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The Permanent Committee on Geographical Names

Brunei

Country name	Brunei
State title	Brunei Darussalam
Official language	Malay (msa)[1]
Country name in official language	Brunei / Brunei Darussalam[2] برونى دارالسلام / برونى
State title in official language	Negara Brunei Darussalam[3] نڬارا بروني دارالسلام
Script	Malay is written in *Rumi* (Roman-script) or *Jawi* (modified Arabic-script)[4]
Romanization System	*Not required*
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	BN/BRN
Capital(s)	Bandar Seri Begawan[5]
Population	445,400[6]

Introduction

The state of Brunei is situated on the north-western coast of the island of Borneo on the South China Sea. It is surrounded on all other sides by the Malaysian State of Sarawak which divides Brunei into two unconnected parts: the eastern part of which is the rural Temburong district, and the western part which consists of Brunei Muara, Tutong and Belait districts. Brunei acquired full independence from the United Kingdom in 1984.

Geographical names policy

Recommended geographical names are those in Roman-script as found on official Brunei-produced sources, where possible. The National Committee of Geographical Names *Jawatankuasa Kebangsaan Nama Geografi* (JKNG), deals with the standardisation of place names in Brunei. Official maps are produced by the Brunei Survey Department. The Brunei Survey Department's Geoportal can be used to access geospatial information (including geographical names) online.

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[1] It is called *Bahasa Melayu* ("Malay language") in Malay. Language codes given in this Factfile are ISO-639 codes.
[2] The names *Brunei* and *Brunei Darussalam* are used interchangeably in Brunei.
[3] No state title as such occurs in the Brunei Constitution of 1959, but the name *Negara Brunei Darussalam* (meaning Nation of Brunei, the Abode of Peace) was proclaimed as the official name of the state in June 1983. However, *Brunei Darussalam* is officially preferred by the Brunei authorities in English-language contexts.
[4] Both are official scripts. *Jawi* is the modified Arabic script used to write the Malay language.
[5] Often referred to as BSB.
[6] Brunei Department of Economics and Statistics

Languages

Brunei's official language is Malay[7] but English is also widely used and is the language of instruction in most subjects in schools. The Brunei Constitution states that an English version shall be provided for all official documents. Although Standard Malay (msa) is the official language of Brunei, the Brunei Malay variety (kxd) is more widely spoken. It is substantially different to Standard Malay and is spoken by about two thirds of the population. A cultural pact in 1972 between Malaysia and Indonesia led to a common spelling system for the Roman-script Malay language[8] for the two countries. Although Brunei did not sign up to the spelling reform, it joined the Language Council for Indonesia and Malaysia in 1986 and spellings in Brunei have become more in line with those of Indonesia and Malaysia. This is reflected in the modern spelling of generic terms *kampung* (village) and *tanjung* (cape, headland), rather than *kampong* and *tanjong* respectively.

Jawi, one of the official scripts of Brunei, is a modified Arabic script that is used to write the Malay language (which is unrelated to the Arabic language). Its use is being promoted by the Sultan who has proposed a new Jawi studies centre[9]. Islam is the official religion of Brunei, thus the Arabic language, as used in the Quran, is taught in Islamic schools. Most road signs in Brunei are written with Roman script, but some street names also have *Jawi* script.

Source: www.panoramio.com

The indigenous minority languages of Brunei including Belait, Bisaya, Iban and Tutong are in decline due to the increased use of Brunei Malay[10]. Chinese (including Mandarin and Cantonese) is spoken by ethnic Chinese inhabitants.
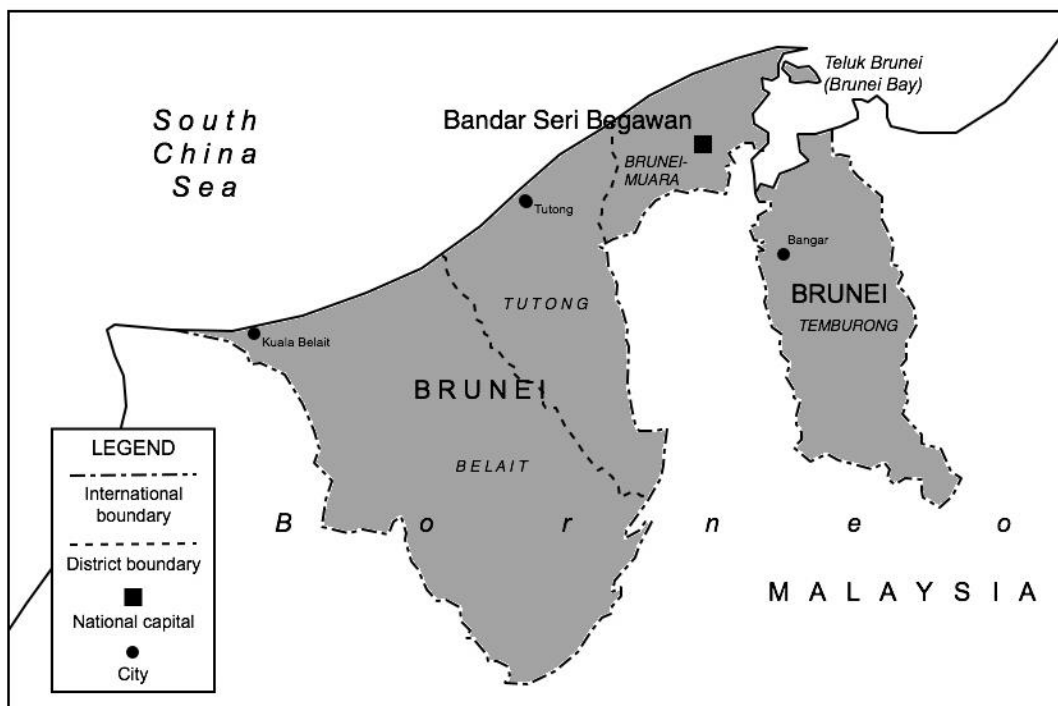
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[7] https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Brunei_2006.pdf?lang=en
[8] Known as *Rumi* script.
[9] https://thescoop.co/2019/10/16/brunei-to-set-up-new-jawi-centre/
[10] https://www.ethnologue.com/country/BN/

Brunei districts

Note: this map is for illustrative purposes. It is not to be taken as necessarily representing the view of the UK Government on boundaries or political status.

Administrative structure

At first-order administrative level (ADM1), Brunei is divided into four districts (Malay: *daerah*): Belait[11], Brunei-Muara[12], Temburong[13], and Tutong[14]. The districts are further subdivided into *mukim* (sub-districts) at second-order (ADM2) level. *Mukim* are further divided into *kampung* (villages).

1. Belait (04° 25' 00" N, 114° 35' 00" E)

Long form name	Daerah Belait
ISO 3166-2 code	BN-BE
Centre	Kuala Belait (04° 35' N, 114° 11' E)
Variant Name(s)	Belait, Kwala Belait

Divided into 8 *mukim*

2. Brunei-Muara (04° 50' 00" N, 114° 55' 00" E)

Long form name	Daerah Brunei Muara
ISO 3166-2 code	BN-BM
Centre	Bandar Seri Begawan[15] (04° 53' N, 114° 56' E)
Variant Name(s)	Brunei, Brunei Town, Bruni

Divided into 17 *mukim*

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[11] http://www.information.gov.bn/PublishingImages/SitePages/Publication%20Lists/BelaitDistrict.pdf

[12] http://www.information.gov.bn/PublishingImages/SitePages/Publication%20Lists/Brunei%20District.pdf

[13] http://www.information.gov.bn/PublishingImages/SitePages/Publication%20Lists/TemburungDistrict.pdf

[14] https://www.information.gov.bn/PublishingImages/SitePages/Publication%20Lists/TutongDistrict.pdf

[15] The administrative centre as well as the capital city.

3. Temburong (04° 35' 00" N, 115° 10' 00" E)

Long form name	Daerah Temburong
ISO 3166-2 code	BN-TE
Centre	Bangar (04° 43' N, 115° 04' E)

Divided into 5 *mukim*

4. Tutong (04° 35' 00" N, 114° 40' 00" E)

Long form name	Daerah Tutong
ISO 3166-2 code	BN-TU
Centre	Tutong (04° 48' N, 114° 39' E)

Divided into 8 *mukim*

Useful references

- Administrative divisions: https://geoportal.survey.gov.bn/map
- BBC Country Profile: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-12990058
- CIA World Factbook: https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/brunei/
- FCDO Travel Advice: https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/brunei
- Government of Brunei: https://www.gov.bn/SitePages/Home.aspx
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): www.iso.org
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/
- Languages: www.omniglot.com ; https://www.ethnologue.com/country/BN/
- Brunei National Statistics: https://deps.mofe.gov.bn/SitePages/National%20Statistics.aspx
- US Board on Geographic Names Geographic Names Server (GNS): http://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/

Compiled by PCGN
Tel. 0207 591 3120
info@pcgn.org.uk
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