

## By Anonymous traveler (2022)

Upon arriving in Bandar Seri Begawan, our trip began with an immersive tour of the city. We were captivated by the magnificent Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque and the stunning Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque, two architectural masterpieces that left us in awe. The grandeur and beauty of these mosques truly reflected the rich Islamic heritage of Brunei.



Next on our itinerary was a visit to Bandar Lapau, the old parliament house known as Dewan Majlis. Its historical significance and unique architectural charm were a delight to explore. We also had the chance to experience the vibrant atmosphere at Tamu Kianggeh, a traditional market, where we soaked in the aromas of local spices and admired the handicrafts on display.

Our cultural journey continued as we visited the Malay Technology Museum, a fascinating institution that showcased the traditional crafts, industries, and way of life in Brunei. The Tomb of Sultan Bolkiah and the Royal Regalia Museum were also highlights of the day, giving us insights into the country's rich royal history and heritage.

Following a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, we embarked on an enchanting adventure to Kampong Ayer, the world's largest water village. We hopped on a water taxi and cruised along the Brunei River, surrounded by picturesque views of wooden houses and lush greenery. With each step we took on the wooden paths and bridges, we were immersed in the cultural tapestry and historical significance of this unique village.

To add a personal touch to our experience, we had the advantage of visiting a local house where we were served traditional cakes and tea. It was heartwarming to be welcomed into someone's home and witness the warmth and hospitality of the Bruneian people. As the day drew to a close, we revisited the



Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque to admire its impeccable beauty once more. Our day ended with a visit to Nurul Iman Palace, where we captured memorable photos at the front gate, marveling at the grandeur of the royal residence.



After a hearty breakfast, we embarked on a scenic drive to Seria, a town located near the coast. Our first stop was the Seria Energy Lab, where we learned about Brunei's oil and gas industry through interactive exhibits and informative displays. The Billionth Barrel Monument stood as a symbol of the nation's remarkable achievement in the petroleum sector, and we were proud to witness this milestone.

On our journey, we passed by the Brunei Shell Petroleum headquarters and caught glimpses of the Dutch community accommodation quarters and recreational facilities. These sights showcased the multinational influence and thriving community in this area.

We enjoyed a delightful lunch in Kuala Belait, a charming town nestled near the Malaysian border. Exploring its unique character was a delightful experience, and we were able to appreciate the fusion of cultural influences that make Brunei so captivating.

As we made our way back to Bandar, we stopped for yet another photo opportunity at the Jerudong Park area, famous for its evening amusement park. Though it wasn't open at the time, we could imagine the exhilaration and excitement that this place would offer during its operational hours. To conclude the day, we indulged in a delectable dinner at a local restaurant, savoring the flavors of Bruneian cuisine. We then returned to our hotel, reflecting on the enchanting experiences we had in Brunei and eagerly anticipating the adventures that awaited us in the days to come.



Overall, our two-day exploration of Bandar Seri Begawan and its surrounding areas left us with a deep appreciation for Brunei's rich history, splendid architecture, and warm hospitality .

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