



# BRUNEI



## INTRODUCTION

The Sultanate of Brunei's influence peaked between the 15th and 17th centuries when its control extended over coastal areas of northwest Borneo and the southern Philippines. In 1888, Brunei became a British protectorate. Independence was achieved in 1984. The same family has ruled Brunei for over six centuries.

## GOVERNMENT

### Chief of State

Sultan and Prime Minister Sir HASSANAL Bolkiah

### Head of Government

Sultan and Prime Minister Sir HASSANAL Bolkiah

### Government Type

absolute monarchy or sultanate

### Capital

Bandar Seri Begawan

### Legislature

unicameral Legislative Council or Majlis Mesyuarat Negara Brunei (33 seats)

### Ambassador to US

Ambassador Dato Paduka Haji Serbini bin Haji ALI

### US Ambassador

Ambassador Caryn R. McCLELLAND

## GEOGRAPHY

### Area

total: 5,765 sq km  
land: 5,265 sq km  
water: 500 sq km

### Climate

tropical; hot, humid, rainy

### Natural Resources

petroleum, natural gas, timber

## ECONOMY

### Economic Overview

almost exclusively an oil and gas economy; high income country; expansive and robust welfare system; the majority of the population works for the government; promulgating a nationalized halal brand; considering establishment of a bond market and stock exchange

**GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$26.78 billion (2021 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$60,100 (2021 est.)

**Industries** - petroleum, petroleum refining, liquefied natural gas, construction, agriculture, aquaculture, transportation

**Agricultural products** - poultry, eggs, fruit, cassava, bananas, legumes, cucumbers, rice, pineapples, beef

**Exports** \$11.2 billion (2021 est.)

refined petroleum, natural gas, crude petroleum, industrial hydrocarbons, industrial alcohols (2021)

**partners:** Singapore 21%, China 20%, Japan 19%, Australia 14%, Malaysia 5% (2021)

**Imports** \$9.22 billion (2021 est.)

crude petroleum, refined petroleum, cars, coal, packaged medicines (2021)

**partners:** Malaysia 20%, Russia 14%, Singapore 11%, Saudi Arabia 10%, China 8% (2021)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

484,990 (2023 est.)

### Population Growth

1.43% (2023 est.)

### Ethnicity

Malay 67.4%, Chinese 9.6%, other 23%

### Language

Malay (Bahasa Melayu) (official), English, Chinese dialects

### Religion

Muslim (official) 82.1%, Christian 6.7%, Buddhist 6.3%, other 4.9% (2021)

### Urbanization

urban population: 79.1% of total population (2023)

rate of urbanization: 1.44% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)