

ASIA · FOOD · CITY BREAKS · CULTURE · ARCHITECTURE



Singapore

Gardens by the Bay's Supertrees light up after dark in a genuinely futuristic display, while hawker centres serve some of Asia's best food at street-stall prices. Chinese, Malay, Indian and Peranakan Singapore sit a few MRT stops apart, making this small, efficient island an easy stopover or a rewarding long weekend.

i Before you go, read the UK government's travel advice for Singapore and entry requirements (visas, passport validity). Last updated by FCDO 19 March 2026.

CAPITAL Singapore	CURRENCY Singapore dollar (SGD) £1 ≈ SGD 1.71	LANGUAGE English, Mandarin Malay, Tamil	BEST TIME Feb–Apr
DAILY BUDGET £60–£320 £££ Expensive	PLUGS Type G 230V · UK plugs fit	FLIGHT FROM LONDON 13h direct ~£650–£1,200 return	TIME ZONE UTC+8 standard time

Singapore is an island city-state roughly 50 km across, and nearly everything a visitor wants lies within a short MRT ride of Marina Bay. Its character comes from layering: Chinese, Malay, Indian and Peranakan neighbourhoods, colonial buildings around the Padang, and some of the world's most ambitious modern architecture. A first visit of three or four days usually covers Marina Bay and Gardens by the Bay, Chinatown, Little India and Kampong Glam, the Botanic Gardens and an evening at the Night Safari, with Sentosa or the Peranakan shophouses of Katong and Joo Chiat if time allows.

Hotels and alcohol are expensive, but food, transport and many sights are good value: a superb hawker meal costs a few pounds. Everything works, English is the common language and signs are clear, which makes it an easy introduction to Asia and a favourite stopover between Britain and Australia. The heat and humidity are constant, and sudden afternoon storms are common. Many visitors are surprised by how green the island is, with primary rainforest at Bukit Timah, otters in the rivers and canopy walks along the Southern Ridges and around MacRitchie Reservoir.

Top 5 highlights

- 1

NATURE

Gardens by the Bay

Futuristic gardens beside Marina Bay: walk the OCBC Skyway between the Supertrees, see the misty Cloud Forest and the Flower Dome conservatories, and stay for the free Garden Rhapsody light and sound show each evening.
- 2

FOOD

Hawker centres

Singapore's hawker culture is on UNESCO's heritage list: queue for chicken rice at Maxwell Food Centre, explore the upstairs stalls of Chinatown Complex, then try Old Airport Road's local favourites or satay under the stars at Lau Pa Sat.

3

NATURE

Singapore Botanic Gardens

Founded in 1859 and the country's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, the gardens combine a patch of original rainforest, swan lakes and the National Orchid Garden, with more than 1,000 species and 2,000 hybrids on show.

4

CULTURE

Little India and Kampong Glam

Little India's garland stalls, Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple and the 24-hour Mustafa Centre sit a short walk from Kampong Glam, where the golden-domed Sultan Mosque, Arab Street's textile shops and Haji Lane's bars mark the old Malay-Muslim quarter.

5

WILDLIFE

Night Safari and Singapore Zoo

In the Mandai rainforest north of the centre, the open-concept Singapore Zoo is excellent by day, while the Night Safari, the world's first nocturnal zoo, shows leopards, tapirs and fishing cats after dark by tram and on foot.

Biggest cities

LARGEST CITY

Singapore

≈ 6.1 million people

The whole island is effectively one city: stay around the Civic District, Chinatown or Little India for easy MRT access and food, or near Orchard Road for shopping and hotel choice.

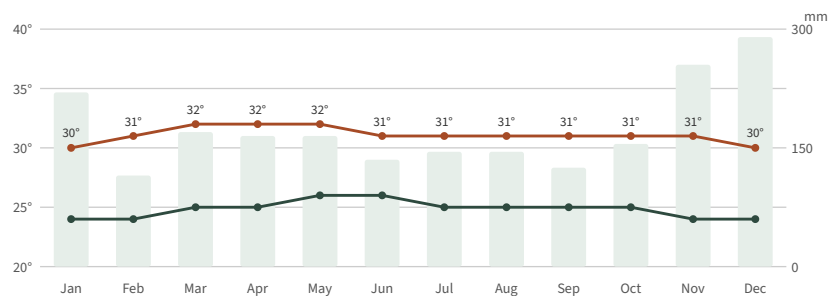
Singapore is a city-state with no separate towns; its main visitor districts are Marina Bay and the Civic District, Chinatown, Little India, Kampong Glam and Orchard Road.

When to go to Singapore

Best time: **Feb–Apr.**

**Average climate in Singapore**

— High °C — Low °C — Rain (mm)



Festivals & events

Jan–Feb	Chinese New Year Chinatown's street light-up and festive bazaar build for weeks, followed by the River Hongbao fair at Marina Bay and the Chingay street parade; some hawker stalls close for a few days.
Sep–Oct	Singapore Grand Prix Formula 1's first night race lights up the Marina Bay street circuit over one weekend each autumn; hotel prices soar, so book early or avoid those dates.
Oct–Nov	Deepavali Little India's Serangoon Road is strung with lights and lined with bazaar stalls for weeks before the Hindu festival of lights, a public holiday in Singapore.

How much does Singapore cost?

SHOESTRING £60 per person / day ≈ SGD 102 hostels, street food, buses	MID-RANGE £150 per person / day ≈ SGD 256 3-star hotels, restaurants, some taxis	COMFORTABLE £320 per person / day ≈ SGD 547 4-star+, guided trips, private transfers
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Estimates per person per day, excluding flights. Prices vary by season and city.

Food to try

Hainanese chicken rice

Poached chicken served at room temperature with rice cooked in chicken stock and fat, plus chilli-garlic sauce, ginger and dark soy; the unofficial national dish.

Chilli crab

Mud crab wok-fried in a thick, sweet and tangy tomato-chilli gravy with ribbons of egg, mopped up with fried mantou buns; best shared at seafood restaurants on the East Coast.

Laksa

Spicy coconut-curry noodle soup with prawns, fishcake and cockles; the Katong version uses noodles cut short so it can be eaten with a spoon alone.

Getting around

The MRT reaches almost everywhere, including Changi Airport, and buses fill the gaps; tap a contactless bank card or phone at the gates instead of buying a ticket. Grab, Gojek and TADA are the main ride-hailing apps, and metered taxis are plentiful. A cable car and the Sentosa Express monorail serve Sentosa, bumboats cross to Pulau Ubin from Changi Point, and ferries sail to Indonesia's Batam and Bintan.

Practical information

PLUGS & VOLTAGE



G

230V — UK plugs fit

DIALLING CODE

+65

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance and fire: **995**

Police: **999**

Source: FCDO “Getting help”

TIME ZONE

UTC+8 (standard time)

TAP WATER

Generally safe to drink

DRIVING

On the left

TIPPING

Not expected. Most sit-down restaurants add a 10% service charge plus 9% GST to the bill, and hawker stalls never expect a tip.

ETIQUETTE

Rules are strictly enforced: no eating or drinking on the MRT, no littering or jaywalking, and no durians on public transport. Remove shoes in temples and homes, and return your tray at hawker centres.

MAIN AIRPORTS

Singapore Changi Airport (SIN), Singapore

Visas & entry for Singapore

Shown for a British passport.

No visa needed

You can visit Singapore without a visa for tourism or business. The Immigration and Checkpoints Authority decides who can enter Singapore and how long they can stay. The period of stay permitted is at the discretion of the immigration officer. It is normally between 30 and 90 days for British citizens.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations



See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Chikungunya

Dengue

Hepatitis B

Japanese encephalitis

Bat Lyssavirus

Tuberculosis

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

A yellow fever certificate is only required if you arrive from (or transit through) a country with yellow fever risk — not if you fly direct from the UK.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Singapore

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Sun 8 Nov 2026

Diwali

Mon 9 Nov 2026

Diwali (observed)

Fri 25 Dec 2026	Christmas Day
Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Sat 6 Feb 2027	Chinese New Year
Sun 7 Feb 2027	Chinese New Year
Mon 8 Feb 2027	Chinese New Year (observed)
Wed 10 Mar 2027	Eid al-Fitr
Fri 26 Mar 2027	Good Friday
Sat 1 May 2027	Labour Day
Mon 17 May 2027	Eid al-Adha
Thu 20 May 2027	Vesak Day
Mon 9 Aug 2027	National Day

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Know before you go

Tap a contactless Visa or Mastercard, or your phone, at MRT gates and on buses; fares are worked out automatically, so most short-stay visitors never need a separate travel card.

At hawker centres, a packet of tissues on a seat means it is taken ('choped'). Find a free table first, order from several stalls, and return your tray afterwards.

Use the air-conditioned underground walkways linking malls and MRT stations around the centre, carry an umbrella for sudden storms, and plan outdoor sightseeing for early morning or evening.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.