



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Singapore - Singapore

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Singapore
- ✓ **Language:** Malay (Mandarin/English/Tamil)
- ✓ **Population:** ± 5,6 mln
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 719,9
- ✓ **Currency:** Singaporean Dollar (SGD)
- ✓ **Country code:** +65
- ✓ **Visa:** Few countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:**
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** DTP / Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / Malaria prevention



History Recap Over 1 Drink

Pre-Singapore times (Malaya): 1400s: Prince Parameswara founds Melaka. 1511: Portuguese capture Melaka: center East-Indian spice trade. 1641: Dutch took over. 1786: British Captain Francis founds Penang. '24: Anglo-Dutch treaty spice trade: Melaka British → Colony of Straits Settlements. Indian/Chinese working immigrants. Protectorates over Malay Sultanates. '95: Federated Malay States. 1942-'45: Japanese occupation. '48: Federation of Malaya (British-ruled Malayan territories). '57: Independent from UK. Rahman Prime Minister (PM). '65: Singapore withdraws from Malaysia. Independent republic, joins UN. '67: Founding member of Asean. '71: Last British forces withdrawn. '90: PM Lee Kuan Yew stands down. Goh Chok Tong new PM. '93: Ong Teng Cheong first directly-elected PM. '97: Silkair airliner crashes (104 deaths). '98: Recession, Asian financial crisis. Malaysia bans Singapore's military and rescue planes from air space. '99: S.R. Nathan president without election (declared only candidate eligible to run / same with 're-election'). 2000: Singapore Airlines airliner crashes in Taipei (81 deaths). '01: Anti-government rally (support veteran opposition leader J.B. Jeyaretnam). '02: Free trade agreement with Japan. '03: Sars outbreak. '04: Lee Hsien Loong PM. '12: Strike Chinese bus drivers. '14: Regulation crypto currencies. '17: Halimah Jacob president.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wet						S/W	Monsoon				N/E	Monsoon
Dry												
Best												

Altitude: 58m. Climate: Tropical Rainforest Climate (Af).

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Sights/Museums:** Marina Bay (you can visit [Marina Bay Sands](#) terrace for free), [Gardens by the Bay](#), [Supertree Grove](#), Kranji War Memorial, Helix Bridge, Sultan Mosque, [Raffles Hotel](#), [Changi Museum](#), [Buddha Tooth Relic Temple](#), [National Gallery](#), [National Museum](#), [ION Sky](#), Merlion, [Philatelic Museum](#), [Air Force Museum](#)
- ☺ **Neighbourhoods:** Kampong Glam, Little India, China Town, Emerald Hill, Katong, Holland Village.
- ☺ **Spectra** water/light show @ Marina Bay (8/9/10PM)
- ☺ **Nature:** [MacRitchie Reservoir](#), [Southern Ridges](#), [Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve](#), [Bukit Timah Reserve](#).

\$€¥

- 👉 **Sights:** [Cloud Forest](#) (fake waterfall), [National Orchid Garden](#), [Singapore Botanic Gardens](#), [Flower Dome](#),
- 👉 **Museums:** [The Intan](#), [Chinatown Heritage Center](#), [Peranakan Museum](#), [Asian Civilizations Museum](#), [ArtScience Museum](#), [Singapore Art Museum](#),
- 👉 **Theme parks/Entertainment:** [Singapore Flyer](#), [Singapore Cable Car](#), [Science Centre](#), [G-Max Reverse Bungy](#), [Wild Wild Wet](#), [Universal Studios](#), [Legoland](#), [Adventure Cove Waterpark](#), [Haw Par Villa](#).

Full list [here](#).

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Sheng Siong, Giant, FairPrice, Cold Storage.

⌘ **Markets:** Chinatown Street Market, PasarBella Farmers Market

⌘ **Local food:** Roti Canai / Prata (*Indian*), Mee Goreng / Rebus / Siam / Goreng (*noodles*), Bak Kut Teh (*pork ribs broth*), Durian, Bee Hoon (*rice noodles*), Nasi Lemak (*coconut rice*), Satay (*skewers*), Crab, Sambal Stingray, Gong Gong (*steamed conch shells*), Sambal Kangkong (*sweet potato leaves*), Kaya Toast (*coco jam*), Dim Sum, Laksa (*curry soup*), Bak Chor Mee (*meat noodles*), Oyster Omelet, Biryani (*meat rice*), Char Kway Teow (*rice cake strips*), Popiah (*spring rolls*), Rojak (*fruit*), Ice Kacang (*dessert*), Tao Suan (*dessert*), Bandung (*dessert*), Chwee Kway (*water rice cake*), Fried Carrot Cake.

⌘ **Go vegan:** Singapore had a very strong vegan scene, but nothing comes cheap in this country. Food stalls will give you the cheapest deal. An overview of vegan restaurants and food stalls can be found at [Happy Cow - Singapore](#).

Mama Said

☠ Singapore is generally safe, but not as safe as nationalists believe it to be. Pickpocketing and petty crime is still an issue. When buying electronics at Sim Lim Square, be aware of money scams.

☠ Boycott zoos like Singapore Zoo, River Safari and Jurong Bird Park.

☠ Tap water is not drinkable.

☠ Only cash out inside of banks, not on street ATMs. Currency is best exchanged in Little India or China Town due to favourable exchange rates.

☠ When shopping, bring your passport and save receipts to get a tax refund for over \$100 at the airport.

☠ If you hold an African passport or have a dark skin color, expect to face severe racism at the border. Singaporeans mistrust every person that isn't Asian or white and are quite proud of this attitude somehow.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Accommodation is ridiculously expensive in Singapore and you pay a lot for very low quality. Be ready to pay \$100 for a room without windows. [Air BnB](#) gives more for the same money here.

❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Festivals

☼ Chinese New Year: Feb-Mar.

☼ Singapore International Festival of Arts: Apr-May.

☼ Independence Day: 9-Aug.

Nights Best Spent

◆ **Nightlife areas:** Center, Clarke Quay, Haji Lane. Wednesday ladies night (*free entrance/drinks*). Check [this link](#) for club advice.

◆ **Theatre:** [Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay](#), Mastercard Theatres.

Free-Riding?

■ Singapore has a rather compact city center, but it's really too hot and humid to walk long distances.

■ Singapore has a bike share system called [Obike](#).

■ Public transport is fast and easy, especially the metro / train (*MRT*) that operates according to a clear schedule. Only use the bus when you know at which stop to disembark, as it's not indicated. Single tickets can be bought. The bus terminal is located at several locations, the most central one being the Harbour Front (*1 Maritime Square*).

■ Taxis are extremely expensive in Singapore. Uber is widely available and even cheaper is the local version: Grab. Still, be ready to pay more than anywhere else in South-East Asia.

■ Airport: Changi International Airport (SIN).

■ Hitch-hiking is quite uncommon in Singapore, and unless you're Chinese or white, people generally don't like foreigners here. Sad but true.

Next?

→ In Singapore: Pulau Ubin, Sentosa Island.

→ International destinations close by: Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, India, Vietnam, Cambodia.