



BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

In Brief

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



BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

In Brief

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Brunei Darussalam 'The Abode of Peace'

Brunei Darussalam ‘The Abode of Peace’

Location	:	Northwest of the Island of Borneo, between latitudes 4° and 5°5' North and longitudes 114° 4' and 11° 23' East
Land area	:	5,765sq.km
Highest point	:	1.841 metres above sea level (Bukit Pagon)
Climate	:	Temperature ranges between 24.1°C and 33.0°C with relative humidity and total rainfall of 3,015.8 millimetres (2015)
Population	:	417,200 (2015 est)
Official religion	:	Islam
Official language	:	Malay but English is widely spoken
Currency	:	Brunei Dollar which is on par with Singapore Dollar
GDP	:	\$17,778.0 million at current prices (2015 est)
Labour force	:	203,651 (2014)
Literacy rate	:	98.0 per cent (aged 10 and above)
Main industry	:	Oil and gas
Mobile phone subscribers	:	454,297 (2015 est)
Internet subscribers	:	Broadband - 45,481 (2015 est)

* Source from Brunei Darussalam Key Indicators 2015 Release 2



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 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 Hassanul 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.

The most recent reshuffle of the Cabinet was announced on October 22, 2015 where it saw creation of two new ministerial posts: Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism. Nine deputy ministers were also appointed while the State Mufti and Attorney General's post remain as Cabinet-level posts.

Under His Majesty's leadership, the government has invested billions of dollars on one development plans 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, The 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 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 tab on latest developments by constantly being on the move, personally visiting government departments and related institutions and visiting villages including remote parts of the Brunei.

The promotion and strengthening of relations with the outside world also get top priority from His Majesty. 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. Among the sports that His Majesty regularly partakes in include polo, badminton and squash.



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

**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 a date 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, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha.

Throughout his academic life, His Royal Highness is not only industrious in his academic studies and extra-curricular activities but is also equally diligent and devoted much time and attention to his religious education, 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 give 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 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, their first child on March 17, 2007 and the birth of a princess, their second child on January 1, 2011.

On May 29, 2010, 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.

Earlier 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.

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

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 November 28, 2013, as Pro-Chancellor of Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB).



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 September 29, 1959.

Prior to 1906, Brunei had no state flag but individual flags or personal standards were in use. Of the personal standards, those of the Sultan and the *wazir* were the most important.

In the old days Brunei had four *wazir* or principal state officials to whom the Sultan delegated his executive and administrative powers in accordance with their ranks.

Of the *wazir*, 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 four *wazir*.

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 *wazir* were not incorporated in the new flag was that at that time there were only two *wazir* living, the signatories to the agreement. The Pengiran Digadong and Pengiran Temenggong had died 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 29th September, 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) Decendents of Wazir down to three generations,
- (c) Decendents 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.

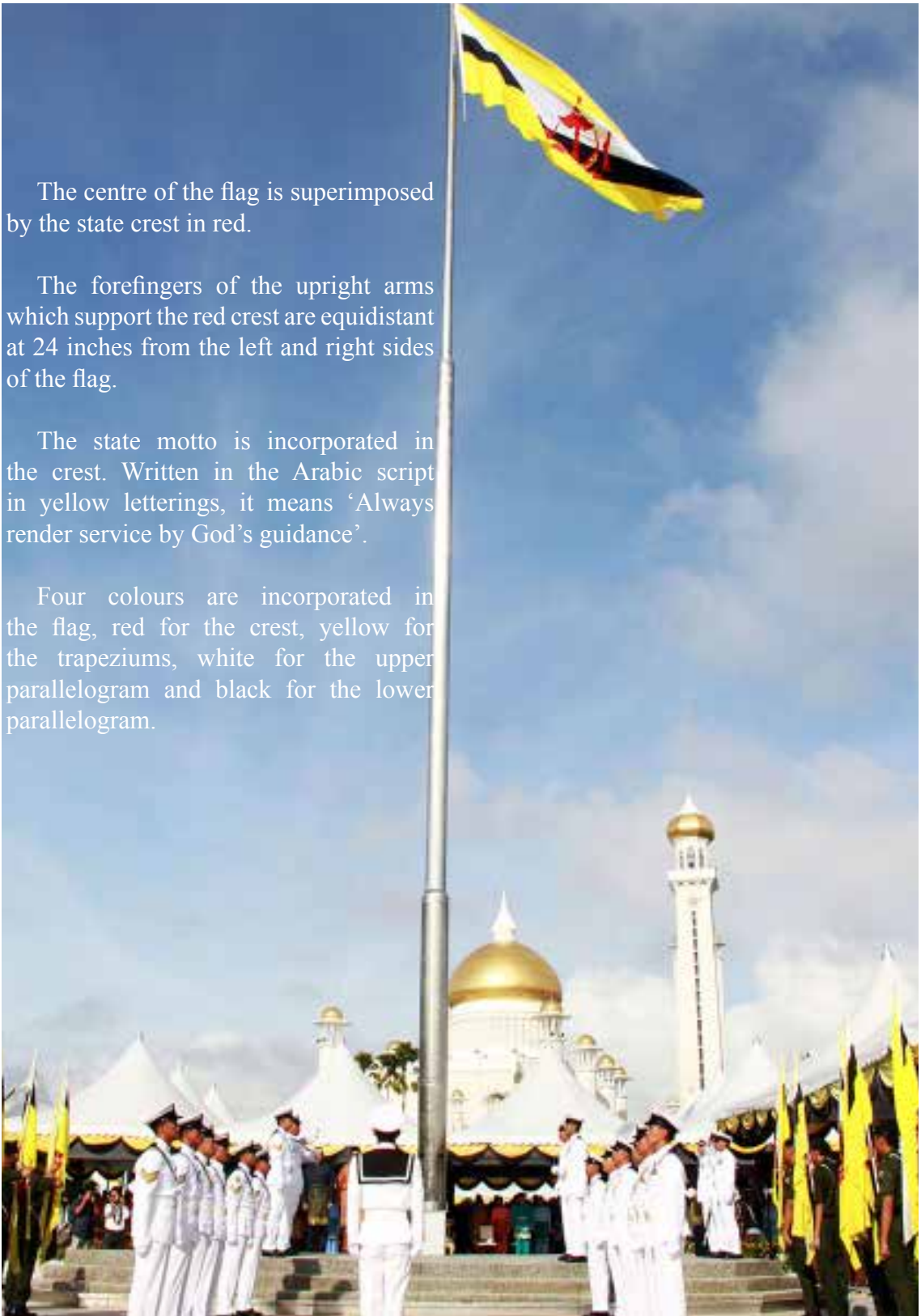
The parallelogram is again divided into two parallelograms of unequal depths, the upper being one inch wider than the lower which is 7 ½ inches in width.

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.

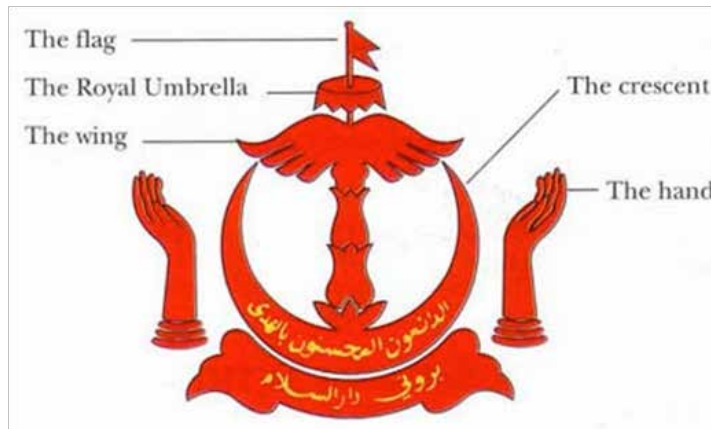




National Crest of Brunei Darussalam

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 is the lyric 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

The Land and People

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 the Brunei-Muara, Tutong and Belait Districts.

Physical Features

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.



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

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, deer, 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 known as 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 and business.

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 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 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 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 inhabitants work with 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 was first struck there in 1929. Just outside this oil-town is Lumut where one of the world's largest Liquefied Natural Gas Plants, another source of Brunei's wealth operates. Brunei's first world-class methanol plant also operates in this district.

Population

In the latest 2015 statistical data showed that the population of Brunei Darussalam was estimated at 417,200 with an annual growth rate of 1.3 per cent. Of the total, 216,600 were males and 200,600 were females.

Brunei Malays comprise Brunei indigenous communities of Malay race: Belait, Bisaya, Brunei, Dusun, Kedayan, Murut and Tutong. The Malays constitute the major population group numbering at 275,200 persons followed by Chinese with 42,100 persons and other races 99,900 persons.

Brunei-Muara District is the most populous district with a total of 299,800 persons; followed by Belait with 64,100 persons; Tutong with 44,400 persons; and Temburong with 8,900 people.

According to the preliminary findings of the Population and Housing Census 2011 (2015 Update), the smallest district, which is the Brunei-Muara District was the most densely populated with 490 persons per square kilometre of land area. While the largest district, which is the Belait District had 22 persons per square kilometre. Overall, Brunei Darussalam remained sparsely populated with 72.4 persons 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 dialects are also used.

Culture

Brunei's culture 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 the influence of 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 and has become a way of life and 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 which Brunei was renowned for such as boat-making, silver smithing, 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 Malay Technology Museum, not only for the world to see but most importantly for today's generation to admire and be proud of for future generation to emulate, perhaps and something to remind us of forefather's natural skill, creativity and innovativeness, which over generations have been ingrained as one of the richest traditional culture in the Malay world.



A trainee at the Brunei Arts and Handicraft, Training Centre weaving a beautiful cloth commonly known as 'Kain Tenunan Brunei'.



The Government

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

Brunei's administrative system is centred 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 his National Day speech in 1987, 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 reduce 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 allows for the reinstatement of the State Legislative Council.

Constitutional Bodies

The constitution of Brunei provides for a number of constitutional bodies.

They include:

- 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.

Brunei Darussalam is to enforce the Islamic Law in 2014. 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.

Cabinet Ministers of Brunei Darussalam 2015-2020



His Majesty
Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah
Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum
Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin
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

Cabinet Ministers



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 Orang Kaya Indera
Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia
Awang Haji Suyoi
bin Haji Osman,
Minister of Education



Yang Berhormat
Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia
Dato Seri Setia
Awang Haji Abdul Rahman
bin Haji Ibrahim,
Minister in the Prime
Minister's Office and
Minister of Finance II



Yang Berhormat
Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma
Dewa Dato Seri Setia
Lim Jock Seng,
Minister in the Prime
Minister's Office and
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Trade II



Yang Berhormat
Pehin Datu Singamanteri Kol-
onel (Retired) Dato Seri Setia
(Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad
Yasmin bin Haji Umar,
Minister of Energy
and Industry at the Prime
Minister's Office



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 Bahrin
bin Abdullah,
Minister of Development



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



Yang Berhormat
Dato Seri Setia
Awang Haji Mustappa
bin Haji Sirat,
Minister of Communications



Yang Berhormat
Pehin Datu Lailaraja
Major General (Rtd)
Dato Paduka Seri
Haji Awang Halbi
bin Haji Mohd Yussof,
Minister of Culture,
Youth and Sports



Yang Berhormat
Dato Seri Setia
Dr. Awang Haji Zulkarnain
bin Haji Hanafi,
Minister of Health

Deputy Ministers



Yang Mulia
Dato Paduka Awang Haji
Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar,
Deputy Minister at Prime
Minister's Office



Yang Mulia
Dato Paduka Awang Haji
Mohd. Roselan
bin Haji Mohd. Daud,
Deputy Minister at Prime
Minister's Office



Yang Mulia
First Admiral (Rtd) Dato Seri
Pahlawan Awang Abdul Aziz
bin Mohd. Tamit,
Deputy Minister of Defence



Yang Mulia
Dato Paduka Awang Haji
Hisham bin Haji Mohd.
Hanifah,
Deputy Minister of Finance



Yang Mulia
Dato Paduka
Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin
Liew bin Abdullah,
Deputy Minister of Finance



Yang Mulia
Dato Paduka
Awang Haji Erywan
bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya
Haji Mohd. Yusof,
Deputy Minister of Foreign
Affairs and Trade



Yang Mulia
Pengiran Dato Paduka
Haji Bahrom
bin Pengiran Haji Bahar,
Deputy Minister of Education



Yang Mulia
Dato Paduka Awang Haji
Abdul Mokti
bin Haji Mohd. Daud,
Deputy Minister of
Religious Affairs



Yang Mulia
Dato Paduka Awang Haji
Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar,
Deputy Minister of
Development



Trade and Industry

A part 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 2015 Growth Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices saw a sharp decline of 27.3 per cent to \$10.1 billion from \$13.9 billion in 2014 due to low oil and gas prices.

While GDP per capita at current prices declined by 19 per cent to \$42,612.70 from \$52,594.30 in 2014.

External Trade

Brunei Darussalam's total exports in the year 2015 amounted to \$8,714.8 million where exports were still dominated by crude petroleum.

The main countries of destination of Brunei's crude petroleum in the year 2015 were: India (\$783.9 million); Thailand (\$736.4 million); New Zealand (\$453.9 million); Republic of Korea (\$347.8 million); Australia (\$298.5 million); Indonesia (\$129.1 million); Singapore (\$126.7 million); Japan (\$63.6 million) and Viet Nam (\$51.1 million).

While total exports of natural gas in the year 2015 amounted to \$4,854.6 million with Japan as the top destination amounting to \$3,096.5 million; followed by Republic of Korea - \$992.7 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 the 2015 was at 126,780 barrels per day. Whilst production of gas was at 243.03 thousand Barrel of Oil Equivalent (KBOE) per day.

In the same period, the oil price was at US\$53.88 per barrel per day; while liquefied natural gas US\$10.605 per MMBtu (Million British thermal unit).

Imports

Imports by commodity section in the year 2015 were \$4,447.5 million. The main imports were food (\$610.3 million); chemicals (\$323.2 million); manufactured goods (\$953.8 million); machinery and transport equipment (\$1,752.5 million); miscellaneous manufactured articles (\$381.3 million); and others (\$15.1 million)



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 2015, forestry production of round timber and sawn timber amounted to 73.7 thousand cubic metres and 37.8 thousand cubic metres respectively.



The production of Bakau Poles reached 125.8 thousand cubic metres; and charcoal at 162.0 thousand 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 collections amounting to nearly more than 29,000 species.



A unique fauna found in Brunei Darussalam.



Agriculture

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 2015, rice production amounted to 1,983.2 metric tonnes.

In 2015, 1,302.93 hectares of land were allocated for the cultivation of paddy with 739.00 hectares in Brunei-Muara District; 179.30 hectares in Belait District; 139.03 hectares in Tutong District; and 245.60 hectares in Temburong District.

Vegetables Production

Vegetables production continues to hold a significant post with an estimated retail value of \$33.76 million in 2015.

The local production was about 12,981.13 metric tonnes amounted to an estimated retail value of \$33.76 million. While a total of 10,816.87 metric tonnes of vegetables were imported.

As of 2015, 664.14 hectares of land were used for vegetables production with 473.27 hectares in Brunei-Muara District; 90.27 hectares in Tutong District; 93.00 hectares in Belait District; and 7.60 hectares in Temburong District involving 545 farmers.

Fruits Production

In 2015, the fruits industry was valued at an estimated retail value of \$60.14 million with a total consumption of 22,755.2 metric tonnes.

Local production was at 6,262.0 metric tonnes with a retail value of \$13.72 million; while 16,493.3 metric tonnes were imported with an estimated retail value of \$46.42 million.

The fruits grown in Brunei Darussalam are banana, young coconut, durian, musk lime, cempedak, rambutan, mango, papaya, old coconut, tarap, limau kapas, watermelon, jackfruit, guava and pineapple.

Miscellaneous Crop

The local production of miscellaneous crops in 2015 was 1,136.8 metric tonnes with a retail value of about \$2.45 million. Import percentage was 92.6 per cent or 14,167.9 metric tonnes.

Ornamental and Floriculture Industry

Local production of ornamental plants in 2015 amounted to 687,360 plants with a retail value of about \$2.86 million. While a total of 236,562 plants were imported with an estimated retail value of \$0.65 million. The overall total consumption of ornamental plants was 923,922 plants or \$3.90 million.

While the local production of cut flowers in 2015 was 173,625 cuts with retail value of \$161,767. Total import was 1,014,400 cuts or \$1.74 million.

Agrifood Industry

- **Livestock Production**

The total consumption of livestock productions in 2015 for buffaloes were 2,830.72 metric tonnes; cattle at 2,332.60 metric tonnes and 21.42 metric tonnes of goats.

Brunei Darussalam continues to be self-sufficient in the production of broiler chickens. In 2015, the production of broiler chickens reached 23,264.0 metric tonnes or retail value of \$106.79 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 year 2015 was worth at retail value of about \$26.39 million or 130.53 million eggs. While total consumption was at 132.61 million eggs or a retail value of \$26.80 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 2015 saw a local production of 17,333.4 metric tonnes; followed by Aquaculture Industry with 983.6 metric tonnes; and the Processing Industry with 3,983.7 metric tonnes.

- **Processing Industry**

The overall processing industry involved the livestock and crops. In 2015, the livestock processing industry was worth at about \$197.14 million; and crops processing was valued at \$58.53 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 2015 Release 2, Brunei Darussalam's labour force in 2015 was recorded at 195,635 comprising of 110,569 males and 85,066 females.

Unemployment rate for the year 2015 was at 6.9 per cent.



Banking and Finance

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 1 cent, 5 cents, 20 cents and 50 cents. One dollar is equivalent to 100 cents.

The Brunei Dollar on a par with the Singapore Dollar.

Gross circulation of Brunei Currency at the end of 2015 amounted to \$1,322 million while exchange rates of currencies were subject to daily fluctuations.

The banking sector comprised 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 (BIBD)
2. Baiduri Bank Berhad
3. Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd. (HSBC)
4. Standard Chartered Bank
5. Malayan Banking Berhad
6. RHB Bank Berhad
7. United Overseas Bank Ltd.
8. Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited
9. Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB)



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%).



Transport and Communications

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

Airports

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, non-schedule, and military in 2015 were 12,990; 980; and 11,589 respectively.

While the number of passenger movement in the same period was 733,249 inward passengers; 740,010 outward passengers; and 243,797 transit passengers.

Freight handled in the same period were 21,356 kilogrammes (inward); and 9,842 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, services were started to Singapore, Hong Kong, Kota Kinabalu and Kuching of 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.

RB now operates a fleet of six Boeing 777-200ERs, two Airbus A320s and two Airbus A319s.

Road Transport

The number of vehicles 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 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 2015, 14,861 new

vehicles were registered comprising 14,157 private vehicles; 313 goods vehicles; 260 motorcycles/scooters; and 131 were of other categories.

Roads

Brunei Darussalam in 2015 has 3,234.6 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 foot-bridges, 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 transhipment.

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 2009, the terminal housed 85,060 local containers and handled 927,916 tonnes of cargo.

Postal Services

There are reliable domestic and international postal services provided at 26 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 has been extended to 64 countries in 2010, an impressive increase of 100 per cent from 32 countries in 1990.

In 2015, the postal services handled 7,066,158 letter mail; 288,688 parcel, small packets & other; 34,820 postcards; 332,350 printed matter; and 173,511 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. This can be seen through statistics in 2015 which revealed it had 38,400 subscribers.

- **Cellular Mobile Telephone Service**

The cellular mobile telephone services have become an increasing trend with 463,384 subscribers in 2015 with 78,161 postpaid subscribers and 385,223 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 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 the internet. The internet services since then have been further developed.

In 2015, there were 45,481 internet subscribers with 19,195 people subscribed to mobile broadband; 16 were dial-up subscribers; and 26,270 were fixed broadband subscribers.





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 in Jerudong.

Community-based outpatient services and primary health care for mothers and child is 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 visit on regular schedule provides primary health care to remote villages of the country. For medical care not available in Brunei Darussalam, citizens and those eligible are sent overseas on government's expenses.

While 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 health sector in 2015 comprised of 739 doctors; 94 dentists; 71 pharmacists; 2,756 nurses and midwives. The population per doctor was 565 persons per doctor.

Statistics showed that the three major cause of death in 2015 was Cancer (Malignant Neoplasms) - 312 persons; followed by heart diseases (193 persons); and Diabetes Mellitus (147 persons). 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.



Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC).

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 will get 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 2015, there were 254 educational institutions ranging from kindergarten to university. In total there were 123 pre-school/kindergarten/primary/preparatory schools; 39 secondary/sixth form schools; three Arabic Preparatory schools; five Arabic schools; nine Technical/Vocational institutions; and five universities.

The total numbers of teachers were 10,979 with 779 for pre-school/ kindergarten; 4,033 for primary schools; 4,704 secondary/sixth form (pre-university) teachers; 643 technical/vocational teachers; and 820 as university lecturers.

Total numbers of students enrolled in 2015 were 113,987 with 13,301 in pre-

school/kindergarten; 40,397 in primary schools; 36,677 in secondary schools; 5,058 in sixth form; 5,514 in technical/vocational institutions; and 13,040 in universities.

Literacy rate for aged 10 and above was 98.0 per cent with 98.6 per cent for male and 97.4 per cent for female.



Chancellor Hall of Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Housing

Various schemes have been introduced as early as the 1950's in providing all of the 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 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. Hence as a result, the first of many housing schemes, the Lambak Kanan National Housing Scheme in the Brunei-Muara District was introduced covering a site of about 810 hectares where 84 houses

under Phase One had been completed and allocated to 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 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.

Besides the government, non-government organisations (NGOs) are also providing services to society.



One of the many housing schemes introduced.





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.

Television

Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) is the state-owned television network. It recently underwent a rebranding and as of 2017 has three TV channels - RTB Perdana (focusses on current affairs with news, educational documentaries, forums, religious shows and special events); RTB Aneka (focusses on entertainment with serial dramas, movies and special events); and RTB Sukmaindera (focusses on highlighting Brunei Darussalam to the world with local dramas, documentaries and educational shows broadcast internationally).

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

The Pelita Brunei is the government's official newspaper where it is published in Malay with three editions per week. It has a circulation of 12,000 copies. The newspaper consists of local news, current affairs, religious issues, government advertising and sports.

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 three privately-owned newspapers which are the Borneo Bulletin and the Brunei Times in English, and Media Permata published in Malay.

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.



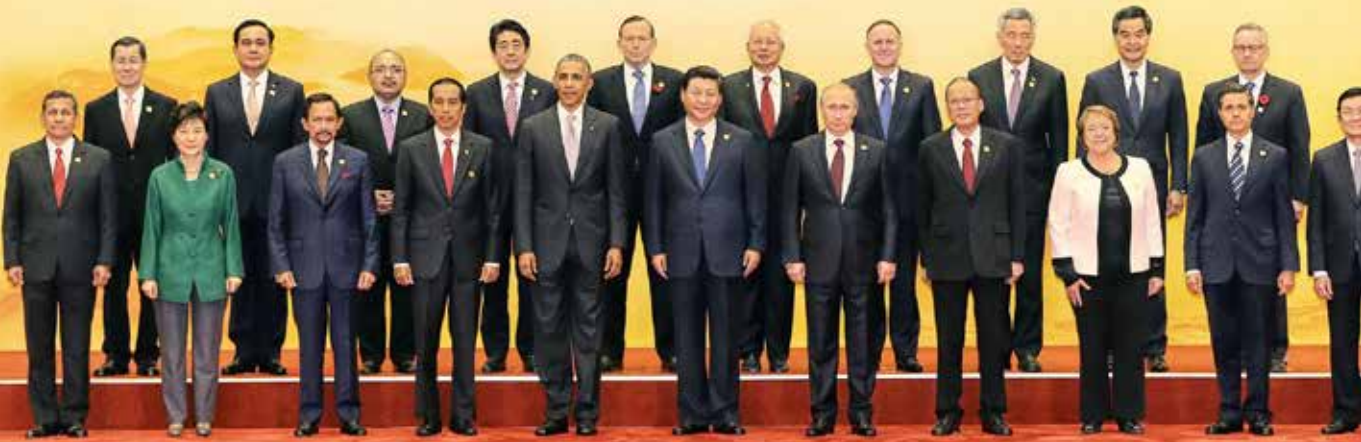
Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation



亚太经合组织第二十二次领导人非正式会议 THE 22ND APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS' MEETING

中国 北京 2014年11月11日

BEIJING, CHINA 11 NOVEMBER 2014



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.



ASEAN leaders and representative at the 22nd ASEAN Summit held in Bandar Seri Begawan.



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.



Completed in 1958, it is named after the 28th Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin, 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 Bolkhiah, 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 Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.



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.



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.



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 (woven cloth), *songkok* (traditional 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.

Bubungan Dua Belas

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



Historical 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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

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.



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.

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.





Bukit Shahbandar Forest Recreational Park

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

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.



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.



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 Centrepointhotel

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@legalleriesuiteshotel.com
Website: www.legalleriesuiteshotel.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

Riverview Hotel

Km 1, Jalan Gadong
Bandar Seri Begawan
Telephone: (+673) 223 8238
Fax: (+673) 223 7999
Website: www.riverviewhotel-brunei.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

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

