Fires of Brunei

—Maengah: These are forest fires occurring exclusively on coastal and marine tree species subject to deforestation. These fires are also primarily caused by people, although there are few species that develop special burning mode or pyromane. Brunei Dusunkaram mangrove forests are especially vulnerable, as they are burnt around 3,438 hectares, mostly found in Selat Brunei.

—Selat Brunei: These fires typically occur in and around mangrove forests and generally burn above the high-tide mark on sand soil. This factor is related to accelerated growing conditions as a result of climate change and other factors, which leads to wider areas, often leading to water pollution and the destruction of coastal habitats and plants. These fires are typically more destructive, as the trees are burnt around 2,348 hectares, mostly found in Selat Brunei.

—Kg. Kuala Batu: Fires typically occur in and around forests, especially in areas with large tracts of land and with trees that are especially susceptible to fire. These fires are typically more destructive, as they are burnt around 1,248 hectares, mostly found in Kg. Kuala Batu.

—Kg. Kuala Belait: Fires typically occur in and around forests, especially in areas with large tracts of land and with trees that are especially susceptible to fire. These fires are typically more destructive, as they are burnt around 1,248 hectares, mostly found in Kg. Kuala Batu.

—Kg. Belait: Fires typically occur in and around forests, especially in areas with large tracts of land and with trees that are especially susceptible to fire. These fires are typically more destructive, as they are burnt around 1,248 hectares, mostly found in Kg. Kuala Batu.

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**Tasek Lama**

This peaceful recreational park with plenty of plants and trees is a walking distance of other major attractions in Brunei. It is a 30min walk from canoes of Bassi, Haji secondary forest with various trails and a reservoir. Over 20 species of birds including Straw-necked Bulbul and White-rumped Shama.

- **Traveling time (from BSBI):** Approx. 30 mins.
- **District:** Brunei Muara. [Map](#).
- **Main bird sightings:** Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Blue-throated Bee-eater, Crimson-winged Woodpecker, Brown-throated Sunbird, and many more.
- **Best time to do birdwatching:** Early morning at 6am to 10am and late afternoon 4pm to 6.30pm.
- **Terms and conditions apply.**

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**Mangrove River**

Brunei mangroves are packed with rare exotic birds and animals that can only be found in Borneo. This is a spot where nature still dominates widely. Moving quietly along the narrow mangrove channels, stop to listen and look for the birds and animal that call the mangroves home.

- **Traveling time (from BSBI):** Approx. 25 mins.
- **District:** Brunei Muara. [Map](#).
- **Main sightings:** Whiskered Terns, Rufous Naped Heron, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Dippers, Brahminy Kite, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Common Kingfisher and many more.
- **Best time to do birdwatching:** Early morning at 6am to 10am and late afternoon 4pm to 6.30pm.
- **Terms and conditions apply.**

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**Okan Paddy Field**

400ha of Paddy Fields and swampland. The okan paddy field is a demonstration of the country's rice production's determination to achieve self-sufficiency in rice production. Migrant water birds include ducks, waders, Green and Wood Sandpipers, Marsh Harrier. Also sighted are Borneo residents Lesser Adjutant, egrets, Straw-headed Bulbul, Blue-banded Broadbill, Jai sparrow, Scaly-breasted Munia. Here, migration starts during northern winter months, depending on the southern wind system. Some birds leave with others stay and hatch their eggs between November to April or May.

- **Traveling time (from BSBI):** Approx. 45 mins.
- **District:** Brunei Muara. [Map](#).
- **Main bird sightings:** Northern Lapwing, Grey-headed Lapwing, Black-billed Stint, Red-chested Myna, Dusky Munia, Java Sparrow, Blue-banded Broadbill, Greater Painted Snipe, Rusty-browed Warbler and many more.
- **Best time to do birdwatching:** Early morning at 6am to 10am and early afternoon 4pm to 6.30pm.
- **Terms and conditions apply.**

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**Ulu Temburong**

Set within 50,000 hectares of pristine rainforest, Ulu Temburong National Park is one of the places with the highest level of biodiversity in the world. You will experience up close views of the rainforest and listen to nature’s orchestra. Music by the many species of insects, birds and animals found naturally. The National Park is sheltered as a breeding and habitat for bird watching enthusiasts. As of June 2018, there are over 220 listed and sighted birds.

- **Traveling time (from BSBI):** Approx. 2hrs.
- **District:** Temburong. [Map](#).
- **Main bird sightings:** Spectacled flowerpecker, rufous-backed, black-throated falconet, large green pigeon, Common Pitta, white rumped shama, Helmeted hornbill, Great Pitta Woodpecker and Grey-breasted Spiderhunter and many more.
- **Best time to do birdwatching:** Early morning at 6am to 10am and late afternoon 4pm to 6.30pm. The best time to do bird watching is not fixed, as the birdwatchers arrive on the hours of the beautiful Brunei rainforest and late in the afternoon around 16:00. Feeding season is all year round. Feeding period is between April to September.
- **Terms and conditions apply.**

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**Tasek Merimbun**

Merimbun is the biggest freshwater lake in Brunei. Located in the Tutong district, it is a valuable asset and a highly recommended birding and wildlife destination. The 5-shaped lake is surrounded by the 780-hectare Tasek Merimbun Heritage Park. Tasek Merimbun became the 15th ASEAN Heritage Park in 1984. The lake is 4 km in radius, caused by a phenomenon known as ‘Tasek’ where water falls into the water. There is a small island in the center body of water reachable via a wooden walkway.

- **Traveling time (from BSBI):** Approx. 1hr.
- **District:** Tutong. [Map](#).
- **Main bird sightings:** Great Egret, Black Crowned Night Heron, Purple Heron, Oriental Darter, Malaysian Dragonfly, Lapi Frogmouth, Rufous-winged Pitohuite, Borneo-throated Bulbul, Buff-streaked Bulbul, Crested Serpent Eagle and many more.
- **Best time to do birdwatching:** Early morning at 6am to 10am and late afternoon 4pm to 6.30pm.
- **Terms and conditions apply.**

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**Luagan Lalak**

This is a perfect place to seek peace and serenity. Luagan Lalak Recreation Park is a freshwater swamp with lush greenery. Visitors can take a stroll in the park along its wooden walkways, the perfect getaways for nature lovers. A path starting at the carpark leads down to a series of wooden walkways alongside the lake and also out across a bridge to a small shaded picnic spot on stilts in the middle of the lake.

- **Traveling time (from BSBI):** Approx. 1hr.
- **District:** Tutong. [Map](#).
- **Main bird sightings:** Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Purple Heron, Dusky Broadbill, Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, Red Bellied Malkoha and many more.
- **Best time to do birdwatching:** 6am to 9am in the morning and 4pm to 6.30pm in the afternoon.
- **Terms and conditions apply.**

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**Bulit Teraja**

There are more than 64 waterfalls in Teraja spread out across hilly terrain and replete with rocky streams, making proper walking gear is a must. Easy hikes and walking through cool, refreshing waters are the perfect introduction for nature enthusiasts to Brunei’s pristine, natural wealth.

- **Traveling time (from BSBI):** Approx. 2hrs.
- **District:** Tutong. [Map](#).
- **Main bird sightings:** Tree Babbler, Species were seen only at this location Grey-headed, Grey-breasted and White-rumped White-throated Horbill, Orange-crowned, Blue-winged Leafbird, Borneo Thrush and many more.
- **Best time to do birdwatching:** Early morning at 6am to 10am and late afternoon 4pm to 6.30pm.
- **Terms and conditions apply.**

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**Kuala Balai**

This roughly 14km drive over terrace, punctuated in places offers a mix of primary and secondary forest on past swamps and nestled next to the Teraja river which appears as a funnel for both local and long-range migrant species. This road is very close to the Penaga residential area in Belait and has turned up some great finds according to expert birders.

- **Traveling time (from BSBI):** Approx. 2 hrs.
- **District:** Belait. [Map](#).
- **Main bird sightings:** Pigeons, woodpeckers, hornbills and raptors such as Crested Goshawk and Crested Serpent Eagle and many more.
- **Best time to do birdwatching:** The best results require a mixture of a slow drive through open areas looking for raptors, woodpeckers and hornbills mixed with some time walking up and down or standing still and listening carefully to bird calls. A typical visit at 6:30 to 10:30 in the morning.
- **Terms and conditions apply.**

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**Abidin Hil**

Photo by: Abidin Hil