

About Singapore



Climate

25-33 degrees Celsius. Tropical. Cooler months are from November to January.

Drinking Water

Water is clean and safe to drink from the tap.

Driving

Minimum age is 18 years with a valid state/provincial driver's license. An international driver's license is required for visits beyond one month. Cars are right-hand drive; driven on the left-hand side of the road.

Electric Current

Standard voltage is 220-240 volts AC, 50 cycles per second. Most hotels are equipped with transformers for 110-120 volts AC, 60 cycles per second appliances.

Recreation/Sports

Some of the popular recreational activities are: archery, canoeing, cycling, golfing, scuba diving, squash, swimming, tennis, water skiing and wind surfing.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in public buses, elevators, theaters, cinemas, air-conditioned restaurants, shopping centers and government offices.

Tipping

Prohibited at the airport and discouraged at hotels and restaurants that have a 10% service charge.

Travel Season

Singapore's tropical climate offers visitors unlimited opportunities to experience a leisure vacation and the outdoors year-round.

What to Wear

Singapore has a warm and humid climate throughout the year with a daily average temperature range of 24 degrees Celsius to 32 degrees Celsius. Light and summer clothing made from natural fabrics like cotton is best for everyday wear. Casual dress is acceptable for most situations and occasions but some establishments may require a more formal dress code. It is always advisable to check beforehand on dress regulations, if any.

Banking / Money Changing

Banking hours are: Monday to Friday, 10am -3pm; Saturday, 9:30am-1:00pm; Sunday, 9:30am-3pm (some banks in Orchard Road). Travelers' checks/cheques and foreign currencies may be changed at most banks and licensed money changers. Most automated teller machines (ATM) offer the PLUS, STAR or CIRRUS network systems

Communications

Singapore is the center of telecommunications in Southeast Asia with 24-hour telex, international direct dial (IDD) telephone, telegram and facsimile services. Telephone country code is 65.

Credit Cards

American Express, Carte Blanche, Diners Club, Mastercard and Visa are widely accepted.

Language

English, Malay, Mandarin and Tamil are the four official languages. While Malay is the national language, English, as the language of business and administration, is widely spoken and understood.

Office Hours

Business/government offices are usually open Monday to Friday, 9AM-5PM and Saturday, 9AM-1PM.

Time Difference

13 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time; 14 hours ahead of Central and 16 hours ahead of Pacific Standard Time.

Drug Abuse

Drug abuse is viewed seriously in Singapore. Illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is strictly prohibited.

Hotel Phone Services

Most hotels offer in-room international direct dial (IDD) telephone services. However, some hotels may charge a minimal 30 cents successful call transaction surcharge. As there are different IDD service providers in Singapore, rates and access codes are dependent on the service provider used by the hotel. Generally, local calls are charged at 10 cents for every 3 minutes.

Laundry

Same-day laundry service is available in most hotels. Typically, it costs SGD 5 for a laundered shirt, SGD 10 for a dress and SGD 14 for a dry-cleaned suit. Independent dry-cleaners can be found in the Yellow Pages of the Singapore Phone Book.

Medical Facilities

Singapore's medical facilities are among the finest in the world, with well-qualified doctors and dental surgeons.

Pharmaceuticals are available from numerous outlets, including supermarkets, department stores, hotels and shopping centres. Registered pharmacists work from 9 am to 6 pm.

The Traveller's Health and Vaccination Clinic at Tan Tock Seng Hospital provides pre-and-post travel evaluation, advice and treatment of travel-related illnesses as well as vaccination services.

Traveller's Health and Vaccination Clinic
Tan Tock Seng Hospital Medical Centre
Level B2
11 Jalan Tan Tock Seng
Singapore 308433
Tel: (65) 6357 2222
Fax: (65) 6352 5661

Opening hours:
Mon - Fri, 8:00am - 5:30pm
Sat, 8:00am - 12:30pm
Closed on Sun & public holidays.

Internet: http://www.ttsh.gov.sg/patient_public/patient_frame.htm

Most hotels have their own doctor on-call around the clock. Other doctors are listed under Medical Practitioners in the Yellow Pages of the Singapore Phone Book. For an ambulance, dial 995. Visitors could also consult doctors at the following hospitals:

Singapore General Hospital
Outram Road, Singapore 169608
Tel: (65) 6222 3322
Fax: (65) 6224 9221

Mount Elizabeth Hospital
3 Mt. Elizabeth, Singapore 228510
Tel: (65) 6737 2666
Fax: (65) 6734 0518

Mount Alvernia Hospital
820 Thomson Road, Singapore 574623
Tel: (65) 6253 4818
Fax: (65) 6255 6303

Gleneagles Hospital
6A Napier Road, Singapore 258500
Tel: (65) 6473 7222
Fax: (65) 6470 5616

Mobile Phones

There are three mobile phone networks - CDMA, GSM900 and GSM 1800 - and 3 mobile telephone service providers - SingTel, M1 and Starhub. For SingTel, the access code is 001, for M1, the access code is 002 and for Starhub, the access code is 008.

Money Changers

Apart from banks and hotels, money can be changed wherever the sign "Licensed Money Changer" is displayed. Most shopping complexes have a licensed money changer. Visitors are discouraged from changing money with unlicensed money changers.

Safety

Travellers across the world are understandably more concerned about personal safety and security issues today than ever before. The Singapore Tourism Board would like to assure all our visitors that the situation in Singapore remains calm and stable and it is business as usual.

The Singapore Government has and will continue to be vigilant in ensuring that Singapore remains safe. It has stepped up security measures at key installations and other sensitive places. The Government has also made it known that extremism originating from religion or race has no place in Singapore and it will not hesitate to take action against any extremist or terrorist groups or individuals.

The swift and definite actions of the Singapore Internal Security Department over the recent arrests of the 15 terrorists in January 2002 is testimony to this.