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**Brunei** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en), [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell)), officially the **Nation of Brunei, the Abode of Peace**[[1]](#cite_note-1) ([Template:Lang-ms](/wiki/Template:Lang-ms), [Jawi](/wiki/Jawi_alphabet): [Template:Script/Arabic](/wiki/Template:Script/Arabic)), is a [sovereign state](/wiki/Sovereign_state) located on the north coast of the island of [Borneo](/wiki/Borneo) in [Southeast Asia](/wiki/Southeast_Asia). Apart from its coastline with the [South China Sea](/wiki/South_China_Sea), the country is completely surrounded by the [state](/wiki/Federated_state) of [Sarawak](/wiki/Sarawak), [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia). It is separated into two parts by the Sarawak district of [Limbang](/wiki/Limbang_District). Brunei is the only sovereign state completely on the island of Borneo; the remainder of the island's territory is divided between the nations of [Malaysia](/wiki/Malaysia) and [Indonesia](/wiki/Indonesia). [Brunei's population](/wiki/Demographics_of_Brunei) was 408,786 in July 2012.[[2]](#cite_note-2) At the peak of the [Bruneian Empire](/wiki/Bruneian_Empire), [Sultan Bolkiah](/wiki/Bolkiah) (reigned 1485–1528) is alleged to have had control over most regions of Borneo, including modern-day Sarawak and [Sabah](/wiki/Sabah), as well as the [Sulu archipelago](/wiki/Sulu_archipelago) off the northeast tip of Borneo, [Seludong](/wiki/Seludong) (modern-day [Manila](/wiki/Manila)), and the islands off the northwest tip of Borneo. The [maritime state](/wiki/Thalassocracy) was visited by Spain's [Magellan Expedition](/wiki/Timeline_of_Magellan's_circumnavigation) in 1521 and fought against Spain in the 1578 [Castille War](/wiki/Castille_War).

During the 19th century, the Bruneian Empire began to decline. The Sultanate ceded Sarawak ([Kuching](/wiki/Kuching)) to [James Brooke](/wiki/James_Brooke) and installed him as the [White Rajah](/wiki/White_Rajahs), and it ceded Sabah to the British [North Borneo Chartered Company](/wiki/North_Borneo_Chartered_Company). In 1888, Brunei became a British [protectorate](/wiki/Protectorate) and was assigned a [British resident](/wiki/Resident_(title)) as colonial manager in 1906. After the Japanese occupation during [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), in 1959 a new constitution was written. In 1962, a small [armed rebellion](/wiki/Brunei_Revolt) against the monarchy was ended with the help of the British.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Brunei gained its independence from the United Kingdom on 1 January 1984. Economic growth during the 1990s and 2000s, with the GDP increasing 56% from 1999 to 2008, transformed Brunei into an industrialised country. It has developed wealth from extensive petroleum and natural gas fields. Brunei has the second-highest [Human Development Index](/wiki/Human_Development_Index) among the [Southeast Asia](/wiki/Southeast_Asia) nations, after Singapore, and is classified as a "[developed country](/wiki/Developed_country)".[[4]](#cite_note-4) According to the [International Monetary Fund](/wiki/International_Monetary_Fund) (IMF), Brunei is ranked fifth in the world by gross domestic product per capita at [purchasing power parity](/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity). The IMF estimated, in 2011, that Brunei was one of two countries (the other being [Libya](/wiki/Libya)) with a public debt at 0% of the national GDP. [*Forbes*](/wiki/Forbes) also ranks Brunei as the fifth-richest nation out of 182, based on its petroleum and natural gas fields.[[5]](#cite_note-5)

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

According to legend, Brunei was founded by Awang Alak Betatar, later to be [Sultan Muhammad Shah](/wiki/Muhammad_Shah_of_Brunei). He moved from Garang, a place in the [Temburong](/wiki/Temburong) District[[6]](#cite_note-6) to the [Brunei River](/wiki/Brunei_River) estuary, discovering Brunei. According to legend, upon landing he exclaimed, *Baru nah* (loosely translated as "that's it!" or "there"), from which the name "Brunei" was derived.[[7]](#cite_note-7) He was the first Muslim ruler of Brunei.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Before the rise of the [Bruneian Empire](/wiki/Bruneian_Empire) under the Muslim Bolkiah Dynasty, Brunei is believed to have been under Buddhist rulers.[[9]](#cite_note-9) It was renamed "Barunai" in the 14th century, possibly influenced by the [Sanskrit](/wiki/Sanskrit) word "[*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl)" ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), meaning "seafarers". [[10]](#cite_note-10) The word "[Borneo](/wiki/Borneo)" is of the same origin. In the country's full name, [*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang), [*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang) ([Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar)) means "abode of peace", while [*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang) means "country" in [Malay](/wiki/Malay_language).

The earliest recorded documentation by the West about Brunei is by an Italian known as [Ludovico di Varthema](/wiki/Ludovico_di_Varthema), who also said the "Bruneian people have fairer skin tone than the peoples he met in [Maluku Islands](/wiki/Maluku_Islands)". On his documentation back to 1550;

We arrived at the island of Bornei *(Brunei or Borneo),* which is distant from the *Maluch* about two hundred miles, and we found that it was somewhat larger than the aforesaid and much lower. The people are pagans and are men of goodwill. Their colour is whiter than that of the other sort....in this island justice is well administered...[[11]](#cite_note-11)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Early history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|The tomb of a ruler of Po-ni in](/wiki/File:The_Tomb_of_the_King_of_Boni_(Brunei)_Nanjing.JPG) [Nanjing](/wiki/Nanjing), [Jiangsu](/wiki/Jiangsu), [China](/wiki/China). One of the earliest Chinese records is the 977 AD letter to Chinese emperor from the ruler of Po-ni, which some scholars believe to refer to Borneo.[[12]](#cite_note-12) In 1225, a Chinese official, Chau Ju-Kua ([Zhao Rugua](/wiki/Zhao_Rugua)), reported that Po-ni had 100 warships to protect its trade, and that there was a lot of wealth in the kingdom.[[13]](#cite_note-13) In the fourteenth century, the [Javanese](/wiki/Java) manuscript [Nagarakretagama](/wiki/Nagarakretagama), written by [Prapanca](/wiki/Mpu_Prapanca) in 1365, mentioned *Barune* as the [vassal state](/wiki/Vassal_state) of [Majapahit](/wiki/Majapahit),[[14]](#cite_note-14) which had to make an annual [tribute](/wiki/Tribute) of 40 [katis](/wiki/Catty) of [camphor](/wiki/Camphor). In 1369, the Sulus attacked Po-ni, looting it of treasure and gold. A fleet from Majapahit succeeded in driving away the Sulus, but Po-ni was left weaker after the attack.[[15]](#cite_note-15) A Chinese report from 1371 described Po-ni as poor and totally controlled by Majapahit.[[16]](#cite_note-16) However, scholars claim that the power of the [Sultanate](/wiki/Sultanate) of Brunei was at [its peak](/wiki/Bruneian_Empire) between the 15th and 17th centuries, with its power extending from northern Borneo to the southern Philippines.<ref name=cia>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> By the 16th century, Islam was firmly rooted in Brunei, and the country had built one of its biggest mosques. In 1578, Alonso Beltrán, a Spanish traveller, described it as being five stories tall and built on the water.[[17]](#cite_note-17)

### War with Spain and decline[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[European influence](/wiki/Colonialism) gradually brought an end to the [regional power](/wiki/Regional_power), as Brunei entered a period of decline compounded by internal strife over royal succession. Since the Spanish regarded Brunei the center of Islamic preaching in the Philippines<ref name=cia/> Spain [declared war](/wiki/Castille_War) in 1578, planning to attack and capture [Kota Batu](/wiki/Kota_Batu,_Brunei-Muara), Brunei's capital at the time. This was based in part on the assistance of two Bruneian [noblemen](/wiki/Pengiran#Brunei), Pengiran Seri Lela and Pengiran Seri Ratna. The former had travelled to [Manila](/wiki/Manila), then the centre of the Spanish colony, Manila itself was captured from Brunei and Christianized, Pengiran Seri Lela came to offer Brunei as a [tributary](/wiki/Tributary_state) to Spain for help to recover the throne usurped by his brother, Saiful Rijal.[[18]](#cite_note-18) The Spanish agreed that if they succeeded in conquering Brunei, Pengiran Seri Lela would be appointed as the sultan, while Pengiran Seri Ratna would be the new [Bendahara](/wiki/Bendahara).

In March 1578, the Spanish fleet had arrived from Mexico and settled at the Philippines, they were led by [De Sande](/wiki/Francisco_de_Sande), acting as [Capitán-General](/wiki/Capitán-General), he organized an expedition from Manila for Brunei. The expedition consisted of 400 Spanish, 1,500 [Filipino](/wiki/Filipino_people) natives and 300 Borneans.[[19]](#cite_note-19) The campaign was one of many, which also included action in [Mindanao](/wiki/Mindanao) and [Sulu](/wiki/Sulu_Archipelago).[[20]](#cite_note-20)[[21]](#cite_note-21) The Spanish invaded the capital on 16 April 1578, with the help of Pengiran Seri Lela and Pengiran Seri Ratna. The Sultan Saiful Rijal and Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Abdul Kahar were forced to flee to Meragang then to [Jerudong](/wiki/Jerudong). In Jerudong, they made plans to chase the conquering army away from Brunei. Suffering high fatalities due to a [cholera](/wiki/Cholera) or [dysentery](/wiki/Dysentery) outbreak,[[22]](#cite_note-22)[[23]](#cite_note-23) the Spanish decided to abandon Brunei and returned to Manila on 26 June 1578, after 72 days. Before doing so, they burned the mosque, a high structure with a five-tier roof.[[24]](#cite_note-24) Pengiran Seri Lela died in August or September 1578, probably from the same illness suffered by his Spanish allies. There was suspicion he could have been poisoned by the ruling sultan. Seri Lela's daughter, a Bruneian princess had left with the Spanish, she married a Christian [Tagalog](/wiki/Tagalog_people), named Agustín de Legazpi de Tondo.[[25]](#cite_note-25) The local Brunei accounts[[26]](#cite_note-26) differ greatly from the generally accepted view of events. What was called the Castilian War was seen as a heroic episode, with the Spaniards being driven out by Bendahara Sakam, purportedly a brother of the ruling sultan, and a thousand native warriors. Most historians consider this to be a [folk-hero](/wiki/Folk-hero) account, which probably developed decades or centuries after.[[27]](#cite_note-27) The country suffered a [civil war](/wiki/Brunei_Civil_War) from 1660 to 1673.

### British intervention[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|right|Boundaries of Brunei (green) since 1890.](/wiki/File:Control_of_the_island_of_Borneo.png) The British have intervened in the affairs of Brunei on several occasions. Britain attacked Brunei in July 1846 due to internal conflicts over who was the rightful Sultan.[[28]](#cite_note-28) In the 1880s, the decline of the [Bruneian Empire](/wiki/Bruneian_Empire) continued. The sultan granted land (now Sarawak) to [James Brooke](/wiki/James_Brooke), who had helped him quell a rebellion and allowed him to establish the [Kingdom of Sarawak](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Sarawak). Over time, Brooke and his nephews (who succeeded him) leased or annexed more land. Brunei lost much of its territory to him and his dynasty, known as the [White Rajahs](/wiki/White_Rajahs).

Sultan [Hashim Jalilul Alam Aqamaddin](/wiki/Hashim_Jalilul_Alam_Aqamaddin) appealed to the British to stop further encroachment by the Brookes.[[29]](#cite_note-29) The "Treaty of Protection" was negotiated by [Sir Hugh Low](/wiki/Sir_Hugh_Low) and signed into effect on 17 September 1888. The treaty said that the sultan "could not cede or lease any territory to foreign powers without British consent"; it provided [Britain](/wiki/United_Kingdom) effective control over Brunei's external affairs, making it a British [protectorate](/wiki/Protectorate) (which continued until 1984).<ref name=cia/> But, when the Kingdom of Sarawak annexed Brunei's [Pandaruan District](/wiki/Limbang_Division) in 1890, the British did not take any action to stop it. They did not regard either Brunei or the Kingdom of Sarawak as 'foreign' (per the Treaty of Protection). This final annexation by Sarawak left Brunei with its current small land mass and separation into two parts.[[30]](#cite_note-30) [British residents](/wiki/British_resident) were introduced in Brunei under the Supplementary Protectorate Agreement in 1906.[[31]](#cite_note-31) The residents were to advise the sultan on all matters of administration. Over time, the resident assumed more executive control than the sultan. The residential system ended in 1959.[[32]](#cite_note-32)

### Discovery of oil[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

Petroleum was discovered in 1929 after several fruitless attempts.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Two men, F.F. Marriot and T.G. Cochrane, smelled oil near the [Seria](/wiki/Seria) river in late 1926.[[34]](#cite_note-34) They informed a [geophysicist](/wiki/Geophysicist), who conducted a survey there. In 1927, gas seepages were reported in the area. Seria Well Number One (S-1) was drilled on 12 July 1928. Oil was struck at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on 5 April 1929. Seria Well Number 2 was drilled on 19 August 1929, and, [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), continues to produce oil.[[35]](#cite_note-35) Oil production was increased considerably in the 1930s with the development of more oil fields. In 1940, oil production was at more than six million barrels.[[35]](#cite_note-35) The British Malayan Petroleum Company (now [Brunei Shell Petroleum](/wiki/Brunei_Shell_Petroleum) Company) was formed on 22 July 1922.[[36]](#cite_note-36) The first offshore well was drilled in 1957.[[37]](#cite_note-37) Oil and natural gas have been the basis of Brunei's development and wealth since the late 20th century.

### Japanese occupation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Sultan_Ahmad_Tajuddin_(AWM_P10841.001).JPG)[Ahmad Tajuddin](/wiki/Ahmad_Tajuddin), the [27th Sultan of Brunei](/wiki/List_of_Sultans_of_Brunei) with members of his court in April 1941, eight months before the Japanese invaded Brunei. The Japanese invaded Brunei on 16 December 1941, eight days after their [attack on Pearl Harbor](/wiki/Attack_on_Pearl_Harbor) and the United States Navy. They landed 10,000 troops of the [Kawaguchi Detachment](/wiki/Kawaguchi_Detachment) from [Cam Ranh Bay](/wiki/Cam_Ranh_Bay) at [Kuala Belait](/wiki/Kuala_Belait). After six days fighting, they occupied the entire country. The only Allied troops in the area were the 2nd Battalion of the [15th Punjab Regiment](/wiki/15th_Punjab_Regiment) based at [Kuching](/wiki/Kuching), Sarawak.[[38]](#cite_note-38) Once the Japanese occupied Brunei, they made an agreement with [Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin](/wiki/Ahmad_Tajuddin) over governing the country. Inche Ibrahim (known later as Pehin Datu Perdana Menteri Dato Laila Utama Awang Haji Ibrahim), a former Secretary to the British Resident, Ernest Edgar Pengilly, was appointed [Chief Administrative Officer](/wiki/Chief_Administrative_Officer) under the Japanese Governor. The Japanese had proposed that Pengilly retain his position under their administration, but he declined. Both he and other British nationals still in Brunei were interned by the Japanese at [Batu Lintang camp](/wiki/Batu_Lintang_camp) in Sarawak. While the British officials were under Japanese guard, Ibrahim made a point of personally shaking each one by the hand and wishing him well.[[39]](#cite_note-39) The Sultan retained his throne and was given a pension and honours by the Japanese. During the later part of the occupation, he resided at Tantuya, [Limbang](/wiki/Limbang) and had little to do with the Japanese. Most of the Malay government officers were retained by the Japanese. Brunei's administration was reorganised into five prefectures, which included British [North Borneo](/wiki/North_Borneo). The Prefectures included [Baram](/wiki/Miri_Division), [Labuan](/wiki/Labuan), [Lawas](/wiki/Lawas), and [Limbang](/wiki/Limbang). Ibrahim hid numerous significant government documents from the Japanese during the occupation. Pengiran Yusuf (later YAM Pengiran Setia Negara Pengiran [Haji Mohd Yusuf](/wiki/Haji_Mohd_Yusuf)), along with other Bruneians, was sent to Japan for training. Although in the area the day of the [atomic bombing of Hiroshima](/wiki/Atomic_bombings_of_Hiroshima_and_Nagasaki), Yusuf survived.

[thumb|250px|right|Japanese battleships at Brunei in October 1944.](/wiki/File:Yamato_at_Brunei.jpg) The British had anticipated a Japanese attack, but lacked the resources to defend the area because of their engagement in the war in Europe. The troops from the Punjab Regiment filled in the [Seria](/wiki/Seria) oilfield oilwells with concrete in September 1941 to deny the Japanese their use. The remaining equipment and installations were destroyed when the [Japanese invaded Malaya](/wiki/Japanese_invasion_of_Malaya). By the end of the war, 16 wells at [Miri](/wiki/Miri) and Seria had been restarted, with production reaching about half the pre-war level. Coal production at [Muara](/wiki/Muara,_Brunei) was also recommenced, but with little success. [right|thumb|250px|](/wiki/File:Japanese_Surrender,_Labuan_(AWM_115989).JPG)[Major-General Wootten](/wiki/George_Wootten) of the Australian 9th Division with [Lieutenant-General Masao Baba](/wiki/Masao_Baba) (signing) of the Japanese 37th Division at the surrender ceremony at Labuan on 10 September 1945.

During the occupation, the Japanese had their language taught in schools, and Government officers were required to learn Japanese. The local currency was replaced by what was to become known as [*duit pisang* (banana money)](/wiki/Banana_money). From 1943 hyper-inflation destroyed the currency's value and, at the end of the war, this currency was worthless. Allied attacks on shipping eventually caused trade to cease. Food and medicine fell into short supply, and the population suffered famine and disease.

The [airport](/wiki/Brunei_International_Airport) runway was constructed by the Japanese during the occupation, and in 1943 Japanese naval units were based in [Brunei Bay](/wiki/Brunei_Bay) and Labuan. The naval base was destroyed by Allied bombing, but the airport runway survived. The facility was developed as a public airport. In 1944 the Allies began a bombing campaign against the occupying Japanese, which destroyed much of the town and Kuala Belait, but missed [Kampong Ayer](/wiki/Kampong_Ayer).[[40]](#cite_note-40) On 10 June 1945, the [Australian 9th Division](/wiki/Australian_9th_Division) landed at Muara under [Operation Oboe Six](/wiki/Battle_of_North_Borneo) to recapture Borneo from the Japanese. They were supported by American air and naval units. Brunei town was bombed extensively and recaptured after three days of heavy fighting. Many buildings were destroyed, including the Mosque. The Japanese forces in Brunei, Borneo, and Sarawak, under Lieutenant-General Masao Baba, formally surrendered at Labuan on 10 September 1945. The British Military Administration took over from the Japanese and remained until July 1946.

### Post-World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

After [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), a new government was formed in Brunei under the [British Military Administration](/wiki/British_Military_Administration_(Borneo)) (BMA). It consisted mainly of Australian officers and servicemen.[[41]](#cite_note-41) The administration of Brunei was passed to the Civil Administration on 6 July 1945. The Brunei State Council was also revived that year.[[42]](#cite_note-42) The BMA was tasked to revive the Bruneian economy, which was extensively damaged by the Japanese during their occupation. They also had to put out the fires on the wells of Seria, which had been set by the Japanese prior to their defeat.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Before 1941, the Governor of the Straits Settlements, based in Singapore, was responsible for the duties of British High Commissioner for Brunei, [Sarawak](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Sarawak), and [North Borneo](/wiki/North_Borneo) (now [Sabah](/wiki/Sabah)).[[43]](#cite_note-43) The first [British High Commissioner](/wiki/British_High_Commissioner) for Brunei was the Governor of Sarawak, Sir Charles Ardon Clarke. The Barisan Pemuda ("Youth Movement") (abbreviated as BARIP) was the first political party to be formed in Brunei, on 12 April 1946. The party intended to "preserve the sovereignty of the Sultan and the country, and to defend the rights of the [Malays](/wiki/Ethnic_Malays)".[[44]](#cite_note-44) BARIP also contributed to the composition of the country's national anthem. The party was dissolved in 1948 due to inactivity.

In 1959, a new constitution was written declaring Brunei a self-governing state, while its foreign affairs, security, and defence remained the responsibility of the United Kingdom.[[2]](#cite_note-2) A small [rebellion](/wiki/Rebellion) erupted against the monarchy in 1962, which was suppressed with help of the UK. Known as the [Brunei Revolt](/wiki/Brunei_Revolt), it contributed to the failure to create the [North Borneo Federation](/wiki/North_Borneo_Federation). The rebellion partially affected Brunei's decision to opt out of the Malaysian Federation.[[2]](#cite_note-2) Brunei gained its independence from the United Kingdom on 1 January 1984.[[2]](#cite_note-2) The official National Day, which celebrates the country's independence, is held by tradition on 23 February.

### Writing of the Constitution[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

In July 1953, Sultan [Omar Ali Saifuddien III](/wiki/Omar_Ali_Saifuddien_III) formed a seven-member committee named *Tujuh Serangkai*, to find out the citizens' views regarding a written constitution for Brunei. In May 1954, the Sultan, Resident and High Commissioner met to discuss the findings of the committee. They agreed to authorise the drafting of a constitution. In March 1959 Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien III led a delegation to London to discuss the proposed Constitution.[[45]](#cite_note-45) The British delegation was led by Sir [Alan Lennox-Boyd](/wiki/Alan_Lennox-Boyd), Secretary of State for the Colonies. The British Government later accepted the draft constitution.

On 29 September 1959, the Constitution Agreement was signed in [Bandar Seri Begawan](/wiki/Bandar_Seri_Begawan). The agreement was signed by Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien III and Sir Robert Scott, the Commissioner-General for Southeast Asia. It included the following provisions:[[31]](#cite_note-31)\* The Sultan was made the Supreme Head of State.

* Brunei was responsible for its internal administration.
* The British Government was responsible for foreign and defence affairs only.
* The post of Resident was abolished and replaced by a British High Commissioner.

Five councils were set up:[[46]](#cite_note-46)\* The Executive Council

* [The Legislative Council of Brunei](/wiki/Legislative_Council_of_Brunei)
* The Privy Council
* The Council of Succession
* The State Religious Council

### National development plans[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

A series of National Development Plans was initiated by the 28th Sultan of Brunei, [Omar Ali Saifuddien III](/wiki/Omar_Ali_Saifuddien_III).

The first was introduced in 1953.[[47]](#cite_note-47) A total sum of B$100 million was approved by the Brunei State Council for the plan. E.R. Bevington, from the Colonial Office in [Fiji](/wiki/Fiji), was appointed to implement it.[[48]](#cite_note-48) A $US14 million Gas Plant was built under the plan. In 1954, survey and exploration work were undertaken by the Brunei Shell Petroleum on both offshore and onshore fields. By 1956, production reached 114,700 [bpd](/wiki/Barrels_per_day).

The plan also aided the development of public education. By 1958, expenditure on education totalled at $4 million.[[48]](#cite_note-48) Communications were improved, as new roads were built and reconstruction at Berakas Airport was completed in 1954.[[49]](#cite_note-49) The second National Development Plan was launched in 1962.[[49]](#cite_note-49) A major oil and gas field was discovered in 1963, with this discovery, [Liquefied Natural Gas](/wiki/Liquefied_Natural_Gas) became important. Developments in the oil and gas sector have continued, and oil production has steadily increased since then.[[50]](#cite_note-50) The plan also promoted the production of meat and eggs for consumption by citizens. The fishing industry increased its output by 25% throughout the course of the plan. The [deepwater port](/wiki/List_of_Panamax_ports) at [Muara](/wiki/Muara,_Brunei) was also constructed during this period. Power requirements were met, and studies were made to provide electricity to rural areas.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Efforts were made to eradicate [malaria](/wiki/Malaria), an endemic disease in the region, with the help of the [World Health Organisation](/wiki/World_Health_Organisation). Malaria cases were reduced from 300 cases in 1953 to only 66 cases in 1959.[[51]](#cite_note-51) The death rate was reduced from 20 per thousand in 1947 to 11.3 per thousand in 1953.[[51]](#cite_note-51) Infectious disease has been prevented by public sanitation and improvement of drainage, and the provision of piped pure water to the population.[[51]](#cite_note-51)

### Independence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

On 14 November 1971, His Royal Highness Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, which then used the title due to it being a protectorate of the UK, left for London to discuss matters regarding the amendments to the 1959 Constitution. A new agreement was signed on 23 November 1971 with the British representative being Anthony Henry Fanshawe Royle.[[52]](#cite_note-52) Under this agreement, the following terms were agreed upon:

* Brunei was granted full internal self-government
* The UK would still be responsible for external affairs and defence.
* Brunei and the UK agreed to share the responsibility for security and defence.

This agreement also caused [Gurkha units](/wiki/British_Military_Garrison_Brunei) to be deployed in Brunei, where they remain up to this day.

On 7 January 1979, another treaty was signed between Brunei and the UK. It was signed with Lord Goronwy-Roberts being the representative of the UK. This agreement granted Brunei to take over international responsibilities as an independent nation. Britain agreed to assist Brunei in diplomatic matters.[[53]](#cite_note-53) In May 1983, it was announced by the UK that the date of independence of Brunei would be 1 January 1984.

On 31 December 1983, a mass gathering was held on main mosques on all four of the districts of the country.

At midnight, on 1 January 1984, the Proclamation of Independence was read by His Majesty Hassanal Bolkiah, which is now addressed in this manner.[[54]](#cite_note-54)

### 21st century[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

In October 2013, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah announced his intention to impose Sharia law on the country's Muslims, which take up roughly two thirds of the country's population.[[55]](#cite_note-55) This would be implemented in three phases, culminating in 2016, and making Brunei the first and only country in East Asia to introduce Sharia law into its penal code.[[56]](#cite_note-56) The move attracted international criticism,[[57]](#cite_note-57) the United Nations expressing "deep concern".[[58]](#cite_note-58)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Brunei is a southeast Asian country consisting of two unconnected parts with a total area of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on the island of Borneo. It has [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of coastline next to the [South China sea](/wiki/South_China_sea), and it shares a 381 km (237 mi) border with Malaysia. It has [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of territorial waters, and a [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [exclusive economic zone](/wiki/Exclusive_economic_zone).[[59]](#cite_note-59) About 97% of the population lives in the larger western part ([Belait](/wiki/Belait_District), [Tutong](/wiki/Tutong_District), and [Brunei-Muara](/wiki/Brunei_and_Muara)), while only about 10,000 people live in the mountainous eastern part ([Temburong District](/wiki/Temburong_District)). The total population of Brunei is approximately 408,000 [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), of which around 150,000 live in the capital [Bandar Seri Begawan](/wiki/Bandar_Seri_Begawan).[[60]](#cite_note-60) Other major towns are the port town of [Muara](/wiki/Muara,_Brunei), the oil-producing town of [Seria](/wiki/Seria) and its neighbouring town, [Kuala Belait](/wiki/Kuala_Belait). In Belait District, the [Panaga](/wiki/Panaga) area is home to large numbers of Europeans expatriates, due to [Royal Dutch Shell](/wiki/Royal_Dutch_Shell) and British Army housing, and several recreational facilities are located there.[[61]](#cite_note-61) Most of Brunei is within the [Borneo lowland rain forests](/wiki/Borneo_lowland_rain_forests) ecoregion, which covers most of the island. Areas of [mountain rain forests](/wiki/Borneo_montane_rain_forests) inland.[[62]](#cite_note-62)[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

The [climate of Brunei](/wiki/Climate_of_Brunei) is [tropical](/wiki/Tropical_climate) [equatorial](/wiki/Tropical_rainforest_climate).<ref name=cia/> The average annual temperature for the two years 2013 and 2014 was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), in figures supplied by the Meteorology Department for the weather station located at the airport. In those two years, the highest average temperature for one day was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) (on 7 May 2014) and the lowest average temperature for one day was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) (on 22 January 2014).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sep** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** | **Year** |
| **Mean maximum (°C)** | 31 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 31 | 31 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 31 | 31 | 31 | **31.5** |
| **Mean temperature (°C)** | 26.5 | 27.2 | 27.8 | 28.1 | 28.2 | 28.3 | 27.6 | 27.5 | 27.7 | 27.2 | 27.4 | 27.2 | **27.6** |
| **Mean minimum (°C)** | 22.1 | 22.0 | 22.5 | 23.9 | 23.9 | 24.7 | 24.1 | 24.3 | 25.3 | 23.1 | 22.2 | 23.6 | **23.5** |
| **Average rainfall (mm)** | 277.7 | 138.3 | 113.0 | 200.3 | 239.0 | 214.2 | 228.8 | 215.8 | 257.7 | 319.9 | 329.4 | 343.5 | **2873.9** |

## Politics and government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Hassanal_Bolkiah.jpg)[Hassanal Bolkiah](/wiki/Hassanal_Bolkiah), [Sultan of Brunei](/wiki/Sultan_of_Brunei). Brunei's political system is governed by the constitution and the national tradition of the Malay Islamic Monarchy, the concept of [*Melayu Islam Beraja*](/wiki/Melayu_Islam_Beraja) (MIB). The three components of MIB cover Malay culture, Islamic religion, and the political framework under the monarchy.[[63]](#cite_note-63) It has a legal system based on [English common law](/wiki/English_common_law), although Islamic [shariah law](/wiki/Shariah_law) supersedes this in some cases.<ref name=cia/> Brunei [has a parliament](/wiki/Legislative_Council_of_Brunei) but there are no elections; the last election was held in [1962](/wiki/Brunei_Revolt).[[64]](#cite_note-64) The issue was reportedly settled in 2009, with Brunei agreeing to accept the border in exchange for Malaysia giving up claims to oil fields in Bruneian waters.[[75]](#cite_note-75) The Brunei government denies this and says that their claim on Limbang was never dropped.[[76]](#cite_note-76)[[77]](#cite_note-77) Brunei was the chair for [ASEAN](/wiki/ASEAN) in 2013.[[78]](#cite_note-78) It also hosted the ASEAN summit on that same year.[[79]](#cite_note-79)

### Defence[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Brunei maintains three infantry battalions stationed around the country.[[2]](#cite_note-2) The Brunei navy has several "Ijtihad"-class patrol boats purchased from a German manufacturer. The United Kingdom also maintains a base in [Seria](/wiki/Seria), the centre of the oil industry in Brunei. A Gurkha battalion consisting of 1,500 personnel is stationed there.[[2]](#cite_note-2) United Kingdom military personnel are stationed there under a defence agreement signed between the two countries.[[2]](#cite_note-2) A [Bell 212](/wiki/Bell_212) operated by the air force crashed in [Kuala Belait](/wiki/Kuala_Belait) on 20 July 2012 with the loss of 12 of the 14 crew on board. The cause of the accident has yet to be ascertained.[[80]](#cite_note-80) The crash is the worst aviation incident in the history of Brunei.

The Army is currently acquiring new equipment,[[81]](#cite_note-81) including [UAVs](/wiki/UAV) and [S-70i Black Hawks](/wiki/Sikorsky_S-70).[[82]](#cite_note-82) Brunei’s Legislative Council proposed an increase of the defence budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year of about five per cent to 564 million Brunei dollars ($408 million). This amounts to about ten per cent of the state’s total national yearly expenditure and represents around 2.5 per cent of GDP.[[83]](#cite_note-83)

### Administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Brunei is divided into four districts ([*daerahs*](/wiki/Daerah))[[84]](#cite_note-84) and 38 subdistricts ([*mukims*](/wiki/Mukim)).[[2]](#cite_note-2) The daerah of Temburong is physically separated from the rest of Brunei by the [Malaysian](/wiki/Malaysia) state of [Sarawak](/wiki/Sarawak).

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **District** | [**Template:Smaller**](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | [**Template:Smaller**](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | [**Template:Smaller**](/wiki/Template:Smaller) |
| 1. | [Belait](/wiki/Belait_District) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) |
| 2. | [Brunei-Muara](/wiki/Brunei-Muara_District)[Template:Nbsp](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) |
| 3. | [Temburong](/wiki/Temburong_District) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) |
| 4. | [Tutong](/wiki/Tutong_District) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) | [Template:Smaller](/wiki/Template:Smaller) |

[Template:Brunei Labelled Map](/wiki/Template:Brunei_Labelled_Map)

The daerah of Brunei-Maura includes Brunei's capital city, [Bandar Seri Begawan](/wiki/Bandar_Seri_Begawan), whose suburbs dominate fifteen of the eighteen mukims in this daerah.

Over 90% of Brunei's total population lives in 15 of the 38 mukims:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Mukim** | **Population** | **Large Towns** | **Daerah** |
| 1 | [Sengkurong](/wiki/Sengkurong,_Brunei-Muara) | 62,400 | [Jerudong](/wiki/Jerudong) and [Bandar Seri Begawan](/wiki/Bandar_Seri_Begawan) | Brunei-Muara |
| 2 | [Gadong B](/wiki/Gadong_B,_Brunei-Muara) | 59,610 | Bandar Seri Begawan | Brunei-Muara |
| 3 | [Berakas A](/wiki/Berakas_A,_Brunei-Muara) | 57,500 | Bandar Seri Begawan | Brunei-Muara |
| 4 | [Kuala Belait](/wiki/Kuala_Belait,_Belait) | 35,500 | [Belait](/wiki/Kuala_Belait) town | Belait |
| 5 | [Seria](/wiki/Seria,_Belait) | 32,900 | [Seria Town](/wiki/Seria) | Belait |
| 6 | [Berakas B](/wiki/Berakas_B,_Brunei-Muara) | 23,400 | Bandar Seri Begawan | Brunei-Muara |
| 7 | [Sungai Liang](/wiki/Liang,_Belait) | 18,100 | small [kampongs](/wiki/Kampung#Southeast_Asia) (villages) | Belait |
| 8 | [Pengkalan Batu](/wiki/Pengkalan_Batu,_Brunei-Muara) | approx. 15,000 | small kampongs | Brunei-Muara |
| 9 | [Kilanas](/wiki/Kilanas,_Brunei-Muara) | approx. 14,000 | Bandar Seri Begawan | Brunei-Muara |
| 10 | [Kota Batu](/wiki/Kota_Batu,_Brunei-Muara) | 12,600 | Bandar Seri Begawan | Brunei-Muara |
| 11 | [Pekan Tutong](/wiki/Mukim_Pekan_Tutong) | 12,100 | [Tutong Town](/wiki/Pekan_Tutong) | Tutong |
| 12 | [Mentiri](/wiki/Mentiri,_Brunei-Muara) | 10,872 | small kampongs | Brunei-Muara |
| 13 | [Serasa](/wiki/Serasa,_Brunei-Muara) | approx. 10,000 | [Muara Town](/wiki/Muara,_Brunei) | Brunei-Muara |
| 14 | [Kianggeh](/wiki/Kianggeh,_Brunei-Muara) | 8,540 | Bandar Seri Begawan | Brunei-Muara |
| 15 | [Burong Pinggai Ayer](/wiki/Burong_Pinggai_Ayer,_Brunei) | approx. 8,200 | Bandar Seri Begawan | Brunei-Muara |

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Brunei's small, wealthy [economy](/wiki/Economic_system) is a mixture of [foreign](/wiki/Foreign_corporation) and [domestic](/wiki/Domestic_policy) entrepreneurship, government regulation, [welfare](/wiki/Social_welfare) measures, and village tradition.[[85]](#cite_note-85) [Crude oil](/wiki/Petroleum) and natural gas production account for about 90% of its GDP.[[2]](#cite_note-2) About [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of oil are produced every day, making Brunei the fourth-largest producer of oil in Southeast Asia.[[2]](#cite_note-2) It also produces approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of [liquified natural gas](/wiki/Liquified_natural_gas) per day, making Brunei the ninth-largest exporter of the substance in the world.[[2]](#cite_note-2)[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:SBY_dan_para_pemimpin_ASEAN_25-04-2013.jpg)[BIMP-EAGA](/wiki/BIMP-EAGA) meeting in the office of Brunei Prime Minister on 25 April 2013. From left: Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Indonesian President [Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono](/wiki/Susilo_Bambang_Yudhoyono), Malaysian Representative and Filipino President [Benigno Aquino III](/wiki/Benigno_Aquino_III). Brunei is part of the BIMP-EAGA, a subregional economic co-operation initiative in Southeast Asia. Substantial income from overseas investment supplements income from domestic production. Most of these investments are made by the Brunei Investment Agency, an arm of the Ministry of Finance.[[2]](#cite_note-2) The government provides for all medical services,[[86]](#cite_note-86) and subsidises rice[[87]](#cite_note-87) and housing.[[2]](#cite_note-2) The national [air carrier](/wiki/Flag_carrier), [Royal Brunei Airlines](/wiki/Royal_Brunei_Airlines), is trying to develop Brunei as a modest hub for international travel between Europe and Australia/New Zealand. Central to this strategy is the position that the airline maintains at London Heathrow Airport. It holds a daily slot at the highly capacity-controlled airport, which it serves from Bandar Seri Begawan via Dubai. The airline also has services to major Asian destinations including Shanghai, Bangkok, Singapore and Manila.

Brunei depends heavily on imports such as agricultural products (e.g. rice, [food products](/wiki/Convenience_food), livestock, etc.),[[88]](#cite_note-88) [motorcars](/wiki/Automobile) and [electrical products](/wiki/Consumer_electronics) from other countries.[[89]](#cite_note-89) Brunei imports 60% of its food requirements; of that amount, around 75% come from the ASEAN countries.[[88]](#cite_note-88) Brunei's leaders are very concerned that steadily increased integration in the world economy will undermine internal [social cohesion](/wiki/Social_cohesion). But, it has become a more prominent player by serving as chairman for the 2000 [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation](/wiki/Asia-Pacific_Economic_Cooperation) (APEC) forum. Leaders plan to upgrade the [labour](/wiki/Labour_(economics)) force, reduce unemployment, which was at 6.9% in 2014;[[90]](#cite_note-90) strengthen the banking and tourism sectors, and, in general, broaden the economic base.[[91]](#cite_note-91) The government of Brunei has also promoted food self-sufficiency, especially in [rice](/wiki/Rice). Brunei renamed its Brunei Darussalam Rice 1 as Laila Rice during the launch of the "Padi Planting Towards Achieving Self-Sufficiency of Rice Production in Brunei Darussalam" ceremony at the Wasan padi fields in April 2009.[[92]](#cite_note-92) In August 2009, the Royal Family reaped the first few Laila padi stalks, after years of attempts to boost local rice production, a goal first articulated about half a century ago.[[93]](#cite_note-93) In July 2009 Brunei launched its national [halal](/wiki/Halal) branding scheme, Brunei Halal, with a goal to export to foreign markets.[[94]](#cite_note-94)

### Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[thumb|right|Brunei International Airport](/wiki/File:BIA_departure.JPG) The population centres in the country are linked by a network of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of road. The [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) highway from Muara Town to Kuala Belait is being upgraded to a [dual carriageway](/wiki/Dual_carriageway).[[63]](#cite_note-63) Brunei is accessible by air, sea, and land transport. [Brunei International Airport](/wiki/Brunei_International_Airport) is the main entry point to the country. [Royal Brunei Airlines](/wiki/Royal_Brunei_Airlines)[[95]](#cite_note-95) is the national carrier. There is another airfield, the [Anduki Airfield](/wiki/Anduki_Airfield), located in [Seria](/wiki/Seria). The ferry terminal at Muara services regular connections to [Labuan](/wiki/Labuan) (Malaysia). Speedboats provide passenger and goods transportation to the Temburong district.[[96]](#cite_note-96) The main highway running across Brunei is the Tutong-Muara Highway. The country's road network is well developed. Brunei has one main sea port located at Muara.[[2]](#cite_note-2) The airport in Brunei is currently being extensively upgraded.[[97]](#cite_note-97) Changi Airport International is the consultant working on this modernisation, which planned cost is currently $150 million.[[98]](#cite_note-98)[[99]](#cite_note-99) This project is slated to add [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of new floorspace and includes a new terminal and arrival hall.[[100]](#cite_note-100) With the completion of this project, the annual passenger capacity of the airport is expected to double from 1.5 to 3 million.[[98]](#cite_note-98)[thumb|Royal Brunei](/wiki/File:Royal.brunei.b767-300er.v8-rbk.arp.jpg) [Boeing 767-300ER](/wiki/Boeing_767-300ER) (V8-RBK) lands at London [Heathrow Airport](/wiki/Heathrow_Airport_Holdings). With one private car for every 2.09 persons, Brunei has one of the highest car ownership rates in the world. This has been attributed to the absence of a comprehensive transport system, low import tax, and low unleaded petrol price of B$0.53 per litre.,[[63]](#cite_note-63) A new [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) roadway [connecting the Muara and Temburong](/wiki/Temburong_Bridge) districts of Brunei is slated to be completed in 2019.[[101]](#cite_note-101)