



Brunei Darussalam

Joined the Commonwealth 1984 - visited by the Queen in 1998



Brunei Darussalam is a small nation in South East Asia on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo

Pop: (2012) 412,000 Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan Area: 5,765sq km

With its extensive reserves of oil and natural gas and small population, Brunei is one of the world's richer nations. The government is keen to encourage a variety of industries and trade to compensate for fluctuating world prices of oil and gas. Muara, a deep water port in the north, has a dedicated container terminal.

Most of the population lives along the coastal plain or along the many rivers draining the more hilly (mountainous in the east,) interior. The climate is tropical with high humidity and rainfall all year round. 71% of the land is forested. Mangrove swamps line the coast. Brunei, a haven for the eco-tourist, is keen to conserve its virgin forest and has fifteen forests reserves harbouring a huge genetic diversity. Wildlife consists mainly of small nocturnal mammals such as moon rats and mouse deer along with the proboscis monkey and numerous species of birds. Ulu Temburong National Park, with its canopy walks, is only accessible by longboat.

An aerial view of the capital

