



SINGAPORE AT A GLANCE

ARC(S) TRAINING

About Singapore

Singapore is a country, a city and an island. Sir Stamford Raffles founded Singapore in 1819. He landed at the mouth of Singapore River, which today is still the heart of the city, encompassing the central business district and the popular entertainment and dining enclaves along the quays. Singapore is a multi-racial and multi-religious country made up of many different nationalities; namely Chinese, Malay, Indian and Eurasian, among many others.

Location

Southeastern Asia, islands between Malaysia and Indonesia

Language

The four main languages of Singapore are English, Mandarin, Malay and Tamil. English is the official business language and is one of two commonly used languages; the other being Mandarin.

Time Zone

Standard Time Zone: UTC/GMT +8 hours
There is no daylight saving time adjustment in Singapore.

Weather

Tropical; warm/hot and humid throughout the year
Daily average temperature range from 24 to 31 degrees Celsius
It can be rainy during the North-East monsoon (December to early March) and the South-West monsoon (June to September).

What to Wear

As Singapore has a warm and humid climate throughout the year, light clothing made from natural fabrics, suitable for summer, is best for everyday wear.

Important Note: the dress code for the WeCAN Learning Congress 2010 is smart-casual or business attire (jacket not required).

Currency

Singapore dollar (SGD) (S\$)
Other than the Singapore dollar, major currencies such as the Australian, Canadian and US dollar, Japanese Yen and British pound are widely accepted in establishments in Singapore.

Exchange Rate (*approximate only; rates fluctuate constantly*)

1 AUD = 1.22 SGD
1 CAD = 1.35 SGD
1 GBP = 2.01 SGD
1 USD = 1.39 SGD
100 INR = 3.05 SGD



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Credit Cards

Major credit cards, such as AMEX, VISA and MasterCard are widely accepted in establishments in Singapore.

Getting Around

Singapore has an efficient public transport system plying the island-wide network of roads and highways. Travel within Singapore is mainly land-based via the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system, buses and **metered** taxis at reasonable prices.

Taxi fares from Changi Airport to the centre of town (Orchard Road) would cost an average of SGD30, subject to traffic conditions and peak hour rates and surcharges.

Electricity & Electrical Plugs

In Singapore, the voltage for electrical appliances (eg hairdryer) is 220-240 volts AC. The power plugs used in Singapore are of the three-pin, square-shaped type.

Mobile Phone Usage

There are two mobile phone networks – GSM900 and GSM1800 – and three mobile service providers – SingTel, M1 and StarHub. To make international calls, the access codes are 001, 013 or 019 for SingTel, 002 or 021 for M1 and 008 or 018 for StarHub, followed by the respective country's international dialing code and the telephone number.

Singapore's international dialing code is +(65). While in Singapore and if you have international roaming service on your mobile/cell phone; you only need to dial the telephone number when making local calls; the country code is not required. However, international calling charges would apply.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in most public places such as museums, libraries, lifts, theatres, cinemas, air-conditioned restaurants, supermarkets and department stores and in public transport vehicles. It is also not permitted in almost all commercial and office buildings as well as government offices. Offenders can be fined.

Average Meal Prices (per meal per person)

Low	Mid	High	Deluxe
S\$5-20	S\$20-35	S\$35-85	S\$85+

Tipping

Tipping is not mandatory. Most hotels and restaurant bills come with a 10% service charge.



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Goods & Services Tax (GST)

Singapore imposes a consumption tax, Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 7% on nearly all goods purchased and services consumed within the country.

Visitors to Singapore may be entitled to a GST refund on goods purchased from retailers participating in the Tourist Refund Scheme. For more details on the eligibility criteria and conditions as well as the refund procedures, please log onto the Singapore Customs website at: www.customs.gov.sg/leftNav/trav/Tourist+Refund+Scheme.htm

Please note that Autism Resource Centre (Singapore) is not a registered participant in the Tourist Refund Scheme.

Visa & Entry Requirements

All visitors must hold a passport which is valid for at least six months after the date of departure from the country of origin and also be able to provide evidence of either a return ticket or enough funds to purchase one.

Airport Tax

The Singapore airport tax is S\$21 which should be incorporated in the air ticket. However, if it is not included in the price of your air ticket, you will be required to pay at the airport during check-in.

Travellers' Tips

Do not carry any items for other people. If the item/s is/are or contain dutiable, controlled or prohibited items, you will be held responsible.

Drug offences are viewed seriously in Singapore. Severe and heavy penalties, including mandatory jail sentences and the death penalty, are imposed on those found guilty of such offences.

Other Information

You may wish to visit the following:

Singapore's official tourism website

<http://www.yoursingapore.com/content/traveller/en/experience.html>

Other informative websites on tourism in Singapore

http://www.newasia-singapore.com/things_to_do.html

http://www.newasia-singapore.com/places_to_go.html