1,256.2 metric tonnes with a retail value of about \$2.69 million. Import percentage was 92 per cent or 14,365.0 metric tonnes.

Ornamental and Floriculture Industry

Local production of ornamental plants in 2016 amounted to 650,490 plants with a retail value of about \$4.85 million. A total of 150,747 plants were imported with an estimated retail value of \$0.60 million. The overall total consumption of ornamental plants was 801,237 plants with a retail value of \$5.45 million.

While the local production of cut flowers in 2016 was 127,776 cuts with retail value of \$117,006. The total import was 884,637 cuts valued at \$1.36 million.

Agrifood Industry

• Livestock Production

The total consumption of livestock production in 2016 for buffaloes were 1,411.67 metric tonnes; cattle at 2,429.97 metric tonnes and 12.33 metric tonnes of goats.

Brunei Darussalam continues to be self-sufficient in the production of broiler chickens. In 2016, the production of broiler chickens reached 24,451.66 metric tonnes with a retail value of \$111.65 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 2016 was worth at a retail value of about \$28.37 million or 141.63 million eggs. Total consumption in the year 2016 was at 142.23 million eggs with a retail value of \$28.49 million.

• Fisheries

Fishery is one of the sustainable sectors that contribute to the country's

economic diversification. The Fisheries Industry comprises three sectors: Capture Industry; Aquaculture Industry; and Processing Industry.

The Capture Industry in 2016 saw a local production of 14,966.1 metric tonnes; followed by Aquaculture Industry with 948.9 metric tonnes; and the Processing Industry with 2,598 metric tonnes.

• Processing Industry

The overall processing industry involves livestock and crops. In 2016, the livestock processing industry was worth at about \$210.83 million; and crops processing was valued at \$56.24 million.







Human Resource

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

According to Brunei Darussalam Key Indicators 2016, Brunei Darussalam's labour force in 2016 was recorded at 49,514 government employees.



Banking and Finance

Brunei Darussalam issued its own currency in 1967 replacing the Malaya British Borneo money which it had 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 a par with the Singapore Dollar.

Gross circulation of Brunei Currency at the end of 2016 amounted to \$1,381.8 million while exchange rates of currencies were subject to daily fluctuations.

The banking sector was comprised of two local banks, six foreign branches of international and regional banks including one Islamic trust fund. The banks and trust fund are:

1. Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam
2. Baiduri Bank Berhad
3. Standard Chartered
4. Malayan Banking Berhad
5. United Overseas Bank Ltd.
6. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Limited
7. Bank Of China (Hong Kong) Limited
8. State Street (Brunei) Sdn Bhd (Restricted Banking Licence)
9. Tabung Amanah Islam
10. RHB SDN BHD

Commemorative Coins in 2016

In conjunction with the celebration of 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's 70th Birthday, the Autoriti Monetari Brunei Darussalam (AMBD) issued commemorative coins in three (3) metal compositions which are gold, silver and cupronickel.

The design of all the three coins featured the portrait of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the obverse side. While the reverse of the coin reveals the number 70 in jawi script in the shape of a flower. The coins were issued and sold to the public on 28 July 2016.



Transport and Communications

The transport and communications sector plays a crucial role in supporting the economic growth and to ensure 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.

The \$130 million modernisation project of the Brunei International Airport has been recently completed. The approval was given in March 2010. The modernisation will see a raise in the airport capacity to three million passengers per annum as compared with 1.5 million when the airport first opened in 1974.

Brunei Shell Petroleum has a small airport at Anduki in the Belait District for its own operations.

Air Transport

Statistics show that aircraft movements schedule and non-schedule in 2016 were 13,000 and 572 respectively.

While the number of passenger movement in the same period was 739,365 inward passengers; 738,837 outward passengers; and 248,659 transit passengers.



Royal Brunei's Boeing 787 taking off

Freight handled in the same period were 12,362,556 kilogrammes (inward); and 9,747,213 kilogrammes (outward).

Royal Brunei

Royal Brunei (RB) formerly known as Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) is the national carrier, an independent corporation wholly owned by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. It was established on November 18, 1974.

In its first year of operation, the flying services started with 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



Buses as public transportation

allowing passengers to coordinate flights for seamless travel to a wider choice of destinations.

In October 2013, Royal Brunei Airlines were the first South East Asian carrier to fly the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft.

RB now operates a fleet of 4 Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner with 18 seats Business Class and 236 seats EconomyC, 4 Airbus A320s with 12 seats for Business Class and 132 seats for Economy Class and two New Airbus A320 with 12 and 138 Business Class and Economy Class.

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, Indonesia, Japan, Britain, Germany and Italy.

Cars in Brunei Darussalam are righthand 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 2016, 13,032 new vehicles were registered comprising 12,565 private vehicles; 228 goods vehicles; 141 motorcycles/scooters; and 98 were of other categories.

Roads

Brunei Darussalam in 2016 has 3,404.8 kilometres of roads ranging from highways to earth roads. There are also 27 flyovers, 95 signalised traffic junctions and about 30 major roundabouts around the country.

Sea Transport and Water Taxis Services

Boats and water taxis are the transportation for most residents of Kampung Ayer. Fares are cheap and charged according to distance. Others prefer footbridges, which are available throughout Kampung 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 2016, the terminal handled discharged and loaded a total of 1,845,635 tonnes of cargo compared to 1,919,804 in year 2015.

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



Water taxis in Kampong Ayer area



Postal service

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 has been extended to 64 countries in 2010, an impressive increase of 100 per cent from 32 countries in 1990.

In 2016, the postal services handled 7,505,241 letter mails; 334,288 parcel, small packets & other; 29,112 postcards; 280,404 printed matters; and 182,707 registered articles.

Telecommunications

Telecommunication services have improved considerably over the years. Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru) formerly known as 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 Fixed line

telephone services despite facing stiff challenges from cellular mobile telephone services is still highly subscribed.

Cellular Mobile Telephone Service

The cellular mobile telephone services have become an increasing trend with 463,384 subscribers in 2015 and 523,453 in 2016 with 96,599 postpaid subscribers and 426,854 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 October 1995, the Department of Telecommunications established BruNet which enables connection to the Internet. The internet services since then have been further developed. In 2016, the total number of Internet subscribers (fixed and mobile broadband) was 541,843.



Social Services

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

Medical and Health

There are five government-run hospitals with one based 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); Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam Hospital (Temburong District) and the Brunei Cancer Centre, located in Jerudong (Brunei-Muara District).

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 seven hospitals (five government and two private hospitals); 17 health centres (16 government and one private health centres); 13 health/maternal and child health clinics; five traveling health clinics; and two flying medical services.

The flying medical team which makes visits on a regular schedule provides primary health care to remote villages of the country. For medical care

that is not available in Brunei Darussalam, citizens and those eligible are sent overseas on government's expenses.

The private health sector comprises of two hospitals namely: 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 are housed in JPMC.

The number of medical personnel in 2016 were 664 doctors; 105 dentists; 73 pharmacists; 2,742 nurses and 165 midwives. The population per doctor was 637 persons per doctor.

Statistics showed that the three major cause of death in 2016 was Cancer (Malignant Neoplasms) - 353 people; followed by heart diseases (211 people); and Diabetes Mellitus (149 people). Other major causes of death include



Hospital Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha

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 institution. Text books; transport where necessary; and accommodation in hostels for students from rural areas are provided 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 and light meals to those in the urban areas.

In 2016, there were altogether 329 educational institutions ranging from kindergarten to university both government and private schools.

There were a total of 175 government schools in 2016, which includes 122 pre-primary (pre school/primary) schools; 39 secondary/sixth form (pre-university) schools; nine technical/vocational schools;

five tertiary schools; three Arabic preparatory schools and five Arabic schools.

Meanwhile, the total number of private schools are 77, which includes 71 pre-primary (pre school/primary) schools/secondary/sixth form (pre-university) schools; four technical/vocational schools and two tertiary schools.

The total number of teachers were 10,985 with 885 for pre-school/ kindergarten; 3969 for primary schools; 4,728 secondary/ sixth form (pre-university) teachers; 595 technical/vocational teachers; and 808 university lecturers.

The total number of students enrolled in 2016 were 111,698 with 13,611 in pre-school/ kindergarten; 40,471 in primary schools; 35,922 in secondary schools; 4,809 in sixth form; 4,858 in technical/vocational institutions; and 12,027 in universities.

The literacy rate for aged 10 and above was 96.6 per cent with 97.8 per cent for male and 95.3 per cent for female.

Housing

Various schemes have been introduced as early as the 1950's in providing all Brunei citizens with proper accommodation in a pleasant environment.

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



One of the Housing schemes introduced

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 where 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 were awarded with land grants and keys to their new homes. From the day it was introduced until today, more than 7,000 houses have been built through the National Housing Scheme.

Social Welfare Services

Beginning on January 1, 1955, the Old Age Pensions and Disable Act 1954 was introduced. The monthly provisions of welfare, old age pensions and disability allowance are not only maintained until today but 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.



Mass Media

Radio

Radio transmission in Brunei Darussalam goes back to May 1957 where programmes were transmitted 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 the state-owned television network. It has three channels – RTB Perdana (RTB Perdana has an informative concept and plays its role to be the premier medium to disseminate Government policies, information as well as the latest news at its fastest rate and fully verified.

RTB TV channel also acts as a referential platform for accurate information and knowledge of current affairs and international information.); RTB Aneka (RTB Aneka is a TV channel which aims towards family entertainment. Broadcasts a wide variety of quality TV programmes that are of educational, family and entertainment values and are appropriate for all age levels.); and RTB Sukmaindera (RTB Sukmaindera plays its role to disseminate all sorts of information in regards to Negara Brunei Darussalam globally. It can be viewed terrestrially throughout the country and via online streaming through RTB's official website www.rtb.gov.bn)

Since 2009, RTB has moved from analog to Digital TV. Citizens are given more option 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 where it is published in Malay with three editions per week. It has a circulation of 8000 copies. The newspaper consists of local news, current affairs, religious issues, government advertising and sports. In July 19, 2008, the Department of Information introduced Pelita Brunei online version which is updated daily through www.pelitabrunei.gov.bn and in August 16, 2016, E-paper Pelita Brunei was introduced in pdf format.

The government also publishes a monthly English language newsletter called Brunei Darussalam Newsletter. Designed especially for foreign readers, the newsletter was first published in October 1985.

There are two privately-owned newspapers which are the Borneo Bulletin published in English and Media Permata published in Malay. Other multimedia platform for news updates are from New Brunei Daily and The Scoop.

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 the country.



International Relations

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

Brunei Darussalam plays a leading role in the economic zone known as Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). Since the resumption of independence, Brunei Darussalam has been pursuing an active foreign policy designed to improve understanding and strengthen cultural, religious and economic ties.

It has diplomatic missions either embassies or high commissions in all ASEAN capitals, as well as in Canberra, Manama, Dhaka, Brussels, Ottawa, Beijing, Cairo, Paris, Berlin, New Delhi, Tehran, Tokyo, Amman, Seoul, Rabat, Muscat, Islamabad, Doha, Moscow, Riyadh, Abu

Dhabi, London, Washington and permanent representatives to the UN in Geneva and New York, and set up a Trade and Tourism Office in Taipei.

Brunei Darussalam has also opened/appointed consulate offices in Jeddah, Sabah and Sarawak in East Malaysia and Hongkong.

Diplomatic Missions in Brunei

Countries that have diplomatic mission in Brunei Darussalam are 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, India, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Some 69 other countries have also officially accredited their ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty The Sultan of Brunei attended the first ASEAN–Australia Biennial Summit



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 eco-tourism.

With more than 70 per cent of the country's land area is covered with tropical rainforests, one of the world's most 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.

A total of 218,809 tourists arrived in the country in 2016 and were comprised from ASEAN (53.2%); Far East(23.9%); Europe (8.3%); Middle/West/Central Asia (5.8%); Australia/New Zealand (4.3%); Americas (2.6%); and Other (2.0%).

A Tourist Information Centre can be located at the Kampong. Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery, which is opened from 9am to 5pm daily.



Places of Interest

Mosques

There are two great mosques in Bandar Seri Begawan. The first is located at the city centre of Bandar Seri Begawan. It is one of the most magnificent mosques in Southeast Asia, which symbolises Brunei's perpetual adherence to Islam.



Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque

Completed in 1958, it is named after the 28th Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, who is referred to as the Architect of Modern Brunei. The mosque features classical Islamic architecture, and marble, gold mosaic and stained glass. It has 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 mosque is open for visitors from Saturday to Wednesday beginning 8.00 am to 12.00 noon, 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm and 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm. The mosque is closed for non-Muslim on Thursdays and Fridays.

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



Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque

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

Visiting hours are from Saturday to Wednesday beginning 8.00 am to 12.00 noon, 1.00 pm to 3.30 pm, 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm and is closed to non-Muslims on Thursdays and Fridays.

Kampung Ayer

Kampung Ayer (Water Village) is centuries-old where it is the largest settlement area based on water. It has six *mukim* namely Saba, Sungai Kedayan, Peramu, Burung Pingai Ayer, Tamoi and Sungai Kebun.

Kampung Ayer, the country's historical attraction and the world's largest water village is home to more than 30,000 inhabitants. It is a place where houses on stilts were built on Brunei River where the houses are joined by a maze of inter-connecting wooden walkways.

Modern facilities such as schools, clinics, police stations and mosque are provided for residents who are living at Kampung Ayer. Water taxis are 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 Hall and House of Parliament locally known as the Lapau and Dewan Majlis respectively. They form a sprawling complex featuring a blend of traditional Malay and western architecture.

The Lapau which contains the Patarana (Throne) and where numerous solemn ceremonies are held is beautifully decorated in exquisite gold motifs. 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.



Lapau and Dewan Majlis



Sultan Bolkiah Mausoleum

The Mausoleum of Sultan Bolkiah

The mausoleum is situated at Jalan Kota Batu facing the Brunei River. The tomb of Sultan Bolkiah, the fifth Sultan of Brunei lies within the mausoleum. Sultan Bolkiah was one of the greatest Sultans of Brunei, known as Nakhoda Ragam which means 'The Singing Captain'. 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.



Songkok collection displayed at the Brunei Arts & Handicrafts Training Centre

Brunei Arts & Handicrafts Training Centre

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

Historical Findings and Artefacts

Two significant buildings that house 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 where it offers an insight into the kind of tools ancient Bruneians used for their daily routine particularly for the cottage industry. The museum features goldsmith techniques, boat-making, fishing, brasssmith, and woodworks, as testaments to the ingenuity which earlier generations utilised available materials and resources.



Exhibition statue of a trader known as "Padian"



Pasar Pelbagai Barangan Gadong

Pasar Pelbagai Barangan Gadong

The Pasar Pelbagai Barangan or 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 are fresh fruits, vegetables and some clothing items.



Istana Nurul Iman

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.

Royal Regalia

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 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.



Royal Regalia Building

Oil and Gas Discovery Centre

It is located in Pekan Seria, Belait District where it was set up by the Brunei Shell Petroleum with an aim to educate the public on science, technology and the environment.



Oil and Gas Discovery Centre



Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery

Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery

The Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery (KACTG) located just across from the downtown area of Brunei's capital, Bandar Seri Begawan was officially opened on August 19, 2009. Offering tourists 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 are showcased. Handicraft displays, live craft-making demonstrations, and a souvenir kiosk will 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. This centre consists of modern exhibits that features health related items. Besides viewing the modern, attractive and innovative exhibitions, interactive activities are also available.



Health Promotion Centre

Billionth Barrel Monument

The Billionth Barrel Monument located in the Belait District memorialises and celebrates the billionth barrel of oil produced 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 Kahiri Waddien on 18 July 1991.



The Billionth Barrel Monument

Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park

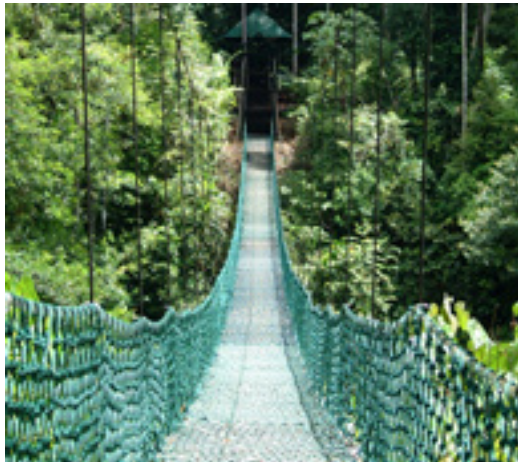
Located in Tutong District, about one hour and 15 minutes drive from Bandar Seri Begawan, the park aims to provide a safe haven for protected wildlife to breed, preserve flora and fauna and to provide a base for scientific research and study. For those interested in botany or bird watching, there is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



Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park

Ulu Temburong National Park

This park is rich with unspoiled flora and fauna. It can be reached by using a long boat or locally known as *Temuai*. At the park, one can enjoy strolling on the extensive wooden boardwalk and witness the fresh environment. Other excitements here are the canopy walk and the waterfall.



Ulu Temburong National Park

Taman Persiaran Damuan

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



Taman Persiaran Damuan walk path



Bukit Shahbandar Forest Recreational Park

Beaches

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



Scenery at Pantai Seri Kenangan

Berakas Forest Recreational Park

It is 199 hectares wide situated along the Muara-Tutong Highway which is just 10 kilometres from Bandar Seri Begawan. Here you can witness the sun-dappled pathways meanders past sheltered picnic spots and barbeque facilities towards the soaring observation tower, and the tang of salt air hovers above the lush green *keranga* and casuarina forests that tumble to the edge of the nearby South China Sea.



Berakas Forestry Recreational Park

Brunei Maritime Museum

Located about 15 minutes drive from Bandar Seri Begawan in Kota Batu, the Brunei Maritime Museum is for those with a nautical interest. With an architectural design representing a ship, this museum features and exhibits more than 13,000 artefacts discovered in 1997, from a shipwreck which set sail from China, 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, Vietnam and Thailand obtained from the shipwreck are displayed in the galleries of the museum.



Brunei Maritime Museum building



Tourist Information

Passport and Visa Requirements

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, The Philippines, Peru, Qatar, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam – 14 days.

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

United States – 90 days.

All transit pass is issued for all countries for a stay 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 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

Orchid Garden Hotel

Lot 31954, Simpang 9,
Kg. Anggerek Desa
Jalan Berakas BB3713
Telephone: (+673) 233 5544
Fax: (+673) 233 5444
E-mail: enquiries@orchidgardenbrunei.com
Website: www.orchidgardenbrunei.com

The Centrepoin Hotel

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

Kiulap Plaza Hotel

Lot 57046, Kg. 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 Kg. 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

Kg. 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
Kg. 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,
Kg Jerudong,
Bandar Seri Begawan, BG3122
Telephone: (+673) 261 1618 / 261 1420
Fax: (+673) 261 1619
E-mail: hello@starlodgebrunei.com
Website: www.starlodgebrunei.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) 333 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

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: frontdesk@jerutonhotel.com
Website: www.jerutonhotel.com

Mangrove Paradise Resort

Simpang 912, Kg Sungai Belukut
Jalan Kota Batu
Negara Brunei Darussalam
Telephone: (+673) 278 6868
Fax: (+673) 278 6869
E-mail: N/A
Website: <http://www.mangroveparadiseresort.weebly.com>

Venice Lodge

Bangunan Venice Lodge,
Jalan Dato Ratna, Kg Kiarong
Bandar Seri Begawan, BE1318
Telephone: (+673) 245 5233
Fax: (+673) 245 7995
E-mail: reservation@venicelodgebrunei.com
Website: www.venicelodgebrunei.com

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 cuisines are available at the *Tamu Selera* (open-air market) which is open in the evening opposite Radisson Hotel or the new *Pasar Pelbagai Barangan Gadong* (night market) located opposite the Gadong Market.

For a more international flavour, there are always McDonalds, Pizza Hut, KFC, Sugar Bun, Jollibee, Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Starbucks and Gloria Jeans Coffees.

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