

BRUNEI MALAY

OF BRUNEI

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QUICK FACTS

People Name: Brunei Malay

People Cluster:
Borneo-Kalimantan

Language: Brunei / Malaysian

Primary Religion: Islam

Population: 249,000

PRAYER POINTS

Pray that someday Brunei would bow before the King of kings.

Pray that the leaders of Brunei and their families would see Jesus.

Pray that local believers would have the courage and wisdom to reach out to their Muslim neighbors in love and be salt and light in society.

Pray for people to increase in their love for the Muslims of Brunei and that prayer would be increased throughout the world for them.

Pray for a work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of the Brunei Malay to cause them to hunger after God.

Pray for open doors in the nation for the Word of God to spread.

ABOUT THE PEOPLE

Brunei Malay is the name used to refer to several very closely related and assimilated groups of indigenous people in Brunei. The largest are the Malay and the Kedayan. Several smaller groups, including the Low Malay Creole, Kiput, Kayan, and Southern Bisaya are also a part of the Brunei Malay population.

Although they are ethnically related to the Malay and also share the same Islamic religion, there are many cultural and linguistic differences that make them distinct from the larger Malay populations in nearby Malaysia and Singapore.



The majority of Brunei Malay live in the capital city called the Brunei-Muara District, and also on the coastal strip spread along the sea border of the country. They write in Bahasa Malaysia but they speak in Brunei Malay, which is uniquely different in sound from spoken Malay.

The culture and customs of the various groups are often quite different. For instance, they differ from group to group in the adat (the unwritten village law), which regulates behavior in the individual villages.

As the indigenous people of the land, the Brunei Malay generally enjoy special privileges that are tied to the prosperity of the country (the Islamic Sultanate controls extensive petroleum and natural gas reserves). They are much favored in areas such as government employment and access to the national universities.

They enjoy medical and educational services that are relatively well developed. Revenues from petroleum production largely finance these facilities, which are provided free of charge to the Brunei Malay. The Sultan of Brunei Darussalam also subsidizes their food and housing.

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Under the Malay Islamic Authority of Brunei Darussalam, all Brunei Malay are classified as Muslims at birth, and they are 100% Shafi Sunni Muslims. The Brunei Malay people adhere to traditional Islamic practices and beliefs. It is estimated that Brunei has more mosques per square kilometer than any other country in the world.

Their religion is based on the five pillars of Islamic faith. They affirm there is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet. They are required to pray five times a day, give alms to the poor, fast during the month of Ramadan, and try to make at least one pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

Many of the Brunei Malay groups characterize their entire people group as being Muslim. This classification, however, is more of a cultural distinction than a characterization of individual beliefs. Individual beliefs will often be influenced by tribal religions of their ancestors.



Currently, the Brunei Malay groups are physically well taken care of. Their country is rich in oil and petroleum, and the Sultan is very generous. But material resources can run dry.

BELIEFS

"We dare not go to to bed!... we will sink into the water," states Awang who is a Malay from Kampong Ayer, the historic water village built over the river in the Capital of Brunei. The condition of the old wooden houses and walkways are very poor due to water damage. *"High*

tide coupled with the downpour may mean we will sink into

the water," he continues. Awang hopes, along with all the others who live in the damaged houses on wooden stilts, that the historic water village will be restored. However, there is also a much deeper restoration in Brunei that needs to take place.



WAYS TO HELP

Would you be willing to be among the FIRST to engage these people with the hope of the Gospel? Would you be willing to lead a team? Contact us today to find out more - we need people to visit the Brunei Malay and find other great ways to bring new teams to live among them for the sake of the Kingdom.

CONTACT

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