



# TEACHING PROJECTS IN BRUNEI

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### BRUNEI IS THE GATEWAY TO BORNEO ... AND ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS!

Locally known by its full name **Brunei Darussalam**, it is here that you can get from city to rainforest by boat in less than two hours.

**You may not have heard of Brunei before (...it's *not* in the Middle East, as many people think!). This tiny country is situated on the wonderful island of Borneo amid rainforest, tropical beaches and other areas of outstanding beauty**



The capital, **Bandar Seri Begawan**, is a modernised centre with large public buildings. The rest of the country: 70% of beautiful, untouched jungle.

Brunei has a healthy and generally safe lifestyle. The country has never experienced earthquakes, typhoons or severe floods. Alcohol and drug abuse is almost totally absent. The crime rate and degree of pollution in the capital are among the lowest in the world. The residents of Brunei are well looked after with free health care, education and public facilities; not to mention cheap loans and high, tax free incomes. In return Bruneians respect the Islamic culture, with their conformist lifestyles and total abstinence from alcohol.

The Sultanate of Brunei (Full name: His Majesty the Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah – now that's a mouthful!) is a very important figure.

We work with the CfBT, which stands for the Centre for British Teachers. This Centre employs expatriate native English speakers from Australia, Canada, America and the UK, who are placed in carefully selected schools throughout Brunei, but they also require the help of volunteers, to work in certain schools that particularly need the help.

The schools we work in are government schools and the children are generally quite poor. The majority of children that you will teach are Muslim Bruneians and typically speak Malay as their first language.

School lessons take place in the morning, between 07:15 and 12:30. Very few schools take afternoon lessons as well – in many places this is a time for extra curricular activities.

You'll have the opportunity to get involved with many school activities, from helping children to practice their spoken skills, to drama, netball and dance, helping the children to make displays, and much, much more. You may also be involved in helping children who have fallen behind and are in need of extra tutoring.

You'll be working with a mixture of local teachers and



expatriate teachers. There will usually be at least one expatriate teacher in your school who you will spend time working closely with. In Brunei, children learn English and several other subjects using the medium of English from a young age. They get very excited when a volunteer joins them and you will be welcomed with loud greetings of "Hello Teacher!"

Through the CfBT's dedication to teaching, they have built up an excellent resource centre which you will be able to use to help you with your teaching. Facilities here include a library, (with many workbooks and other resources that you can draw on), Internet access and photocopiers to enable you to produce materials for your lessons. There will be lots of help available to help you with structuring your lessons.

Facilities between schools can vary substantially, although the majority of the schools have good facilities, such as computer rooms, reading rooms, libraries, gardens and sports facilities.

The school week is 5 days long, but the traditional "weekend" is not common in Brunei as government offices and schools take Fridays off and open on Saturdays. As Brunei is quite small, you can easily visit other parts of the country for day trips. In Brunei, you can get from city to rainforest in less than 2 hours!



### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS IN BRUNEI:

Approximate dates for the school terms are given below. Please note that individual school holidays may vary by a day or two.

- TERM 1: 3<sup>rd</sup> January – 17<sup>th</sup> March
- TERM 2: 28<sup>th</sup> March – 11<sup>th</sup> June
- TERM 3: 25<sup>th</sup> June – 8<sup>th</sup> September
- TERM 4: 19<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> December

The academic year runs from January through to November. Teaching is NOT available during school holidays. Most volunteers use the school holidays as a time for independent travel.



### YOUR QUALIFICATIONS:

Don't worry about not having special qualifications. The whole idea of Travellers is to provide any help possible, whether it is merely enabling children to hear English pronunciation by native English speakers, or any additional help with other academic subjects or how to use a computer - anything you can offer is very much appreciated and everyone knows you are not a qualified teacher. The emphasis is on much-needed language development, additional learning and cultural contact. It gives your pupils valuable experience while saving you large sums of money on TEFL diplomas.

Please don't forget – You can write to us, telephone our office (01903 502595), or email us at [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com) if you have any questions.

### FEEDBACK ON THIS PLACEMENT FROM A VOLUNTEER

*Christina Taylor, on her teaching placement in Brunei:*

**What experience do you feel you gained?** I have learnt new techniques with teaching as I have not taught children before and watching Vicky (the teacher) has given me ideas on how to talk to the children, setting and following rules, how to dress and behave. I have talked to the Malay teachers and learnt a few words from them and plenty about local culture and places to visit.



**What was the best thing about your placement?** I am enjoying all parts of it and no two days have been the same. I have got involved in trips and nights out or in. Then at school I have really enjoyed taking small groups and getting to know the children and help them with their English.

**Would you recommend this placement to anyone else?** I think anyone who has the chance to do this at what ever age should experience it as you don't know where it could lead you. I am learning all the time as well and meeting loads of people.

**What type of person do you think this placement would suit?** Someone who is flexible, a good team member (helps when staying in the house with others volunteers), enthusiastic about other people and cultures, like to try new things.

**Can you describe a typical day?** Today I woke up at 06.15 had a quick shower put on my school clothes had some toast and juice and jumped in the car for about 10 minutes along Jalan Muara to school arriving about 7.15. The first lesson is primary 3 so they are about 9 years old. We did a whole class activity reading a big book, then explain using the pupils books. Then the children go to their desks and work in their books. I have a small group of remedial children who are unable to join in with the rest of the class because they cannot read whole sentences. So I have picture cards and books to work through. Another two classes today and finish at 12.30pm.



Home for a maagi noodle perhaps and a cup of Tetley.

We have a new volunteer arriving today so we may take her to the CfBT office to meet the staff and use the internet over there. We normally get invited to something that is happening by the staff there. They are great for local knowledge. Tonight we have been invited over to the CfBT Director of South East Asia's house for a pool party with lots of his friends. There has been something happening nearly every day and night. The orientation was useful and I learnt a lot about the history, driving, culture, customs, do's and don't etc. I have been able to start my PADI Open Water Certificate which is great. The placement is great and it is going too quick, most people have tried to extend if they can, which I can't unfortunately.

#### **ACCOMMODATION:**

Most volunteers in Brunei are accommodated together in an apartment close to the centre of Bandar Seri Begawan, which makes for a sociable placement. Alternatively, you can be accommodation with a local expatriate family, one of whom may be a teacher. Your accommodation in Brunei will be very nice and of a relatively luxurious standard, usually with air conditioning and all other modern amenities. There are about 10,000 expatriates in Brunei most of whom live there because the lifestyle is so enjoyable.



#### **BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO BRUNEI:**

Brunei is situated just north-west of Borneo, with the South China Sea at its north and the Malaysian State of Sarawak surrounding all other sides. The climate is hot with high humidity and heavy rainfall. There is no distinct wet season, rainfall occurs throughout the year, but is heaviest between September and January. Temperatures are usually between 24 and 31 degrees Celsius and with the average humidity at 79% this tropical country is a pretty warm and humid place to be!!

This small Islamic country has derived much of its wealth from its precious oil reserves, but any association with the Middle East couldn't be further from the truth. A warm climate encourages an outdoor lifestyle within Brunei and sports such as Sailing, Windsurfing, Scuba Diving and Running are popular. As the majority of the population live across the coastal strip, access to beaches and water sports is relatively easy.

Brunei's location provides an excellent base from which to travel further into the surrounding areas of Sabah and Sarawak, often referred to as the Heart of Borneo. The obvious western influences throughout Brunei make it the perfect mix of East meets West – an excellent destination to visit.



#### **MONEY - COST OF LIVING (at time of writing):**

- Can of coke = B\$1 (34p), Reasonably good Western meal (chops, steak, schnitzel + 2 veg) = B\$ 7 to B\$ 12 depending on place (£2.40 - £4.10)
- Very Good Asian breakfast (roti/tea etc) = B\$ 2 (68p)
- Reasonably good Asian meal (stir fry rice/noodles and meat dish) =B\$ 4 – 6 (£1.36 - £2.05)
- Western breakfast (sausage, eggs, baked beans) = B\$ 3-4 (£1 - £1.40)
- SUGGESTED POCKET MONEY - £150 – £250 per month (more if you are planning on travelling around at weekends)

**CLIMATE:**

The climate is hot with high humidity and heavy rainfall. There is no distinct wet season, rainfall occurs throughout the year, but is heaviest between September and January. Temperatures are constantly between 24 and 31 degrees Celsius and with the average humidity at 79% this tropical country is a pretty warm and sticky place to be!!

**THE NEXT STEP**

If you would like to join us on one of our exciting projects then please fill in either an online application form at our website ([www.travellersworldwide.com](http://www.travellersworldwide.com)) or one that is attached to our brochure. Once you have booked and confirmed your place we will send you detailed pack information regarding your placement and country.

**I do hope you join us and please do call or email if you have any questions at all about this or any of our other projects – 01903 502595 or email [info@travellersworldwide.com](mailto:info@travellersworldwide.com)**

**If you would like to know more about Travellers in general, or about any of our other projects we run in over 18 countries worldwide, please visit our website at [www.travellersworldwide.com](http://www.travellersworldwide.com)**

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