



If there is one word that best captures Singapore, it is “unique”. A dynamic city rich in contrast and colour, you'll find a harmonious blend of culture, cuisine, arts and architecture. Singapore is like a trail from the past to the future, from exotic ethnic enclave to efficient business centre, from serene gardens to sleek skyscrapers.

Climate

The island is warm and humid all year round, with only slight variations between the average maximum of 31 degrees Celsius and minimum of 23 degrees Celsius. Rain falls throughout the year, with more consistent rain coming during the monsoon season from November to January. Showers are usually sudden and heavy, but also brief and refreshing.

Time Difference

Singapore time is GMT plus eight hours

Currency Exchange / Credit Cards

The unit of currency is the Singapore Dollar (SGD). One US\$ is approximately 1.69 SGD. In every shopping centre, money changers can be found. Many of them not charging fees on foreign money or travellers cheques. Furthermore, a lot of shops accept foreign cash and traveller cheques at lower rates than you'd get from a moneychanger. The Singapore Dollar notes are available in \$2, \$10, \$50, \$100, \$1,000 and \$10,000 denominations. Coins come in 1 cent, 5 cents, 10 cents, 20 cents, 50 cents and \$1 denominations. The use of credit cards is widely accepted.

Food

It's all about eating in Singapore, from affordable hawker kitchens at almost every corner to award winning chefs. With many cultures blending together, the cuisines offered range from Indian, Malay and Thai to various Chinese and local (Peranakan) dishes, all with plenty of vegetarian options. There are no health risks concerning the consumption of Singaporean food even on the street side.

Shopping

Most of the shops are open from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. all days of the week.

Tipping

Tipping is not common in Singapore. It is prohibited at the airport and discouraged at hotels and restaurants since a 10% service charge is already included in the bill. Only when the bill does not include a service charge, a tip should be exercised. Taxi drivers are not tipped either.

Office and Banking Hours

Most offices are open from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. on weekdays and are closed on the weekend. Banks are open from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. on weekdays and some are as well open on Saturdays.

Electricity and Water

Electricity in Singapore is 230 Volts at 50Hz, with adaptors available in hotels and many electrical shops.

Water can generally be consumed without any problems. The water in Singapore contains chlorine. Therefore, it is advisable to consume bottled water which is widely available.

Singapore Trivia

Singapore consists only of one main island and 63 other tiny islands. Most of these islands are uninhabited.

Singapore is among the 20 smallest countries in the world, with a total land area of only 682.7 square kilometres. The USA is about 15,000 times bigger.

The highest natural point in Singapore is Bukit Timah Hill, which is only 164 metres high.