



Bandar Seri Begawan

Photo: Aleksandr Sadkov/Shutterstock.com



ZM_Photo/Shutterstock.com

Brunei was once a very important trade hub that connected Asia with the rest of the world, and still today it attracts workers, migrants, and travelers from all corners of the globe. The capital Bandar Seri Begawan encompasses the country's captivating mix of Malay culture, the Islamic faith, a vast international community and spectacular wealth, which combined result in an infinitely interesting city dominated by an array of beautiful mosques, a fascinating floating city, and the world's largest royal palace.

NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit [ArrivalGuides.com](https://www.arrivalguides.com)



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QUIZ

*What Type of Traveller
Are You Based on
Your Travel IQ?*

TAKE THE QUIZ

Top 5



Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque
A perfect blend of old and new, the Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque combines the ...



Kampong Ayer
This amazing agglomeration of stilt villages in the middle of the Brunei riv...



Istana Nurul Iman
Istana Nurul Iman is the official residence of the sultan of Brunei, and is ...



Jame Asr Hassanil Bolkiah ...
Located about 3 km from the city centre, and built in honour of the current ...



Jerudong Park
This fantastic recreational complex houses a golf course, a polo club, and m...



THE CITY



Nicram Sabod/Shutterstock.com

The small but spectacularly rich Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam owes its wealth to the oil and gas deposits it holds in its territory, and this abundance has helped it develop into a fascinating mixture of modern luxury and centuries-old tradition. Bandar Seri Begawan perfectly captures the blend of these elements, as well as the irresistible cultural diversity, which encompasses a Malay Muslim majority, a significant Chinese minority, numerous indigenous groups and a huge array of migrant workers, mainly from Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The country has been ruled for over 600 years by a royal family that can trace its ancestry back to the prophet Muhammad, and as such, it is a devoutly Muslim country. The combination of the country's intense faith and spectacular monetary wealth has resulted in an abundance of luxurious and truly breathtaking Mosques, which together with the imposing royal palace (the largest in the world), attract travelers from around their world with their over-the-top lavishness and beauty.

DO & SEE



Don Mammoser/Shutterstock.com

Bandar Seri Begawan's numerous spectacular mosques and palaces constitute some of the city's major draws. They match elegant simplicity with over-the-top luxury that makes them a sight to behold. But BSB offers more than just lavish buildings to be admired. The city boasts some great museums and attractions, and the floating city of Kampong Ayer is well worth a visit.

Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque

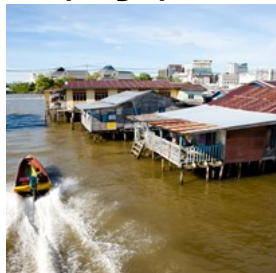


A perfect blend of old and new, the Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque combines the Mughal and Italian architectural styles and shows off exactly what Brunei lavishness is all about, with marble, chandeliers and luxurious carpets imported from around the world. It is also the tallest structure in BSB, the sultan forbidding any building to exceed its height. It is a beautiful building and the centre of cultural life in the city.

Photo: sharptoyou/Shutterstock.com

Address: Jalan McArthur, Bandar Seri Begawan

Kampong Ayer



This amazing agglomeration of stilt villages in the middle of the Brunei river dates back at least one thousand years and is

home to as many as 30,000 residents. A city unto itself, Kampong Ayer once dubbed the "Venice of the East," has its own schools, mosques and infrastructure, and a visit here is a truly unique experience.

Photo: Adwo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kampong Ayer, Bandar Seri Begawan

Istana Nurul Iman



Istana Nurul Iman is the official residence of the sultan of Brunei, and is reportedly the largest residential palace in the world, over four times the

size of the Versailles Palace, with some truly staggering numbers: 1,788 rooms, 257 bathrooms, a banquet hall for 5,000 guests, a mosque for 1,500 people, a 110-car garage, a stable for 200 ponies, 5 swimming pools, 564 chandeliers, 51,000 light bulbs, 44 stairwells, and 18 elevators. It is best viewed from a water taxi, as it cannot be entered except during a special yearly festival.

Photo: Christian Trede (image cropped)

Address: Istana Nurul Iman, Bandar Seri Begawan

Jame Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque



Located about 3 km from the city centre, and built in honour of the current sultan of Brunei, this mosque, the largest in the country, consistently

astonishes visitors with its luxurious design and decor. The 29 golden domes are the standout features, signifying this sultan as the 29th ruler of his dynasty.

Photo: ZM_Photo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Jame Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque, Bandar Seri Begawan

Public Transport: Bus 1

Jerudong Park



This fantastic recreational complex houses a golf course, a polo club, and many other types of entertainment.

Visitors can swim in the swimming pool or go horseback riding, enjoy some fine dining, or spend the evening at the Jerudong Park Playground seeking thrills on the many rides of on the go-kart track.

Photo: Daniel Korzeniewski/Shutterstock.com

Address: Muara-Tutong Hwy., Kampong, Jerudong

Opening hours: Tue 5pm-10 pm, Thu 4:30pm-10:30pm, Fri 3pm-10:30pm, Sat 10am-11pm, Sun 10am-10:30pm

Phone: +673 261 1777

Internet: www.jpcc.com.bn

Brunei Museum

Brunei's National Museum showcases the country's rich history through exhibits that include a wealth of Islamic art and artifacts dating back over one thousand years, among which visitors can find manuscripts of the Koran, gold jewellery and Brunei's ceremonial cannons.

Address: Jalan Kota Batu, Bandar Seri Begawan
Public Transport: Bus 39
Opening hours: Sat-Thu 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-11:30am and
2:30pm-5pm

Royal Regalia Museum



This museum is dedicated to the treasure and important symbols of the royal family, and is appropriately luxurious.

The displays showcase everything from gold-plated swords and adorned thrones to numerous gifts received from visiting heads of state to the crown jewels and ceremonial chariot used in official ceremonies.

Photo: Farris Noorzali/Shutterstock.com
Address: Jalan Sultan, Bandar Seri Begawan
Opening hours: Sat-Thu 8am-5pm, Fri 8am-11:30am and
2pm-5pm
Phone: +673 222 8358

DINING



emran/Shutterstock.com

Food in Brunei is heavily influenced by the country's large neighbours Indonesia and Malaysia, and often features rice, noodles, fish and lots of spice. Perhaps the most recognised dish is ambuyat, a thick porridge-based dish, very popular throughout the whole country. But the country's dining scene is also very influenced by Asian cuisine, and there is an abundance of Chinese, Korean and Southeast Asian

restaurants throughout Bandar Seri Begawan, as well as a wealth of stalls and street food not to be missed.

Tamu Selera

For a genuine Brunei dining experience, there is no better place than Tamu Selera. It is a hawker centre where hundreds of carts and stalls set up in a breezy park under tents to sell their products. They offer all sorts of local dishes and Indonesian and Malaysian specialties at very affordable prices. The atmosphere and value for money can't be beat.

Address: Jalan Padang, Bandar Seri Begawan
Opening hours: Daily 5pm-12am

Pondok Sari Wangi

Though it is located in Gadong, some distance from central BSB, it is widely considered to be one of the best restaurants in the area, and is well worth the trip. The food is rich in flavour and surprisingly varied, with local options heavy in seasoning, featuring thick peanut sauce and plenty of spice.

Address: Abdul Razak Complex Block A, No. 12-13, Jln
Gadong, Bandar Seri Begawan
Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm
Phone: +673 244 5043

Aminah Arif

Ambuyat is a thick porridge-based food, Brunei's national dish, and Aminah Arif is one of the best places to get it. There are several locations throughout the city as it is a favourite among locals. The servings are very generous, so make sure you have a healthy appetite before making your way there.

Address: Unit 2-3, Block B, Rahman Bldg, Simpang 88,
Kiulap, Bandar Seri Begawan
Opening hours: Daily 7am-10pm
Phone: +673 223 6198

Kimchi

Perhaps surprisingly, Korean restaurants are quite popular in Brunei, and in Bandar Seri Begawan in particular. Kimchi serves everything you would expect from a good Korean eatery, including barbecue and hotpot, bulgogi and bimbab, and of course a rich and spicy kimchi.

Address: Unit 19, Block B, Regent Sq, Kiulap, Bandar Seri Begawan

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 11am-10:30pm, Sun 2pm-10:30pm

Phone: +673 222 2233

CAFES



Dolly MJ/Shutterstock.com

BSB has no shortage of cosy and elegant Western style coffee houses. They are a great place to relax during a long day of sightseeing to enjoy a hot beverage and some of the city's most delicious snack foods. Many places are also known for their homemade desserts, which include some exotic alternatives, such as the delectable durian cake.

Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

This large international chain of cafes has several locations in Bandar Seri Begawan, this one being the most central. It carries the brand's simple but elegant ambiance and serves up delicious coffee, tea and snacks. You can also purchase some their own roasts to take home with you.

Address: Maya Puri Building, Jalan Pemancha, Bandar Seri Begawan

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 8am-12am, Fri 8am-12pm and 2pm-12am

Internet: www.coffeebean.com

Piccolo Cafe

This popular serves wonderful coffee drinks made from home-grown beans, as well as great snacks, including waffles, pasta, sandwiches and a rich array of desserts. Conveniently located right in downtown BSB, opposite the Royal Wharf on Jalan MacArthur, it is frequented by locals and visitors alike.

Address: 11 Jalan McArthur, Bandar Seri Begawan

Opening hours: Mon-Wed 7:30am-11pm, Thu-Sat

7:30am-1:30am, Sun 9:30am-11pm

Phone: +673 224 1558

Internet: www.piccolocafe.co

Email: info@piccolocafe.co

Ximply Chriz Cafe

This quaint cafe is known for its charming atmosphere, good and friendly service and its absolutely delicious sweets, particularly the cakes and muffins. Some offerings include mango cheese cake, green tea latte, kuih moor and their signature hot chocolate.

Address: Unit 8 Ground Floor, Regent Square, Kiulap, Bandar Seri Begawan

Opening hours: Mon-Wed 9am-11pm, Thu 9am-12am, Fri 9am-12pm and 2pm-12am, Sat 9am-12am

Phone: +673 223 4918

Bello Cafe

Bello Cafe prides itself on its a cozy, loungy vibe and simple yet delicious cafe food and drinks. Their burgers and fries are well known, but their desserts are the standout feature. The apple pie or cranberry pie with vanilla ice cream are great choices, or if you're feeling a bit more adventurous, try the durian cake.

Address: Unit L1-12 Kiulap Mall, Bandar Seri Begawan
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7am-10pm, Sat 7am-11pm, Sun 8am-10pm
Phone: +673 223 3989
Internet: www.bellocafe.com.bn
Email: hello@bellocafe.com.bn

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

The cultural environment in Brunei is highly conservative. Religious law forbids the sale or consumption of alcohol throughout the country, so there are no bars or nightclubs. Instead evening social activities are centred on shopping or dining out in one of the city's many restaurants or cafés.

SHOPPING



Twinstephoto/Shutterstock.com

Shopping is a major pastime in Brunei. Being a dry country, much of the entertainment enjoyed by the population revolves around shopping everywhere from small boutiques to large shopping centres and enjoying an evening out

with food and good company while browsing numerous stores. Some sleek and modern malls offer up-market brands, while smaller boutiques and markets house some rare gems and unique items just waiting to be taken home as unforgettable souvenirs.

The Mall



This 8-storey structure contains a sleek shopping centre, a large food court, a supermarket and plenty of stores ranging from clothing and cosmetics to household items and accessories, as well as the most popular cineplex in the country. The complex also houses a luxury hotel, meaning it really does have everything travelers need.

Photo: IQRemix (image cropped)
Address: Jalan Gadong, Bandar Seri Begawan
Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm
Phone: +673 242 2455

Hua Ho Department Store

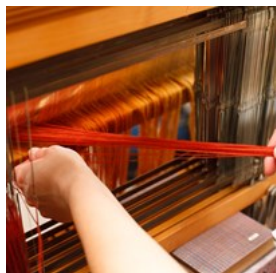


Hua Ho is one of Brunei's best department stores, with nine locations now spread throughout the country. The numerous stores contain large supermarkets and several floors of clothes, accessories, household items, toys, and much more. It may not be the most luxurious, but it is certainly one of the most convenient and complete shopping options in BSB.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com
Address: Yayasan Complex, Jalan McArthur, Bandar Seri Begawan
Opening hours: Daily 10am-10pm
Phone: +673 244 5097
Internet: huaho.com.bn

Email: hhdskbsb@brunet.bn

Arts & Handicrafts Training Centre



The Arts & Handicrafts Training Centre offers all kinds of decorative items in different types of wood and metal, ranging from hand woven-cloths to

swords and ornamental cannons (modeled after Brunei's famous ceremonial cannons). The items sold are created by the centre's students and trainees.

Photo: Andrey Kozachenko/Shutterstock.com

Address: Jalan Residency, Bandar Seri Begawan

Opening hours: Sat-Thu 8am-5pm, Fri 8am-11:30am and 2pm-5pm

Phone: +673 224 0676

TOURIST INFORMATION



Aleksandr Sadkov/Shutterstock.com

Brunei International Airport



Located about 8 km north of the city, Brunei International Airport (BWN) is the primary airport in the country and the hub of Royal Brunei

Airlines, serving mainly flights to and from major cities in the Southeast Asia and Pacific regions.

The easiest way to get to the city from the airport is by taxi, which takes about 20 minutes. Some of the larger hotels offer complimentary shuttle services. Alternatively, upon arrival travelers can walk to the end of the parking area (turning right after exiting the terminal) and take a Purple bus to the city (lines 23, 36 and 38).

Photo: Juan Garces

Address: Brunei International Airport, Bandar Seri Begawan

Phone: +673 233 0142

Public Transport



Public buses are the cheapest way to get around BSB, but they can be chaotic and difficult to use. They do not run on regular intervals and

service ends very early, usually at about 6pm. They are usually medium-sized, clean and comfortable purple vans. All services begin and end at the terminal on Jalan Cator, can be hailed just about anywhere, and stopped anywhere to get off. Routes and destinations can be viewed on a board on the front window of the bus.

Another good option are water taxis, which can be hailed at almost any dock and are an inexpensive and fun way to get around.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

Taxis



Taxis in BSB are very difficult to find as there are so few of them. You can try hailing one on the street, but your best bet is to inquire at hotels or

have them call a driver for you. Some taxis are

metered, but most drivers will try to agree on a fare directly with the passengers. Note that fares increase 50% after 10pm. Below are two numbers you can try calling for service.

Photo: ArrivalGuides
Phone: +673 222 2214, +673 222 6853

Cultural Norms



Please note that although some liberties are granted to non-Muslims in Brunei, strict cultural and legal norms are in place and must be

respected. A Shariacriminal code has been enacted, which allows corporal punishment and even death for certain offences. Brunei is a dry country, though non-Muslims are permitted to import some alcohol, and food should not be consumed in public during the fasting hours of Ramadan. Some offences, like adultery, possession of pornography, homosexual acts and public criticism of the Royal Family are severely punished.

For safety's sake, please make sure you respect and abide by the laws and culture of the country when visiting.

Photo: aalbedouin/Shutterstock.com

Post Office

Main Post Office



Photo: Andy Fuchs
Address: Jalan McArthur, Bandar Seri Begawan

Opening hours: Mon-Thu, Sat 8am-4:30pm, Fri 8am-11:30am
Phone: +673 222 8291
Internet: post.gov.bn

Pharmacy

Guardian Pharmacy



Photo: Gemma Garner
Address: Abdul Razak Complex, Gadong, Bandar Seri Begawan
Phone: +673 242 5178

Telephone

Country code: +673 City code: 2



Photo: Jardson Almeida

Electricity

Voltage: 230V - 240V
Plug types: G, D, M
Hertz: 50Hz



Photo: Stirling Tschan

Population
50,000

Currency
Bruneian Dollar (BND)
B\$1 ~ US\$0,92

Opening hours
Most shopping centres open daily from 10am to 9:30pm.
Government offices are open Mon-Thu and Sat

7:45am-12:15pm and 1:30pm-4:30pm (closing on Fridays and Sundays), while private offices and businesses generally open 8am-5pm on weekdays and 8am-12pm on Saturdays. Banks operate 9am-3pm on weekdays and 9am-11am on Saturdays. Note that abbreviated schedules apply during Ramadan.

Newspapers

Bintang Harian
The Brunei Times
The Daily Star

Emergency numbers

Ambulance: 991
Police: 993
Fire and rescue: 995

Tourist information

Tourist Information Centre
Kg. Ayer Cultural and Tourism Gallery
Sat-Thu 11:30am-2pm, Fri 9am-4:30pm