

Languages of Brunei

[See also [SIL publications](#) on the languages of Brunei.]

State of Brunei Darussalam. Negara Brunei Darussalam. 365,251. National or official languages: English, Malay. Literacy rate: 85% to 95%. Also includes Korean, Nepali, people from South Asia (4,200), others from the Philippines. Information mainly from R. Needham 1954; S. Wurm and S. Hattori 1981; K. Purnama 1991; P. Martin 1991; P. Martin, C. Oxog, and G. Poedjosoedarmo 1996. The number of languages listed for Brunei is 17. Of those, all are living languages.

Living languages

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| Belait | [beg] 700 (1995 Martin). Scattered areas in Belait District, Kampung Kiudang, in Tutong District. <i>Alternate names</i> : Balait Jati, Lemeting, Meting. <i>Dialects</i> : Related to Kiput, Baram, Tinjar. Lexical similarity 54% with Tutong 2. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Berawan-Lower Baram, Lower Baram, Central, A
More information. |
| Bisaya, Brunei | [bsb] 600 (1984 Dunn). East of Tutong 1 and east to the coast, west of Seria, a few villages near the Sarawak border. <i>Alternate names</i> : Bisayah, Bisaya Bukit, Visayak, Bekiau, Lorang Bukit, Basaya, Besaya, Bisaia, Jilama Bawang, Jilama Sungai, Southern Bisaya. <i>Dialects</i> : Lexical similarity 78% to 79% with Sarawak Bisaya, 57% to 59% with Sabah Bisaya, and 50% with other Dusunic languages. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Sabahan, Dusunic, Bisaya, Southern
More information. |
| Brunei | [kxd] 250,000 in Brunei (1984 SIL). Population total all countries: 304,000. Brunei is in the capital, Brunei-Muara District, and the coastal strip. Kedayan is in West Brunei-Muara District and Tutong District. Also spoken in Malaysia (Sabah). <i>Alternate names</i> : Brunei-Kadaian, Orang Bukit. <i>Dialects</i> : Brunei Malay, Kedayan (Kadaian, Kadayan, Kadian, Kadien, Kadyan, Karayan, Kedyan, Kedien. Kerayan), Kampong Ayer. Brunei, Kadayan, and Kampong Ayer have 94% to 95% lexical similarity with each |

	other, 80% to 82% lexical similarity with Standard Malay. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayic, Malayan, Local Malay More information.
Chinese, Hakka	[hak] 5,253 in Brunei (2000 WCD). 44,400 speakers of all Chinese languages (1989). <i>Alternate names:</i> Hakka. <i>Classification:</i> Sino-Tibetan, Chinese More information.
Chinese, Mandarin	[cmn] 9,848 in Brunei (2000 WCD). <i>Classification:</i> Sino-Tibetan, Chinese More information.
Chinese, Min Dong	[cdo] 6,566 in Brunei (2000 WCD). 11.88% of ethnic Chinese. <i>Dialects:</i> Foochow. <i>Classification:</i> Sino-Tibetan, Chinese More information.
Chinese, Min Nan	[nan] 12,147 in Brunei (2000 WCD). <i>Alternate names:</i> Min Nan, Minnan. <i>Dialects:</i> Chaochow (Tiuchiu, Teochow), Hainan, Fujian (Hokkien). <i>Classification:</i> Sino-Tibetan, Chinese More information.
Chinese, Yue	[yue] 5,909 in Brunei (2000 WCD). <i>Alternate names:</i> Yue, Yueh, Cantonese. <i>Classification:</i> Sino-Tibetan, Chinese More information.
English	[eng] 8,000 in Brunei. <i>Classification:</i> Indo-European, Germanic, West, English More information.
Iban	[iba] 15,000 in Brunei (1995 Martin). Rural areas of Belait and Tutong districts, and Temburong District. <i>Alternate names:</i> Sea Dayak. <i>Dialects:</i> Batang Lupar, Bugau. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayic, Malayic-Dayak, Ibanic More information.
Lundayeh	[Ind] 300 in Brunei (1987 Langub). 7 villages in Temburong District. <i>Alternate names:</i> Lun Bawang, Lun Daye, Brunei Murut, Southern Murut, Murut. <i>Dialects:</i> Trusan. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Dayic, Kelabitic More information.
Malay	[mly] <i>Alternate names:</i> Standard Malay. <i>Classification:</i> Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayic, Malayan, Local Malay

[More information.](#)

Melanau	[mel] 200 in Brunei (1995 Martin). Around Kuala Belait town. <i>Alternate names</i> : Milanau, Milano, Belana'u. <i>Dialects</i> : Mukah-Oya (Mukah, Muka, Oya, Oya', Oga). <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Melanau-Kajang, Melanau More information.
Penan, Eastern	[pez] East of the Baram River, Apoh River District. <i>Alternate names</i> : "Punan". <i>Dialects</i> : Penan Apoh. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Punan-Nibong More information.
Penan, Western	[pne] 50 in Brunei (1988 Lian). West of the Baram River. <i>Dialects</i> : Nibong (Nibon, Penan Nibong), Bok Penan (Bok), Penan Silat, Penan Gang (Gang), Penan Lusong (Lusong), Sipeng (Speng), Penan Lanying, Jelalong Penan. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Punan-Nibong More information.
Tutong 1	[ttx] 15,000 in Brunei (1995 Martin). Population total all countries: 25,000. Central and interior Belait and Tutong districts, east of Bisaya, south of Tutong 2. Also spoken in Malaysia (Sarawak). <i>Alternate names</i> : Dusun. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, Sabahan, Dusunic, Bisaya, Southern More information.
Tutong 2	[ttg] 12,000 (1996 Martin, Ozog, and Poedjosoedarmo). Around Tutong town on the coast and central Tutong District. <i>Alternate names</i> : Tutung. <i>Dialects</i> : Lexical similarity 54% with Belait. <i>Classification</i> : Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Northwest, North Sarawakan, Berawan-Lower Baram, Lower Baram, Central, B More information.

This web edition of the Ethnologue contains all the content of the [print edition](#) and may be cited as:

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