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## Brunei

**Total area:**

5,765 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population:**

417,200 (2015)

**Literacy:**

88%

**Official languages:**

Malay

**GDP (PPP) per capita:**

\$80,000 (2016 est.)

**Life expectancy:**

78 years

**Religions:**

67% Muslim, 12% Buddhist, 9% Protestant, 6% Chinese (Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism), 2% Catholic, 2% indigenous beliefs, 1% other religions

## Prayer points

**True riches in Brunei**

Brunei is a tiny country in southeast Asia that suffers from severe Islamic oppression. Christians experience persecution in many areas of life. It is estimated that Brunei has more mosques per square kilometre than any other country in the world. The country is one of the few absolute monarchies left in the world. The sultan has complete executive power, unconstrained by politicians or parliament. Sadly, there are only a handful of believers among them. All Brunei Malay are classified as Muslims at birth. Conversion is considered illegal, and believers from Muslim backgrounds come under intense pressure to return to their original faith. Pray that the Lord would protect those who work among the Brunei Malay for the sake of the gospel. The Brunei Malay are generally very wealthy, with many having luxurious homes and a number of cars. Pray that worldly wealth would not leave them complacent in seeking spiritual truth. Pray for the establishment of more evangelical churches in Brunei. (AsiaLink - August 2019)

**Openings for ministry**

Brunei is a very small country made up of two enclaves on the island of Borneo. They are one of the richest states in Asia with free education and healthcare, no income tax and heavily subsidised housing, fuel and food. Islam is the state religion and the Sultan rules as absolute monarch. Around 65% of the population are Muslim, and despite constitutionally guaranteed freedom of religion, it is illegal to proselytise and illegal for a Muslim to convert to another religion. No foreign Christian workers are permitted and importing bibles for ministry purposes is illegal, although Bibles are permitted for personal use. Pray for openings for kingdom workers to minister inside this nation. Pray for a move of God drawing many to repentance and salvation. (Frontiers - July 2018)

### **Slow and steady deterioration**

The position of Christians in Brunei has slowly but steadily deteriorated. Sharia law has been fully implemented since 2011 for all Muslims in the country. Anglican and Catholic churches are the only recognised Christian communities in the country, but even they have to be very careful. Those who convert to Christianity, especially those from a Malay background, face a much higher degree of pressure. It is impossible to print Christian materials in the country and importing them is forbidden. No violent incidents were reported in 2013, yet the level of fear among the Christian minority is very high. (Open Doors UK and Ireland - July 2014)

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