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Brunei Darussalam is the place to be for Muslims seeking a spiritual retreat from the distractions of today's busy lifestyles.

# foreword

Assalamualaikum,

We are pleased to introduce our Muslim and non-Muslim visitors this brochure dedicated to the rich Islamic and Malay cultural heritage of Brunei Darussalam. As a small but prosperous Islamic Sultanate, the legacy of centuries of Malay culture, traditions, language, arts, crafts and Islamic religious practices is lovingly preserved and cherished by the nation's people, as well as being enshrined in the national governing philosophy of the Malay Islamic Monarchy, known as Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB).

Although a piously observant society where Islam is the State religion and the spiritual well being of the population is as important as the material one, Brunei Darussalam, under the guidance of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, is also a forward looking, modern and tolerant society, where sincere hospitality is extended to visitors from all backgrounds.

Graced with some of South East Asia's most iconic modern Mosques, collections of precious ancient artifacts and relics of mausoleums of revered Sultans of yore, visitors to Brunei Darussalam will find an abundance of places of interest and activities to experience the country from an Islamic perspective.

With its rich living culture and traditions, as found in the famous Kampong Ayer (Water Village) or in the pomp and pageantry of the age old monarchic

institution, Brunei Darussalam is one of the not-to-be-missed links in the Trail of Islamic Civilization that runs through most of South East Asia. Such a linkage resonates especially well with neighbouring Malaysia, where cultural, family and trade ties between Brunei and the ancient Malay Kingdoms run deep since historical times.

In Brunei Darussalam, Muslim visitors, whether members of the Malay community at large wishing to visit the last remaining full-fledged Malay Monarchy or brothers and sisters from the Ummah curious to see how Islam is practiced in this part of the world, can enjoy the destination without any worries.

Non-Muslim visitors too are sincerely welcome, not only to discover Brunei's famed natural and other secular attractions, but also to gain knowledge about, and to experience, the Islamic religion or the Malay civilisation and heritage.

We hope that this brochure on Islamic Tourism in Brunei Darussalam will help our visitors better understand this important aspect that defines our nation and society, as well as being informative about what to do and see in regards to the Islamic places of interest in the country.

Welcome to our Abode of Peace, and thank you for your visit.

***Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism***

# about brunei



Brunei Darussalam, a sultanate situated on the island of Borneo is rich in culture and history. Home to the oldest and only remaining sovereign Malay Islamic monarchy, Brunei is a small state, with a land area of 5,765km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 400,000.

Sunni Islam (Ahli Sunnah Wal Jama'ah) following the Shafei School of Islamic jurisprudence is the country's official religion as enshrined in the constitution, with Muslims accounting for approximately 74% of the population. Brunei's official language is Malay, however English is widely spoken throughout the country.

Blessed with abundant oil and gas reserves, Brunei enjoys a healthy economy and political stability. Islamic values are intrinsic to Bruneian culture, examples of which can be observed through the incorporation of Islamic studies into the national education curriculum and Islamic schools, the prohibition of sales and public consumption of alcohol and the absence of nightclubs, conservative ways of dress; and the regular involvement of the royal family in religious activities. Surau (prayer room) facilities are also available in most public areas.

Islam is the official religion of Brunei Darussalam, with Muslims accounting for approximately 74% of the population.



*\* figures as of 2011 taken from official statistics (JPKE)*

# history of islam in brunei

According to Chinese historical records, Islam was present in Brunei by 977 AD, in the form of a Chinese Muslim trader and diplomat named P'u-lu-shieh, who was bringing greetings from the Emperor of China.



*Grave of P'u-lu-shieh*

## Islamic Roots of Brunei

Brunei's official history tells that the first kind to embrace Islam in Brunei was Awang Alak Betatar, who became Brunei's first Sultan under the name of Muhammad Shah after his conversion in the 14th Century. However, historians have uncovered fascinating evidence that shows Islam reached Brunei shores even as far back as the 10th Century.

According to Chinese historical records, Islam was present in Brunei by 977 AD, in the form of a Chinese Muslim trader and diplomat named P'u-lu-shieh, who was bringing greetings from the Emperor of China. It is possible that following that, a community of Muslims were based in Brunei and holding influential positions in the Royal Court, as it was also recorded that the Brunei King's delegation that was subsequently sent to greet the Emperor of China was led by a Muslim name P'u-A-li.

These claims are also further backed-up by the discovery of a tombstone found in an Islamic gravesite in Rangas, Brunei of Pu Kung Chih-mu, a Chinese Muslim who passed away in 1264. It is worth noting that Indian and Arab Muslim traders present in the region from the 11th or 12th Century onwards contributed greatly to the spread of Islam in Brunei and the Malay Archipelago.

## The Dawn of the Brunei Sultanate

Upon Awang Alak Betatar's conversion to Islam and marriage to the daughter of the Sultan of Johor, he began to rule with the official title of Sultan of Brunei in 1363 AD, effectively turning Brunei into a Muslim state. With its new status as an Islamic kingdom, Brunei asserted its role as a leading trading power in the region and welcomed a number of Arab Muslim traders into the country to propagate Islam.

## Sultan Sharif Ali and the rise of Brunei's Islamic Empire

Sultan Sharif Ali was fondly known as “Sultan Berkat”, which means blessed Sultan. He was a descendent of the Prophet Muhammad through his grandson Hassan, originating from Taif, Arabia, and came to Brunei as a Muslim missionary.

He married Sultan Ahmad's daughter, Puteri Ratna Kesuma and eventually became the third Sultan of Brunei after Sultan Ahmad passed on without leaving a male heir to the throne. A pious leader, Sultan Sharif Ali's name is revered in history books as the first Sultan to build a mosque in Brunei Darussalam and govern Brunei according to Islamic principles. He is also responsible for adding “Darussalam”, the Arabic term for ‘Abode of Peace’ to the name Brunei. He was succeeded by his son, Sultan Sulaiman, who followed in his father's footsteps of leading the country in practising the Islamic way of life.

The fall of Malacca in 1511 into the hands of the Portugese helped Brunei's rise as a trading

port, gaining trades that Malacca lost. Brunei's power and influence really took off under the rule of the fifth Sultan, Sultan Bolkiah, who, in expanding the Brunei empire, was responsible for spreading Islam throughout the coastal areas of the island of Borneo, the Sulu Archipelago and the islands of Balabar, Banggi, Balambangan and Palawan. To this day, the inhabitants of the island of Borneo and southern Philippines are predominantly Muslim.



# malay and islamic culture of brunei

The nation of Brunei Darussalam woke up to a glorious Sunday morning on January 1st 1984 to celebrate its day of independence.



## The Malay Islamic Monarchy Philosophy

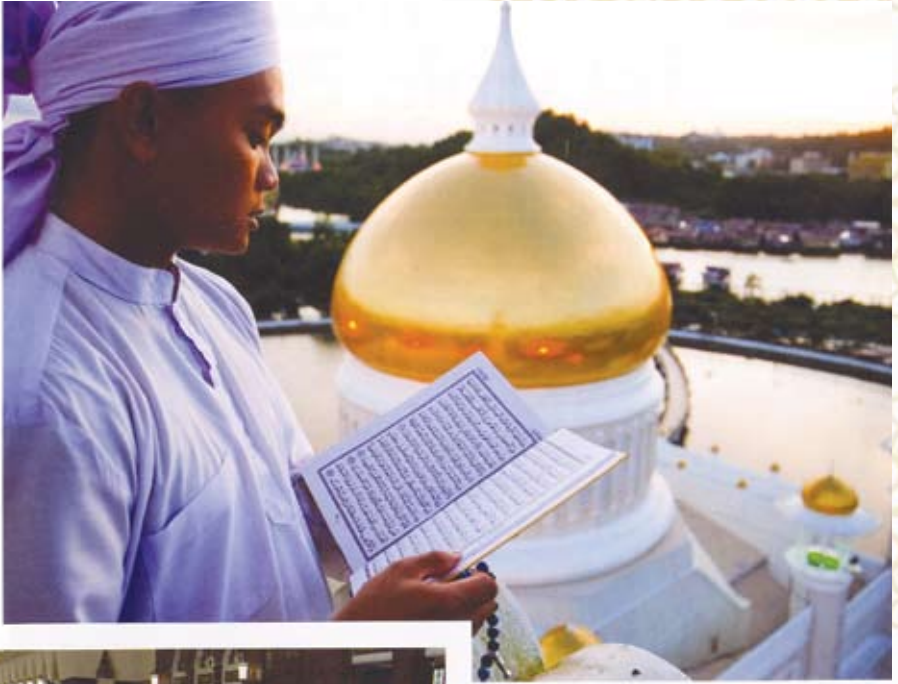
The nation of Brunei Darussalam woke to a glorious Sunday morning on January 1st 1984 to celebrate its day of independence and assert its identity as a Malay and Islamic state, governed by a benevolent monarchy.

This philosophy, better known in Malay as “Melayu Islam Beraja” (MIB), emphasises the sanctity of Bahasa Melayu - the Malay language, the practice of Malay culture and customs which is heavily centred on family and community

themes, the teaching of Islamic laws and values - Islam is the state religion; and the esteemed monarchy system which leads the non-secular government of Brunei Darussalam.

There are a number of government bodies that play an important role in the religious conscience of the nation state, such as the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Islamic Da’Wa Centre and the State Mufti’s office Sharia law, applying only to Muslims, is practiced in Brunei with regards mostly to family affairs and religious offences, alongside English Common Law, which serves as a guide for Brunei’s civil and criminal law.

## The Negara Zikir Concept



The vision for a “Negara Zikir” was announced in 2008 by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu‘izzaddin Waddaulah. In English, “Negara Zikir” translates as “country that praises or remembers God”, which in practice means a country that conscientiously keeps Allah SWT in mind when carrying out daily actions. The belief behind this concept is that by keeping Islamic values close to the heart; constantly remembering, being

grateful, and carrying out actions that would be pleasing to Allah SWT, the country will continue to be blessed and harmonious, while the concept will not obstruct Brunei to be involved in the era of globalization and modernization.

In 2009, the Prime Minister’s Office collaborated with the Ministry of Religious Affairs to publish a book entitled ‘Civil Servants, Movers of a Zikir Nation’. The book highlights the ways Zikir can be adopted into the day-to-day duties of civil servants. It also offers guidelines on carrying out Islamic studies, such as reading the Al-Quran, contributing zakat and performing the Haj, and includes selected prayers and verses from the Al-Quran.





# historical islamic places of interest

## Sultan Bolkiah Mausoleum

A memorial for the ‘Singing Captain’ or Nakhoda Ragam as Sultan Bolkiah was nicknamed, sits on a hill ridge at Jalan Kota Batu. The fifth Sultan of Brunei, who reigned from 1485 to 1524 AD, love to play the drums and lute among other musical instruments.

Sultan Bolkiah’s reign is known as the “Golden Age” of Brunei’s power and influence, as during this period most of Borneo, the southern Philippines and Manila were under his sovereignty, Sultan Bolkiah, an avid navigator who often

travelled to survey his territories and a character that inspired many legends, who was better known for his adamant diplomacy and for his stance against bloodshed. It is during his reign that the Magellan expedition visited Brunei in 1521 AD.

The site of the mausoleum is picturesque. It overlooks the Brunei River and is surrounded by nature’s greens, with an idyllic light blue and white fence encircling the tomb, giving it a sense of harmony - ideal for the Sultan who loved music and believed in diplomacy.



## Sultan Sharif Ali Mausoleum

Tucked away in a quiet part of Kota Batu, not far from the Brunei Museum, is the Sultan Sharif Ali Mausoleum. Visitors will need to take a lovely walk down a paved hill to get to the mausoleum of this pioneering and revered Sultan.

A winding and forested path connects this mausoleum with that of Sultan Bolkiah, passing through other areas of historical significance and leading towards excavations from the Museum that have revealed the existence of the stone fort (kota batu in Malay) that gives the area its name. This was the ancient capital of the Brunei maritime empire when it was at its height, and the sense of history is palpable when visiting the area.



## The Royal Mausoleum

Just as intriguing as Sultan Bolkiah's tomb is The Royal Mausoleum at Jalan Tutong, a memorial for the last four Sultans - Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin (1950-1967), Ahmad Tajuddin ibnu Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam (1924-1950), Muhammad Jamalul Alam ibnu Sultan Hashim (1906-1924) and Hashim Jalilul Alam Putera Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin II (1885-1906).

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam would visit the Royal Mausoleum to pay respects to his parents with a *tahlil* (prayer for the deceased) ceremony. His Majesty and members of the Royal Family would take turns to pour 'air asah-asahan', water infused with scented flowers and spices, over the tombs of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit.



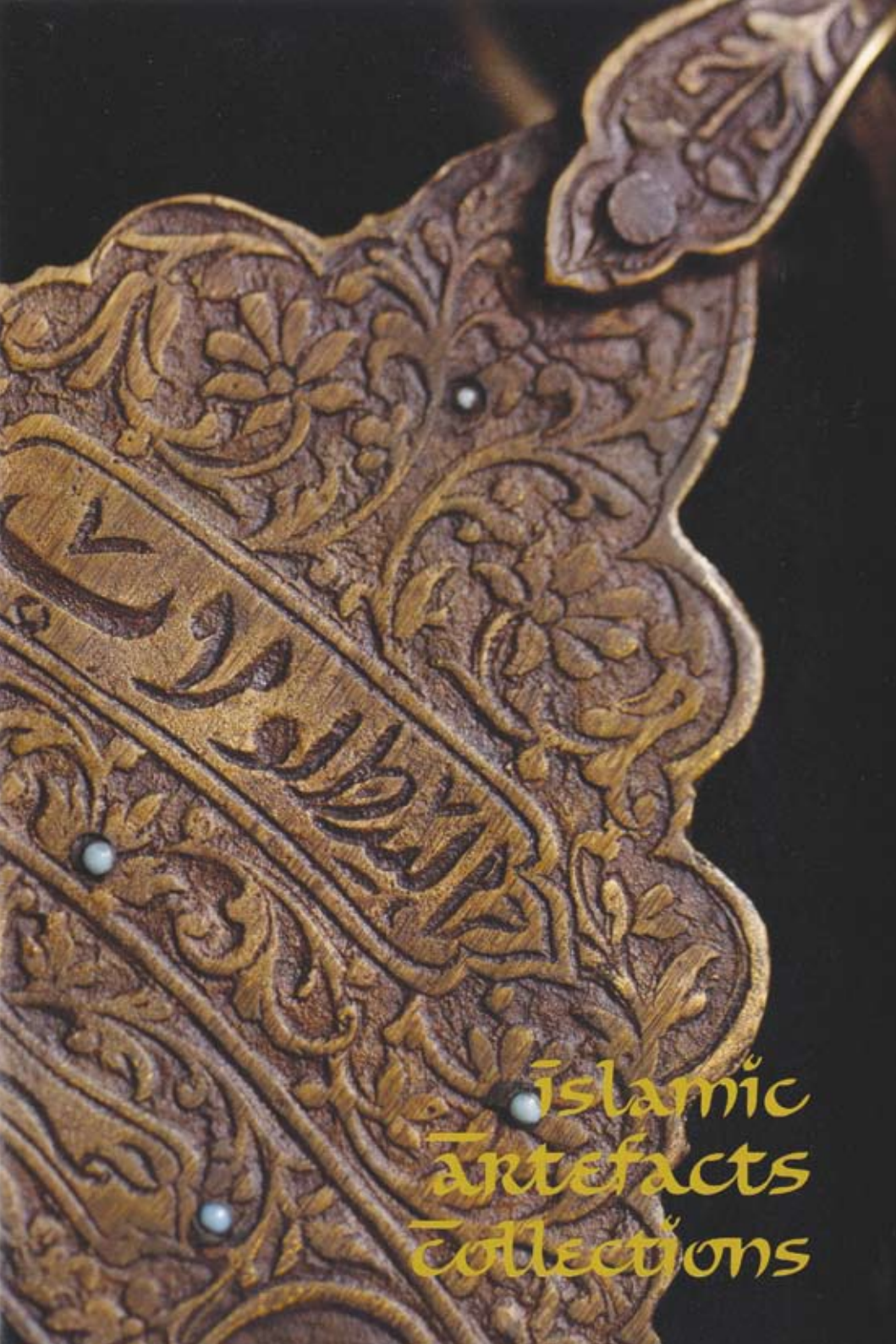
## Brunei History Centre

In a small, unassuming building along Jalan Stoney lies the Brunei History Centre. Established in 1982, the centre is dedicated to the research, collection, publication and exhibition of the history of Brunei Darussalam. Visit the exhibition gallery for a fascinating look into Brunei's rich history. Divided into five areas, the gallery showcases a Genealogical Stone Tablet that dates back to the late 18th century; pictures that illustrate the beginnings of Islam in Brunei; documents, manuscripts and mandates exchanged during the era of Western colonialism; and the development of Brunei during the dawn of its independence. The centre also has a bookshop that specialises in books about Brunei history.



## **Brunei Museum**

Make a trip down to the Brunei Museum along Jalan Kota Batu to discover more of Brunei's history. The museum houses a wide range of Islamic art and artefacts, some of which were personally acquired by His Majesty the Sultan. They are from various Islamic regions, from early periods to the 19th century. You will find illuminated copies of the Al-Quran and a collection of jewellery, brass wares, weapons and ceramics that date back centuries. Many will find the historical gallery of particular interest, as it retraces Brunei's past and glory, as well as the genealogy of Brunei's royal lineage, with information on every one of the 19 Sultans of Brunei Darussalam.



Islamic  
artefacts  
collections

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

بِالْإِذْنِ وَالْمُنْتَهَى سُلْطَانِ حَاجِّ حَسَنِ الْمُنْفِقِيَّةِ

SULTAN HAJI HASSANAL BOLKIAH ISLAMIC EXHIBITION GALLERY

### *Inspiration*

The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Islamic Exhibition Gallery (BPIS) is a realisation of the determination of His Majesty, Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in effecting knowledge on Islamic heritage, much of which are still kept in manuscripts and other Islamic heritage materials, and in restoring them to their previous glory. It is His Majesty's sincere wish that the BPIS will truly be a centre of Islamic knowledge heritage that continues to gather, research and disseminate the findings of the researches for the benefit of Islam, for the Muslims and in fact, for mankind in general.

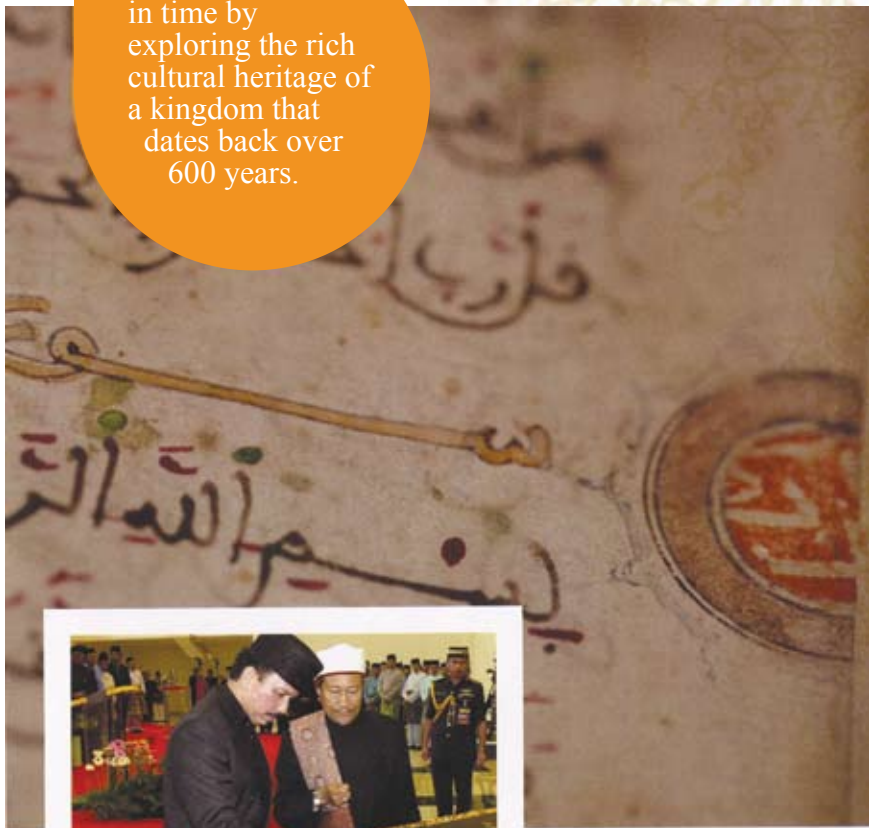
It is hoped that by founding the BPIS, and subsequently establishing an iconic building for Islamic knowledge heritage to develop and progress, His Majesty will be included among those believers who will be acknowledged, as promised by Allah Ta'ala in verse 105 of surah at-Taubah:

وَقُلْ أَعْمَلُوا هَسِيرِي لِي اللَّهُ عَمَلِكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ ... ﴿١٠٥﴾

**Interpretation: And say (unto them): Act! Allah will behold your actions, and (so will) His messenger and the believers...**

With the permission of Allah Ta'ala and the blessings of His Majesty's sovereignty, the BPIS will revitalise the role of the Baitul Hikmah [House of Wisdom], which had existed during the Abbasid Caliphate, thereby enlivening the BPIS as a centre that gathers and develops Islamic knowledge heritage to serve the welfare of the ummah and of mankind in Brunei Darussalam, in this region and beyond.

Step back in time by exploring the rich cultural heritage of a kingdom that dates back over 600 years.



## Darul 'Ifta Building

The State Mufti's Office is in a grand building located on Jalan Babu Raja, a short distance from the centre of the capital. Established in 1994 by His Majesty, the State Mufti's Office has the important role of being the centre of Islamic knowledge in Brunei. They are responsible for issuing fatwas, gathering knowledge on Islam and therefore spreading that knowledge to the Bruneian people.

Tourists will be keen to visit The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Exhibition Gallery, at the Darul 'Ifta Building. This gallery showcases over 300 rare 'mushaf' or books, both hand-written and printed in different calligraphic styles, including exquisite illuminated and miniature Al-Quran, some several centuries old. There are also ancient astrolabes, over 60 kinds of prayer beads and 150 types of walking sticks from His Majesty's personal collections and those received as gifts.



## Miniature Al-Quran Collections

It seems unfathomable when we contemplate how the Al-Quran can be drafted in tiny but flawless calligraphy. Nevertheless, closer inspection of these miniature Al-Quran with a magnifying glass proves that it is indeed possible. This collection is a testament to the magnificent handiwork of the artists of the past in their ability to create complex works of art without the assistance of ethnology.



## A 1000 Year Old Mushaf Piece

A Mushaf can refer to a collection of pages of the Al-Quran, although its literal meaning is, 'the manuscript bound between two boards'. One of the most prized possessions of the gallery is a Mushaf believed to be over 1000 years old. It is of Moroccan origin and is written in Kufi calligraphy.



## A Marble Al-Quran

This beautiful and unique marble engraved Al-Quran showcases great skill, talent and patience to make, particularly as it inscribes the entire 30 juz (parts) of the Al-Quran.



## Prayer Beads

Prayer beads, used for zikir, usually contain from 33 to 99 pieces of small beads. The collection includes more than 60 prayer beads made from sandalwood, oak, coca wood, jade, marble, date seeds and more. These prayer beads are often intricately designed with colourful threads, coins and bells. One of the most beautiful prayer beads in the collection is one designed with the name 'Hassanal Bolkiah' in Jawi writing. There is also a quirkier style of prayer beads with fossilised insects found inside each amber bead.



## Walking Sticks

Walking sticks were frequently used by prophets, wise men and religious figures of the past. The walking sticks of the collection are made of numerous materials, such as wood, rattan, horn, fish bone, iron, silver, bronze and more. They appear in differing sizes, engraved with words and motifs. Some of the more interesting walking sticks in the collection include a walking stick engraved with the 99 names of Allah as listed in the Asma Al-Husna collection, and another engraved with Chinese characters which translate to mean “May Allah grant long-life”.



# iconic islamic buildings of brunei



## Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque

This timeless architectural beauty is the highlight of any visit to Bandar Seri Begawan. The hustle-and-bustle of Brunei's capital city comes to a standstill as soon as one sets sight upon the majestic Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque, which appears to float on a serene lagoon. Donned with lush greenery, fountains and floral gardens, the Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque gives off a heavenly feeling.

Infused with Italian, Mughal and Islamic architectural influences, the 52 metres (171 feet) tall mosque was built in 1958 and named after the 28th Sultan of Brunei. It shows off a golden dome made out of clear glass mosaic tiles, with actual golden leaves underneath, marble columns, stained glass windows and walls made of Shanghai granite, which

combine to create a gleaming sight across the skyline, especially when the mosque is illuminated at night. The interior is no less grand, featuring Italian marble floors, chandeliers from Britain and carpets from Saudi Arabia.

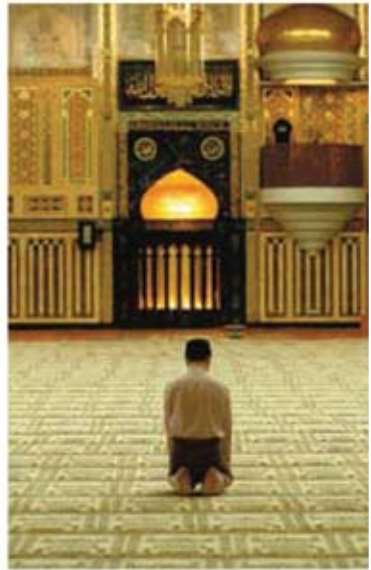
Floating next to the mosque, in the lagoon, is a replica of a 16th century Royal Barge, where Quran reading competitions were once held. The Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque makes more than just picturesque postcards. Viewing it up-close offers a spiritual and uplifting experience like no other. The mosque is always open for prayers, but properly attired non-Muslim visitors may visit outside of prayer times, except on Thursday afternoon and Friday.



## Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque

This mosque is one of Brunei Darussalam's most iconic architectural works, a must-see for tourists. Its golden domes and minarets bear resemblance to the Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque, but this mosque brings more colour and patterns into the mix, most notably the colourful mosaic tiles and eight-pointed stars. Finely manicured gardens and fountains deck the surroundings of this 20-acre space.

The Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque is centrally located between commercial areas such as Gadong and Kiulap. It was built to celebrate the 25th year of His Majesty the Sultan of Brunei's reign in 1992, but its complex architecture meant that it was only completed in 1994, in time for His Majesty's 48th birthday.



It is open to properly attired non-Muslim visitors from Saturday to Wednesday, 8am to 12pm, 2pm to 3pm and 5pm to 6pm.



## Ash-Saliheen Mosque

The mosque is located next to the Prime Minister's Office in Bandar Seri Begawan.

With its low-ceiling & relaxed ambience, visitors to the modestly designed building will be heavily drawn to the mosque's intricate interior detailing where, at a glance, one can ascertain the significant amount of time that has been invested to give a feeling of ease that resonates throughout the mosque.

The Ash-Saliheen mosque is unique when compared to the other equally magnificent mosques in the Sultanate.

Worshippers are greeted by an open courtyard decorated with a marble fountain in the heart of the mosque that lets in copious amount of sunlight. The one-of-a-kind transparent retractable roof

brings nature right into the mosque, day or night.

Built around the Moroccan Moorish and Andalusian architectural concept, the main prayer hall features a wall made of hand-cut mosaic flown in from Morocco. The hand-chiselled mosaic from afar looks precise but up-close details the imperfections that actually highlight the exclusivity of an ancient form of architectural design known as Zelliege, further adding to the tasteful artistry behind each tile.

To further add to the Islamic deals, Arabic calligraphy, also hand-chiselled and drawn with black ink, borders the beautifully stretched mosaic piece further emphasizing the profoundness of Brunei Darussalam's main religion.



## Brunei International Airport Mosque

Situated right next to the arrivals hall, the prayer hall at the Brunei International Airport cost about \$3.26 million, is designed to be a stand-alone building with a capacity of about 300 worshippers.

The prayer hall features elements of Islamic and Bruneian architecture. Its exterior features minarets and a convenient trolley base for travelers to park their luggage while performing prayers.

Landscaping and the compound's open design concept allows for a more serene and tranquil environment.

## Lambak & Mentiri Mosques

The government builds numerous housing projects around the country which provide subsidized housing to landless citizens. The mosques in each of these neighbourhoods are the centre of social and religious activities for the community. The pictured mosques below, found in the residential neighbourhoods of Perpindahan Mentiri and Perpindahan Lambak Kanan, show the pride and detail that goes into the architecture of mosques around the country.





# islamic da'wa centre



Their main functions include the propagation of Islam, keeping updated on relevant and current issues in the Islamic world, and the publications of religious reading materials.

Set up in 1985, the Islamic Da'Wa Centre can be defined as an institution responsible for spearheading the development of Islam in Brunei Darussalam. Their main functions include the propagation of Islam, keeping updated on relevant and current issues in the Islamic world, and the publication of religious reading materials. The centre frequently runs educational Islamic courses and holds Islamic exhibitions.

There has been a steady increase in the number of converts of Islam in Brunei.

The Da'wa Centre provides various forms of assistance to converts that include guidance classes and mentoring programmes. The Da'wa Centre also on occasion provides financial assistance to converts who need it, by providing housing and funding to carry out the Haj pilgrimage.

# islamic calender of events

## Birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

The day begins with an address from officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, followed by readings from the Al-Quran by Muslims all over the country. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam gives a royal address and leads a procession on foot with other members of the Royal Family and Muslims of Brunei through the streets of Bandar Seri Begawan.



## Isra' Miraj

This day is a celebration of the occasion where Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was brought by the Archangel Jibril (Gabriel) to ascend through the various levels of heaven before ultimately reaching Allah's throne. It is during this meeting that Allah advises the Prophet on the number of times Muslims are to pray in a day. Gatherings convene at night for special prayers at local mosques.



## Ramadhan

This day marks the beginning of the fasting month, where Muslims abstain from food and drink from dawn to dusk. *Tarawih* prayers are held at mosques throughout the country for every night of Ramadhan. The Royal Palace is also open from prayers for 10 nights during this month of piety.

## Anniversary of the Revelation of the Al-Quran

This day marks the occasion where the Al-Quran was first revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Muslims use this day to reflect on faith and the teachings of the Al-Quran.

## Hari Raya Aidilfitri

Marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadhan and the first day of Syawal, Muslims celebrate with family and loved ones. The Istana Nurul Iman, the world's largest residential palace is open to the public during this auspicious occasion, allowing residents, expatriates and tourists the opportunity to meet members of the Royal Family.

## Hari Raya Aidiladha

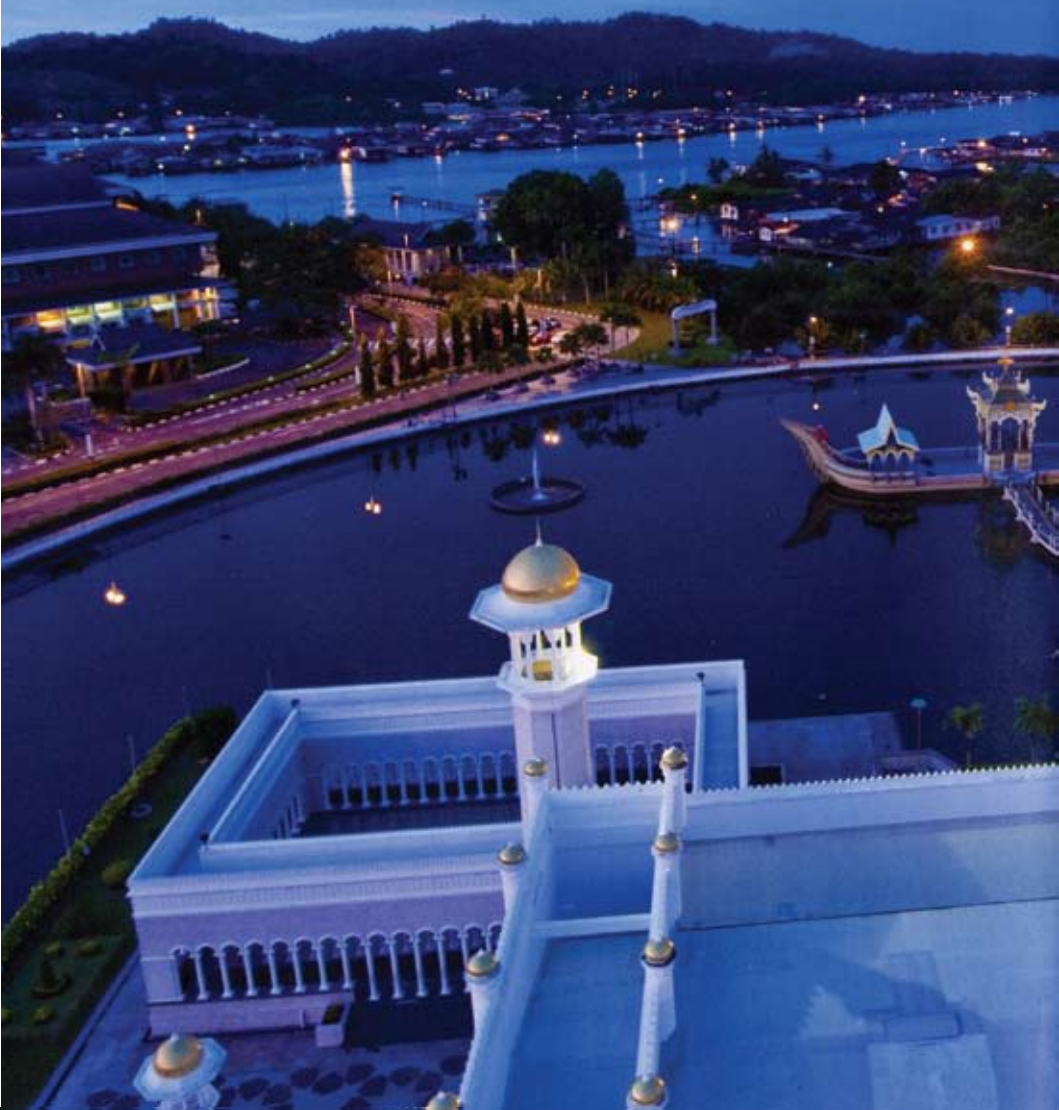
This is a festival of sacrifice, where goats and cows are sacrificed to commemorate the actions of Prophet Ibrahim. The meat is then distributed among relatives, friends and the less fortunate.

## Islamic New Year

Muslims celebrate the first day of the Islamic calendar year which is based on lunar cycles.



With Islamic values deeply engrained in its daily lifestyle, Brunei Darussalam is the ideal destination for a wholesome, Halal holiday experience. Welcome to the Abode of Peace.





# handicraft and souvenirs



Islamic culture has played a role in influencing some of Brunei's most famed arts and crafts, such as silverware, brassware and songkok-making.

The art of silver and brass is believed to have existed in Brunei for centuries. Silverware and brassware made in Brunei is often designed using 'air muleh' motif - a water plant that signifies Bruneians' gentle and courteous character, and jawi (localised Arabic) writing.

The songkok is a type of cap made from velvet, and is believed to have been introduced to Brunei by Arab traders and Muslim missionaries centuries ago. However, because the songkok is no longer seen amongst Arabs in the Middle East, it is possible that the songkok

**Do take time to visit the Arts and Handicrafts Centre at Kota Batu. Established for the preservation and revival of the traditional arts and handicraft industry in Brunei, it is the best place to find the cream of Brunei's handicraft.**

was influenced by the fez hats worn by the Turks, hailing from the time of the Ottoman Empire. The fez hat is of course known to be red, with a tassel. It has been suggested that early Malay craftsmen modified the fez hat to what is today known as songbook, a hat that has become synonymous with Malay Muslims.

# the brunei halal brand

Brunei has been widely recognized for its stringent regulations on Halal products. In July 2009, the Brunei government capitalised on this reputation and launched a national Halal branding scheme named Brunei Halal.

With the growing concerns worldwide on the authenticity of Halal products, The Brunei Halal brand acts as a gold standard of certification that manufacturers, whether local or foreign, have complied with the Islamic laws necessary for a product to be considered Halal.

The Brunei Halal brand is owned by Brunei Wafirah Holdings Sdn Bhd, a government backed company, but is managed by Ghanim International Food Corporation Sdn Bhd, which is a joint venture between Brunei Wafirah Holdings, Brunei Global Islamic Investment and Kerry FSDA Ltd.

Brunei Halal Brand food products can be found in most local leading supermarkets.



# foods and restaurants



Most restaurants in Brunei are Halal and are required to undergo a strict and thorough screening process before being awarded the Halal certification. The few restaurants that are not Halal are marked with signs that state the food served is only for non-Muslims.

Brunei is a great place to try Halal versions of a variety of international cuisine that range from Japanese, Korean and Italian, to Mediterranean and Chinese dim sum. Fusion of western and Asian cuisines is also very popular.

Authentic Bruneian cuisine is a must-try; head to Aminah Arif Restaurant for *ambuyat*, a sticky and glutinous dish made out of sago, which is dipped in *binjai* (a sour local fruit) sauce before eaten. More adventurous types should go for Aminah Arif's famous *binjai* sauce



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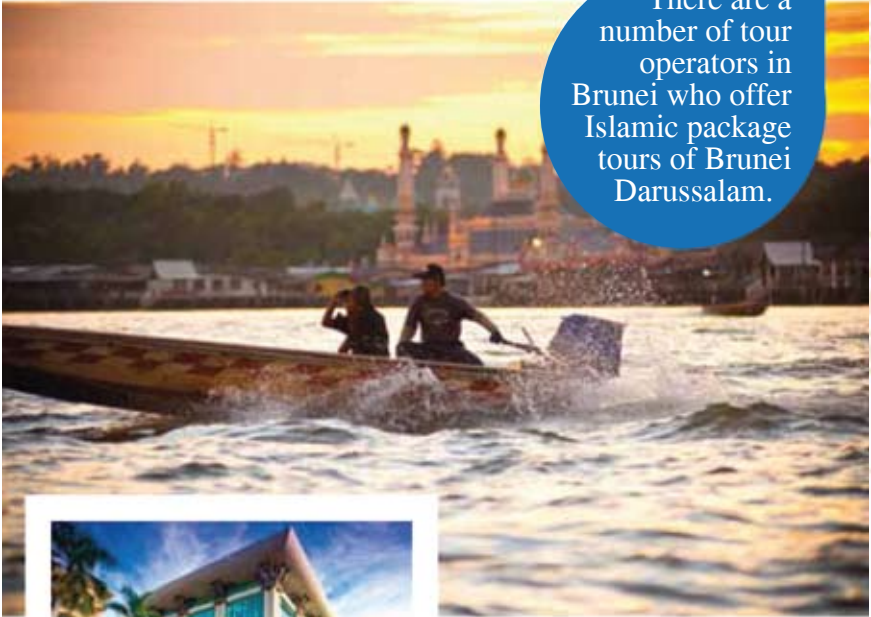


with tempoyak (fermented durian). Alternatively, pay a visit to Tarindak D'Seni for traditional Bruneian soul food. They usually serve buffets during lunch hour and for dinner, where you may have your pick of a number of Bruneian delicacies and desserts. Tarindak D'Seni also has the advantage of offering a stunning view of the Kampong Ayer, as it is located on a hill overlooking the Brunei River. It also shares its address with the Art and Handicraft Centre.



# recommended hotels and operators

There are a number of tour operators in Brunei who offer Islamic package tours of Brunei Darussalam.



district of Gadong; and Orchid Garden Hotel and Times Hotel within the vicinity of the airport.

Muslim visitors will be at ease to know that most hotels provide translations of the Al-Quran, kiblath signs and prayer mats in rooms. Alcohol is not sold or served in hotels, nor are there any bars or discotheques. Popular hotels include the palatial Empire Hotel and Country Club; Radisson Hotel and The Brunei Hotel in the heart of the capital; Rizqun International Hotel in the commercial

There are a number of tour operators in Brunei who offer Islamic package tours of Brunei Darussalam. These tours will be structured from an Islamic perspective, where one will visit the iconic Islamic sites around Brunei, alongside other popular tourist sites in Brunei such as the Kampong Ayer, the Royal Regalia Museum and the jewel of Brunei itself, the Temburong rainforest.

# itinerary

By Darussalam Holdings Sendirian Berhad



Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque

4D3N  
in Brunei  
The Islamic  
Experience Tour

## Day 1 Bandar Seri Begawan (Dinner)

Your journey into the “Abode of Peace” begins upon your arrival at Brunei’s International Airport and a prompt check in to the hotel to freshen up and prepare for the evening’s events. Just before the sun sets, make your way out to perform Maghrib prayers at The Sultan Omar ’Ali Saifuddien Mosque. A religious haven for the nation’s people since 1958, The Sultan Omar ’Ali Saifuddien Mosque is considered to be one of the most beautiful Royal Islamic Mosques in all of Asia Pacific. Built to commemorate the beloved 28th Sultan of Brunei, the intricate details of the Mughal and Italian inspired architectural design is magnificent impressive.

Make your way out of the mosque’s lush gardens, radiating man-made lagoon and golden gates into Bandar town to enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and then visit to the country’s largest shopping centre, The Mall. End the day with a visit to Gadong’s Night Market, where your senses go into overdrive with endless rows of local delicacies, in season fruit / vegetables and an array of fabrics and fashion.

## Day 2 Bandar Seri Begawan Mib Tour & Kampong Ayer Tour (Breakfast, Lunch)

Start your day with breakfast at the hotel and a visit to Pusat Dakwah Islamiah, a centre which aids in the development and awareness of Islam in Brunei Darussalam.

You'll get a chance to meet with the centre's newest converts and discover how the centre is spreading Islam to non-muslims of Brunei darussalam and how to maintain a strong Islamic country.

The day continues with a visit to the Mufti's office, home to Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolckiah Islamic Exhibition Gallery, to view some of His Majesty's priceless collection of ancient Holy Qurans and manuscripts.



Take a moment to admire rare mus'hafs, originating from all over the world; Middle East, North Africa, Asia and the Archipelago. Witness in person to one of the smallest Quran and rarest mus'hafs amongst the collection, over 1,000 years old from Maghribi written in kufi calligraphy.

The highlight of the exhibit is the Special Gallery where you'll find replicas of Islamic relics and artifacts from the Topkapi Palace, Turkey such as the Swords of His Companion, Moses's Walking Stick and others.

Our next "must-see" tourist attraction is none other than the world famous Istana

Nurul Iman. Get your cameras ready to capture a moment outside the grand entrance of the personal home to the Sultan of Brunei and seat of government. The \$1.4 billion USD royal structure is the world largest residential palace according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

After the brief photo session, make your way to the magnificent Jame' 'Asr Hassanal Bolckiah Mosque to perform Zuhur prayers. The anniversary of the



Sultan's Coronation and is the home to the largest prayer hall in the country where Friday's Khutbah is delivered to the nation.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant followed by an adventure out in the open waters of the Brunei River. Brace yourself as you step onto a water taxi off the edge of the Original Venice of the East and head towards Kampong Ayer – a township of multicolored houses built on stilts over the Brunei River. Discover the water village's history, art and way of life at the Kampong Ayer Culture and Tourism Gallery followed by a visit to the mosque to perform Asar prayers.



Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Shopping Complex

After an eventful afternoon we head back to the hotel to rest and relax followed by Maghrib prayers at the Serusop Mohamed Bolkiah Mosque. Prayers are followed by dinner at a local diner of your choice. Before returning to the hotel, you'll have an opportunity to browse for textiles or imported goods at the Delima Shopping Complex, where you can find a large selection of unique fabrics of Baju Kurong for ladies or Baju Melayu for men.

### **Day 3** Bandar Seri Begawan Heritage Tour (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Breakfast at the hotel is followed by a visit to Tamu Kianggeh, Brunei's oldest market. The original market is well known for its vast assortment of exotic local foods, spices and medicinal plants and most frequented visit by residents from Kampong Ayer due to its close location to the river.

Visit the Malay Technology Museum and learn about the techniques used in the olden days of the Sultanate. Brunei Museum will thrill history enthusiasts who will get the chance to admire priceless Islamic artifacts. The museum contains an exquisite collection of copies of the Quran, and 1000 years old ceramics, jewellery, weapons and coins.

Next we proceed by the Royal Mausoleum of Sultan Sharif Ali and Sultan Bolkiah. A little fact about the Sultan Sharif Ali, as he was the direct descendant of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and the third Sultan of Brunei. He was made Sultan after Sultan Ahmad passed away without any male descendants and marrying to Sultan Ahmad's daughter, Princess Ratna Kesuma. He then built the first mosque in 1578 but was eventually destroyed by the Spanish invasion in June the same year.



Royal Regalia Building

Discover the history of Brunei's art at the Handicraft Center, where Brunei's age old traditional arts and crafts are showcased alongside Brunei's famous brocades – 'kain tenunan' woven with gold and silver threads.

Enjoy a lunch at a local restaurant and a daytime visit to the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Mosque to perform Zuhur prayers. Take a stroll through the beautiful grounds of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkihah Complex and take time for some last minute shopping for souvenirs, textiles or imported products.

Last but not least, the day ends at the spectacular Royal Regalia building, a tribute to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkihah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Also on display is the Constitutional History Gallery, which houses documents, photography, film and recordings

and gallery devoted to the life of His Majesty The Sultan up to the time of his coronation.

#### **Day 4 Bandar Seri Begawan (Breakfast)**

Spend the morning to relax and reflect on the last few days you've had in beautiful Brunei until check out time. Depending on the time of your departure flight, transportation to Brunei International Airport will be arranged accordingly.

