

FACT SHEET



OUTPOST
EXPATRIATE SUPPORT NETWORK

Behaviours to be mindful of when in Brunei

March

Dear New Arrivals and Shell visitors to Brunei,

Welcome to Brunei.

This is a general list of the most common behaviors that are unacceptable while residing in Brunei or visiting Brunei. Most of these fall in the "common sense" category. However, several of them can be triggered by misunderstandings or an assumption by the expatriate that they are minor and will not cause a serious reaction. It is important not to underestimate the potential legal consequences resulting from these behaviours. Anyone who gets into legal difficulties in these areas should report them to Legal Team in Brunei Shell Petroleum Sdn Bhd.

Please take some time to review the list and keep in mind that anyone detained or questioned by officials should remain calm, polite and cooperative.

As Islam is the official state religion of Brunei Darussalam, with its political system governed by the constitution and national tradition of the Malay Islamic Monarchy ('Melayu Islam Beraja' or MIB), there are strict rules and behaviors that everyone is expected to adhere to. The role of face, shame and honor is crucial to Bruneians, emphasizing the importance of respect and manners. Homosexuality is not condoned.

Please refrain from:

- ✓ Making disparaging comments about (i) His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; (ii) The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; or (iii) the Royal family of Brunei Darussalam.
- ✓ Making public anti-Islamic/blasphemous statements
- ✓ Gifting religiously inappropriate presents to Muslims (e.g. toy dogs, pigs (or anything made of pigskin), foods that are not 'halal')
- ✓ Failing to cooperate with the police or armed forces
- ✓ Swearing or using obscene gestures in public. Pointing with the index finger is also considered extremely rude in Bruneian culture.
- ✓ Displaying of intimate affection in public (kissing, hugging etc.). When meeting locals of the opposite sex, it is inappropriate to have any physical contact (e.g. a congratulatory pat on the back etc.) and they may not even be comfortable shaking hands (you can nod your head in greeting or wait for them to extend their hand)
- ✓ Wearing clothes that are revealing or not conservative in the office, public and government offices (bare shoulders, low cut blouses, shorts or skirts above the knee etc.) are not acceptable.
- ✓ When entering a Muslim person's home, it is recommended to take off your shoes unless the host allowed you to do so.
- ✓ Possession and/or use of illegal drugs
- ✓ Being intoxicated in public, drinking alcohol in a public place and offering alcohol to a Muslim
- ✓ Drinking and driving
- ✓ Entering someone's private property without formal permission
- ✓ Disseminating false information on social media
- ✓ Proselytizing (i.e. trying to convert Muslims)
- ✓ Failing to inform the Police if a person you sponsor, such as a maid, goes missing.

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If you have any questions or require further information, please contact

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