INSPIRING MINDS | SHAPING VALUES | BUILDING FUTURES

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BRUNEI
FOUNDED 1964

Everyone Excels

Recruitment and Information Pack

International School Brunei

An international, coeducational day and boarding school for children aged 2 - 18years

Required for January / August 2026









Background

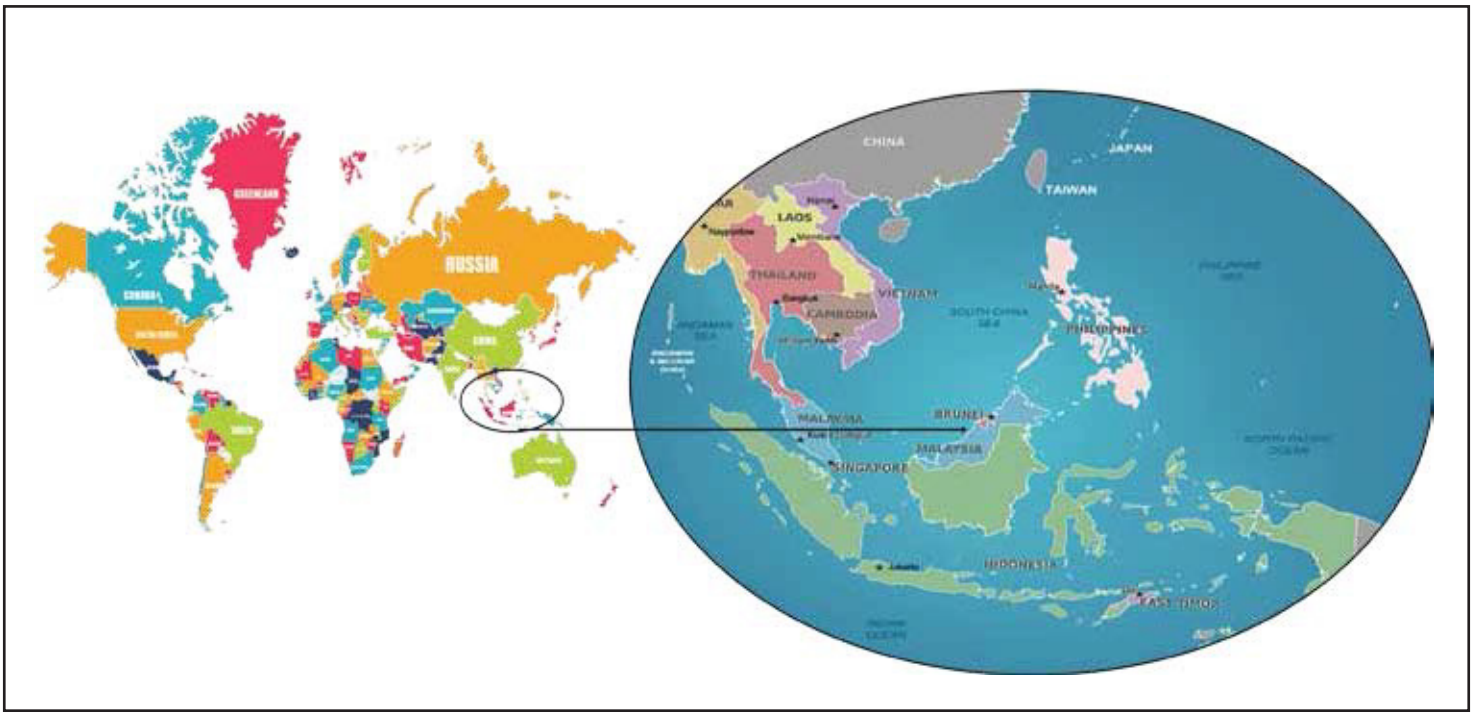
International School Brunei was established in 1964, as a non-profit organisation with a Board of Directors to oversee the development of the school - a status that exists to this day.

In 2015 the school moved to a brand new 22 acre site on the outskirts of Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital of Brunei Darussalam. At the same time, 'The Residence' a state of the art Boarding House, was opened to cater for students aged 11 - 18.

ISB offers education from Pre-Kindergarten (2yrs) and the adapted British Curriculum from Year 1 (4yrs old) to Year 8 (13yrs) followed by IGCSEs (14-16yrs) and the IB Diploma programme in the Pre-University section (16 - 18yrs).

ISB is inclusive, and currently has over 1100 students from over 40 different nationalities. Academic results are outstanding. IB Diploma results are consistently above the World Average, and over the years students have attended their first choice universities such universities as Oxford, Cambridge,Durham, Yale and Princeton.

In addition to the Bandar campus, ISB Seria, 1 hour from the capital, is the second campus, catering for primary students. ISB also has a Centre for Inclusive Learning (CIL) to support further students with learning needs and a CACHE Adult learning programme which complete the ISB offer.



LIVING IN BRUNEI

Travel

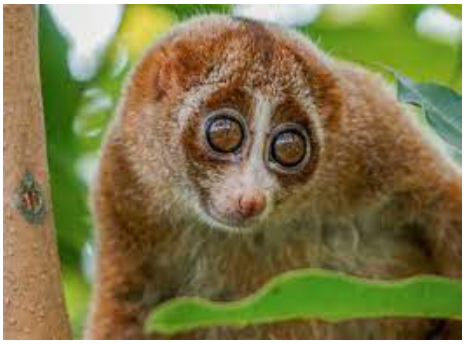
First of all, there's no getting away from it - the best thing about living in Brunei is its proximity to the rest of South East Asia and the travel opportunities this provides. Existing ISB staff regularly visit Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Bali and the numerous Thai and Malaysian Islands. Destinations such as Australia, China and Japan are easily accessible. Miri, a holiday resort in Malaysia is only two hours' drive away, and this opens up further travel opportunities as it's a hub airport for Air Asia. Further opportunities are provided by Cebu Pacific, Malaysian Airlines and Singapore Airlines.



But you don't have to leave Brunei to travel somewhere new. Even though it's the smallest country on the island of Borneo (along with Malaysia and Indonesia), approximately 90% of Brunei is still virgin Rainforest. The opportunity to undertake a river trip is not to missed. Temburong National Park, which has one of the highest canopy walks in the world is only a short drive and the Empire Hotel and Country Club, one of the most expensive hotels in the world (it cost over Seventeen Billion US Dollars to build), is only 15 minutes from school.

Wildlife

There's no getting away from it, the abundance of wildlife in Brunei is simply spectacular. Whilst most creatures stay away from residential areas, a vast array of birds and geckos are a daily sight. And if bigger animals are more your thing, a trip to the local Supermarket (which by the way sells a wide range of western brands), will provide hours of pleasure as you sit in the car park watching all of the monkeys, playing in the trees and occasionally on the roofs of parked cars. Crocodiles, snakes, Proboscis monkeys and larger lizards are all easy to spot if you join a jungle trek or a river cruise. It's not unusual to be delayed for a minute or so on the morning commute to work, as you stop the car to let a five foot monitor lizard cross the road!





LIVING IN BRUNEI



Shopping

Whilst Brunei is not well known as a shopping destination, it is still possible to get everything you need for daily living, and air conditioned shopping malls do exist, designer clothes (other than sports brands) are not readily available. However, a range of online shiping sites deliver to Brunei reliably.

However, whilst foodstuffs with international brands can be bought in most supermarkets (as they are made across Asia under license), genuine UK versions of things such as Cadbury's Chocolate, Yorkshire Tea, and Christmas Pudding, can still be bought in the Naffi shop, which is part of the British Army Garrison based in Kuala Belait, about an hour's drive from school. Many staff opt to stop here on the way back from a weekend break in Miri, in order to stock up on creature comforts. It is also possible to buy all manner of UK brands such as Iceland, Waitrose and Tesco.



Sport & Fitness

There's a wide array of sports available in Brunei. There are some excellent gyms, jungle hiking, cycling, running, golf courses, along with tennis, football, tag rugby and all manner of sports in between.



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Eating Out
This is a national pastime in Brunei, and most staff eat out (or order a take-away) on a regular basis. There's a vast array of cuisines on offer, including Indian, Thai, Chinese, Cantonese, Malaysian, Arabic, Italian and a few UK options (such as genuine UK style Fish & Chips) if you know where to look. And although Brunei is a Muslim country, it is possible to get Pork products in some restaurants.



Alcohol and Sharia Law
A google search for 'Brunei' will almost certainly deliver a series of articles surrounding Sharia Law… and a popular headline relates to the banning of Christmas!

In 2014 the country adopted Sharia Law, which did indeed include a ban on Christmas decorations and Christmas celebrations. However, these restrictions only apply in public. It's perfectly acceptable to have a Christmas tree in your own home, and to celebrate Christmas with carols and singing. Some restaurants and hotels
even serve Christmas Lunch!
Alcohol is not available for purchase inside Brunei, but it is perfectly legal for non-Muslims to import alcohol each time they enter the country. As such, many staff will undertake a 'border crossing' trip into Malaysia at the weekend (about a 20 minute drive), to buy alcohol. There is then an official declaration form which must be filled in at the border. Each adult is allowed to import 12 cans/bottles of beer and either 2 litres of wine or spirits each trip, though there must be 48 hours between each trip.



None of this should detract from the fact that Brunei has strict laws, but it's important to note that not everything you read is true! Ex-pats are highly regarded by Bruneians, and the vast majority of expats respond in kind by being tolerant and respectful.



LIVING IN BRUNEI



Cost of Living
Living in Brunei is much less expensive than in most countries. Brunei is a rapidly developing country, which already has a vast array of activities on offer to keep residents happy.

Banking
Upon arrival, the school will assist new employees in opening a bank account in Brunei, and therefore ensures that salaries are transferred effectively each month.

As with all modern banks, these offer the full range of online banking, as well international transfer, access to credit cards and loans for its customers.

Weather
Brunei is a genuinely tropical country, which is unsurprising as it's located only 4 degrees North of the Equator and on the edge of the World's largest untouched rainforest.

The temperature is pretty stable all year round, ranging from 28C to 33C each day, and from 24C to 26C overnight.

Rainfall charts suggest that it's a very wet country, but this does not tell the whole story. It rains almost everyday, but mostly it happens overnight. Rain is also torrential - it rarely lasts for longer than 45 minutes, but during that spell an average of 10-15mm of rain will fall.





LIVING IN BRUNEI

Housing

Housing in Brunei is generally large, often with an open plan downstairs and usually with three bedrooms upstairs (unless of course you choose a bungalow). The majority of houses have outdoor spaces, though this can vary in size. Most houses are only 5-10 minues drive from school.



Utility Bills

Utility bills are the responsibility of the employee, but it should be noted that bills are generally significantly cheaper in Brunei than elsewhere, particularly if comparing with the other countries globally.

Upon Arrival

Your flights will be booked and organised by HR, and either a member of HR staff, or your Staff Buddy (sometimes both) will meet you at the airport. From there, you'll be taken to your accommodation, where your hire car will be waiting.



Within your house, HR will have provided a small shopping basket of standard items (milk, bread, butter, cereals, coffee, tea etc), but will also contact you a few days before to see if there's anything specific you'd like to order in advance.

HR and/or your Staff Buddy will also then support you in the first few days, by taking you to shopping malls, showing you some local restaurants and some of Brunei's tourist sites. There is no obligation for this support, and new teachers are free to dip in and out as they wish.

