



My Drift

Title: Singapore

Written By: Jerry D. Petersen

Date: 22 Apr 2026

Article Number: (529-2026-12)



Singapore Country and Capital City

Singapore, officially the Republic of Singapore, is an island country and city-state in Southeast Asia. Its territory comprises a main island, over 60 satellite islands and islets. The country is about one degree of latitude (85 miles) north of the equator, off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, bordering the Strait of Malacca to the west, the Singapore Strait to the south along with the Riau Islands in Indonesia, the South China Sea to the east and the Straits of Johor along with the State of Johor in Malaysia to the north.

In its early history, Singapore was a maritime emporium known as Temasek; subsequently, it was a major constituent of several successive maritime supremacy empires. Its contemporary era began in 1819, when Stamford Raffles established Singapore as an entrepôt trading post of the British Empire. In 1867, Singapore came under direct British control as part of the Straits Settlements. During World War II, Singapore was occupied by Japan in 1942 and returned to Britain as a Crown colony following Japan's surrender in 1945. Singapore gained self-governance in 1959 and in 1963 became part of the new federation of Malaysia, alongside Malaya, North Borneo and Sarawak. Ideological differences led to Singapore's expulsion from the federation two years later; it became an independent sovereign country in 1965. After early years of turbulence and despite lacking natural resources and a hinterland, the nation rapidly developed to become one of the Four Asian Tigers (Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan).

As a highly developed country, Singapore has the highest Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)-adjusted Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita in the world and is the only country in Asia with a AAA sovereign credit rating from all major rating agencies. Identified as a tax haven, it is a major aviation, financial and maritime shipping hub and has consistently been ranked as one of the most expensive cities for expatriates and foreign workers. Singapore ranks highly in key social indicators: education, healthcare, housing, peacefulness, passport strength, personal safety and infrastructure, with a high home-ownership rate. Singaporeans enjoy one of the longest life expectancies (83.5 years), fastest Internet connection speeds, lowest infant mortality rates and lowest levels of corruption in the world. Singapore is organized into five regions, 55 planning areas and hundreds of subzones. It has the third highest population density of any country, although there are numerous green and recreational spaces as a result of urban planning. With a multicultural population and in recognition of the cultural identities of the country's major ethnic groups, Singapore has four official languages: English, Malay, Mandarin and Tamil. English is the common language, with exclusive use in numerous public services. Multi-

racialism is enshrined in the constitution and continues to shape national policies.

Singapore is a parliamentary republic, and its legal system is based on common law. While it is constitutionally a multi-party democracy where free elections are regularly held, it functions as a de facto one-party state, with the People's Action Party (PAP) maintaining continuous political dominance since 1959. The PAP's longstanding control has resulted in limited political pluralism and a highly centralized governance structure over national institutions. One of the five founding members of ASEAN, Singapore is also the headquarters of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Secretariat, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council Secretariat and is the host city of many international conferences and events. Singapore is also a member of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the East Asia Summit, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Commonwealth of Nations.

More Pictures of Singapore City



Singapore at Night

Marina Bay Sands (on the left in the above picture) is a resort hotel that includes three towers topped by the Sands Skypark, 1,120 foot skyway connecting the towers with a capacity of 3,902 people and a 490 foot infinity swimming pool, set on top of the world's largest public cantilevered platform, which overhangs the north tower by 218 feet.



Marina Bay Sands



Singapore Gardens by the Bay Light Show

The Garden Rhapsody light and sound show at Gardens by the Bay is a free nightly spectacle at the Supertree Grove, featuring 15 minutes of choreographed lights and music.



One of the many Parks in Singapore



Boat Harbor



Singapore Airport

If you are planning to visit Singapore, you need to follow the following rules.

Singapore enforces strict laws to maintain public order, cleanliness, and safety. Key rules include strict bans on littering, smoking in prohibited areas, jaywalking, chewing gum importation, and eating/drinking on public transport (MRT/buses). Serious penalties exist for drug offenses, vandalism, and public drunkenness. Alcohol consumption in public is restricted from 10:30PM to 7:30AM.

Here are the essential rules for tourists to know, broken down by category:

Strictly Prohibited and Fined Actions

- **Littering and Spitting:** First-time offenders can be fined \$300; larger items result in a Corrective Work Order (CWO) where you must clean public areas in a bright vest.
- **Chewing Gum:** Importing or selling chewing gum is banned.
- **Public Transport:** Eating or drinking on MRT trains and buses is strictly forbidden.
- **Public Nudity:** You must not be visible naked in your own hotel room or home.
- **Toilet Hygiene:** Not flushing a public toilet can lead to a \$150 fine.
- **Jaywalking:** Crossing the road within 50 meters of a crossing zone is illegal.
- **Feeding Pigeons:** Prohibited, with fines up to \$500.

Alcohol and Smoking Regulations

- **Public Drinking:** Alcohol consumption in public places is banned between 10:30 PM and 7 AM.
- **Smoking:** Smoking is prohibited in many public outdoor areas, including bus shelters, overhead bridges, and within 5 meters of entries/exits.
- **Vaping:** Vapes and e-cigarettes are banned; possession can lead to fines, confiscation, and potential deportation.

Digital and Social Rules

- **Wi-Fi Security:** Using someone else's unsecured Wi-Fi without permission is considered hacking and is illegal.
- **Social Behavior:** "Outrage of modesty" laws are strict, covering inappropriate language, staring, or unwanted physical contact.
- **Public Order:** Noisy gatherings are restricted after 10 PM.

Cultural Etiquette and Tips

- **Removing Shoes:** Remove shoes before entering homes, and sometimes at specific businesses like massage parlors or hairdressers.
- **Queuing:** Queue patiently for public transport, food, and taxis.
- **Public Displays of Affection:** Keep PDA minimal; conservative standards are appreciated.
- **Table Etiquette:** After eating at hawker centers, you are expected to return your tray and tidy up.

What to Carry

- **Passport:** Always carry your passport, as you may be asked to prove your identity.

Singapore Death Sentence

Singapore maintains a strict death penalty for serious offenses, including drug trafficking, murder, and firearm offenses, with mandatory capital punishment for specific drug amounts.

Key aspects of the death penalty in Singapore include:

- **Offenses:** Mandatory death penalty applies to trafficking more than 15g of diamorphine (heroin), 30g of cocaine, 250g of methamphetamine, or 500g of cannabis, as well as for murder and certain kidnapping/firearm offenses.
- **Executions:** Carried out by long-drop hanging, typically at dawn in Changi Prison.
- **Recent Trends:** After a pause, executions resumed in 2022. Several executions took place in 2024 and 2025, primarily for drug trafficking offenses.
- **Public Opinion:** A March 2026 survey found approximately 87% of Singaporeans support the death penalty for serious crimes, an increase from previous years.
- **International View:** International human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International, frequently criticize Singapore's mandatory death penalty for drug offenses, arguing it violates international human rights standards.
- **"Cooperate or Die":** A "Certificate of Substantive Assistance" from the prosecutor can allow a courier to avoid the mandatory death penalty, resulting in a life sentence instead.

Singapore Facts and Information



Singapore Flag

Official languages – English, Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil

Ethnic groups - 74.3% Chinese
13.5% Malay
9.0% Indian

Religion - 31.1% Buddhism
20.0% No religion
18.9% Christianity
15.6% Islam

Area - 287.4 square miles

Population - 6,110,200

Currency - Singapore dollar

Largest Lake - Marina Reservoir
Jurong Lake

Longest River - The Kallang River

Tallest Mountain - Bukit Timah Hill (538 feet above sea level)



Bukit Timah Hill

Beaches - Singapore beaches are largely man-made, featuring imported sand and, in many cases, scenic, calm waters popular for kayaking and swimming.



Changi Beach

Singapore Animals - Singapore is home to a surprisingly diverse range of urban-adapted and wild animals, often found in nature reserves like Bukit Timah and Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve. Iconic species include smooth-coated otters, saltwater crocodiles, long-tailed macaques, wild boars, and oriental pied hornbills, alongside critically endangered species like the Raffles' banded langur.

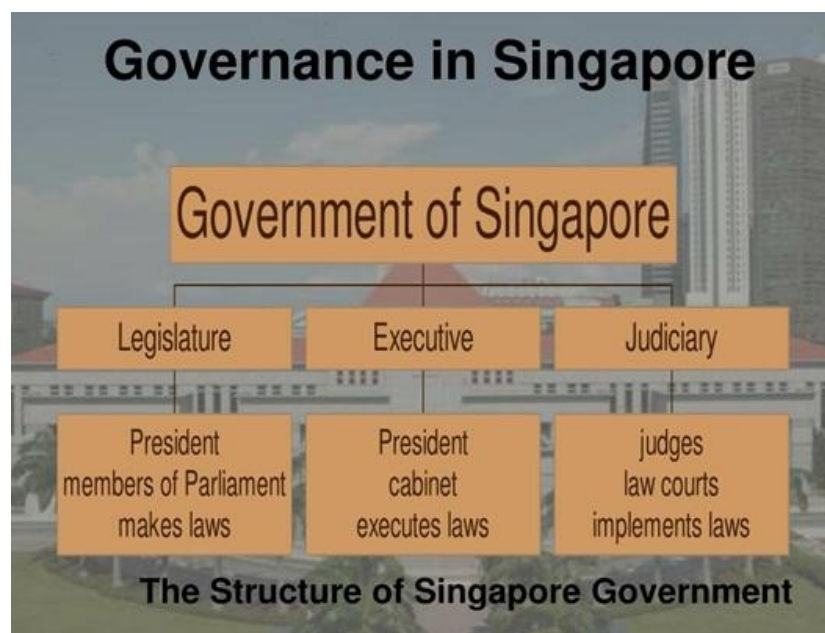
Military

The Singaporean military, arguably the most technologically advanced in Southeast Asia, consists of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Digital and Intelligence Service. It is seen as the guarantor of the country's independence, translating into Singapore culture, involving all citizens in the country's defense. The government spent 2.7% of the country's GDP on the military in 2024, the highest in the region.



Republic of Singapore Air Force Black Knights

Government



Singapore is a representative parliamentary republic based on the Westminster system, where the Prime Minister is the head of government and the President is the head of state. The People's Action Party (PAP) has dominated politics since 1959. Government consists of three branches: Legislature (Parliament), Executive (Cabinet), and Judiciary. The government structure is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore.

Attractions in Singapore



The majestic Merlion Statue with its lion's head and fish body, which spouts water from its mouth, is more than just a tourist attraction; it's a powerful symbol of resilience, evolution, and the unique blend of tradition and modernity that defines Singapore.

The name Singapore comes from the Sanskrit name 'Singapura' which means 'lion city'. The Merlion, the country's national symbol, has been inspired by the city's name.

Jurong Bird Park: Admire the highest man-made waterfall (98 feet high) and the numerous colorful birds and parrots in the huge aviary.

Singapore English: The Singaporeans speak English with a local twist: 'Singlish' adds often a 'lah' or 'leh' at the end of a word.

Singlish	English
Can lah	Yes, we can do this
Can can	Yes, sure, let's do it
I don know leh	Somehow I do not know
I don need lah	I really don't need this
shlok	great, cool

Singapore Festivals: The Singaporeans celebrate many festivals. Among the most popular are: Chinese New Year, Mid-autumn or Moon Festival, Christmas. For these celebrations, you will see everywhere thousands and thousands of lanterns and light decorations.

Singapore Food: Singaporeans love to eat rice and rice noodle dishes. The Singaporean staple diet does not include dairy based dishes, but you will find many dishes including coconut or rice milk products.

I have never been to Singapore, but it sounds like a very interesting place.

Bigdrifter44@gmail.com

Bigdrifter.com