

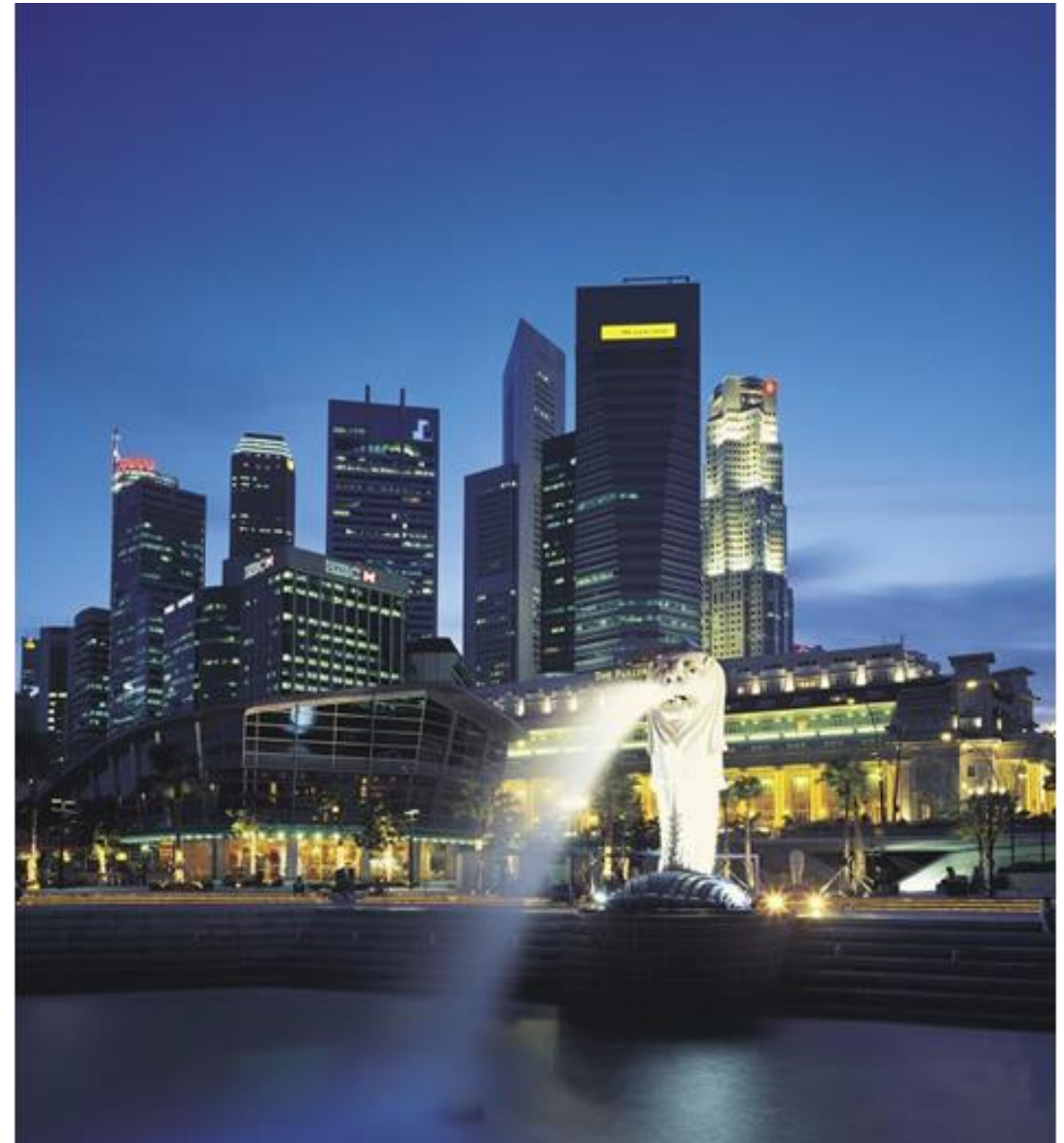


## Welcome to Singapore

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 colour.

Singapore enables travellers to ignite their passions – stories they can call their very own. Undoubtedly, each account will be different, but that is what makes them intriguing and enduring. A multitude of stories told through the eyes of people from all over the world and the local residents themselves. Some intimate, others adventurous.

So we encourage you to take the time to explore and discover what awaits in Singapore. While the Singapore experience is constantly evolving, you can decide how and what you want your Singapore holiday to be.



# A Journey into Singapore's Past

While the earliest known historical records of Singapore are shrouded in time, a third century Chinese account describes it as "Pu-loo-chung", or the "island at the end of a peninsula". Later, the city was known as Temasek ("Sea Town") when the first settlements were established from AD 1298-1299.

## 14th Century

According to legend, Sang Nila Utama, a Prince from Palembang, was out on a hunting trip when he caught sight of an unusual animal. He founded a city where the animal had been spotted, naming it "The Lion City" or Singapura, from the Sanskrit words "simha" (lion) and "pura" (city). The city was then ruled by the five kings of ancient Singapura.

## 19th Century

The next important period in the history of Singapore was when modern Singapore was founded. Singapore was already an up and coming trading post when the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bencoolen, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, landed in Singapore on 29 January 1819. Recognising the immense potential of the Island, he negotiated a treaty with the local rulers and established Singapore as a trading station. Soon, the island's policy of free trade attracted merchants from all over Asia, the Middle East and the US.

## WWII

The peace and prosperity of the country suffered during World War II, Singapore fell under the Japanese invasion on 15 February 1942, remaining occupied for the three and a half years. When the Japanese surrendered in 1945, the island was handed over to the British Military Administration, which remained in power until April 1946, when Singapore became a Crown Colony.

## 1950's & 60's

In 1959, The People's Action Party (PAP) won the country's first general election and Lee Kuan Yew became the first Prime Minister of Singapore. In 1961, a merger was proposed between Singapore, the Federation of Malaya, Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei. Malaysia was formed in 1963 and comprised of the Federation of Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak and North Borneo. However, the merger proved unsuccessful, and two years later on 9 August 1965, Singapore left to become an independent and sovereign democratic nation.

For more information visit [www.visitsingapore.com](http://www.visitsingapore.com).



# Singapore Essentials – Getting Around

The best way for your clients to truly experience all that Singapore has to offer is by combining numerous forms of transport.

## Singapore MRT

Singapore's MRT (train) system is one of the most efficient, clean and user friendly in the world. With numerous options for tickets and lines to most of Singapore's top attractions, shopping centres and eating areas, getting around Singapore has never been so easy.

**1, 2 or 3-day options:** S\$22, S\$29 or S\$34 depending on the option chosen.

All passes can be purchased from a city MRT station or Changi Airport.

**Ez-Link:** Are the stored value card option. Cards can be purchased for S\$10 which gives you S\$5 in value to be topped up at any time.

## BUS

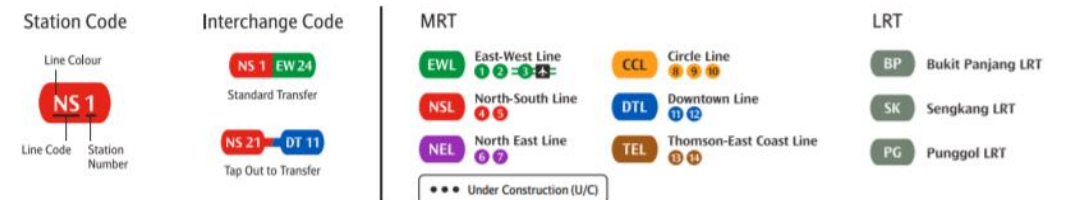
Singapore's bus system has an extensive network of routes covering most places in Singapore and is the most economical way to get around, as well as being one of the most scenic. Most buses in Singapore have air-conditioning - a welcome comfort in a tropical city.

## TAXI & GRAB

You will find taxi ranks at most hotels, shopping centres and attractions with all taxis in Singapore being metered. For payment of a taxi trip, make sure you have cash as many of them will not accept credit cards.

Another transport option in Singapore is **GRAB**. Like UBER, you can pick up a GRAB through booking via the GRAB app when in Singapore. GRAB will get the nearest GRAB driver or taxi to complete your trip with payment being made via your details on the app.

For more details on GRAB visit <https://www.grab.com/sg/>





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## Bumboat



Bumboats have been travelling along the Singapore River for more than a century. From sail powered bumboats of our founding days, to our silent and environmentally friendly versions today, Bumboats have come a long way.

Your clients have the option of taking a scenic and informative river cruise or a river taxi service from many points along the Singapore River including Boat Quay, Clarke Quay and the Raffles Landing Site.

S\$28 for adults and S\$18 for kids (3-12 years).

Visit [www.rivercruise.com.sg](http://www.rivercruise.com.sg)

## Travelling to Sentosa



Singapore Cable Car – Be rewarded with an aerial view of Sentosa including Resorts World Sentosa, Singapore's City skyline and Harbour. S\$28 – S\$45 for adults and S\$20 – S\$35 for kids (4-12yrs).

Sentosa Boardwalk - Travel into Sentosa on foot via the Sentosa Boardwalk. It's a leisurely stroll from VivoCity Shopping Mall, made easy by two-way canopy covered travellers. Entry is free.

Sentosa Express - The Sentosa Express, monorail located at VivoCity, provides easy access to Sentosa and HarbourFront Centre. Prices are from S\$4.

Visit [www.Sentosa.com.sg](http://www.Sentosa.com.sg)

# Singapore Facts

Singapore is a Southeast Asian country located off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula. Singapore is the **world's only island city-state** and consists of **64 islands** in total. The country is situated 1° **north** of the equator, and the land mass is 734 km<sup>2</sup>, making it the **second smallest country in Asia**.

## Weather

- 1 degree north of the equator
- Tropical: Hot and humid all year-round
- Regular tropical showers
- Average daily temp 30 degrees/ Average evening temp 24 degrees
- Most places are air-conditioned including public transport

## Communication

English is widely spoken with majority of signs written in English.

There are 4 official languages in Singapore so most who live there are bi-lingual and speak Mandarin, Malay or Tamil.

Singlish Lah!: Singlish is the local slang in Singapore.

## The Merlion

The name combines “mer” meaning the sea and “lion”. The fish body represent Singapore’s origin as a fishing village and the lion head represents Singapore’s original name *Singapura* meaning Lion City. There’s the original 8.6 metre statue at Merlion Park, another 2 metre cub statue right behind it and a 3 metre statue at Tourism Court and Mount Faber.

## National Flag



## Population

Approx 5.9m



## Cultural Notes

- Western / international cuisine is readily available
- Power Plug, the standard electrical current used is 220-240 volts AC (50 cycles). You can use power plugs with three square prongs here.
- Tipping is not required however if you experience good service, 10% gratuity added to your bill is encouraged.
- Tap water is safe to drink throughout Singapore
- Smoking is not allowed in air-conditioned places such as malls and eateries.
- Casual dress code in most places except;
  - Places of worship – no shoes and no bare shoulders for women
  - Fine Dining – smart casual which includes collared t-shirts, no slippers/thongs or shorts
- Most shops stay open until at least 9pm every night
- The legal drinking age in Singapore is 18 years
- The currency used in Singapore is called the Singapore Dollar and comes in denominations of S\$2, S\$5, S\$10, S\$50, S\$100, S\$500 and S\$1,000. Coins come in 5, 10, 20, 50 cents and S\$1.
- Home to a diverse yet harmonious melting pot of cultures including people of Chinese, Eurasian, Indian, Malay and Peranakan backgrounds.
- Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Taoism and Hinduism are the religions practiced.



# Singapore – Cruise hub of the region

Singapore is blessed with a unique geographical position that makes her a natural hub of South-east Asia.

From cruises that homeport, begin/end in Singapore, or are just passing through, there are many cruise itineraries that partner well with Singapore to make for an unforgettable holiday experience.

Extend your cruise client's destination visit with either a pre- or post-cruise stay (or both!) in Singapore, as the city's compact nature means there are lots to see and do within a short space of time.

Singapore may be small but she actually boasts TWO cruise terminals – **Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore (MBCCS)** and the **Singapore Cruise Centre (SCC)** – so it's imperative that you're across which terminal you will be using.

What many returning visitors love about Singapore is how easy it is to explore as everything's in English, so no two visits will present the same experience, well - unless you want it to, of course!

For [www.visitsingapore.com](http://www.visitsingapore.com) for more information.



# Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore

One of the largest and most uniquely designed cruise terminals, this state-of-the-art terminal was opened in 2012 and is the one most of the big ships use.

It is located within the popular Marina Bay area, next to Singapore's famous iconic Gardens by the Bay, and can berth up to two mega-liners and 6,800 passengers at any one time.

**Distance to Changi Airport:** approx. 30 minutes by taxi (Taxi: S\$23-S\$30)

**Distance to the City:** approx. 10 minutes by taxi (Taxi: S\$8-S\$10)

Closest MRT station: Marina South Pier





# What's close to Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore?



From pictures, the Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore (MBCCS) looks to be sitting easily on the city's doorstep; in reality however, getting to/from the terminal is not that easy, especially if you have large luggage (and more than one piece too!).

Taxis to/from the terminal are only available when a ship is in port, but would be the easiest form of transport for cruise passengers.

Should your clients want to explore the city but remain within visual distance of MBCCS, Marina Bay is home to many of Singapore's most recognisable and iconic attractions: Marina Bay Sands, Gardens by the Bay, the Merlion and Singapore Flyer. All are easily accessible on foot, via the MRT (Singapore's efficient train system), or taxi.

**Marina Bay Sands** – one of the city's key icons, this integrated resort boasts 2,100 luxury hotel rooms, celebrity chef restaurants and of course its spectacular infinity pool (which can only be accessed by in-house guests). However the public can still enjoy a bird's eye view of Singapore from the ticketed observation deck Sands SkyPark Observation Deck.

[www.marinabaysands.com/](http://www.marinabaysands.com/)

**Gardens by the Bay** – spread out over 101 hectares of reclaimed land, the spectacular Gardens is famous for its SuperTrees and the impressive twice nightly sound & light show that is the Garden Rhapsody. Besides being cool respites from the city's heat, the Flower Dome and Cloud Forest conservatories always make perfect selfie backdrops.

[www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/en.html](http://www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/en.html)



**Merlion** – a key symbol of Singapore, the Merlion with its head of a lion to represent Lion City, and the tail of a fish as a reminder of the city's fishing village origins, remains a firm favourite for visitors and locals too!

**Singapore Flyer** – open in 2008, this giant observation wheel has a height of 165 meters with impressive views across the city. [www.singaporeflyer.com](http://www.singaporeflyer.com)

**National Gallery Singapore** – Making waves with its arrival in November 2015, this gallery is famous not only for being housed in two of Singapore's key heritage buildings: City Hall and Supreme Court, but also has the world's largest public display of South-east Asian art. [www.nationalgallery.sg](http://www.nationalgallery.sg)





# Singapore Cruise Centre

Home to 33 International Cruise Lines, Singapore's first cruise terminal – the Singapore Cruise Centre (SCC) – is located south in Singapore's HarbourFront area and welcomes over 1 million cruise passengers per year. [www.singaporecruise.com.sg/](http://www.singaporecruise.com.sg/)

Built in 1991, there has been a few upgrades to its International Passenger Terminal, which has two berths for cruise ships. The SCC also runs a Regional Ferry Terminal that operates services to Indonesia.

**Distance to Changi Airport:** approx. 35 minutes by taxi (Taxi: S\$25-S\$30)

**Distance to the City:** approx. 10 minutes by taxi (Taxi: S\$8-S\$10)

**Closest MRT station:** HarbourFront



# What's close to Singapore Cruise Centre?

More accessible than the MBCCS, the SCC is within walking distance of Singapore's largest shopping mall – VivoCity, and is also a short distance away across the water to the fun island of Sentosa, which has its own novel way of getting there – the Singapore Cable Car.

If unencumbered by luggage, the SCC is easily reached by MRT (Singapore's efficient train system) in addition to taxis.

**Sentosa Island** – popular with locals and visitors with its beaches, tropical landscapes and dining options, Sentosa is home to 17 hotels and spas, nature walks and attractions like Universal Studios Singapore, S.E.A. Aquarium, Skyline Luge Sentosa and more. The island is easily accessible by the Sentosa Express monorail from VivoCity, walking along the boardwalk, a taxi to its hotels, or for a more unique experience, take the Cable Car. [www.sentosa.com.sg/en](http://www.sentosa.com.sg/en)

**VivoCity** – a 7-level shopping mall located above the HarbourFront MRT station, its wide aisles and myriad of shops to explore is a magnet for locals and visitors, especially families with its rooftop water 'SkyPark' for kids. [www.vivocity.com.sg/](http://www.vivocity.com.sg/)

