

# Brunei

Brunei is a sovereign state located on the north coast of the Borneo island. It is surrounded by the Malaysian state of Sarawak.

## Overview

### Official Name

Brunei Darussalam

### Capital

Bandar Seri Begawan

### Independence Day

23 February 1984

## The Flag

The flag of Brunei has a centered crest that symbolizes Islam. The yellow field represents the Sultan of Brunei, while the black and white diagonal stripes represent Brunei's chief ministers. On the crest is the national motto of Brunei in Arabic: "Always render service with God's guidance". The inscription below means: "Brunei, the Abode of Peace".



## Population, Territory and Currency

### Population & total area

484,991 (2023 est.)

5,765 square km

*Source: CIA World Factbook*

### Currency

Brunei Dollar (BND)

Average price

per meal: SGD 5

## Key Historical Events

### 15th Century

Islamic sultanate of Brunei nominally in control of Borneo, including Sabah and Sarawak state of Malaysia and some parts of the Sulu islands in The Philippines.

### 1888

Brunei becomes a British protectorate.

### 1959

1959

Agreement gives Brunei internal self-government.

### 1963

Widespread resistance to a proposed merger with Malaysia. Brunei chooses to remain a British dependency.

### 1967

Hassanal Bolkiah becomes Sultan following the abdication of his father, Sultan Omar.

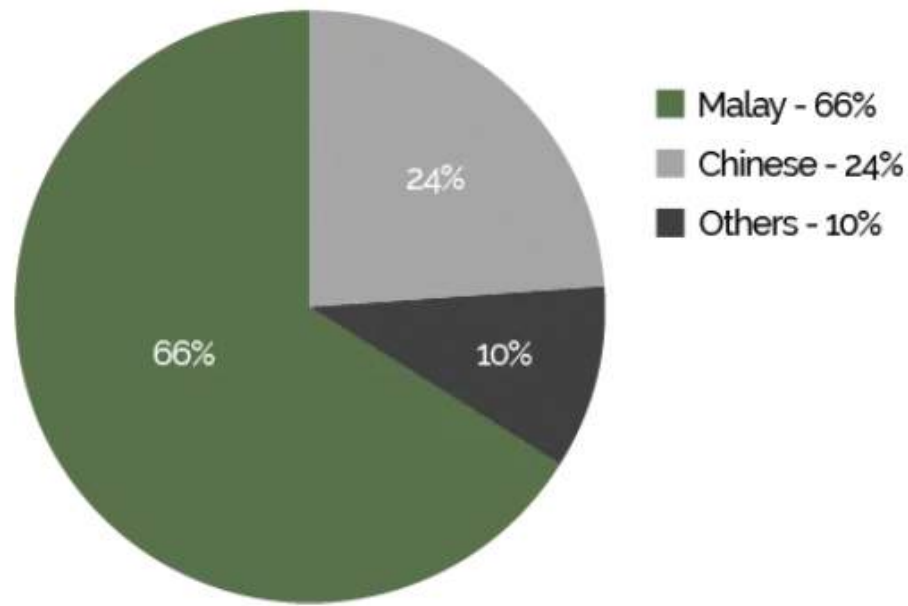
### 1984

Independence from the British.

### 2014

First East Asian country to adopt Islamic Sharia law.

## Demographics



**Male-Female:**  
**49%-51%**

**Urban Population:**  
**79.1%**

**Youth aged 15-24**  
**years: 16.14%**

*Source: CIA World*  
*Factbook*



Nasi Katok

## Economic Profile

Brunei's small, yet wealthy economy encompasses a mixture of foreign and domestic entrepreneurship, government regulation, welfare measures, and village tradition. According to the World Bank (2023), Brunei's GDP was worth USD 12.02 billion in 2020 and in 2021 it increased to USD 26.779 billion.

## Key Industries

### Oil, Gas & Refineries

Brunei's economy is primarily centered around the production of oil and gas, which make up about 65% of its GDP and 95% of its exports. Japan is the main export market for these resources. The country's main oil export partners include ASEAN member states, South Korea, the United States, and Taiwan. Additionally, Brunei exports about 82% of its liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Japan under a long-term agreement, with South Korea also being a significant market.

### Up-and-Coming

The Bruneian government aims to diversify its economy by exploring other industries such as infocomm technology and Halal manufacturing.

## Local Food

### Nasi Katok

A dish comprising rice, fried chicken, and sambal. Nasi means "rice" and katok means "knock".

### Ambuyat

Brunei's national dish. It is a mix of starchy solid whites and water and is served in a sticky consistency with cacah (dip).

### Kelupis

Rice cakes made from glutinous rice wrapped in nyirik leaves accompanied with a peanut dip.

## Places of Interest



Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque

### **Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque**

Constructed in 1958

One of the most beautiful mosques in the Asia Pacific, it is a place of worship for the Muslim community, a major historical site, and a famous tourist attraction. The mosque serves as a symbol of the Islamic faith in Brunei.



Kampong Ayer

### **Kampong Ayer**

Water village

This historical floating village consists of more than 40 smaller settlements connected with a maze-like network of wooden boardwalks. It houses 13,000 residents who have their own schools, mosques and shops.



Brunei celebrates National Day every 23 February

## Major Festivals

### **Hari Nasional**

The annual celebration of Brunei's independence from Britain on 23 February 1984.

### **Royal Brunei Armed Forces Day**

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces Day commemorates the formation of the Brunei Malay Regiment on 31 May 1961, which was pivotal in Brunei's preparation for independence from Britain. Celebrations include military demonstrations such as parades, parachute displays and mock battles.