Brunei Darussalam
An Abode of Peace

Dr. Tom

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A venture beyond the oil wealth of this Sultanate and investigate the people, their customs, their love of food, and the architecture from the Magnificent Mosques to the haphazard Water Village.
A Little History

Founded by a band of fourteen *saudara* (brothers and first cousins), who settled in the Brunei river near present capital. According to the *Syair Awang Semaun* state, they were the sons of Dewa Amas of Kayangan, a part supernatural being who descended to earth at Ulu Limbang (beginning) in an egg. Muhammad Shah (born Awang Alak Betatar, 1368 - 1402)
European Influence

England – White Rajah in Sarawak

1841 - Sultan of Brunei Omar Ali Saifuddin II rewards British army officer James Brooke for helping to quell a civil war by granting him control of Sarawak.

1888 - Brunei becomes a British protectorate
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A Little History

Sultanate Ruled Northern Borneo & Southern Philippines 14th - 16th Centuries

European Influence

Spain

Portugal

England – White Rajahs in Sarawak
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1929 - Oil Extraction Begins
1941-45 - Japan occupies Brunei
1984 - Brunei becomes independent
2014 April - Brunei first east Asian country to adopt sharia law
Queen Saleha - Prince Abdul Malik
New Wife Dayangku Raabi'atul 'Adawiyyah Pengiran Haji Bolkiah
Hassanal Bolkiah the Sultan of Brunei,
Proboscis or Long-Nosed Monkey (Bekantano)
Males use their Pendulous Noses to Attract Mates
Live in Trees near Rivers, Coastal Mangroves and Swamps
Dominant Male and 2 to 7 Females
Males reach 50 Pounds
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A Drive Through Town
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Memorial - 60 in Arabic
Sultan’s 60th Birthday
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A Drive Through Town – Clock Monument
The foundation stone laid by Tuanku Abdul Rahman (Father of Independence of Malaysia) during his visit to Brunei in July 1959
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Teng Yun Temple (Buddhist)
Temple of Flying Clouds, built in 1918 by early Hokkien settlers
Hosts the Tua Pek Kong deity – god of Wealth
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Teng Yun Temple
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Teng Yun Temple - Tua Pek Kong deity
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Teng Yun Temple
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Teng Yun Temple
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Water Village - Kampong Ayer
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Water Village - Kampong Ayer
Home to around 30,000 people, Kampong Ayer consists of 42 contiguous stilt villages built along the banks of the Sungai Brunei.
A century ago, half of Brunei's population lived here.
Even today many Bruneians still prefer the lifestyle of the water village to residency on dry land.
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Water Village - Kampong Ayer
Founded over 1,000 Years Ago, Largest Stilt Settlement in the World
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Water Village - Kampong Ayer
Has its own Schools, Mosques, Police Stations and Fire Brigade
Water Village - Kampong Ayer
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The Lapau ceremonial hall where the royal ceremonies of Brunei are traditionally held.
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Royal Regalia Museum
Gifts from Visiting Heads of State
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Food Market
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Jame'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque (1992)
29 Gold Domes – 29th Sultan
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Jame'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque (Sultan’s Personal Escalator)
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Jame'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque (1992)
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Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque (1958)
Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque
Named after Omar Ali Saifuddin III, the 28th Sultan of Brunei
Replica of a 16th Century Sultan Bolkiah Mahligai Barge. Completed in 1967 to commemorate the 1,400th anniversary of Nuzul Al-Quran (coming down of the Quran) and is used to stage the Quran reading competitions.
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Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque
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Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien
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Any Question, Thoughts or Comments? Come on Down!