

## INFORMATION ABOUT SINGAPORE

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### About Singapore

Singapore is a bustling cosmopolitan city populated with high-rise buildings and landscape gardens. Brimming with a harmonious blend of culture, cuisine, arts and architecture, Singapore is a dynamic city that's rich in contrast and color. In fact, you can even say that Singapore embodies the finest of both East and West.

Located in Southeast Asia, Singapore has a land area of about 710 square kilometres, making her one of the smallest countries in the world and the smallest in the region – hence the moniker “The Little Red Dot”. Although small in size, Singapore commands an enormous presence in the world today with its free trade economy and highly efficient workforce. Also, her strategic location in the region has enabled her to become a central sea port along major shipping routes.

### People

At present, Singapore's population stands at about five million people, with English as the main language of instruction, and a mother tongue for each major ethnicity. Coming together as a society and living in harmony, there are four major races – namely the Chinese (majority), Malay, Indian and Eurasian.

The ethnic Chinese form 74.2% of the Singaporean population, with the country's original inhabitants – the Malays, comprising of 13.4%. The Indians make up 9.2%, and Eurasians, Peranakans and others making up a combined 3.2%. Singapore's many races live together in harmony, united by the motto, “Many races, one Singapore”, and it is this ethnic diversity that is one of Singapore's strengths.

Each community offers a different perspective of life in Singapore in terms of culture, religion, food and language.

### Language

The four official languages in Singapore's constitution are English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil. However, in recognition of the status of the Malay people as the indigenous community in Singapore, the national language of the country is Bahasa Melayu, or the Malay Language.

### Transport

Singapore has one of the best mass rapid transit systems in the world and the proposed convention venue is well within its reach. The nearest MRT stations to the conference venue are the Esplanade MRT (CC3) and Promenade MRT (CC4) along the Circle Line. In addition, if you choose to explore Singapore by bus, there is an excellent network of air-conditioned buses. Taxis are also readily available and are charged by metered fare. Please note that various surcharges are applicable, including for rides during peak hours (07:00 – 09:30, 17:00 – 20:00 hrs) and for booking of taxis by phoning the number listed below:

Comfort and CityCab:	6552 1111
TIBS and SMRT:	6555 8888
Premier (Silvercab):	6363 6888

A booking fee is usually charged when hired by telephone

Website: <http://lta.gov.sg>

### Money Matter

The currency used in Singapore is the Singapore dollar (S\$). Money changing services can be found not only at the Singapore Changi Airport but also most shopping centres and hotels around the island. You can also access the automated teller machines (ATMs) located everywhere (even in the most obscure bits) in Singapore, that accept most of the main credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Most banks open from 9.30am to 3.00pm on weekdays and 9.30am to 11.30am on Saturdays.

### Drinking Water

Water in Singapore is safe enough to drink from the tap.

### Medical Facilities

Most hotels have their on-call doctor. In case of emergency, dial 995 for an ambulance. Pharmaceuticals are available at many outlets including supermarkets, department stores, hotels and shopping centres.

### Sight Seeing

You can experience Singapore's rich historical heritage by visiting many of the national monuments, museums and memorials located around the city. On your trip here, remember to take a walk along one of the many heritage trails and enjoy the sights and sounds at various cultural precincts, notably Chinatown, Little India and Kampong Glam or visit the well-known landmarks for a complete Singapore journey.

## Shopping

If you prefer the bright city lights and being amidst the hustle and bustle, then you'll be delighted to know that there are numerous shopping malls, museums, and dining and entertainment hotspots to choose from. Get into the thick of the shopping action at the iconic Orchard Road stretch, or party the night away at the Clarke Quay or Boat Quay areas, both of which offer a myriad selection of nightlife activities.

## Cuisine

It would not be at all surprising if the phrase "eats to your heart's content" originated from New Asia - Singapore. The reason being, in Singapore's multi-racial melting pot, all the various Asian cuisines compete in the battle of the taste buds: Malay, Chinese, Indonesian, Peranakan, Indian, Thai, Japanese and Korean. Adding to this delicious confusion is Singapore's vast array of hawker stalls and restaurants that range from global franchises to gourmet delis to fancy six-star settings. And there are also the seemingly endless food promotions and food tours that run throughout the year, including the Singapore Food Festival in July. Some of the local food includes Chicken Rice, Chilli Crab, Indian/Chinese Rojak, Laksa, Mee Rebus, Nasi Lemak and Roti Prata.

## Weather

Singapore has a tropical climate with relatively uniform temperature all year round. Temperature ranges from a low of 24°C to a high of around 31°C every day, and relative humidity is high. Rainfall usually takes the form of sudden showers and storms, which pass quite quickly, although more prolonged periods of rain can be expected during the monsoon season from November to January.

## Lost Passport/Singapore Immigration Service

Apart from visitors from China and India, most foreigners coming into Singapore do not require visas for entry and may be given up to 30-day social visit passes upon their arrival in Singapore. However, it is best to consult your local consular office for the latest information with regards to coming into Singapore.

If you would like to stay in Singapore for a longer period, you may apply at the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) upon your arrival. However, you should have your valid passports, onward or return tickets, onward facilities (such as visas or entry permits) to your next destination and of course, sufficient funds for your stay in Singapore.

Should you lose your passport while in Singapore, please make a police report immediately, then head to the ICA (right across from the Lavender MRT Station at 10 Kallang Road) to get a temporary visa. Finally, inform your respective embassy so that you can get through immigration when you reach home.

## (No) Smoking

Besides air-conditioned areas such as shopping centres, restaurants, entertainment outlets and cinemas, smoking is also an offence on the SMRT (Singapore Mass Rapid Transit system), public buses, taxis and in lifts. Recently, the smoking ban has also been imposed on public eateries and within a five-metre radius from most building entrances, except for allocated smoking areas that are clearly marked with bright yellow paint. A maximum fine of S\$1,000 may be imposed on first-time offenders.

## Useful Phone Numbers

Police – 999

Ambulance – 995

Fire Brigade – 995

Flight Information – 1800 542 4422

## Useful Links

**The following links and numbers may be useful should you need guidance around the island or emergency help.**

[www.streetdirectory.com](http://www.streetdirectory.com) – Most useful for addresses and phone numbers of your intended locations, and even provides several route options to your destination.

[www.embassiesabroad.com/embassies-in/Singapore](http://www.embassiesabroad.com/embassies-in/Singapore) – Has an extensive list of all the embassies in Singapore.

<http://trust.yoursingapore.com> – Has a comprehensive list of licensed travel agents in Singapore.

<http://guides-online.yoursingapore.com> – Useful list of tour guides in Singapore searchable by languages spoken and area of expertise.

<http://www.onemap.sg> – Find where you want to go and how to get there.

<https://app.stb.gov.sg/asp/int/int.asp> – Singapore Tourism Board Offices Worldwide