



Batu Gasing Awang Semaun

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According to local folklore, the great warrior Awang Semaun and his nephew, Awang Sinuai, were playing a game of gasing (spinning top) at Bukit Patoi in the Temburong district. When it was Awang Semaun's turn to spin his gasing, it struck his nephew's and flew away from Temburong to the Brunei River, where it bounced off the waters like a skipping stone and landed upside-down on the banks of Pulau Berambang, where it spun until it turned into a big rock.



Jong Batu

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Jong Batu which resembles a capsized ship tells the tale of Nakhoda Manis and his heartbroken mother.

Dang Ambon was a widow left alone by her son Manis, who desired to be a captain of a ship and travel abroad. After several years, he finally returned with a wealthy wife on his ship. Overjoyed, Dang Ambon took a little boat and paddled out to see him. Nakhoda Manis was mortified at the sight of his mother in tattered clothing and cast her away.

Dang Ambon prayed to God for her son to be taught a lesson. A thunderstorm came and huge waves crashed upon Nakhoda Manis' ship. When the skies cleared, the ship had turned into rock, along with Nakhoda Manis, his wife and everyone else on board.

Pulau Ambok

This island was the location where Brunei soldiers led by Pengiran Bendahara Sakam trained during the Castilian War in their fight against the Spanish army. The island is also the location of the civil war that broke out between Sultan Abdul Hakkul Mubin and Pengiran Bendahara Mahyuddin in 1662.



Pulau Berambang

Pulau Berambang

In 1920, crude oil was discovered on this island, and by 1924, up to 3,320 gallons had been produced. This island is an important historical site as the location of the mausoleum of Sultan Muhammad Hassan, the ninth Sultan of Brunei who died in 1598.

Pulau Chermin

The island of the temporary palace of Sultan Abdul Hakkul Mubin, the 13th Sultan of Brunei who came to power after killing Sultan Haji Muhammad Ali – the father-in-law of Pengiran Bendahara Mahyuddin - and was then advised to move to the island after riots erupted on the mainland. Once he left for Pulau Chermin, Pengiran Mahyuddin took the throne, and for that period of time, two kings ruled the sultanate. The civil war erupted in 1662, and Sultan Abdul Hakkul was defeated in 1673, but not before destroying his palace and the royal crown.



Pulau Chermin

Kampung Burong Pingai Ayer

Originally named Kampung Ulu-Ulu due to its location at the Hulu (the beginning) of the Brunei River, its name was changed when, according to legend, one villager found a white bird perched on the pillar making the sound "Pingai, pingai, pingai". The villager had heard that Sultan Muhammad's wife, a princess from Johor, had lost her pet bird named Si Pingai, and the bird was then presented to the Sultan. The village became known as Kampung Burong Pingai (Pingai Bird Village) since then.

This village is also known as the location that housed the first mosque in Kampong Ayer – Masjid Pehin Datu Imam Hj Abdul Mokti – built in November 1981 on the site where Pehin Datu Imam Hj Mokti once resided.



Kampung Burong Pingai Ayer



Kampung Lunting

Lumut Lunting

According to the famous poem "Syair Awang Semaun", there was a cockfight between Mutiara, a cock belonging to Awang Sinuai, and the opponent Asmara, owned by the King of the Majapahit Empire. Mutiara defeated Asmara and in a fit of anger, the King of Majapahit cursed Mutiara into an island. In mid-flight, Mutiara fell into the Brunei River and became the small island now known as Lumut Lunting.

Kampung Sungai Bunga

This modern resettlement, Kampung Sungai Bunga (Flower River Village), was so named because the river would at times emanate the smell of jasmine flowers, particularly at night. The source of the smell could never be traced, but locals would tell you that the smell comes from invisible beings living in the river.



Kampung Sungai Bunga

Restaurants with a view

Looking to tuck into local fare while doing a spot of bird watching? Or enjoy an unparalleled view of Brunei's famed water village while tucking into fine dining cuisine? Restaurants down the river heritage trail offer some of the best panoramic vistas. Here are a few you should definitely check off your list while visiting the trail.



Horizons Seafood Restaurant

Horizons Seafood Restaurant

Offering one of the best panoramic views of the water village, this stylish restaurant offers an array of fusion cuisine from Western to Asian fare and succulent seafood. Truly fine dining with a view.

Waterfront, Jalan McArthur, Bandar Seri Begawan
Tel: 673-2233400/401

Semporna Enak

Located at the Waterfront and serves local and Asian fare to be dined al fresco with a view of the Brunei River and the water village.

The Royal Wharf, Jalan McArthur,
Bandar Seri Begawan
Tel: 673-2235995

Soto Pabo

Located on a restaurant on stilts above water, this is an authentic location to satisfy your soto cravings while enjoying the sea breeze.

Simpang 222, Kampong Pintu Malim, Jalan Sultan
Bolkiah, Bandar Seri Begawan
Tel: 673-8686388

Tarindak D'Seni

Try Brunei's favourite dish: ambuyat! This restaurant also serves local and Asian cuisine amid terrific panoramic views of the water village.

Brunei Arts and Handicraft Center
Jalan Residency, Bandar Seri Begawan
Tel: 673-2240422

Kaizen Sushi Restaurant

Delectable Japanese cuisine in stylish settings and an amazing view of the water village.

Waterfront, Jalan McArthur, Bandar Seri
Begawan
Tel: 673-2226336



Horizons Seafood Restaurant

Places to visit in Bandar

Once you're done exploring the Brunei River, explore the nearby attractions in the heart of the capital. Here are some suggestions:

Admire the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque

One of the most magnificent landmarks in the capital (and the rest of the sultanate!), this beautiful mosque, named after the 28th Sultan of Brunei, was built in 1958 and still remains a sight to behold.

Take a stroll around Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas

One of the latest jewels in the sultanate, this 12-hectare park is located next to the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque, and features manicured lawns adorned with shrubs, brightly coloured flowers and exotic baobab trees.



Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas

Visit the Royal Wharf

Once the Royal and Customs Excise Wharf built around the Royal Customs House, this heritage building has a long history. Today, the Royal Wharf is a waterfront with a pedestrian promenade while the structure is now used as an exhibition art gallery.

The Tourist Information Centre is located here, and visitors can obtain information about Brunei and related pamphlets and maps.

The Tourist Information Centre is open from 9am-4pm (Mon-Thurs & Sat).

Check out traditional arts and crafts

Brunei's age-old traditional arts and crafts are showcased at the Brunei Arts & Handicraft Training Center, displaying kain tenunan, intricately worked hand-tooled silverware, brass-work, wood-carving and basketry.



Royal Regalia Museum

Visit the Royal Regalia Museum

This museum is a tribute to the His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei and features a main gallery that presents a recreation of his coronation, displaying the gilded carriage that carried the newly crowned ruler through the streets. There are also galleries showcasing jewel-encrusted crowns, thrones, garments, and His Majesty's revered silver keris (dagger).

Shop at Tamu Kianggeh

Located at the Kianggeh River, drop by Tamu Kianggeh for a full-on sensory adventure. Buy a snack and nibble while you shop for handicrafts, local fruits and vegetables, and some local delicacies.



Brunei Arts & Handicraft Training Center

Go on a shopping spree at Yayasan

Located in the city center amid a gorgeous view of the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque, the Yayasan Shopping Complex offers plenty of options for shopping and dining!

The early kingdom of BRUNEI



Brunei is one of the most ancient sovereign states in Southeast Asia, and the early history of our monarchy can be found in the writings and accounts of Chinese historians dating as far back as the 5th and 7th centuries. From the 14th to 16th century, Brunei was a powerful sultanate that wielded power over the whole of Borneo and the southern Philippines, beginning with the reign of Sultan Mohammad Shah. This era is known to some as The Golden Age of Brunei.

Sultan Mohammad Shah (1363 - 1402)

The first ruler of Brunei, also known as Awang Alak Betatar, introduced Islam to Brunei and adopted the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) as the government authority of the Brunei Empire, which impacted the nation to change into the cultural and Islamic landscape that we know today. This became the stepping-stone to Brunei's Golden Age.

Sultan Ahmad (1408 - 1425)

The brother of Sultan Mohammad and once known as Pateh Berbai, Sultan Ahmad was the first Treasurer of Brunei.

Sultan Sharif Ali (1425 - 1432)

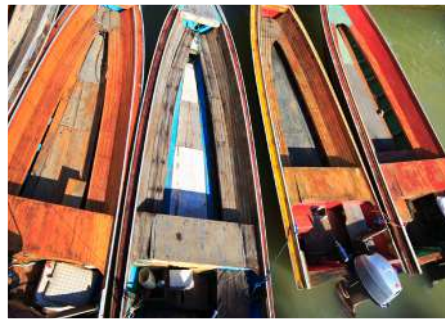
Also known as Sultan Berkah (the Blessed Sultan), Sultan Sharif Ali, the son-in-law of Sultan Ahmad, succeeded the throne as the third ruler of Brunei and was loved and respected by his people. He was an Islamic scholar from Ta'if in Saudi Arabia, and was the first Sultan to build a mosque in Brunei.

Sultan Sulaiman (1432 - 1485)

The son of Sultan Sharif Ali, Sultan Sulaiman ascended the throne after his father's rule and was later succeeded by the most renowned ruler in Brunei's early history, Sultan Bolkiah.

Sultan Bolkiah (1485 - 1524)

Also known as Nakhoda Ragam, Sultan Bolkiah's reign was the peak of the Golden Age, and it was under his rule that Brunei's influence was spread across the Borneo Island. In 1511, at the collapse of the Malaccan Empire, the spread of Islam went beyond Borneo's borders, and others began to take notice of the sultanate's growing influence.



Information for Visitors

Transportation

The sights along the Brunei River Heritage Trail are beautiful to see from far, and they're even nicer up close! While some of these landmarks can only be accessed via water taxi, most are only accessible on land. Here are a few ways to get to your destination:

Taxis

Metered taxis can be found at the airport, hotels, shopping centres, and the central bus station in the city center. You can also grab a Dart Taxi by downloading the 'Dart' app - a taxi booking app - on the App Store and Google Play.

Taxi Hotline: 673-8833182

Water Taxis

The most common means of transportation in Kampong Ayer, hail a water taxi from the numerous jetties along the banks of Brunei River. Fares are negotiable but usually a standard ride across the river costs about BND1.00.

Buses

There are six bus routes servicing the BSB area. Normal operating hours are from 6am to 8pm and bus fares start from BND1.00.

Go to <https://mtc.gov.bn> for the Brunei bus route map.

Tourist Information Centre

Obtain information, pamphlets and maps for free at the Tourist Information Centres at the Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery and The Royal Wharf. Both are open from 9am-4pm (closed Fridays, Sundays and public holidays)

Do's & Don'ts

Brunei Darussalam is a small but friendly sultanate and its citizens are always happy to help out visitors in the country. There are just a few things to take note of when visiting these locations:

- When boarding the water taxi, do sort out the prices with the boatmen before getting onboard.
- Do not forget to request for a lifejacket before boarding a water taxi.
- Do be informed that restaurants, companies, government departments and public areas are closed from 12pm to 2pm out of respect for Friday prayers.
- When sightseeing wild animals, please do not feed or call out to them. But do enjoy watching the magnificent creatures in their natural habitats.
- Smoking is prohibited in both air-conditioned and non air-conditioned areas in Brunei. Smoking is banned in specific places including government buildings, recreational areas, public transport and restaurants. Offenders could be fined.

The Venice of the East

Kampong Ayer, or water village, is a township of multi-coloured houses built on stilts over Brunei River, and this historic settlement has been in continuous occupation for at least 600 years. Today, it's a vibrant community home to more than 10,000 residents, and is the largest and best-preserved water village in Southeast Asia.

"The city is built in the sea, the King's palace and the houses of the principal persons excepted. It contains 25,000 hearths or families. The houses are built of wood upon large piles, to keep them from the water. When the tide rises, the women, who are chief vendors of necessities, traverse the town in boats."

- Antonio Pigafetta,
Italian voyager who stopped in Brunei on a return voyage to Spain after exploring the Indies as a part of a Spanish crew.

"The city was very large and rich, and was built over a very broad and deep river and had the appearance of another Venice. The buildings were made of wood, but the houses were excellently constructed, many of them being constructed of a stone work and gilded, especially the king's palaces, which were of huge size."

- Francisco de Sande,
the Governor of Manila in the 15th century

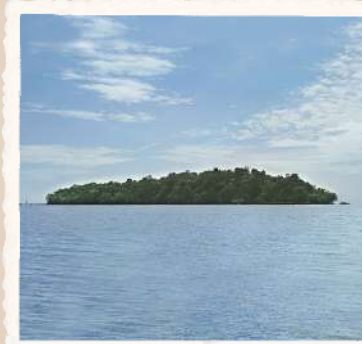


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1 Pulau Chermin



The location of the temporary palace of Sultan Abdul Hakkul Mubin, the 13th Sultan of Brunei, who engaged in a civil war against Pengiran Bendahara Mahyuddin and was eventually defeated.

2 Kampung Sungai Bunga



A modern Kampung Ayer resettlement village, Kampung Sungai Bunga is known for its homestay, Seri Tanjung Homestay, which offers visitors a chance to experience life on the water village. The village also has an interesting story behind its name!

3 Mangrove Paradise Resort



Located just a 10-minute drive away from the capital, this resort is situated amid serene surroundings and beautiful mangroves. Their two-storey villas offer guests a glimpse of the Kampung Ayer life while retaining the comfort of a resort villa stay. Tel: 673-2786868

4 Queen Elizabeth II Jetty



Queen Elizabeth II visited Brunei in 1972 and arrived here, named after her Royal visit. Today, it's the landing spot for MV Sentosa, a furnished vessel that offers guests a scenic two-hour long trip with memorable sunset views down the Brunei River. FB: Brunei River Cruise IG: @bruneirivercruise

5 Malay Technology Museum



This museum offers an inside look into the intricacies of indigenous workmanship. Also on display are some of Brunei's famous handicrafts, such as kain tenunan, gold- and silver-smithing, brass-casting and more.

6 7 The Tombs of Sultan Sharif Ali & Sultan Bolkiah



The Golden Age of Brunei was attributed with Sultan Bolkiah, the country's fifth Sultan and one of its greatest monarchs, and he is buried here in a grand tomb intricately designed with Islamic motifs and art. Close by, Sultan Sharif Ali, the third Sultan of Brunei's well-preserved tomb can also be found.

21 Jong Batu



This large rock formation resembles a capsized ship. The myth of Jong Batu tells the tale of Nakhoda Manis and his mother.

20 Istana Nurul Iman



His Majesty The Sultan of Brunei's official residence and seat of Government, and the largest residential palace in the world. The best view of this palace can be enjoyed from Persiaran Damuan, a nearby recreational park along the Damuan river.

19 Kampung Burong Pingai Ayer



Named after the discovery of the chirping sounds of a bird perched on a pillar, this village also housed the first mosque in Kampung Ayer, the Pehin Datu Imam Hj Abdul Mokti Mosque.

18 Royal Wharf



Once the Royal Customs and Excise dock, today, it serves as a gateway to Kampung Ayer and is the venue for the annual 'Brunei Regatta'. It also houses an Art Gallery, with an aim to promote both local and international arts.

17 Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas



The Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas was officiated in 2017 by His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei. The 30-acre riverfront park commemorates His Majesty's 50-year reign.

16 Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque



Passing by the Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque, one is struck by the magnificence of its striking golden domes and the marble minarets that surround it. Built in 1958 and named after the 28th Sultan of Brunei, it remains one of the most impressive mosques in Southeast Asia.

15 Yayasan Sultan Hj Hassanali Bolkiah Complex



A shopping complex located in the heart of the town center. Also known to the locals as Yayasan Shopping Complex, this three-storey shopping complex opened in August 1996 and offers visitors plenty of options for shopping and dining. Its majestic architecture was designed to reflect Kampung Ayer.

14 Kampong Ayer Cultural & Tourism Gallery



The cultural centre was officiated in 2009. This gallery offers exhibits showcasing the traditions, arts and society of Kampung Ayer's long culture and history, and displays of handicrafts and antiques. Visitors can also drop by the souvenir shop and enjoy a view of surrounding sights and sounds from the observation tower.

13 Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha Bridge



The opening of the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha Bridge was a historical moment in 2017. At 157 metres high, this is Brunei's first cable-stayed bridge, named after His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei's wife, connecting the capital to Kampung Sungai Kebun.

12 Lumut Lunting



This little island tells the myth of a famous cockfight between Awang Sinuai and the King of the Majapahit Empire.



8 Brunei Maritime Museum



Located next to the Malay Technology Museum, this museum showcases Brunei's maritime culture of different ships and vessels throughout history. Highlights include a gallery exhibiting a Chinese shipwreck discovered in 1997.

9 Batu Gasing Awang Semaun



A gasing (spinning top) belonging to Awang Semaun that was believed to have turned into a rock.

10 Pulau Berambang



A famous spot for trekkers because of Bukit Bujang Pahang, which affords fantastic views at the top.

11 Pulau Ambuk



The location of a civil war and a fortress to train 1,000 Brunei Malay Warriors led by Pengiran Bendahara Sakam for the Castilian War against the Spanish army.