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## SINGAPORE - COUNTRY FACT SHEET

### ➤ GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Climate &amp; Weather</b>	Hot and humid	<b>Time Zone</b>	GMT +8
<b>Language</b>	English Mandarin Tamil Malay.	<b>Currency</b>	SGD
<b>Religion</b>	Buddhism Christianity Hinduism Islam Taoism.	<b>International Dialing Code</b>	+65
<b>Population</b>	5.54 million (as at June 2015)	<b>Internet Domain</b>	sg
<b>Political System</b>	Democratic	<b>Emergency Numbers</b>	999 - Police 995 - Fire / Ambulance
<b>Electricity</b>	240 volts.	<b>Capital City</b>	Singapore
<b>What documents required to open a local Bank Account? Can this be done prior to arrival?</b>	1. Employment Pass. 2. Proof of residential address. 3. Initial deposit amount - differs from bank to bank.	<b>Please confirm how salaries are paid? (eg monthly directly into a Bank Account)</b>	Monthly directly into the employee's account.



## ➤ GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Culture/Business Culture</b>	Singaporeans are generally open and cosmopolitan in their outlook. They are not likely to take offence if you commit a social faux pas, especially when they understand that you come from a different culture. The general advice would be to do as 'the Romans when in Rome' and be courteous at all times. As a general rule avoid discussions about topics like religion, racial issues and politics.
<b>Health care/medical treatment</b>	World class healthcare system. There are 26 hospitals in Singapore (as at June 2015), of which 16 are government hospitals. Most clinics and surgeries can dispense drugs and most drugs are available in Singapore.
<b>Education</b>	More than 30 international schools in Singapore offering different curriculums. Assignees are advised to put in the application as soon as possible in order to get a place as the waitlist can be quite long.
<b>Utilities</b>	A deposit is required to set up and you normally require the following documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a completed application form with your signature</li> <li>• a copy of your ID card or work/residence permit</li> <li>• a copy of your tenancy agreement or proof of ownership.</li> </ul>
<b>Food &amp; Drink</b>	Singapore has a lot of options for food. You can choose to eat cheaply at our food courts/hawkers centres or pay more for a meal in a restaurant with the costs determined by the quality.  Alcohol is relatively expensive in Singapore.
<b>Leisure/Entertainment/Sport</b>	We have a whole range of activities for families and the individuals in Singapore including the various parks, concerts, sporting facilities.
<b>Security</b>	Singapore is generally safe (no unsafe neighbourhoods) but residents are advised to exercise due caution and care when they are moving around in Singapore.
<b>Driving</b>	Right hand drive on left side of the road, mandatory fastening of seat belts, avoid driving in bus lanes during certain hours and using of mobile phones, and other local traffic regulations.  You are allowed to drive on your valid home licence for 1 year (the licence must be in English or an International Driving Licence).  Have to apply for the Singapore Driving Licence within first year of arrival.



## ➤ GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Public Transport</b>	<p>Buses and MRT (subway) fares are distance based and it is very inexpensive. The fares range between SGD 0.65 to SGD 3.00 per trip. It is more expensive if you pay by cash.</p> <p>Most residents will have a EZ-Link which is a stored value smartcard for use on buses and MRT and the fares will be cheaper.</p>
<b>Taking Pets</b>	<p>Must check that the breed of the dog or cat is allowed in Singapore and if they are allowed to stay at the intended residence in Singapore.</p> <p>To check on the rabies category for the dogs and cats and arrange for the necessary vaccination.</p> <p>Reserve a space at the quarantine, obtain a dog licence and inform the Veterinary authorities of the pet's arrival date and time at least 5 days in advance.</p>
<b>Expat Groups</b>	<p>There is a large expat group in Singapore, with around 1.63 million non-residents in Singapore including dependents, students and working professionals.</p>
<p><b>Cost of Living</b></p> <p><b>How much is 1 litre milk:</b></p> <p><b>A loaf of bread:</b></p> <p><b>1 litre of petrol:</b></p>	<p>Cost of living will depend on one's lifestyle which can be costly or inexpensive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Around SGD 2.50 - SGD 3.20 (depending on the brand)</li> <li>- Between SGD 2.00 - SGD 3.20 per loaf (depending on the type of bread)</li> <li>- Around SGD 2.00 per litre</li> </ul>



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➤ **HOUSING AND TENANCY INFORMATION**

Do expats tend to live in specific areas/ compounds or standalone properties throughout the city?	Expatriates live in different areas and different types of properties.
How long does it take between finding and securing a property?	2 to 4 weeks comfortably.
How many days face to face home search package without any unforeseen problems are required for	<b>Single</b> 2 days <b>Couple</b> 3 days <b>Family</b> 4 days
Please advise availability of Furnished and Unfurnished properties and please advise what is normally included in Furnished and Unfurnished (eg. Carpets, curtains etc)	Partially furnished is most common. All white goods (appliances) are provided by landlord. Light fixtures, window dressings, airconditioning.
What is the length of a normal tenancy agreement?	24 months.
When are rental payments due?	Monthly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Yearly <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Explain when other:
What is normally the term to give notice?	2 month notice is required only if diplomatic clause is allowed.
What are usually the tenancy renewal terms?	1 year option to extend or renew to 2 years lease.
What break clauses are generally available e.g. business/diplomatic, and what time scale can notice be given eg. 2 months after 6 months	Diplomatic clause in the event of early repatriation, after serving 12 months and giving 2 months notice.
Is a deposit paid and how much will this be? Who holds the deposit and how is this protected?	2 month rent as security deposit. Landlord holds the deposit. It is not protected.
In what name can the tenancy agreement go? Eg. Individual, company	Individual and Corporate accepted.
When a property has been found - does a holding deposit has to be paid and how much? Will this secure the property	1 month rent as holding deposit.



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## ➤ HOUSING AND TENANCY INFORMATION

What information does a tenant or occupier need to provide before being able to secure the property eg. References, employer's reference, ID copies	Copy of Employment Pass and passport.
Can properties be taken and rent paid at any time of the month or only on the 1st of the month?	Any time but some landlords may prefer 1st of month.
Are rents paid in currency of the country	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Is short term accommodation available?	Only 1 year and above. Otherwise we recommend serviced apartment
During tenancy who normally manages the property?	Realtors or Relocation Company
Are there any broker/government/agency fees to be paid	Broker's fee is borne by tenant if rent is below S\$4,000 or 1 year lease
Any other cost that client should be aware of when taking on a property? Such as tenancy preparation charges, government and service charges	Stamp Duty, corporate landlords will have 7% GST and charge for preparation of tenancy documents
Are tenancy agreements in English?	Yes, English only

## ➤ OTHER SERVICES

Does the company provide immigration services?	In house <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outsourced <input type="checkbox"/> Outsourced but managed <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
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