

# SINGAPORE TRIP NOTES

*It is often said that Singapore has its head in the future but its heart in the past. An island state, Singapore is clean, organized and compact and in a few days visitors can explore the entire island from city to beach. First impressions of Singapore are the dramatic contrast of historical buildings standing majestically beside towering modern skyscrapers, along the Singapore River. Further exploration reveals Singapore's melting pot of enthralling Asian cultures, influences, lifestyles and cuisine.*

## **TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

US nationals are eligible for a complimentary visa on arrival. You will be required to have a passport valid for at least 6 months from date of return and at least 2 blank visa pages. This is subject to change without notice.

## **CURRENCY**

The local currency is the Singapore dollar. US dollars are accepted in most major stores. For shopping in markets, and local restaurants, Singapore dollars are required. ATMs are easily located. A convenient currency converter can be found at <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

## **CREDIT CARDS**

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, even by taxis. American Express slightly less so. Cash is needed for shopping at street markets.

## **TIME DIFFERENCE**

Singapore is 13 hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time and 16 hours ahead of US Pacific Standard Time.



## SHOPPING

Singapore is a designer shoppers paradise. Electronics are popular items to buy, and the signature Singapore souvenir is a gold plated orchid flower. Watches and gold jewelry are also widely sold.

## ELECTRICITY

Singapore operates on 230 volts, 50 hertz and requires plug type G.

For information on plugs and voltage, please visit <http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>. <http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

## LANGUAGE

Official languages are English, Malay, Mandarin and Tamil. English is the common language.

## CLIMATE

Singapore experiences hot and humid weather all year round. September through February is the wet season, with November - January being the wettest. March and April are the driest months.

## TIPPING GUIDELINES

Tipping is not expected in Singapore. A service charge of 10% is usually added to bills in restaurants and is shared among the entire staff. If you wish to tip your server, it is better to hand the tip directly to him/her. If you wish to tip a guide or driver, \$12 for a day for the guide and \$8 a day for the driver is recommended.

## ETIQUETTE

**Act modestly** Some Singaporeans are muslim and frown on public displays of affection.

**Temple attire** When paying a visit to a temple, both men and women are expected to wear shirts that cover shoulders and part of the upper arms. Legs must also be covered.

**Mosque attire** When visiting a mosque, women must cover their hair and shoulders, as well as their legs.

This information is provided as a guideline to the country you will be visiting, and is up to date to the best of our knowledge. Further information is available to you on the official Tourism Authority of Singapore website - <http://www.yoursingapore.com/en.html>