



Information Sheet 1c

Location Overview

Last Updated: Feb 08

Brunei

This information sheet is designed to give you a general picture of **Brunei**. If you would like further, more detailed information on specific subjects please contact the HIVE.

Brunei is situated on the North West coast of the Island of Borneo. Its 100 mile coastline faces the South China Sea and it covers a total area of 2226 sq miles, less than a quarter the size of the UK. It has a common border with Sarawak in the South and West, and with Sabah in the North East. Both Sarawak and Sabah are Eastern states of Malaysia on the island of **Borneo**.

The country's full name is Negara Brunei Darussalam, which is usually translated to 'Brunei – the Abode of Peace'. Brunei is 8 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) in winter and 7 hours ahead in summer. The country's capital Bandar Seri Begawan is in the Brunei-Muara district, approximately 1 ½ hours drive from Seria where the Garrison is located. There are things to explore and see in Brunei such as impressive mosques and sprawling stilt villages to taking a short trek through Temburong National Park.

The Garrison consists of 4 sites: Sittang Camp, just outside Tutong in the middle of the country, Scout Base, housing 7 Flight AAC, Medicina Lines where the Garrison Support Services are located and Toker Lines where the Garrison Headquarters and Resident Battalion reside. The latter 3 camps are located just outside Seria, in the Belait district of Brunei, just a 15 min drive from Kuala Belait the districts main town.

Unit Facilities

A well-equipped Gymnasium, basketball, badminton and volleyball courts are available on Toker Lines. The Garrison has a swimming pool and a dive club.

The community centre located in the Istana Married Quarter SFA, consists of a library, Café, splash pool, patio bar and the **HIVE**. The Hornbill School Foundation Stage and Jungle Cubs nursery are also located in this area.

Service Families Accommodation

Officer's family accommodation is split into three areas. 16 detached bungalows in one area, 7 bungalows located besides the beach in another and 22 newly constructed houses. Istana Married Quarter area consists of 42 semi-detached 3 bedroom bungalows, and 24 flats as well as various private hirings in the surrounding area. Toker lines consists of approximately 170 bungalows and currently 240 apartments, some of which are still under construction. Married quarters have mains gas for cooking and hot water heating.

Single Living Accommodation

Single or married unaccompanied Soldiers posted into the Garrison are accommodated in Medicina Lines or in SFA next to Toker Lines. Single or married unaccompanied Officers are accommodated in the Officers Mess.

All accommodation in Brunei is provided with air conditioning units. The electric supply is 220v and uses 3 pin plugs as in UK.

Schools

Primary Education

Hornbill School is a primary school with approximately 270 children from 3 - 11 years of age and is situated on a split site with the Foundation Stage housed 5km away from the main site. The School caters for both Nepalese children of Gurkha soldiers and children of serving British military and civilian MOD personnel.

Secondary Education

There are no Service Children's Education facilities for secondary education in Brunei. However, parents may elect to send their children to Boarding school in UK or to Jerudong International School (JIS), Brunei. www.jis.edu.bn. JIS is a weekly boarding school, children return home for the weekend on school transport. If you elect to send your

child(ren) to JIS the school fees are paid by the Garrison, however your LOA will be reduced for the weekly period your child is at school. For more details contact the HIVE.

Transport

Purple buses pass all SFA sites every twenty minutes and go to both Seria and Kuala Belait, however the service is not always reliable. Taxi's are available in Brunei, for further details contact the HIVE.

Shopping

Supermarkets

Supasave is the main supermarket and has familiar brands like Waitrose and Weight Watchers. Supasave also has a non-halal section selling pork and pork products. Prices of UK/European items reflect the shipping costs and are more expensive than the sterling equivalent.

A small Naafi offering grocery products, stationery, UK newspapers and magazines, household items, perfumes, cigarettes and tobacco is open to everyone. Although alcohol can only be purchased by Service Personnel and dependants over 18 yrs, proof of identity will be required.

The Naafi will also cash UK cheques to local currency. Cheques can only be drawn to the amount shown on your respective cheque guarantee card.

Clothes

Clothes bought from local shops are not of the same standard of those bought in UK. It can be very difficult to buy clothes and shoes for larger sizes in Asia. It is advised to buy from the UK.

For a list of companies that will deliver to BFPO, go to:

www.bfpo.org.uk/commercialreceipts_contractwithbfpo.htm

It is a good idea to buy linen clothes and cotton underwear due to the heat and humidity of Brunei.

Dressmakers

There are countless shops in both Seria and Kuala Belait that sell a wide range of fabric, they will make you ball gowns, dresses, suits as well as curtains and cushion covers. Prices are much cheaper than UK.

Eating Out

Eating out in Brunei is good value for money. There are a wide selection of restaurants, serving local Malay cuisine as well as Italian, Indian and Chinese. Seria and Kuala Belait have fast food chains that you will recognise, such as Pizza Hut and KFC. The only McDonalds is located in Bandar.

Healthcare

The Medical Reception Station provides a primary care facility to all members of the Garrison and their entitled dependants. The MRS is situated in the Gurkha married quarter area, beside Toker Lines. It is manned by nursing staff throughout the day and covered by doctors on call during the night. Secondary medical cover is provided by Brunei Government Hospitals.

There are no facilities for the care of special needs children.

For more information on **Brunei** and the surrounding area please contact the **HIVE**



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