



## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SINGAPORE

Singapore is at the crossroads of Asia. It is a vibrant metropolis where close to 3 million Chinese, Malays, Indians and Eurasians live and work side-by-side. This colourful mix of cultures, spiced with Western influences, creates a wonderful blend. The uniqueness of each culture is celebrated here in its own special way. No matter what their ethnic background, each citizen calls themselves a Singaporean.

A traveler's first and last encounter with Singapore usually leaves a good impression. On arrival you are exposed to Singapore's clean, efficient, world-class atmosphere. Within ten minutes of landing one realizes that everything looks new. Yet, the true character of this city is somehow lost in massive shopping malls and high rises, world-record setting fountains, and numerous theme parks. This is the side that most people see: a shopper's paradise, a pleasant business trip, a 'safe' destination for first-time visitors to Asia.

Singapore is however, at its most remarkable in its little alleyways and colourful shops in Chinatown; its incense-filled temples and noisy street operas of Little India. The whole place is a colourful, living, breathing, hum of intriguing activity. Equally fascinating are the lavishly decorated Indian temples and the mosques and textile shops along Arab Street. The old colonial-style buildings in the heart of town impart a charm that the newer structures lack. Each historic district has its own story, its own magic to discover as one walks along their back streets.

Another way to discover Singapore is to sample its many flavours. The Asian passion for food finds new expression here, with restaurants lining almost every street. The influx of foreigners, both tourists and the growing expatriate community, has brought even more international cuisines. New European, Middle Eastern, and even fusion cuisines are now being represented.

The hi-tech, user-friendly Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system makes getting around and doing business simple, safe and convenient.

Singapore has an astonishing mix of old ethnic areas, modern offices and shopping complexes. It has over 70 world-class hotels, 18 lush golf courses, and a host of tourist attractions. From classical symphonies to Chinese operas, jazz to ballet, rock to Hollywood's latest hits, Singapore offers unlimited entertainment. There is so much to do whether you are a sport enthusiast or interested in leisurely activities.



## TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM AIRPORT

Singapore is one of the major aviation hubs in Asia and Changi International Airport is the main airport in Singapore. Changi International Airport is truly one of the world's busiest airports. It serves over 96 airlines that fly to 200 cities around the world. The airport is located 13 miles or 20 kilometers from Singapore city center. From the airport, you can reach the Singapore city center by car, bus, trains, shuttles, and taxis.

### Airport Shuttle Bus

We recommended this, as a convenient and inexpensive way to get to your hotel. Please purchase your tickets from the Ground Transport Desks, at the Arrival Halls of all terminals, which are open 24 hours.

Airport Shuttle Bus is available to most downtown hotels, at S\$9 per adult / S\$6 per child below 12 years of age.

Estimated wait time for Airport Shuttle takes up to 15 minutes during peak hours (6.00am - 9.00am and 5.00pm - 1.00am) and up to 30 minutes during non-peak hours. The journey to the city centre will take approximately 25 minutes under normal traffic conditions.

### Contact Numbers of Ground Transport Desk

Terminal 1 – Tel: (65) 6543 1985

Terminal 2 – Tel: (65) 6546 1646

Terminal 3 – Tel: (65) 6241 3818 (Main booking hotline – available 24 hours)



## Taxis

Taxis are available at the designated taxi zones located outside the arrival halls of all airport terminals.

The estimated cost to go to the city center is between S\$18.00 SGD and S\$38.00 and takes approximately 30 minutes. Please note that there is an additional airport surcharge at the airport.

Like most cities taxis in Singapore are available when the sign on top of the cab is illuminated and can be hailed on the street or in advance. Below are some major taxi companies in Singapore:

Contact numbers for phone booking of Taxis while in Singapore

Comfort or Citycab: Tel: (+65) 6552 1111

Premier Taxis: Tel: (+65) 6363 6888

SMRT: Tel: (+65) 6555 8888

SMART: Tel: (+65) 6485 7777

Transcab: Tel: (+65) 6555 3333

Trains (Mass Rapid Transit MRT)

Airport to City

The Changi Airport MRT Station is located at the basement of Terminals 2 and 3, accessible from the Arrival and Departure Halls through escalators and lifts. To get to the city, passengers need to transfer to the west bound train at Tanah Merah train station. The last train service leaving Changi Airport station which would allow a transfer to the last west bound train at Tanah Merah station is scheduled at 11.18pm.

## City to Airport

To get to the airport, passengers need to transfer to the east bound train at Tanah Merah train station. The first train service arriving at Changi Airport station is scheduled at 5.26am on Mondays to Saturdays and at 5.54am on Sundays and public holidays. For more information on train services, please visit the Singapore Mass Rapid Transit and North East Line websites.

## CLIMATE

Due to Singapore's location, the climate is hot and humid all year round with no distinct seasons. Rain falls almost daily throughout the year; therefore, it is advisable to carry an umbrella at all times for the rain and sun. Linen and lightweight cotton clothing is recommended.

## EATING & DRINKING

Singapore offers the world's buffet at its table of eclectic selection of foods; from Chinese, Malay, Indian, Japanese to Thai, Singapore has a taste for every palette. Hawker centers are a staple in Singapore and are the best place to find the cheapest and popular places to eat.

## ELECTRICITY & ELECTRONICS

The standard voltage in Singapore is 220V/240V, 50 Hz. If you have equipment that runs on a higher voltage, you should not connect it to Singaporean power unless you have the correct transformer (voltage adaptor).

## LANGUAGE

There are four official languages in Singapore they include: Malay, Tamil, Mandarin, and English. However, English is the language that is universally spoken and understood.

'Singlish' is truly unique to Singapore. It is a mash-up of slang words, phrases, and grammar from the major languages in Singapore, including various Chinese dialects.

## SAFETY & SECURITY

Singapore is one of the safest major cities in the world. Violent crimes against tourists are rare. However, petty crime such as pick-pocketing and street theft occurs at the airport, tourist destinations, hotels and on public transport. Remember that as in any other big city, it is important to take responsibility for your personal safety, be familiar with local laws and customs and exercise good judgment.

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance: 995

Fire: 995

Police (Main number for Emergency Services): 999

Singapore General Hospital: 6222 3322

### SHOPPING

Singapore has an abundance of shopping malls and has plenty of places to shop till you drop. Nothing conjures shopping like the infamous Orchard Road in Singapore, which is a shopping Mecca. If you have the urge to shop, start here.

