



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Brunei - Bandar Seri Begawan

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Bandar Seri Begawan
- ✓ **Language:** Malay
- ✓ **Population:** ± 64,400
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 100.4
- ✓ **Currency:** Brunei Dollar (BND)
- ✓ **Country code:** +673 (2)
- ✓ **Visa:** Few countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 991 (ambulance), 993 (police), 995 (fire)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** DTP / MMR / Polio / Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Japanese Encephalitis



### History Recap Over 1 Drink

15<sup>th</sup> century: Sultanate Brunei in control of Borneo. '21: Brunei visited by navigator Juan Sebastian del Cano. 1841: Control of Sarawak (granted by James Brooke). '46: Island Labuan to Britain. '88: Brunei British protectorate. 1906: Brunei administered by British resident, sultan nominal authority. '29: Start oil extraction. '41-'45: Japanese occupation. '50: Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin III → introduces 1<sup>st</sup> written constitution: Islam state religion, Britain in charge of defense & foreign affairs. '62: Legislative Council election results annulled after leftist Brunei People's Party (sought to remove the sultan from power) won all 10 elected seats → sultan declares state of emergency and rules by decree. '63: Doesn't want to join Federation of Malaysia, remains a British dependency. '67: Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah. '84: Independence. '85: Brunei National Democratic Party (BNDP) legalized. '86: Brunei Solidarity National Party (BNSP) legalized. '88: Both parties banned. '90: Introduction Malay Muslim Monarchy. '95: BNSP legal again, but harassed. 2000: Civil suit against sultan's brother Jefri Bolkiah for misuse of state funds (\$2.7bln). Development other industries besides oil (tourism). '01: Auction items Jefri. '04: Reopening parliament. '07: Rainforest Declaration. Corporal punishment law criticized by Amnesty International. '14: Sharia Law (criticism human right groups).

### Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wet												
Dry												
High Season												

Altitude: 13m. Climate: Tropical Rainforest Climate (Af) – always a chance on rain.

### Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights:** Kampong Ayer (*water village*), Jame' Asr Hassaniil Bolkiah Mosque, Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque, [Istana Nurul Iman](#) (*sultan palace, invisible*), Teng Yun Temple, Mercu Dirgahayu 60 (*statue*), Raya Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha Bridge, Sultan Bolkiah Mausoleum, Jubilee Park, Ash Shaliheen Mosque, Dewan Bahasa Mural.

☺ **Museums:** Royal Regalia Museum, Malay Technology Museum, Brunei Museum, Maritime Museum, Brunei History Center, Kota Batu.

☺ **Nature:** Tasek Lama Recreational Park, Brunei River, Tungku Beach, Meragang Beach, Tanjung Batu Beach.

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

👉 **Nature:** [Ulu Temburong National Park](#).

### Festivals

⚙ Prophet Muhammad's Birthday: Jan/Feb.

⚙ National Day: 23-Feb.

⚙ Hari Raya (*palace 3 days open for everyone / free food*): June.

### The Earth Becomes My Throne

## Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Giant.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Tamu Kianggeh, Gadong Night Market.
- ⌘ **Local food:** Nasi Lemak, Nasi Goreng (*rice dishes*), Mee Goreng (*noodles*), Rendang Beef Tok (*curry*), Pineapple Cake, Katilapam (*steamed snack*), Kuih Calak Beef (*savoury pastry*), Rojak Buah (*seasoned fruit*), Seafood Masak Lemak (*fish curry*), Ikan Tenggiri Balado (*spicy fish dish*), Undang Sambal Serai Bersantan (*chili coconut prawns*), Serondeng Padang (*chicken in pandan leaves*), Ambuyat (*sago balls*), Puteri Nanas, Kelupis (*steamed rice in leaf*), Daging Masak Lada Hitam (*spicy beef with potato*).
- ⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is surprisingly easy in Brunei. There are in fact a few vegetarian restaurants with many vegan options... check them on [Happy Cow - BSB](#).

## Mama Said

- ☠ BSB is generally safe, but be a bit more careful in the Kampong Ayer area.
- ☠ Alcohol and drugs are strictly prohibited in Brunei, the latter having a death sentence. Showing public affection or eating during Ramadan is also severely punished.
- ☠ Brunei is a strict Muslim country and modest clothing is required. Revealing clothing (knees / shoulders / belly) is frowned upon.
- ☠ Tap water is not drinkable, it should be boiled or filtered before use.
- ☠ Uber / Grab doesn't exist in Brunei and taxi's are very limited (*but can be found at the minibus terminal in Jalan Cator*).
- ☠ Only cash out inside of banks, not on street ATMs.
- ☠ Boycott zoos where animals are held in captivity.

## Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Hostels and hotels are quite expensive in Brunei and tourism is in a beginning phase, so expect little for a lot. Booking ahead is recommendable due to limited supply of accommodations.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

## Nights Best Spent

- ◆ There is a countrywide alcohol ban. Nightlife is generally non-existent.

## Free-Riding?

- BSB has a rather compact city center, but it's really too oppressively hot walk long distances.
- Public transport comes in the form of buses and minibuses that stop at designated stops. The main terminal is at Jalan Cator, the ground floor of a parking garage. Buses to Malaysia leave from the waterfront.
- Uber / Grab doesn't exist and taxi transport is very limited. Find them at Jalan Cator. Sometimes regular cars stop and offer a ride for payment.
- Airport: Brunei International Airport (BWN).
- Hitchhiking is possible, the kind locals don't see many foreigners and are very eager to talk to them (*expect a lot of giggling and staring*). Due to the limited incoming stream of tourism they're not used to this situation though.

## Next?

- ➔ In Brunei: Ulu Temburong National Park.
- ➔ International destinations close by: Malaysia, The Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore.