



# Brunei

POP 420,000 / AREA 5765 SQ KM

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tamu Selera (p477)
- ➔ Pondok Sari Wangi (p478)
- ➔ Thiam Hock Restaurant (p479)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Ulu Ulu Resort (p486)
- ➔ Brunei Hotel (p476)
- ➔ Sumbiling Eco Village (p485)

## Why Go?

Look beneath the surface of this well-ordered and tightly regulated sultanate and you'll see the underlying warmth of Brunei's people and the wildness of its natural environment.

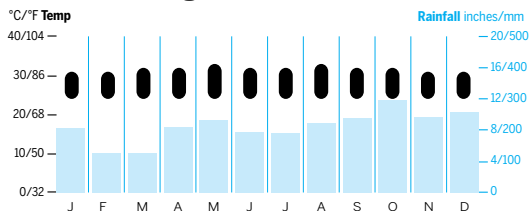
This quiet *darussalam* (Arabic for 'abode of peace') has the largest oilfields in Southeast Asia, and thanks to the money they've generated, Brunei hasn't turned its rainforests into oil palm plantations. Old-growth greenery abounds, especially in verdant Ulu Temburong National Park.

The citizens of the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB), are mad for food and shopping (booze is banned). Here magnificent mosques contrast with the charmingly haphazard water village, while the nearby mangrove forest is home to proboscis monkeys and crocs.

This tranquil (sometimes somnolent) nation is the realisation of a particular vision: a strict, socially controlled religious state where happiness is found in pious worship and mass consumption. Visit and judge the results for yourself.

## When to Go

### Bandar Seri Begawan



**Oct–Dec** The rainiest, if coolest, months of the year

**Jan–May** February and March are the driest months. National Day is celebrated on 23 February.

**Jun–Aug** It's hot. The sultan's birthday (15 July) is marked with festivities around the country.



## SOUTH CHINA SEA

Pulau Labuan (35km);  
Menumbok,  
Sabah (45km)



## Brunei Highlights

- 1 Climbing high into the rainforest canopy and swimming in a cool jungle river at **Ulu Temburong National Park** (p486).
- 2 Tearing along mangrove-lined waterways on a **speedboat** (p484) from BSB to Bangar.
- 3 Taking a water taxi to the water village of **Kampung Ayer** (p470) and gorging on the culinary delights of **BSB** (p477).
- 4 Exploring the reefs and wrecks of Brunei's unspoilt **diver sites** (p474).
- 5 Enjoying the extravagance of the **Empire Hotel & Country Club** (p477) and cooling off in the pool.
- 6 Relaxing amid rural greenery at **Sumbiling Eco Village** (p485) in Temburong District.