



DISCOVER! Brunei

AN ISLAMIC CULTURAL DESTINATION



Brunei Darussalam operates under the 'Malay' language, culture, and traditions, intertwined with the teachings of Islamic values, to the Malay Islamic Monarchy. This fundamental philosophy was officially declared on the day of the nation's independence from the United Kingdom, January 1st, 1984, by the esteemed monarch, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang-Dipertuan of Brunei.

This national doctrine encapsulates the essence of Bruneian identity as a harmonious fusion of practices observed today, Islam's influence is unmistakably woven into the nation's fabric.



Brunei Darussalam's legal and judicial system uniquely blends both Syariah (Islamic law) and civil law principles. While civil law governs most aspects of daily life, Syariah law plays a significant role in family and personal matters, such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance. This dual legal system reflects the country's commitment to preserving Islamic traditions within a modern legal framework, fostering a balance between religious values and civil governance.



Halal food is abundantly available throughout Brunei, permeating various establishments. Restaurants proudly showcase Halal signage, underscoring their commitment to serving food that adheres to Islamic dietary standards.

Halal food

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Festivities

Brunei cherishes and celebrates key events in Islam with deep reverence and fervor. Muslims in Brunei observe important Islamic occasions such as Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha with communal prayers, charitable acts, and festive gatherings. The nation's rich cultural heritage is interwoven with these religious celebrations, creating a harmonious blend of spiritual devotion and cultural festivities that underscore Brunei's commitment to its Islamic traditions.

Friday Prayer

In Brunei, Friday Prayer is a cherished practice, prompting a mandatory closure of premises from 12 PM to 2 PM. Key mosques like Omar Ali Bolkiah Mosque and Jame' Asr Hassanil Saifuddin Mosque hold congregational prayers. Public spaces, offices, and hotels offer Surau, Prayer Rooms, Qiblat directions, and prayer schedules, demonstrating the nation's commitment to faith. The call to prayer (Azan) echoes not just in mosques but also on radio, TV, and malls, beautifully blending tradition with modernity.

Islamic Education

Brunei prioritizes Islam as the bedrock of its spiritual values and principles, nurturing a robust spiritual foundation among its people. This devotion is reflected in the reverence for parents and elders, promoting acts of kindness and respect towards them.

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Things to know about Ramadan In Brunei



During the holy month of Ramadan in Brunei Darussalam, Muslims observe fasting from dawn till sunset, leading to the absence of public dining during daytime hours. However, travellers and locals are spoiled for choice with diverse Iftar and Sahur options, ranging from traditional Bruneian dishes to international cuisine. The bustling Gera! Ramadhan, or Ramadan market, comes alive in the evenings, offering a wide array of local delicacies and fostering a sense of community. Additionally, Terawih prayers held at key mosques provide a serene and spiritual experience, bringing the faithful together in devotion and reflection. Overall, Ramadan in Brunei is a time of deep spirituality, cultural celebration, and unity.

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Ash-Shaliheen Mosque

Step into the awe-inspiring beauty of the Ash-Shaliheen Mosque, a unique oasis of spirituality brought to life by world-renowned Egyptian architect Abdel-Wahed El-Wakil. Many elements of Ash-Shaliheen convey an authentic Maghrebi feel, with hand-cut “zellige” mosaic and brass lighting imported from Morocco. Let your senses be captivated by the grace of this Moroccan-inspired mosque, and journey to a place of serene spiritualism.



Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque

This opulent mosque is a unique blend of luxury, culture, and spirituality, standing tall with 29 golden domes and air-conditioned interiors that accommodate up to 4,000 worshippers. From Philippine hardwood to Persian carpets and Italian marble to real gold—Jame' Asr is a stunning example of craftsmanship and luxury, fit for royalty.



Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque

Rising up majestically amidst the vibrant blue skies, the Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque is an architectural marvel, named after the modern architect of Brunei and the 28th Sultan of Brunei. Brunei's most iconic and oldest mosque is the tallest structure in Bandar Seri Begawan at 52 metres, able to house 3000 worshippers and boasting a spectacular dome covered in pure gold.



Royal Regalia Museum

Embellished with the beauty of Brunei's past, the Royal Regalia Museum is home to the Sultanate's heirlooms and regalia. From golden chariots to olden-day symbolic weapons and shields, exhibits of His Majesty's Silver and Golden Jubilee celebrations, and ornate mementos from historic Brunei, the timeless elegance of the Royal Regalia is the perfect place to explore the culture and heritage of Brunei.



Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah

Majestic, local-inspired beauty meets modern engineering, with distinctive influences of Islamic architecture. The designs of the Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah are the brainchild of the world-renowned PEI Architects, whose founders are the sons of I. M. Pei, the designer of the Louvre Pyramid in Paris, France, and the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar. The Balai Khazanah houses His Majesty the Sultan's vast personal collection of Islamic artifacts, manuscripts, Qurans, and the blessed hair of the Prophet Muhammad



Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Islamic Calligraphy and Art Study Centre

Brunei also has a curated collection of beautiful Islamic Calligraphy locally and internationally. Visitors often find themselves immersed in a world of priceless Islamic art and stunning calligraphy pieces. In addition, you can also experience first-hand how to write Arabic calligraphy in their offered courses. Get inspired by the beauty of Islamic art and learn all about Islamic art design, available at the Islamic Calligraphy and Art Centre.



Pusat Sejarah Brunei

Pusat Sejarah Brunei (or the History Centre Brunei) is a government institution dedicated to the research, documentation, publication, and dissemination of information related to Brunei's rich history. Established in 1982 with the approval of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, it serves as an esteemed institute for historical research in Brunei, aimed at benefitting the Bruneian populace.



Sultan Sharif Ali Tomb

Sultan Sharif Ali, the illustrious third Sultan of Brunei Darussalam, ascended to the throne in 1425. As a direct descendant of Hasan ibn Ali, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) his lineage was deeply rooted in Islamic heritage. The Mausoleum of Sultan Sharif Ali, situated in Kota Batu, stands as a testament to his legacy. This historical landmark honours his pivotal role in shaping Brunei's early identity as an Islamic nation. Locals and visitors alike come to pay homage to a figure whose reign left an indelible mark on the nation's history.



Sultan Bolkiah Tomb

Sultan Bolkiah, renowned as Nakhoda Ragam, occupies a prominent place in Brunei's history as its fifth Sultan. His reign, often referred to as the Golden Age of Brunei, stands as a testament to his exceptional leadership. In a testament to his influence beyond Brunei's borders, the Spaniards documented him as "Sultan Salan" in the 16th-century Boxer Codex. His lineage and significance are also recorded in the Batu Tarsilah, a Bruneian stone tablet from the 19th century, which meticulously traces the genealogy of Brunei's Sultans. As a descendant of Sultan Sharif Ali, Sultan Bolkiah's ascendancy after his father Sultan Sulaiman's abdication further solidified his connection to the lineage that has profoundly shaped Brunei's Islamic heritage.