



General Introduction of Singapore

🚩 Population & Land Area

Singapore, on the Republic of Singapore to give the country its full title, is situated just north of the equator, at the foot of the Malaysia peninsula with total population of 5.08 millions. It is a booming city-state, comprising Singapore Island and 58 smaller islands within its territory of 646 square kilometers land area.

🚩 Multi Racial Society

Singapore is a real cosmopolitan society with different nationalities, colors of the skin and religious belief. The Chinese (78%) form the majority of the population, but there are extremely large Malay (14%) and Indian (7%) communities too, as well as a large number of Western expatriates and business people (1%). In order to create a sense of oneness and to promote integration, there must be a willingness to learn, understand and have mutual respect for one another's culture and customs.

🚩 Language

Though Mandarin, Malay, Tamil and English are all official languages, English is the language that unites the business community and the various ethnic groups.

🚩 Weather

Singapore is hot all year round (25-35 degrees °C), and although it is wettest from November to January, there is not much seasonal variation at all.

The Referral Guide for Working and Living in Singapore

Getting used to living in a new country is always a challenge. The following information provided is to help you deal with the day-to-day challenges of working and living in Singapore.

Main Work Passes

Employment Pass

The Employment Pass allows foreign professionals to work in Singapore. It applies to foreigners who earn a fixed monthly salary of at least \$3,000, and have recognized qualifications.

S Pass

The S Pass allows mid-level skilled foreigners who earn a fixed monthly salary of at least \$2,000 to work in Singapore. S Pass applications are assessed on multiple criteria including salary, education qualification, skills, job type and work experience.

Work Permit

A Work Permit (WP) is generally issued to foreign unskilled workers. The duration of a Work Permit is generally two years, subject to the validity of the worker's passport, the Banker's /Insurance Guarantee, and the worker's employment period, whichever is shorter. The worker is only allowed to work for the employer and in the specified occupation.

Housing and Rentals

Most expats in Singapore live in private condominiums for a number of good. The rental prices for private condos can vary greatly depending on the location and quality of the condo. A 3-bedroom walk-up or condo apartment with the size of around 1200 square feet close to the city-centre can fetch a monthly rent of anywhere between S\$3,000 to S\$6,500.

If you are on a tight budget, living in a government housing flat (called HDB flats) is a very reasonable option; more than 80% of the local Singaporeans live in such accommodations. A 3-bedroom HDB flat costs from S\$1,000 to S\$2,500 per month in suburban neighborhoods and up to S\$4,800 in prime estates.

Utilities

Monthly gas, water and electricity bill may range from a low of S\$200 to a high of S\$600, depending on your air-conditioning usage per household.

Food & Dining

Eating In

If you cook at home, your average monthly personal food costs should come up to only about S\$200 per person for basic meat and vegetables. For a couple eating in, average monthly food cost can range around S\$400 – S\$800 depending on their eating choices.

Eating Out

One of the unique features of living in Singapore is the abundance of hawker centers and food courts that offer a wide variety of dishes, and are commonly air-conditioned. An average daily

lunch at a hawker centers can be as low as S\$4 whereas at a food court you can have lunch for about S\$5 – S\$6. A meal at fast food places such as McDonalds will cost you around S\$7, while a drink at Starbucks is around S\$5 – S\$6. A visit to an average restaurant can set you back by S\$20 – S\$40 per person for basic meals.

Transportation

Public Transportation

Singapore has one of the best, most comprehensive, and least expensive public transport systems in the world. A one-way average bus or MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) fare is about S\$1.60. If you combine bus and MRT transports, it will cost you S\$100 a month on the average.

Taxi Service

Taxi service in Singapore is one of the most efficient worldwide. You can hail a cab on the road or call their number 65521111, 65522222 or 65524525 (S\$2.50 – \$4 extra) to book a service. Taxi fare starts at S\$2.80 – S\$3.20 for the first mile. During peak hours (weekday mornings 7:00am – 9:30am and evenings through Saturdays 5pm – 8pm), you will incur extra charges of about 35% of the fare.

Private Car

In contrast to inexpensive public transportation and taxi service options, owning a private car in Singapore can be a rather expensive luxury due to heavy government taxes on this mode of transportation. The government aims to reduce heavy road congestion and air pollution. Therefore, it encourages the average person living in Singapore to use public transportation instead.

Motorcycle

License is a must

Bicycle

Be very cautious of Road Safety since there is no lane for cyclists;

Healthcare

As a general practice, health insurance benefits are not provided by majority of the employers in Singapore. If your compensation package includes medical insurance, this is a non-issue for you. Even if your employer does not provide health insurance, the cost of medical services in Singapore is reasonable. You don't need any insurance to cover your day-to-day healthcare needs and can set aside a monthly budget of S\$100 – S\$200 for this end. A typical consultation

fee at a general practitioner is S\$40. However, you should purchase insurance that covers surgery and hospitalization. Such insurance will add up to about S\$2,000 – S\$3,000 per year.

Telephone & Internet

You may subscribe with following 3 companies for fix phone line, mobile and broadband services:

Name of Companies	Service Hotline	Website
SingTel	1626	www.singtel.com
Starhub	1633	www.starhub.com
M1	1627	www.m1.com.sg

Mobile phone fee costs between S\$15 to S\$200 per month. A broadband internet connection at home will cost you around S\$50 per month. For cable TV connection you can estimate about S\$28 for the basic channel subscription and S\$50 for the expanded subscription.

Income Taxes

Singapore has a well-regulated tax system, and personal income tax rates are generally lower than in other developed countries. All expatriates working in Singapore are liable to pay Singapore income tax if exceeds \$20,000 per year. The tax year, and corresponding tax calculations, is based on a calendar year, starting midnight on 1 January and ending midnight on 31 December.

Whenever you need assistance or whatever you would like to consult, please do not hesitate to contact your permanent and sincere friend "Wanco Manpower Pte Ltd". We are always here ready for you.