



# 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 (36 seats/5-year terms)

## 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)** \$27.23 billion (2020 est.)

**GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)** \$62,200 (2020 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** \$5.885 billion (2017 est.)

natural gas, crude and refined petroleum, industrial alcohols, industrial hydrocarbons (2019)

**partners:** Japan 34%, Australia 12%, Singapore 10%, India 8%, Malaysia 8%, Thailand 7%, China 6%, South Korea 5% (2019)

**Imports** \$2.998 billion (2017 est.)

crude and refined petroleum, cars, tug boats, valves (2019)

**partners:** Singapore 18%, China 14%, Malaysia 12%, Nigeria 5%, UAE 5%, US 5% (2019)

## PEOPLE & SOCIETY

### Population

471,100 (July 2021 est.)

### Population Growth

1.48% (2021 est.)

### Ethnicity

Malay 65.7%, Chinese 10.3%, other 24% (2019 est.)

### Language

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

### Religion

Muslim (official) 80.9%, Christian 7.1%, Buddhist 7.1%, other (includes indigenous beliefs) 5% (2016)

### Urbanization

urban population: 78.6% of total population (2021)

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

