WANDERHOW'S GUIDE TO SINGAPORE

Written by a Singaporean so that you can travel local, travel better(Updated Jan 2018)

WHAT IS IT ABOUT

Travelling to Singapore? We want you to experience Singapore in the best way possible! Our local experts have published a comprehensive travel guide so that you can skip pass all the overrated touristy spots, overpriced meals and experience the real Singapore.

Lionel Lee
https://medium.com/@lee.lian.de.lionel

Got a question about your trip to Singapore? Get instant replies and recommendations to your queries! Join our growing community on WhatsApp for free!

wanderhow
Travel Local, Travel Better

Wanderhow's Guide to Singapore

General Information about Singapore (Jump to Section)

Scheduling Your Trip

1. Weather
2. Special: Haze
3. Holidays in Singapore
    - Best Time to Visit
4. Currency
    - Denomination
    - Banks in Singapore
    - How to Withdraw Money in Singapore
    - Credit Cards
    - Cash
5. Bookings for Your Trip
    - When to start Booking
    - Flight Booking
    - Accommodation Booking
    - Hotels (Jump to hotel recommendations)
    - Service Apartments
    - Hostel
    - Airbnb
    - Attractions Booking in Advance
    - Restaurant Booking in Advance
    - Car Rental Booking
6. Budgeting Your Trip
    - Meals
    - Transportation
    - Attractions
7. Packing for Singapore
    - Power Plug
    - Clothings
    - Health & Prescription Drugs
    - Vaccination
    - Technology
        - Free Public Wi-Fi
        - Wireless@SG
        - Portable Wi-Fi for Rental
        - Prepaid SIM card

Getting Around in Singapore (Jump to Section)

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Dining in Singapore (Jump to Section)

1. Where to Research
2. Food Delivery Services
3. Food Allergy
4. Dietary Restrictions
5. Upscale Restaurant
6. Cafes
7. Hawker Centres/ Coffee Shops/ Food Courts
8. Bars
9. Bonus: Ordering Coffee & Tea the Local Way

Attractions Recommendation (Jump to Section)

Wanderhow Recommends:

1. Sentosa
    a. Universal Studios Singapore (USS)
    b. Adventure Cove Waterpark
    c. S.E.A. Aquarium
2. Gardens by the Bay (East and South)
3. Singapore Zoological Gardens, River Safari & Night Safari
4. Singapore Botanic Gardens
5. Merlion Park
6. Walking Trails and Heritage Areas

Off the Beaten Path Attractions

1. Marina Barrage
2. Esplanade
3. Wild Wild Wet
4. Singapore Science Centre
5. Pulau Ubin
6. Parks & Natural Reserves
7. Haw Par Villa

Good to Visit

1. Jurong Bird Park
2. Singapore Flyer
3. Casino – Resort World and Marina Bay Sands
4. Orchard Road
5. Clarke Quay

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Additional Information (Jump to Section)

Time zone
Language & Translation
Safety & Security
Drinking Water
Money Changers
General Laws
Drone Photography
Smoking Areas
Taxes & Tipping
Laundry & Dry Cleaning
Singapore Visitors' Centres
Guided Tours
Travellers with Disabilities
Travelling with Kids
Medical Facilities
Essential Phone Numbers
Useful Apps in Singapore
Useful Items in Singapore

Hotel Recommendations (Jump to Section)

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General Information about Singapore

Singapore is one of the few remaining sovereign city-states in the world. It is sometimes also referred to as the "Garden City" or "Lion City". It spans 50 kilometres horizontally, 27 kilometres vertically and has a land area of 719.9 square kilometres. Constant land reclamation since her independence has increased the land area by 23%. Singapore is well known for being a modern City with very low crime rates and very safe for travellers. Also, it is often used as a hub for travellers to explore other parts of Southeast Asia.

Scheduling Your Trip

When scheduling your trip in Singapore, it is important to take note of a few factors that you will affect your experiences in Singapore, for example, weather and public holidays.

1. Weather

Singapore is located near to the Equator, with no natural disaster, this also means that the country does not experience four seasons and climate is stable throughout the year. There is a saying that in Singapore there are only 2 seasons: Raining and Not Raining. There is an average of 178 days of rain per year, resulting in high levels of humidity most of the time. So, it can get uncomfortable for travellers who have yet to experience such climate.

Warmer Periods: March to May. Due to the Inter-Monsoon change, hot Afternoons are common with maximum temperature exceeding 32°C.
Wetter Seasons: Nov to Jan. Due to the Inter-Monsoon change, thunderstorms may occur in the Afternoon and early Evening.

Weather forecast tools:
Weather forecast for next 3 months
Weather forecast (Specific Towns)

Special: Haze

Other than our usual Hot and Rainy weather, travellers should also be warned that during they might experience Haze generated by the burning of plantations around the region when winds are blowing towards Singapore. If

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you encounter haze during your travel, fret not, go over to Watson or Guardian and grab yourself an N-95 mask to keep yourself safe.

2. Holidays in Singapore

- **New Year's Day on 1st January** - Business will be as usual at many places.
- **Chinese New Year** (Based on Chinese calendar, usually Jan - Feb) - During the first 2 days of Chinese New Year, many shops and some attractions might be closed. I would recommend visiting Chinatown to experience the festive mood.
- **Good Friday** - Business will be as usual at many places.
- **Labour Day 1st May** - Business will be as usual at many places.
- **Vesak Day (May)** - Business will be as usual at many places.
- **Hari Raya Puasa** - Business will be as usual at many places.
- **National Day on 9th Aug** - Business will be as usual at many places. Head over to Esplanade area to catch some of our National Day Performance.
- **Hari Raya Haji** - Business will be as usual at many places.
- **Deepavali (Usually in Oct or Nov)** - Business will be as usual at many places. Head over to Little India to experience the festive mood.
- **Christmas Day on 25 December** - Business will be as usual at many places. Head over to Orchard Road to see the Christmas Decorations.

Here's a link to specific dates if you are planning to travel to Singapore in 2018.

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Chinese New Year at Chinatown: Image credits: flickr/ Fabio Achilli

Best Time to Visit

At wanderhow, we recommend travellers to visit Singapore during this period:

Dec Jan Feb: Just before the Inter-Monsoon period, the weather is ideal for exploring and travelling around the island. To avoid the occasional showers during December and January we highly recommended you to schedule your outdoor trips in the morning as the rain usually starts pouring in the afternoon and evening.

Jul Aug Sep: During this period, other than the weather being slightly more ideal, there are also exciting events happening in Singapore like the Great Singapore Sale, Singapore Food Festival and Singapore Grand Prix.

If you encounter a sudden heat wave or thunderstorm, don't worry, just head over to wanderhow and ask for insights from our experienced locals on what type of activities to do.

It is not entirely necessary to plan your trip around Public Holidays in Singapore. When travelling during off-peak seasons, you might be able to chance upon some interesting activities that are happening in town during the weekends or and even avoid the massive crowds.

Again, if this is too much work, just pop by and ask our experienced locals for insights at wanderhow

3. Currency

Denomination

The current series of Singapore Notes come in denominations of $2, $5, $10, $50, $100, $1000, $10000.
The current series of coins in the following denomination: 1 cent (older series), 5 cents, 10 cents, 20 cents, 50 cents, $1. (1 and 5 cents coin might be rejected by retailers.)

Banks in Singapore

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As the 4th largest Financial Centre in the World, Singapore is home to a large number of banks. Travellers should find it relatively easy to find their banks to withdraw cash in Singapore. Check out the banks available in Singapore.

How to Withdraw Money in Singapore

The easiest way to withdraw money is via the Automated Teller Machine that is commonly located at Mass Rapid Transit (Train) Stations and Shopping Centres. It is highly recommended to apply for a Debit VISA/ MasterCard from your Bank and enable it for international withdrawal. Many travellers have also commented that using an ATM to withdraw Singapore notes can potential give you better exchange rate than money changers.

Credit Cards

Credit Cards are readily accepted in most shopping centres in Singapore. However, if you intend to travel to places that are less "touristy" for a more local and authentic experience such as like Cafe-hopping and Kelong Seafood, it is recommended to hold cash of about 100 - 200 SGD per pax. While most taxi would accept Credit Card as a mode of payment, some taxi only accepts cash. Please also take note that if you charge the bill to your Credit Cards there will be an additional surcharge of 10%.

Cash

One of the most frequently asked question asked: How much cash they should they bring to Singapore and is it safe to carry a large amount of cash in Singapore? Singapore is one of the safest countries in the world, so it would be safe for you to even carry your entire holidays spending in cash with you. If you carry a Credit/ Debit Card with intentions of making withdrawals at ATMs, having a minimum of $200 cash (per pax) with you at all times would be sufficient for most travellers.

4. Bookings for your Trip

When to start Booking

Singapore is a country with stable governance, predictable weather with no occurrence of natural disaster. Even if you planned your trips 6 months in advance, you won't have to worry about missing your trips to Singapore.

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If you are planning to travel to Singapore during the peak period and you have a long lead time to plan, you can look out for promotions from various hotel aggregation website to get the best pricing for your hotels. If you are on an ad-hoc trip, you can similarly look out for hotels which have empty rooms and are looking to let them out at a discount.

Flight Booking

There are million and one ways to book the ideal flight to Singapore so I will leave that for you to find for now. As for our airport, Singapore Changi Airport is one of the best in the World and it operates 24/7. Don't worry if you plan to arrive in wee hours, there will be long lines of taxis waiting to send you to your hotel. If you are planning to skip a night of hotel stay, you can opt to have a short rest at Changi Airport and start your itinerary in the morning.

Accommodation Booking

Depending on your travelling style, there are many accommodation options available for you in Singapore:

Hotels

Top-tier hotels usually go for $300+ per night like Marina Bay Sands, W Singapore, and Mandarin Orchard. They are generally located in prime areas of Singapore, which makes it easy for you to travel to different parts of Singapore. However, do note that stays in these areas also mean that you will have to spend more on dining as food in these areas tend to be steeper. (Recommendations: Top Tier Hotels)

Marina Bay Sands Image Library

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Mid-tier hotels are priced from $100 to $300 like Studio M, Wangz and Parkroyal. They can be found in prime/subprime areas of Singapore, and they provide value-for-money accommodation. This selection of hotels includes boutique hotels that offer travellers a unique experience during their stay in Singapore. Perfect for travellers that are not looking to splurge on their accommodation, yet not comprising on the location and the cleanliness of the hotels.
(Recommendations: Mid-tier hotels)

Lower-tier hotels are priced from $40 to $100 like Hotel 81, Fragrance Hotel. They are located all around Singapore and provide basic amenities. Recommended for those on a tight budget.

Serviced Apartment for those seeking longer term stay in Singapore. Prices vary. Do note that most properties require a minimum stay of 7 days. (Recommendations: Service Apartments)

Hostel

There are quite a few hostels located just outside Central of Singapore. These hostels can go for as low as $20 a night. For hostels located in town/ prime areas, you can expect to pay slightly more for the accommodation. Alternatively, you can consider bunking with fellow travellers if you want to spend more on other aspects of your travels.

Airbnb

Airbnb is technically illegal in Singapore, but the government is studying into the possibility of allowing short-term rental. As of today, there are over 8000 listings of Airbnb in Singapore with many of them situated in outskirts of towns. If you are looking for authentic local experience, neighbourhoods are the places to go, like how a local would.

Attractions Booking in Advance

Typically there is no need to book attraction tickets in advance. However, some attractions like Singapore Zoo, River Safari, Night Safari, and Bird Park offer 15% discount if you book online. There are also third parties such as klook.com and myfave.com that offer discounted rates on attractions and

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packages. Do check out if the cost-saving justifies the need for advance purchases of these tickets because most of them are non-refundable.

If you are travelling during monsoon seasons (November to January), I would recommend you to buy tickets only on the actual day itself, especially if you are looking to engage in outdoor activities such as USS / Luge at Sentosa. If it happens to rain on that day and you need recommendations on alternative activities, talk to us.

Booking Restaurants in Advance

If you are a foodie and you are on the hunt for great food in Singapore, I would strongly advise you to make reservations, especially if the restaurants are extremely popular. Wondering which restaurants to visit? You can start off with The 2017 MICHELIN guide Singapore. If you are looking for authentic local delicacies, I would also like to recommend you the MICHELIN for Street Food. For such establishments, they generally do not accept reservations, and waiting time can sometimes be 1.5 hours to 2 hours long.

I strongly believe that the best part about Singapore, a multiracial nation, is that you can get to indulge in a wide variety of food anywhere in the country. If you would like to find out where you can get delicious and authentic local food, talk to us at wanderhow, where our experienced foodies would be delighted to share their insights on good and affordable cuisines in Singapore.

Car Rental Booking

Generally, renting a car is not the best way the travel around Singapore. Being a small country with an extensive transportation network, many places are within reach. It is also not the most cost-effective method of transportation. Here's a quick breakdown of car rental in Singapore:

Daily car rental: SGD60
Cost of petrol: SGD2/litres
ERP: SGD 1-3 / ERP
Parking fees: SGD1 - 8/ hr

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5. Budgeting your Trip

Meals

Depending on the type of experiences that you would like to have for your trip, the cost will vary. If you are planning a trip to visit the "must see" attractions such as Marina Bay District, Orchard Road, etc, meals can be rather costly. A simple meal in Marina Bay District can cost $10 per pax, even more for meals at restaurants. However, if you like to fully immerse yourself and experience our culture, I strongly encourage you to dine at eating local establishments such as hawker centres and local *Zi Char* restaurants where dishes are delicious and affordable.

Don't worry if you have not done your research, or have done your research but don't know what to choose from. You can just pop by wanderhow and ask us where the best food are.

Price of a Meal per pax:

Hawker centre: $5 - $15, Zi Char/ Normal Restaurants: $10 - $30, Upscale/ Fine-Dining Restaurants: >$50

Old Airport Road Hawker Center: Image credits: flickr/AussieAssualt

Transportation

Cost of public transport in Singapore is generally quite affordable. A single public bus ride approximately cost about $2, and public train (MRT) rides cost about $2- $2.50. (Check out here for exact fare calculations)

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The Singapore Tourist Pass is a special value card for all-day unlimited travel on Singapore public buses and trains for the valid duration. Highly recommended if your main mode of transport is via MRT or buses. (1 Day Pass: $10, 2 Day Pass: $16, 3 Day Pass: $20). If your travelling plan consists of a mix of both taxi/ Uber and public transport, we would recommend you to skip day pass.

If you wish to travel around in Taxi/Uber, a single trip would probably cost you on average $10 - $25 depending on both timing and distance travelled. Travelling during peak period would cost 25% more, while journeys during midnight to 6 am will cost you additional 50% surcharge.

Transportation cost per pax (per day):

Only public transport: $5-$15, Public transport with Singapore Tourist Pass: $10 Both taxi and public transport: $15-$30

For more information on getting around Singapore, check out this our post on travelling around Singapore!

Attractions

Most attractions would require entrance fees. A ticket into Universal Studio would set you back about $70+/- for adults and a ticket into the Zoo would set you back about $30+/- for adults.

It is very difficult to pinpoint the exact cost for attractions Singapore because there is always ongoing discount that even locals find it hard to keep track of. If you want to know what are the best deals on attractions, you can head over to wanderhow and ask our local experts.

Attraction cost per pax:

Varies, best to ask local experts at wanderhow.com to get the latest updates

In addition to Accommodation Cost + Cost for Meals + Cost for Transport + Cost for Attractions, you will also have to factor in your Air ticket cost (If not train ticket or ferry ticket cost) when setting a budget for your trip to Singapore.

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6. Packing for Singapore

Power Plug

The power plug used in Singapore is Type G. Standard Voltage is 230V at 50Hz. Adapters are commonly available in most Supermarket, Airport and hardware stores which are located in shopping malls. If your appliances or chargers are rated at 120V, you would need to use a suitable power converter for Singapore power plug.

Image credits: forldstandards.eu/Type G Socket

Clothings

Singapore weather is extremely humid and hot all year round. I personally recommend you to put on T-shirt and berms (T-shirt and jeans for air-conditioned places or raining days) when travelling around, even to the shopping district. Only in circumstances where you are attending events at a posh location, you will then need to put on formal dressing. Slippers and sandals are the preferred footwear for Singaporeans due to our hot weather but having a good pair of covered shoes along will serve you well in all conditions. You might want to bring along an umbrella when travelling outdoors.

During rainy days, indoor shopping malls might get too cold for comfort. Put on a simple cardigan or jacket will do the trick to keep you warm throughout your shopping trip.

Health & Prescription Drugs

In Singapore, we have very strict drug laws. If you have to bring in special Prescription Drugs to Singapore, be sure to check out the official website from Health Science Authority on what is allowed. Otherwise, you can pick up common medication from any of the local drug stores located all around the island, including shopping malls.

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Vaccination

No vaccination is required for your trip to Singapore but anti-insect repellent is highly recommended for going to outdoor areas like the Zoo, Bird Park, and Botanic Garden. After all, we are a tropical country, so there will be mosquitoes buzzing around in places with heavy vegetation.

Technology

Free Public Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi is readily available at most places like Changi Airport and large shopping malls. However, more often than not, you will need to log in as a Guest in their domain.

Wireless@SG

This is a widely available free Wi-Fi service that is available at many locations such as malls, museums, libraries, MRT stations, Changi Airport and Sentosa island. To get connected, register for an account with your foreign mobile number at any Wireless@SG hotspot and you will receive your login details via an SMS message.

Portable Wi-Fi for Rent

At 10 dollars per day, it is possible to rent a portable Wi-Fi router with unlimited data from Changi Airport. This is exceptionally useful if you need to connect multiple device on-the-go, however, the connectivity of each device may decrease when too many devices are connected. I would personally recommend getting one from Changi Recommends if you are a heavy data user.

Prepaid SIM card

The most convenient place to pick up prepaid SIM card would be at the airport or convenient stores like 7-11. Any of the 3 Telcos are good in Singapore with Singtel boasting to have the widest coverage. Depending on the plan, the SIM card should not cost anything more than SGD50.

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Getting Around in Singapore

Check out the various transport options you can take to travel around Singapore.

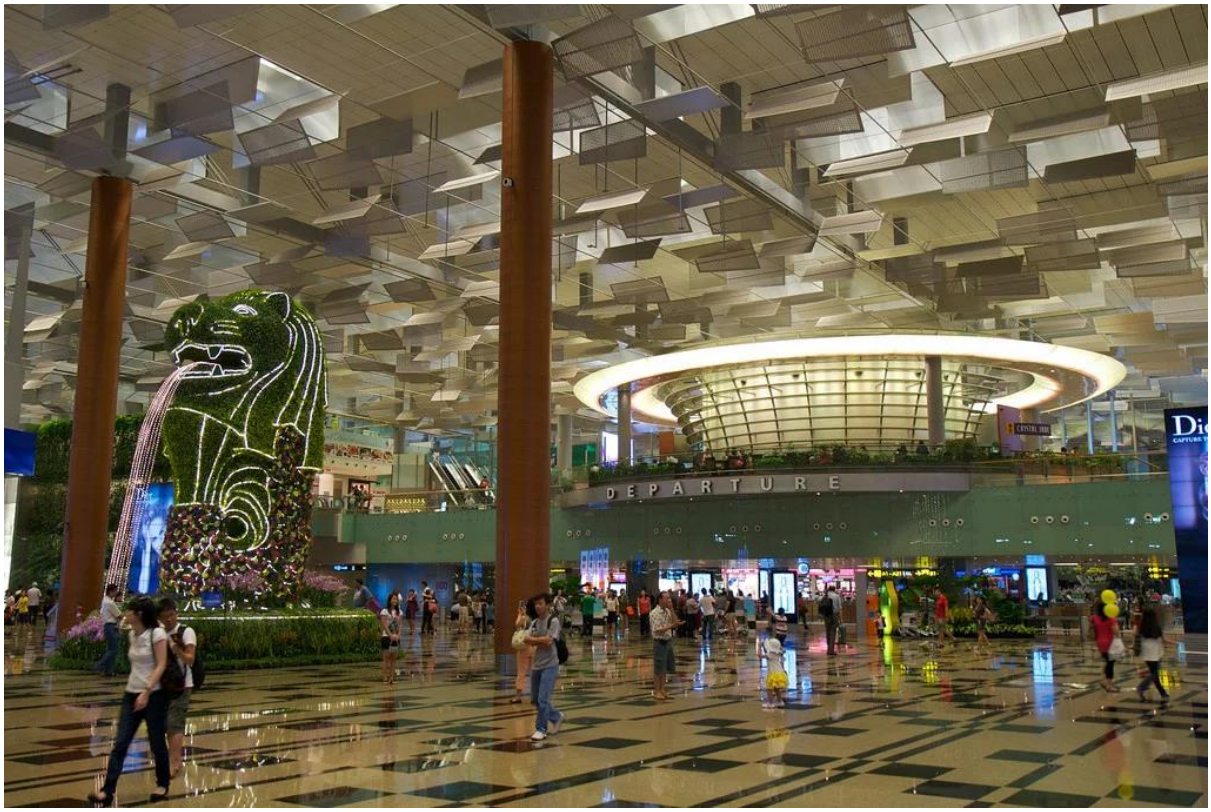

Image Credits: flickr/Nan-Cheng Tsai

1. Arrival in Singapore

Changi Airport

Welcome to Singapore Changi Airport. After alighting the plane, follow the signage and make your way to the immigration counters to clear your entry to Singapore.

Immigration

It should take you no longer than 30 mins to clear the immigration on normal days.

Prohibited Items in Singapore

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In Singapore, carrying prohibited items is a severe offence and the punishments can be very harsh. Do read the list of prohibited items if this is your first time travelling out of your country. Common items such as electronic cigarettes and chewing gums are not allowed into Singapore. (Link here)

Luggage Collection

Follow the display panel with your belt number to collect your luggage. Once you have cleared the immigration, the luggage should be on the belt waiting for collection.

While waiting for your luggage to arrive at the belt, you can proceed to shop at the Duty-Free Shop. If you are not clear about how much Duty-Free quota you have, you can approach any of the staff and they will gladly assist you. For more information, click here. If you are planning to attend parties downtown or want to get a couple of beers and wine to chill in the evening at your accommodation, you might want to get your fix at the Duty-Free Shop. Liquor after tax can be expensive at retails stores in Singapore, so it would be cost effective to stock up your alcohol supply before leaving the airport.

Passport & VISA

To enter Singapore, you need a valid passport with at least six months validity on the date of entry into Singapore. If you are travelling from the following countries, you would need an approved VISA for your period of stay.

2. Travelling from Airport to …

There are many ways to get to your designated accommodation from the airport and I will rank them from the cheapest to the most expensive option. Luckily, touting is an uncommon sight in Singapore, so you can embark on your trip in Singapore with anticipation.

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image credits: flickr/TIB1218R

MRT (Train)

MRT, the only public train service in Singapore, can be easily accessed from most parts of Changi Airport. A train ride from Changi Airport to downtown will take approximately 30 to 45 mins, while a train right to Sentosa would take about an hour. Fare is calculated based on distance, so the further your destination, the higher the fare (usually by a few cents)

In order to take the train (and bus) rides in Singapore, you will have to purchase ez-link card (either tourist pass, regular ez-link card or concession). Based on your mode of transport (link to a quick cost estimate via different mode of transport) throughout your itinerary, you might want to either get the tourist pass or a normal ez-link card (Find out more about ez-link card here, or if you are still confused over which ez-link card to purchase, ask us at wanderhow)

Cost via MRT (Train) per ride per pax:<SGD$3

Public Bus

There are a few buses that leave from Changi Airport to various parts of Singapore. But since you are likely to be travelling with luggage and backpacks, commuting by bus might not be the best option. Also, the journey can take twice as long as compared to MRT. All in all, leaving the airport by public bus (especially with bulky luggage) is not advisable as it is not the most convenient and cost-effective option. Kindly also note that bus fares are also measured based on distance travelled.

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Cost via bus per ride per pax:<SGD$3

If you are carrying heavy baggage or seeking a comfortable ride, you can opt for either of the following options:

City Shuttle

Approach any ground transport concierge at the Arrival Halls of either terminal to arrange personal transport to your hotels/destinations. Pre-booking is not required. Prices are less transparent as they quote fixed prices based on your destination. To prevent yourself from getting overcharged, you might want to compare prices on your Uber or Grab app.

Cost via City Shuttle: ~SGD$9 for adults and ~SGD$6 for children to get to most hotels in Downtown.

Uber/ Grab

For the tech-Savvy, you can consider booking Uber/ Grab from the arrival halls. The private hire car would usually pick you at one of the gates just out of the arrival hall. Do make sure to wait for your Uber/Grab car at the drop-off area. Private cars are not allowed to pick up passengers from the taxi stands. It will usually cost you about SGD$30 to get to a hotel in downtown. Prices may increase significantly during peak hours. Check against prices offered by City Shuttle to get the best deal.

Cost via City Grab/Uber: ~SGD$30 for a single ride to downtown.

Taxis

Taxi stands are easy to spot as they are commonly situated right outside the arrival gates. Depending on the timing, the taxi may cost as much or even more expensive than private hire vehicles. Taxis in Singapore are strictly metered and bargaining is against the laws. Do know that there are different tiers of taxis (limousine and normal taxis) and prices for the same journey can differ significantly. The flag-down fare, distance and waiting time fares are clearly displayed on the window of the back seat. Taxi fares are also subjected to an additional surcharge of 25% - 50% during peak and wee hours (midnight to 6:00 am). Location surcharge applies to city area and

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some tourist destinations, ranging from SGD2 to SGD5. *Do note that there is a surcharge of SGD3/SGD5 from the airport.

For more information on the fares and surcharges, visit this link. You can also check out taxi fares estimates (inclusive of surcharges) using this Taxi Fare Calculator.

Cost via Taxi: ~SGD$25 - 30 for a single ride to downtown. (~1.5 x more for limousines)

Image Credits: flickr/Ian Fuller

4-seater Limousine and 7-seater Large Taxi

If you are travelling in a large group or want to travel in style, approach any ground transport concierge located at various Arrival Halls for your bookings. Pre-booking is not required. Instead of charging based on fare, the concierge offers journeys to your destination at a fixed price instead.

Cost via Limousine/ Large Taxis: *SGD$55 / SGD$60 per ride*

Still unsure of how to get to your hotel? Ask wanderhow.com when you arrive!

3. Getting around Singapore

EZ-Link Card

Ez-link card is a contactless stored value card and it can be used on all public transit: Train, LRT and buses. We highly encourage you to get an ez-link

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card if you are planning to travel via buses or train during your stay in Singapore. Currently, there are 3 types of ez-link cards: Single-use standard tickets, normal ez-link cards, Singapore tourist travel pass. Click on each of the links to find out more.

Quick Summary of the different ez-link card choices:

- Get single-use standard tickets if you are planning to travel via trains 2-3 times throughout the trip.
- Opt for normal ez-link cards if you plan to travel around Singapore via buses, trains and other forms of transport. (Highly recommended)
- Choose the Singapore tourist travel pass if you plan to travel to a lot of attractions, and you are certain that you will not be likely to take any form of private transport.

Purchase only one of the 3 cards.

MRT (Train)

MRT is an affordable and convenient way to travel around Singapore. Stations are located in prominent areas and key attractions and each ride should cost no more than $2.50. If you are travelling on a Singapore Tourist Pass, your rides will be free during the full duration of the pass. Otherwise, you will have to ensure that you have sufficient value in your ez-link card. Don't worry, you can choose to surrender your ez-link card at any of the MRT control stations or bus interchanges and have the remaining value in your card refunded to you.

However, try to avoid travelling via MRT during peak hours i.e. 7.30 am to 9 am and 5 pm to 8 pm (especially on weekdays) due to the following reasons:

1) There will be a huge influx of commuters during these periods as most of the population is heading to work or home.
2) Train delays may occur more frequently during these timings. Otherwise, trains should come by every 3 - 10 minutes on at off-peak periods.

When planning your route, google maps or moovit can come in very handy as they factor in traffic conditions as well. Some of the train stations consist of multiple lines (for e.g. Dhoby Ghaut has Circle line, North-East line and North-

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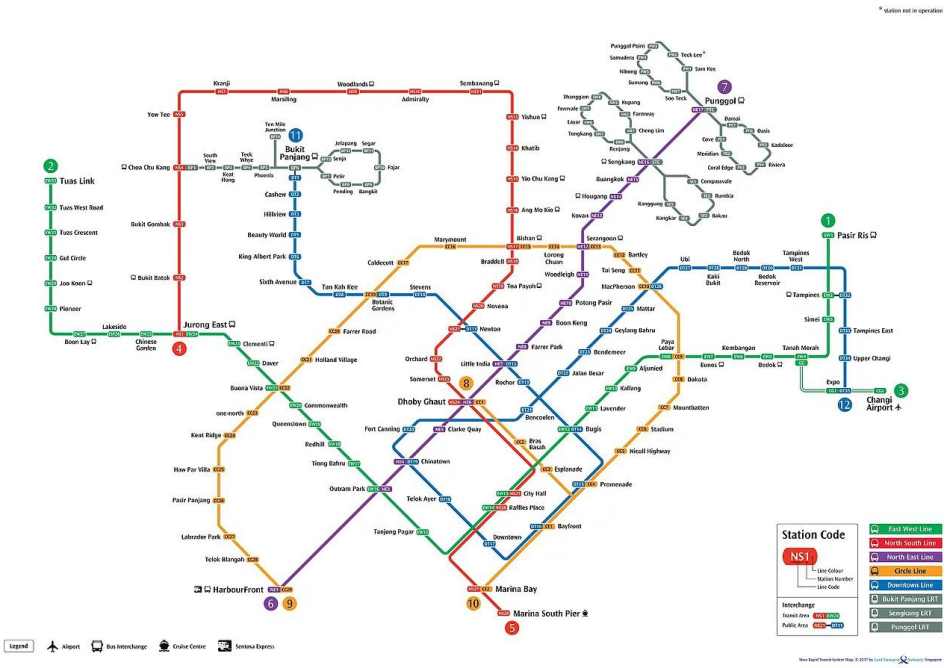
South Line), so it can get confusing for you. When that happens, do approach any of the staff located within the train stations. They will be more than willing to provide assistance!



Credits: https://www.transitlink.com.sg/images/eguide/mrt_sys_map.htm

Public Bus

Public Bus is also a reliable mode of transport in Singapore. However, it can get slightly confusing for travellers to figure out the buses (usually a combination of buses) that would bring you to your destination. Both the train and bus system operates on a unified distance fare, so if you are travelling by train and subsequently transit to a bus, you will be charged by the total distance you travelled rather than the number of rides you took.

When choosing to commute between bus and train, it might be difficult for you to figure out the best route to your destination. If you are still confused after trying to plan your route by yourself, reach out to us at wanderhow.com. Let us know your current location and destination, and we will provide you with timely and relevant information you need to get to your destination!

Taxi

You can easily hail a taxi at any parts of Singapore or wait for one at a taxi stand. While taxis offer the most comfortable and convenient ride around the

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island, it is the priciest mode of transport. Fares can get extremely steep when you factor in the surcharges and traffic conditions. Uber/Grab is a good alternative to taxis but they are not necessarily always cheaper when there are price surges. Also, there different tiers of taxis and different surcharges which can result in significantly higher taxi fares so if you are price sensitive, you might want to switch over to Grab and Uber (Private Hire)

Uber / Grab (Private Hire)

Booking your ride via Uber/ Grab can be much cheaper compared to a Taxi. Sometimes, the difference in prices can be as much as $10 dollars. Do take note that these private hire companies are known to be generous with their weekly discounts/ promo codes, so remember to check if you have received and applied one before booking your ride.

However, if you are planning to take private cars during peak hours, fares can get really expensive due to surge pricing. These price surges can also occur during off-peak periods when there are limited cars in your proximity. A typical ride that cost SGD$20 can spike to $45 during peak periods! So if you are contemplating between private cars or other modes of transport to commute, drop us a text and let us advise you on the best way to get to your destination.

Cycling

With the rise of bike-sharing services, many locals are opting to complete their last mile journeys via share bicycles. Currently, there are multiple bike-sharing companies in Singapore: oBike, Ofo, Mobike and each of their characteristics can be found here.

Cycling is a good option to travel around Singapore as you can weave through streets and uncover hidden gems. However, Singapore's hot and humid tropical climate might make your ride an unpleasant one if you are not prepared to sweat buckets. Do remember to constantly hydrate yourself throughout the journey. I only recommend this option if you are a proficient rider and is willing to travel around with a bit of sweat. Otherwise, take a stroll/bus/taxi/private hire car to complete your last mile journey.

Walking

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Travelling by foot is personally my favourite way of getting around Singapore as I immerse myself in the surroundings and discover all it has to offer. Bus stops are usually situated 300 - 400m apart so if your destination is only 1-2 bus stops away, you can opt to take a stroll to your destination. Stay hydrated and always bring an umbrella to fight off the scorching sun ray or in cases of rain.

Dining in Singapore

Where to Research

Singapore's food culture is built upon fusion of culture from different ethnic groups. From western food joints to authentic Chinese restaurants, Malay delicacies to Indian cuisines, we have a wide variety of food for you to choose from! As one of Asia's biggest culinary destination, it can be difficult for Singaporeans to identify places to dine, let alone travellers. So in this post, I am going to show you how to explore and where to research to satisfy your cravings for the best food in Singapore.

https://www.burpple.com/sg
Guiding you to good food & best restaurants in Singapore
Discover where to eat in Singapore. By locals, for everyone.

I recommend using Burpple as a starting point for you to explore different dining options in Singapore. Burpple is a local startup that aims to be the ultimate food guide in Singapore. The app allows users to search for local delicacies based on location and/or price. Food establishments listed on Burpple are also reviewed by a customer, so you can make better decisions.

While there are also other food blogs such as Sethlui and Miss Tam Chiak, I would still recommend you to stick to Burpple for an effortless way to satisfy your food cravings. Alternatively, you can check with our local expert at wanderhow.com on finding the best food for you.

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Which is better?
The popular Long Beach Black Pepper Crab
or
wanderhow's recommendation's Eng Seng Restaurant Black Pepper Crab?

image credits: flickr/Alfred Lee and Alan Levine

Food Delivery Services

In addition to dining out, several companies in Singapore also offer delivery services: Deliveroo, Foodpanda, HonestBee and UberEats. Their delivery services usually cover food establishments that are within 30 mins of delivery to your location and charges are usually priced at SGD3. So if you have a really busy schedule or you and your fellow travellers are exhausted from the itinerary, I would recommend you to order from either one of food delivery companies and indulge in awesome delicacies straight from your accommodation.

Another advantage is that you get to enjoy street food from different stalls and food establishment all in the comfort of your accommodation. By combining burpple and food delivery services, you should be able to satisfy your gastronomic cravings. Also, if you are a first time user for any of the services, you might be able to use some promo code and offset your expenditure.

Food Allergy

If you are suffering from any food allergies, highlight it to the service crew when ordering the food. If you are unsure of the ingredients used to prepare the dish, simply clarify with the restaurant and the crew will be more than willing to help! My personal experience is that even if the service staff are

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unsure, they would consult the chefs preparing the dish and very often chefs would be willing to make exceptions to cater to individual needs.

Dietary Restrictions

In Singapore, we have three major religious food restrictions: Buddhist, Hindus, and Muslims. Despite the distinct differences in religious practices, it is still a common sight for families to be eating halal food, vegetarian cuisines and non-beef dishes all at the same table (Note, do not share the utensils between halal and non-halal food). The locals respect the differences among the different cultures and religions in Singapore, so it shouldn't be difficult for you to have a great time indulging in authentic local food. If you have specific food restrictions (such as gluten-free meals), you might want to head to burpple for more information.

Image credits: flickr/Tiberiu Ana

Upscale Restaurant

If you wish to celebrate a special occasion in Singapore, Burpple is also a good place for you to explore upscale restaurants. It is highly recommended that you make a reservation and liaise with the service crew for special arrangements to be made, if necessary. Here's a good place to start.

In addition to great food and ambience, most restaurants in this category also provide an awesome view of Singapore. Food establishments such as CÉ LA VI (located at MBS), Stellar At 1-Altitude and Potato Folk provide you with an amazing view of Singapore's city landscape during evenings! So if you are looking for a place to impress your date, be sure to check out these places!

Cafes

For those seeking to go on an Instagram-worthy food trip, or simply looking for a place to chill in the afternoon, why not pop by any of the cafes in Singapore. They are frequented by locals (popular among females, if not couples) and most of the cafes in Singapore boast nice ambiance and great brunch or all day breakfast menus. For those seeking to cafe-hop during your stay in Singapore, you can use this as a starting point to plan.

Image credits: flickr/Jnzl and givesmehell

Hawker Centres / Coffee Shops /Food courts

Last but not least, my personal favourite: the Hawker Centre (or coffee shops). Once built to partly address the problem of unhygienic food preparation by unlicensed street hawkers, Hawker Centres have now become a place for Singaporeans from all walks of life to go to for a wide selection of local food at extremely affordable prices. In 2016, 2 local street vendors were even awarded a Michelin Star for their outstanding culinary skills. Food courts are similar in nature, but they are generally located in shopping malls.

Here's a quick 4 step guide to help you visit hawker centre like a local:

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1. Walk around the hawker centre/ food centre and check out all the available stalls. Take note of those with long queues, it tends to be validation that food from that stall is generally nicer. Shortlist dishes that interest you, and decide if you are having a portion for 1 or to share.

2. Find an empty seat, or share with another if none is available. Sometimes, the tables come with a table number so note it down and proceed to order your food. Quote your table number and your food will be delivered to you. If not, it will be self-service and you will have to carry the food back to your table. If you are dining alone, place a tissue paper, or your less important belongings on the chair and proceed to order your food. Placing your belonging (such as tissue paper, umbrella and bags) would mean that you have reserved that seat. Sounds dangerous? It is actually practised by locals on a day to day basis.

3. Finished your meal? Bring the trays and empty dishes to one of the tray return areas in the hawker centre. Likewise, if you see a table that has not been cleared, you can either reach out to one of the service crews or get them to clear the table, or clean up the table yourself by placing the empty dishes and trays back to the tray return areas.

4. Bonus: Always bring packets of tissue papers along with you! Not just for sanitation purpose, but also a cheap and local way to chop your seats!

Image credits: flickr/Tiberiu Ana

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Unlike restaurants, seats at hawker centres are allocated based on a first come first served basis. If you are travelling in a large group (more than 4 pax) you might want to go to hawker centres slight earlier to get hold of seats. If you are travelling alone, you can approach tables that are not fully occupied and request to share the seats.

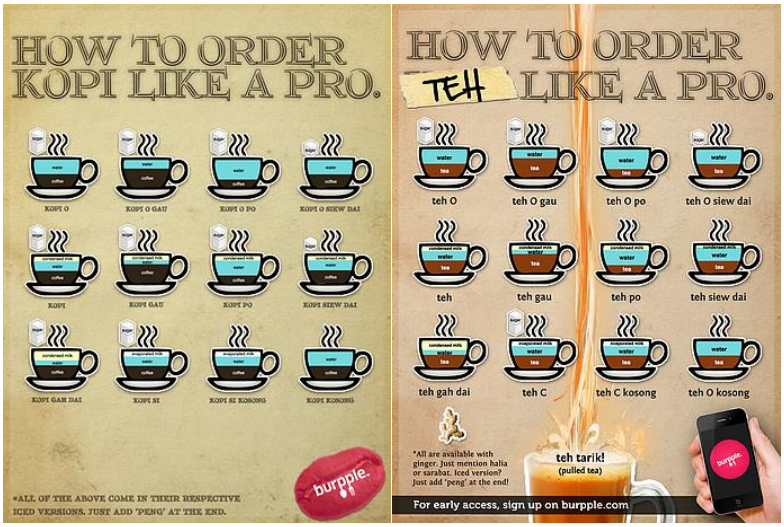
Remember, if you encounter tissue papers/ umbrellas/ water bottles placed on some of the tables, do not be alarmed and do not consume the items! This is our local way of saying that this seat is taken.

Bars

Looking for a place to start your boozy night out? You can head down to either the Central Business District (CBD) area, Orchard Road area, Bugis/ Telok Ayer area or Clarke Quay/Boat Quay/Robertson Quay. (*Check out these guides by Time Out and Sethlui*). But do note that liquor in Singapore can be slightly pricey, so if you might want to consider getting alcohol at Duty-Free shops at Changi Airport to get your "pre-drinks" fix. If you are looking for a place to wind down and relax after a long day of activities, you might want to check out secret/hidden bars in Singapore that boast excellent service and quality drinks.

BONUS: Ordering Coffee and Tea the local way

Are you planning to visit one of our local coffee shops or hawker center? Try to order coffee and tea the local way! Check out the info-graphics below to find out how to order Kopi (Coffee) and Teh (Tea) the local way!



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Attractions Recommendations

There are many resources and materials out on the internet that gives you great overview and descriptions of all the attractions in Singapore. So instead of writing a descriptive post on attractions, I will be recommending you some of the best "must-see" tourist attractions and other off beaten sites that I believe you should consider visiting.

Wanderhow Recommends

These are the "must see" attractions I believe travellers should visit during their stay here. Although these places can be slightly crowded during holiday periods, it is still worthwhile to visit as they are designed for you to have a great time in Singapore.

Image credits: flickr/Brian Evans

1. Sentosa

Sentosa is home to many themed attractions, beaches, hotels and spa, retail and service and other leisure activities facilities. Key attractions include Universal Studios Singapore, Sentosa Golf Club and Resorts World Sentosa, making it a must-go place for all travellers to visit. In addition to visiting the attractions, you can also drop by the beaches to enjoy the sea breeze and enjoy the peaceful evening strolls.

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Suitable for: Families with kids, or any travellers that enjoy fun and exciting activities. Visit other Sentosa attractions while you are in Sentosa.
Suggested Duration: 1 full day

1.1 Universal Studios Singapore (USS)

Located within Resorts World, USS is unique to travellers as it is the first Universal Studios theme park to be built in Southeast Asia. As their flagship theme park in South East Asia, USS has 7 themed zones and offers more than 20 different rides and attraction so you can be sure to find activities that interest you! Visiting USS should take up the whole morning and afternoon so plan a lighter activity afterwards, or opt to return to the hotel if you are travelling with elderly or young children.

Image credits: flickr/Nic

Suitable for: Families with kids, or any travellers that enjoy fun and exciting activities. Do not plan this activity back to back with Adventure Cove Waterpark. It's going to tire you out.
Suggested Duration: 3 to 5 hours

Wanderhow Tips: Try do not visit over a weekend or public holiday. Make sure you are there when the park opens at 10 and go straight to the main rides since the queues are still short. Visit the rest subsequently. At the one hour mark before closing, queues will die down on most of the rides so you

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can head back to take those that you liked the most. Also there is single rider's queue which you can opt for a shorter queuing time.

1.2 Adventure Cove Waterpark

Labelled as one of the top 10 water parks in Asia on TripAdvisor, the Adventure Cove Waterpark holds 14 different rides and attractions to cater to thrill seekers and the risk adverse tourists. I would advise tourist to visit Adventure Cove Waterpark and USS on the different days, or only attend either one of them if you are on a short trip to Singapore.

Image credits: flickr/Haopee G

Suitable for: Families with kids, or any travellers that enjoy fun and exciting and wet activities. Do not plan this activity back to back with USS. It's going to tire you out.
Suggested Duration: 3 to 5 hours

Wanderhow Tips: The dolphin adventure is considered to an overpriced activity for many. In addition to paying for the dolphin adventure (~SGD 100 per pax), you will still need to purchase entrance to the adventure cove. They claim that you get to spend about 1 ~ 1.5 hours with the dolphin, but since you will be sharing the timeslot with 50 other people, you only get to spend 10 minutes in actual fact. On top of that, the premise prohibits camera so you will have to spend an additional 60 dollars per pax to get your

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photographs taken with the dolphins. In short, it's a really expensive attraction.

1.3 S.E.A. Aquarium

S.E.A. Aquarium is a marine life park and it houses one of the world's largest aquarium. This is the number one favourite on my list as I simply love the marine life. There are 49 different habitats you can visit and you can even arrange for an aquarium dining experience after you are done with the attraction. You can also plan your itinerary according to feeding time at the Aquarium.

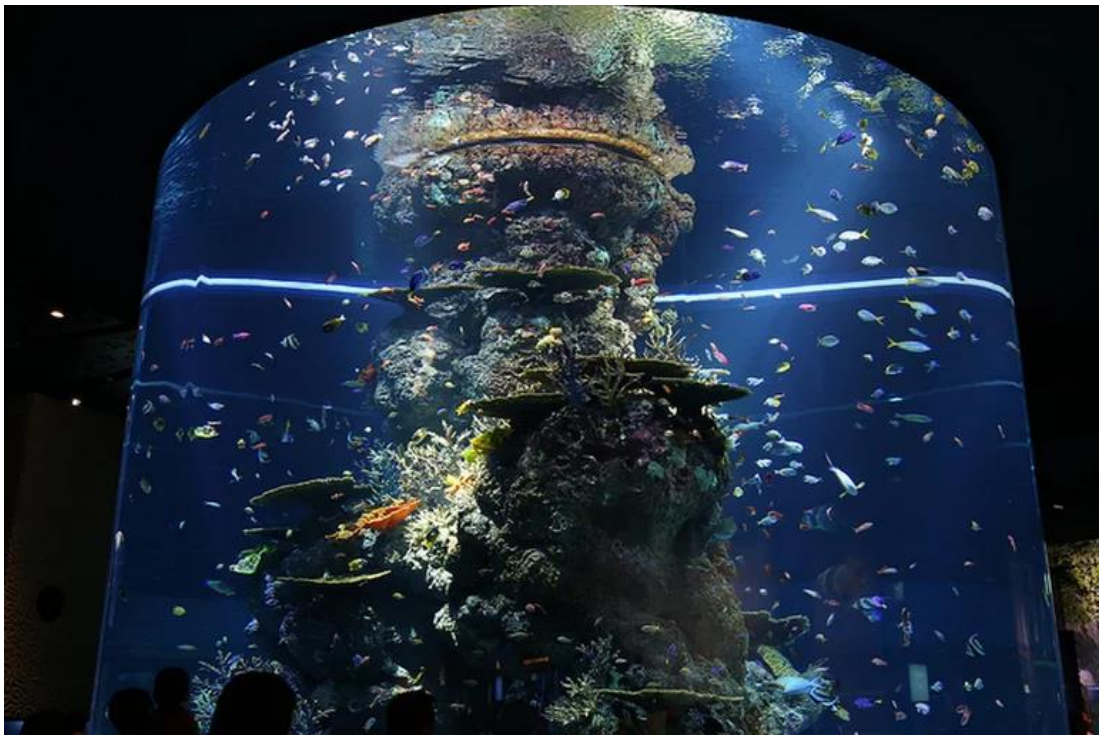

Image Credits: flickr/Carolien Coenen

Suitable for: For all travellers. (My personal favourite)
Suggested Duration: 1 to 2 hours

2. Gardens by the Bay (East and South)

There are 3 waterfront gardens: Bay South Garden, Bay East Garden and Bay Central Garden but I will recommend you to visit the Bay East and Bay South Garden. The Bay East Garden is connected to the Marina Barrage, and it provides visitors with an unobstructed view of Singapore skyline. The Bay

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South Garden is home to the popular attractions, including the Flower Dome, Cloud Forest Dome and Supertree Grove. Best time to visit will be about 4 pm so you can visit the Flower Dome and Cloud Forest Dome, before visiting the SuperTrees Grove in the evening.

Suitable for: For all travellers. A unique experience to find a wide variety of flora species within close proximity.
Suggested Duration: 1-2 hours if visiting Flower and Cloud Forest, additional 1 to 2 hours if visiting SuperTrees Grove.

Image Credits: flickr/Wasin Waeosri

3. Singapore Zoological Gardens, River Safari and Night Safari

If you want to take photographs and watch animals, visit the Singapore Zoo and River Safari (for the pandas!) in the day instead of Singapore Night Safari. The Night Safari operates only from 7.30pm so it will be too dark for you to properly see and take photographs of the animal. Do remember to bring water bottles, sunscreen, hats and sunglasses and some snacks to optimize your zoo experience.

Suitable for: Family with kids, any travellers who like to experience the wild. For the limited mobility and disabled, there are ways to get around the park.
Suggested Duration: 1/2 day

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Image Credits: flickr/ awee_19

4. Singapore Botanic Gardens

It is the world's first tropical botanic garden to be on the UNESCO's World Heritage Site. The garden also organizes events and guided tours regularly so you can enrich yourself while exploring plants and heritage trees.

Image Credits: flickr/edwin.11

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Suitable for: Family with kids, travellers who like the peace and serenity of a garden.
Suggested Duration: 2 hours.

5. Merlion Park

The Merlion Park houses the iconic Merlion and it is a "must-see" for tourist visiting Singapore. Visit the park during 4-5 pm and you will be presented with an amazing shot of the Merlion with a setting sun as the background. Have dinner nearby and return to see the Marina Bay Lightshow later in the evening.

Image Credits: flickr/scottgunn

Suitable for: Group travellers, avid photographers
Suggested Duration: 3 hours (including dinner)

6. Walking Trails and Heritage Areas

Visit and explore hidden gems and cultural destinations in Singapore. From bustling streets to places of worship, historical buildings to modern landscape,

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walking trails in Singapore is one of the best ways to explore and understand the local culture. Click here to find your preferred walking trail.

Image Credits: flickr/travel oriented

Suitable for: Depending on the trail you choose.
Suggested Duration: Depending on the trail you choose.

Off the Beaten Path Attractions

Embark on an off the beaten path adventure in Singapore. Uncover city gems that offer unique experiences to travellers and even the locals. Also, these places tend to be less crowded with visitors.

1. Marina Barrage

Located at the mouth of the Marina channel, the lifestyle attractions allow visitors to participate in water sports at the reservoir, or chill out at the green space located on the rooftop of the barrage. Also, it has a spectacular view of Singapore's city skyline.

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Image Credits: flickr/ Erwin Soo

Suggested Duration: 2 hours (can be warm during afternoons)

2. Esplanade

Love art? Visit the Esplanade. The art centre offers a diverse range of festivals and programme series throughout the year, so check out if there are any performances or activities that appeal to you during your visit to Singapore.

Image Credits: flickr/tuper misc

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Suggested Duration: Depends on performances/ shows.

3. Wild Wild Wet

It is the 2nd largest water theme park in Singapore and it features 13 different rides and play area. The water park is more suitable for families with young children. Also, do note that this is located in the eastern part of Singapore.

Image Credits: wildwildwet Singapore

Suggested Duration: 2-3

4. Science Centre Singapore

The Science Centre specialises in promoting and organization exhibition related to science and technology. One of the highlights is the stargazing session that is open to the public on Friday nights. It is situated in the western part of Singapore, so additional time have to be allocated to travelling.

Suggested Duration: 2-3 hours

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Image Credits: flickr/walter lim

5. Pulau Ubin

Pulau Ubin is an island off eastern Singapore and it is considered to be the last village in Singapore. You can spend the day cycling around the island or explore Pulau Ubin via DIY walking guides or guided tours. Note that only cash is accepted on the island.

Image Credits: flickr/tuper misc

Suggested Duration: 1/2 day

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6. Parks & Natural Reserves

Want to get up close and personal with nature and greenery during your stay in Singapore? Embark on one the many DIY walks and trails curated by NParks and get to better understand why Singapore is also known as the Green City.

Image Credits: flickr/RavenBlack7575

Suggested Duration: 1hr - 1/2 day (Depending on trail)

7. Haw Par Villa

An attraction themed around various Chinese folklore such as 10 Courts of Hell, Journey to the West and Madame White Snakes, with more over 1,000 statues and tableaux on display. This place offers an other-worldly experience within the modern city.

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Image Credits: flickr/Cookiemunster

Suggested Duration: 1-2 hours

Good to visit

These places are generally overrated and I won't bring my overseas friends to these places if they ever visit. But that is just my take. If you feel that there are elements which greatly interest you at these places, feel free to include it in your itinerary.

1. Jurong Bird Park

The facilities are rundown and it is located near the industrial area of Singapore, making it slightly inaccessible for travellers.

Instead: Go to Singapore Zoo where it has enclosures featuring birds and other animals.

2. Singapore Flyer

The flyer promises spectacular views of the city, but it might not be easily realized. Wet weather and blazing sun can deter you from having a great view of the city during the 30 mins ride.

Instead: Find a restaurant located on high floors (e.g. Level 33 or Me@OUE) so you can dine in comfort and get an amazing view of the city for as long as you like.

3. Casino - Resort World and Marina Bay Sands

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Go if you are feeling lucky, or that your intention to Singapore is to visit the casino.

4. Orchard Road

Planning to shop till you drop or visit premium outlets, head to Orchard Road. Otherwise, you will enjoy an equally good shopping experience at malls located at Marina Bay Sands, or other shopping malls located at Marina Bay district or other parts of towns.

5. Clarke Quay

A great area with plenty of bars and drinking places, but food and bar items are generally overpriced. You can always wander through the different sectors and see if there are any places that interest you (specifically clubs), before deciding if you want to head down to other places to chill.

Instead: Robertson Quay, Telok Ayer, Ann Siang/ Club Street, Holland Village.

Resource Page

If none of the attractions interests you, you can head to these websites to check out various activities, programmes, exhibitions and performance that are currently available in Singapore. Otherwise, you can indicate your interest and let wanderhow recommend you.

Time out Singapore
Visit Singapore Facebook Page
National Heritage Board - Roots.sg
National Parks

Wanderhow Recommends:
Sentosa:
http://honeykidsasia.com/what-to-do-in-sentosa-with-children-beaches-activities-restaurants-hotels-staycation/

Universal Studios Singapore:
http://www.rwsentosablog.com/universal-studios-singapore-guide/

S.E.A Aquarium:

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http://seaa.rwsentosablog.com/

Adventure Cove Waterpark:
http://www.rwsentosablog.com/adventure-cove-waterpark-guide/

Gardens by the Bay:
http://www.gardensbythebay.com.sg/en.html
http://cavinteo.blogspot.sg/2013/01/forest-dome-in-daytime-gardens-by-bay.html
http://cavinteo.blogspot.sg/2017/02/cloud-forest-in-2017-gardens-by-bay.html

Singapore Zoological Gardens & River Safari:
http://www.zoo.com.sg/
http://www.riversafari.com.sg/
https://blog.littlelives.com/navigating-the-singapore-zoo-with-kids-331d8764d22f

Botanical Gardens:
https://www.sbg.org.sg/

Merlion Park:
http://www.visitsingapore.com/see-do-singapore/recreation-leisure/viewpoints/merlion-park/

Off the Beaten Path Attractions:

Marina Barrage
https://www.pub.gov.sg/marinabarrage/aboutmarinabarrage
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V8UmYETtJo

Esplanade:
https://www.esplanade.com/

Wild Wild Wet:
https://www.wildwildwet.com/
https://faithjoyhope.blogspot.sg/2017/06/wild-wild-wet-downtown-east-brings-double-happiness.html

Science Centre Singapore:
http://www.science.edu.sg/Pages/SCBNewHome.aspx

Pulau Ubin:
https://www.nparks.gov.sg/gardens-parks-and-nature/parks-and-nature-reserves/pulau-ubin-and-chek-jawa

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Additional Information

What else do travellers need to take note of when travelling to Singapore? What are the things you should bring to make your trip awesome? Here are all the additional travel tips and hacks that will save you time and money!

Time zone

Singapore observes UTC+8. There is no Daylight Saving in Singapore.

Language & Translation

There are four official languages in Singapore: English, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil, and all, if not most Singaporeans are bilingual, i.e. fluent in English and their Mother Tongue. After our independence in 1965, English became the common language of different races but different ethnic groups in Singapore started to infuse English with other phases and grammar. This eventually evolves to a local patois known as Singlish.

Examples of Singlish:

- *Shiok: a term to express admiration or approval. Wa, this chilli crab eat until very shiok! (This chilli crab is really delicious)*
- *Ang Moh: to describe a person from western origins. This ang moh guy damn handsome sia! (This Caucasian man is very good looking)*
- *Blur: slow in understanding. Normally first-time travellers will be blur with Singlish one, don't worry, want to find out more about Singlish, just ask wanderhow lah! (First-time travellers might get confused with Singlish, but don't worry, you can reach out to wanderhow to get them deciphered.)*
- *Different ways of ordering coffee at local food establishments: Auntie, 1 kopi siew dai, one 1 kopi O (Hi there, I would like to have 1 cup of coffee with milk, less sugar and 1 cup of black coffee please.)*

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If you can speak any of our Official Language, getting around Singapore shouldn't be a problem for you. Otherwise, you can use Google Translate to navigate and explore Singapore.

Safety & Security

Singapore has one of the lowest crime rates in the world, making it a safe and secure environment for tourist to travel in. However, with the rise of terrorism, there could be more armed security personnel patrolling key areas. Do not be alarmed when you see them!

Drinking Water

It is perfectly safe to drink from Singapore's tap water without any filtration or boiling. And if you are planning to visit Marina Barrage during your stay in Singapore, you can head to the Sustainable Singapore Gallery to know more about the history of Singapore's water supply.

image credits: flickr/Brian Flanagan

Money Changers

You can find licensed money changers all over Singapore, especially in Shopping Malls. To get prevailing rates, or find the location of money changers, you can check out cashchanger.co for more information.

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General Laws

To foreigners, our Singapore Law might seem too strict, but personally, I think that's what makes Singapore one of the safest and cleanest countries in the world. I have listed down some laws that are relevant to travellers in Singapore and I strongly encourage you not to engage in any of these activities:

- Having a packet of gums is ok but bringing gums into Singapore to sell can get you into trouble.
- Consumption, possession or illicit trafficking of illegal drugs carry extremely harsh punishments of jail, fine, caning or even capital punishment (Death penalty).
- Smoking is prohibited in all air-conditioned areas, public spaces like bus stops, MRT (train) stations, and hawker centre. It is safe to smoke when you see smokers gathering outside buildings.
- Littering and spitting can be severely punished in Singapore. If you get caught for littering or spitting on the streets, you will be served with Corrective Work Order (CWO). Punishments under CWO include sweeping public roads or cleaning up public places.
- It is illegal to eat on MRT (trains) and Buses, and you can be fined if you are caught.
- Vandalism is a serious offence. Here's a case of vandalism by a foreigner during his visit to Singapore.

Drone Photography

For avid photographers, you might want to take aerial shots of various structures and places of interest. In Singapore, the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore has designed an infographic to explain the Dos and Don'ts while flying a drone in Singapore. However, do take note that most parks in Singapore do not allow drones.

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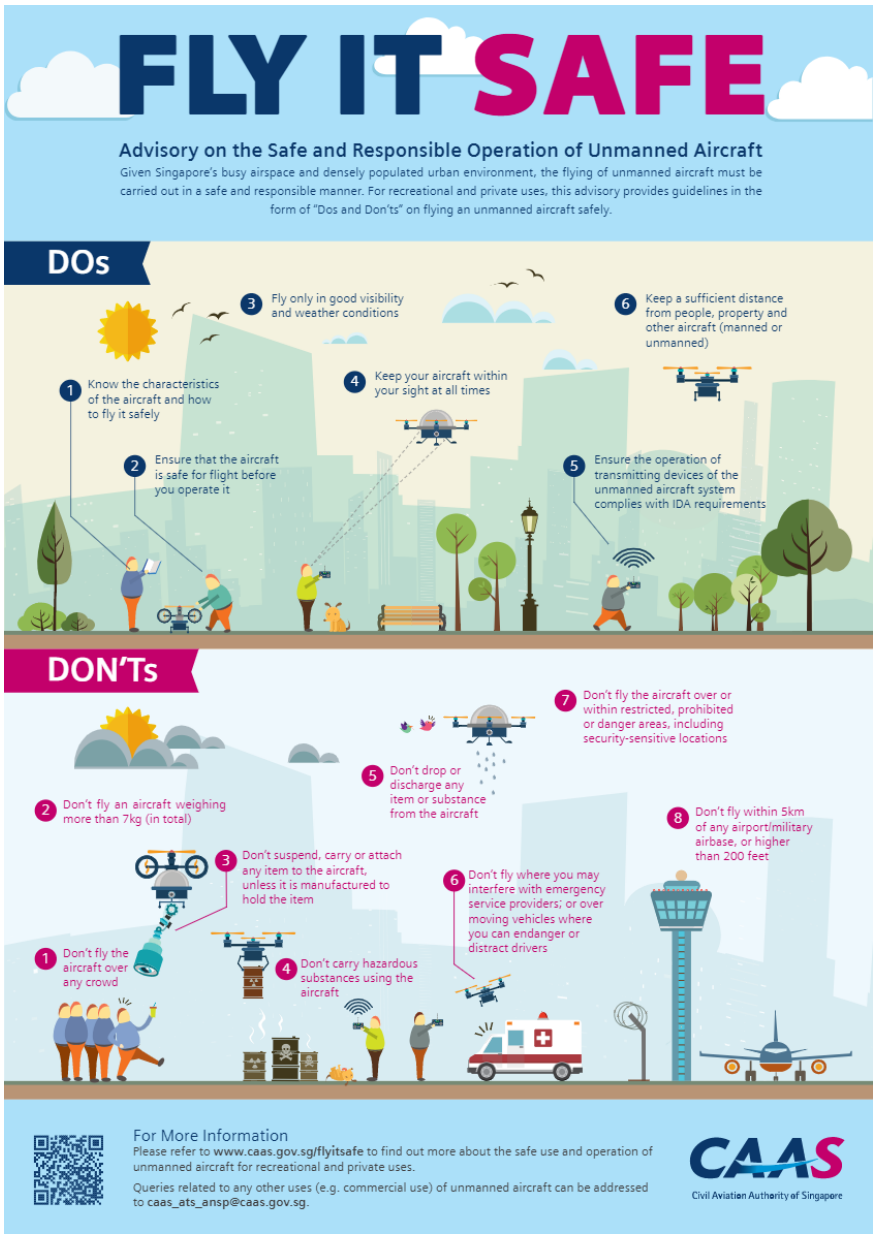

Image credits: CAAS

Smoking Area

This is the super comprehensive list of where smoking is prohibited, and it can be rather confusing for travellers. My best advice is to only smoke at places where others are smoking.

Taxes & Tipping

Good and Service Taxes (GST) is a 7% tax levied on import goods as well as nearly all supplies of goods and services in Singapore. In other countries, GST

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is known as the Value-Added Tax or VAT. GST can be refunded to you at the airport and if you need more information, do check out this link.

Some personal tips to make sure that you get all your GST refunded:

- Keep all your purchase receipts in good order.
- Give yourself 1 hour to process your refund at the airport, you do not want to miss your flight because of refunds.

Service Charge is commonly implemented by businesses in the hospitality and F&B industry for the goods and services provided. The 10% service charge is also subjected to GST as it is part of the price payable for the goods and services provided. When dining in a restaurant, we can calculate the final bill by this formula:

*[Food price * 1.07 (GST) * 1.10 (Service Charge)]*

In order to entice patrons, some F&B outlets might waive off GST and service charge. (Hawker centres and local zi char stalls generally do not charge GST and service charge)

Laundry & Dry Cleaning

Most hotels and hostels provide laundry and dry cleaning services. However, if you want a cheaper option, you can bring your dirty laundry to coin-operated laundry shops which typically takes 1 hour to finish washing and drying. Need help searching for one? I recommend contacting one of the local experts at wanderhow.com to locate the nearest laundry and dry cleaning shop for you.

Singapore Visitors' Centres

Singapore Visitors' Centres are managed by Singapore Tourism Board and it serves as a one-stop solution for tourist to get more information about Singapore, purchase tickets to attractions and tours or pick up a souvenir. Currently, there are 3 centres which are situated in downtown of Singapore, and you happen to be travelling nearby anyone of them, I would recommend you to pop by and have a quick look. If not, you can always talk to local experts at www.wanderhow.com to get more information about Singapore.

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While planning your trip, you can also check out their facebook page to find out more activities Singapore has to offer.

Guided Tours

Sometimes, planning a trip can be time-consuming. For those of you that are willing to spend a few more dollars to better understand various historical buildings and cultural sites in Singapore, I would encourage you to join guided tours in Singapore.

Here are some links to guided tours in Singapore:

- Local Singapore Tours
- Tripadvisor
- Duck Tours and HiPPO Tours
- Garden Parks and Nature walk and Tours by NParks (wanderhow recommends)
- Viator

*image credits: flickr/_paVan_*

In the past, I always felt that joining guide tours was a waste of time and money. I mean, it's not that hard to get information off the internet and understand what the place was all about. However, once I had the chance to attend of the guided tour that covered various historical sites of World War

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II. After completing the tour, I felt that I was able to appreciate the sacrifices our forefathers made in order for Singapore to progress as a nation.

Travellers with disabilities

Over the years, Singapore has designed and built barrier-free access routes and installed lifts in many public areas to improve accessibility among those with disabilities. So travellers with disabilities should be able to travel around Singapore with ease. However, elderly might still find it tiring to travel around as they have to exert more strength under the hot weather.

Travelling with Kids

If you are travelling with kids, it should be no issue for you to venture to different attractions in Singapore. For me, I have one daughter and I find it easy for our family to travel around Singapore via trains and buses, even with a stroller/pram. In addition, Singapore has many kids-friendly and educational attractions such as kidzania and Science Centre Singapore with fun-filled activities for kids to enjoy themselves.

If you have other concerns or need help in planning an awesome trip for your kids in Singapore, pop by wanderhow.com to find out more.

Medical Facilities

Singapore is well known to be a medical hub. It is common to find travellers visiting Singapore specifically to seek medical treatment. Refer to this map for the location of all the hospitals in Singapore.

If anyone is unfortunate to fall sick in Singapore and you do not want to spend too much money on seeing doctors, you can visit any clinic (Polyclinic) in our residential estate. Consultation cost can be as low as $30. Otherwise, you can opt to purchase OTC medications at pharmacies located in shopping malls.

Essential Phone Numbers

To be honest, I am really tempted to list down a super long list of Phone Numbers but I will just go with this. Contact us at wanderhow we will get you all the numbers you need in the shortest possible time.

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Useful Apps in Singapore

- Google Map is very well updated in Singapore and accurate for day to day usage by Travellers. If you are planning to travel around with mobile data, you can download an offline map to ease your journey. Recently a friend also recommended me Moovit, a maps app, which I find it to be equally user-friendly.
- MyTransport is an app to get Singapore transport information, including traffic news, eServices, and guides to public transport services, ERP rates, motoring and cycling.
- Uber and Grab are the 2 largest ride-hailing apps in Singapore.
- Foodpanda, Deliveroo, UberEATS are the main food delivery apps in Singapore
- Burpple is the directory to find all the amazing food in Singapore
- Klook lets you discover and book in-destination travel services at the best prices
- Fave (Previously Groupon) can be used to find the best offers, deals, discounts, coupons & promos in Singapore.

Useful Items in Singapore

Apart from your essential belongings that you carry along every day, I just thought that I should remind travellers to bring these:

- Sun Gear and Swimwear - While we don't have beaches like the Maldives but we do have decent beaches and water theme parks, so get ready for them!
- Umbrella - Always good to have one in your backpack in cases of wet weather, unless you have lived in Singapore for a few years and accurately predict the weather.
- Insect Repellent - Especially if you are visiting places with dense vegetation such as Zoo and River Safari with your children.
- Antiperspirant - Super hot and humid Singapore will make you feel like you are in an oven at times, so stay fresh and clean one of these.
- Comfortable Sandals - For moving around in the most comfortable fashion, and also in case of visiting beaches and water theme parks.

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Hotel Recommendations

One of the most popular questions we receive is hotel recommendations. So we have put together a list of hotels which you can use as reference for your stay in Singapore.

4/5 stars hotel recommendations:

- Amara Hotel: Located in the heart of Central Business District nearby Tanjong Pagar MRT and is a short stroll to the quaint historical Chinatown

- Carlton City Hotel: Located next to Tanjong Pagar MRT. It is a short drive from Chinatown and Raffles Place

- Dorsett Hotel: Easy access from the hotel to Outram or Chinatown MRT to major attractions of Singapore.

- Fairmont Hotel: Located in the heart of the lion city. Ideally situated at the crossroads of Singapore's central business districts, world-class shopping and entertainment, our award-winning hotel is conveniently located above the City Hall Mass Rapid Transit (MRT).

- Goodwood Park Hotel: A heritage hotel in Singapore, situated in a 6-hectare landscaped garden on Scotts Road.

- Jen Orchard Gateway Hotel: The property is centrally located at the shopping belt of Orchard Road where guest will enjoy easy access to shopping, entertainment, and dining destinations within walking distance.

- Holiday Inn Orchard City Centre: Conveniently located minutes away from Somerset and Dhoby Ghaut MRT Stations, as well as the Central Business District and entertainment spots, the hotel is situated along Singapore's premier shopping square.

- Hilton Garden Inn Serangoon: Ideal for business and leisure, the hotel is centrally located in Little India, one of Singapore's most vibrant areas, and close to the Central Business District and all Singapore's must-see destinations. The property is a short 6-minute walk from Little India MRT.

- Marina Mandarin Hotel: Located at Marina Bay Singapore district, the hotel features elegant rooms with dramatic views of the Singapore skyline, a range of dining options and a mineral water pool.

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- Novotel Clarke Quay Hotel: Sitting on top of Liang Court Mall, Novotel Clarke Quay is surrounded by the active nightlife spots at Clarke Quay and just 700 feet from Fort Canning MRT Station. The hotel boasts beautiful views of Marina Bay, Fort Canning Park and the Singapore City skyline.

- One Farrer Hotel and Spa: Conveniently located above Farrer Park MRT Station, One Farrer Hotel & Spa features spacious rooms, suites and villas with free Wi-Fi and local calls.

- Orchard Parade Hotel: Orchard Parade Hotel is situated on Orchard Road where it is close to shopping areas, restaurants and entertainment places. Within 1.5km, there is Ngee Ann City and Singapore Botanic Garden.

- Park Hotel Farrer Park: The building's façade and classic silhouette blend tastefully with the surrounding heritage pre-war shophouses. More than just a place to stay, the hotel also offers a diverse selection of dining options complemented by a club lounge, swimming pool and gym facilities.

- Royal @ Queens Hotel: Strategically located in the heart of the city's dynamic business, cultural and entertainment hubs and just thirty minutes away from the airport. Local area attractions within easy reach from the hotel's doorstep include Orchard Road, Chinatown, and Little India.

- Shangri-La Apartments: The Shangri-La Apartments and Shangri-La Residences are located just five minutes away from the vibrant shopping and entertainment area of Orchard Road, while still being near the tranquillity of Singapore's famed Botanic Gardens. Residents also enjoy privileged access to all the facilities and services of Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore, during their stay.

- Swissotel Merchant Court Hotel: A Singapore luxury hotel ideally located close to Clarke Quay, Boat Quay and Chinatown.

- Swissotel The Stamford Hotel: One of Southeast Asia's tallest hotels, Swissôtel The Stamford is located above City Hall MRT Station

- The Intercontinental Hotel: A luxury hotel in Bugis, minutes from CBD, arts, culture, and shopping scene

- The Forest by Wangz: Singapore leading serviced apartments with the luxury furnished setting of a hotel. Rental and affordable long-term rate for our studio and one bedroom apartment

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- Village Hotel Bugis: Located along Victoria Street, Village Hotel Bugis by Far East Hospitality is a 5-minute walk from Bugis MRT Station and boasts an outdoor pool and a gym

- Village Hotel Albert Court: Conveniently located just minutes away from the bright lights of Little India and the culture-rich Straits Chinese enclave of Bugis, Village Hotel Albert Court effortlessly straddles the best of both worlds.

- York Hotel: Conveniently located next to the main shopping and entertainment belt of Orchard Road. Accessible from both within and outside the Electronic Road Pricing (ERP), via Mt Elizabeth Link and Scotts Road respectively. The subway (MRT) is within walking distance as is all the action, nightlife and shopping malls, great wining and dining spots as well as places of interest.

- 30 Bencoolen Hotel: 30 Bencoolen offers a cool, contemporary ambience in an ideal central location.

Mid-tier hotel recommendations:

- Arcadia Hotel
- Bliss Hotel
- Destination Singapore Beach Road Hotel
- Grand Pacific Hotel
- Hotel Boss
- Hotel Clover
- Hotel Mi
- Hotel Kai
- Ibis Novena Hotel
- Keong Saik Hotel
- Orchid Hotel
- Park 22 Hotel
- Perak Hotel
- Santa Grand Bugis Hotel
- Strand Hotel
- Somerset Bencoolen Hotel
- Victoria Hotel
- YMCA International House
- Arton Boutique Hotel
- Days Hotel Singapore at Zhongshan Park
- Furama Riverfront Hotel
- Hangout @ Mount Emily.
- Hotel Bencoolen
- Hotel Clover 769
- Hotel Mono
- Hotel Grand Central
- Jayleen 1918 Hotel
- NuVe Urbane Hotel
- Parkroyal
- Park View Hotel
- RELC International Hotel
- Sandpiper Hotel
- Summerview Hotel
- V Lavender Hotel
- V Bencoolen Hotel
- YWCA Fort Canning Lodge

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Service Apartments:

- Cayden Residences
- Citadines Mount Sophia
- Far East Plaza Serviced Apartments
- Lanson Place Winsland
- Louis Kienne Serviced Residences
- Pan Pacific Serviced Suites - Orchard
- Parkroyal Serviced Suites - Beach Road
- Somerset Liang Court
- Village Residences Clarke Quay
- Central Square
- Darby Park Executive Suites
- Fraser Place Robertson Walk
- Le Grove
- Orchard Scotts Residences
- Pan Pacific Serviced Suites - Beach Road
- Regency House
- Treetops Executive Residences
- 8 on Claymore

Love what we have written? Give us a like on Facebook!

Have something you want to mention? Reach out to us at wanderhow@outlook.com

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