

Tips for Travellers

SINGAPORE

Accommodation

Rates are in Singapore dollars and are subject to 10% service charge, 1% govt tax & 5% GST.

Holiday Inn Park View Singapore

11 Cavenagh Road
Singapore 229616
Phone: 0065 6733 8333
Fax: 0065 6734 2382
Email: sales@hiparkview.com
Website: www.singapore.holiday-inn.com
Rate: From S\$190.00

Le Meridien Singapore

100 Orchard Road
Singapore 238840
Phone: 0065 6733 8855
Fax: 0065 6235 0743
Email: dchan@singapore.lemeridien.com
Website: www.lemeridien.com
Rate: From S\$160.00

Royal Plaza on Scotts

25 Scotts Road
Singapore 228220
Phone: 0065 6737 7966
Fax: 0065 6735 1865
Email: daniel.chan@royalplaza.com.sg
Website: www.royalplaza.com.sg
Rate: From S\$180.00

The Elizabeth Singapore

24 Mount Elizabeth
Singapore 228518
Phone: 0065 6738 1188
Fax: 0065 6732 3866
Email: donnachan@theelizabeth.com.sg
Website: www.theelizabeth.com.sg
Rate: From S\$125.00

Grand Hyatt Singapore

10 Scotts Road
Singapore 228211

Phone: 0065 6235 4111
Fax: 0065 6737 2576
Email: Reservations.sg@hyattintl.com
Website: www.singapore.grand.hyatt.com
Rate: From S\$230.00

Transport

Airports

Changi is the main International Airport in Singapore. It is situated 20kms from the centre of Singapore by toll road. Approximately 25 minutes from recommended hotels – this may extend to 45 minutes or more in peak hours.

Some onward tickets should be re-confirmed by calling the relevant airline in order to avoid having the reservations cancelled.

In March 2006, Singapore opened the new Budget Terminal, a customised terminal for low cost carriers which is located in the vicinity of Changi International Airport. This paves way for low-cost travel within most parts of South-East Asia and even some parts of Australia.

Transport to/from airport

Expatriates tend to use taxis instead of the bus.

The airport is now accessible from the main business and shopping areas by the MRT (Mass Rapid Transport) rail network. The cost is approx. S\$2.50. This is not recommended during the morning and evening peak hour periods.

The average taxi fare from the airport to central Singapore is around \$20 and should take about 25 minutes.

You can easily get from one point to another by bus with a Transit-Link Farecard, which can also be used on the MRT. SBS bus 36 runs between Orchard Road and Changi Airport. Operating hours from 6am till 12am

The MRT is efficient, clean, punctual and air-conditioned. Operating hours are from 6am to midnight at frequencies of three to eight minutes.

Taxis

- Comfort Transportation 0065 6552 1111
- Sovereign Cabs 0065 6552 2828
- SMRT Taxi Pte Ltd 0065 6555 8888
- Citycab Pte Ltd 0065 6552 2222

Taking a Taxi

Most drivers understand simple English; otherwise show the driver the address of your destination. The average rate: All taxis are metered and the flag fare is S\$2.40 for the first 1km. Other additional charges are:

- From S\$3.00 for trips from Changi Airport
- From S\$3.00 for phone bookings
- From S\$5.00 for advanced phone booking
- 50% additional charge for trips between midnight and 6.00am
- S\$1.00 extra charge for trips between 7.30am – 9.00am and 5.00pm – 8.00pm (Mon – Sat)

Normally taxis are easily flagged except in wet weather and peak times when you could experience some difficulty. There is no extra charge for Sundays or public holidays, but if the trip is out of Singapore the cost can be agreed with the company rather than using the taxi meter.

Taxis drivers may not be able to change a \$50 note. Check with the driver on embarking.



Telephone numbers and codes

There are several options for calling New Zealand from Singapore:

From private phones (commercial or residential) call: 001 or 019 + country + area code + phone number.

Telephone cards for public phones and hotel rooms can be purchased from local shops. These offer a much cheaper alternative to the normal hotel charges.

Collect calls to New Zealand can be made through international 104.

A temporary chip can be purchased for your cell phone phones which will give a Singapore contact number. This is particularly useful, if you plan to be in Singapore for an extended period.

New Zealand cell phones can be used in Singapore if you have global roaming.

Tips for Business

- Singaporeans respect authority and age.
- Chinese names are quite simple to understand. The surname is placed first, then the generation name and lastly the given name. With a new acquaintance be careful not to use the given name unless asked to. Addressing people as Mr/Mrs/Miss Tan is quite acceptable.
- When performing introductions in the Chinese manner, the older or most respected person's name is mentioned first and a man's name before a woman's. Often older people are addressed as "aunty" or "uncle". These terms are used even if the addressed person is not a relative, as it is simply a form of respect.
- When invited to a Chinese home it is customary to remove your shoes and leave them at the door. Do not sit until your Chinese host invites you to do so.
- Practise decorum as formality is appreciated.
- If offered Chinese tea, drink at least a little. It is impolite not to do so.
- Refrain from making body contact as this is not considered appropriate. During conversation remain at a comfortable distance.
- When receiving or giving an item such as a business card, two hands should always be used. Give your card so that the recipient can read it.
- The colour red signifies good luck. Choose clothes that are not all-white or all-black as they are traditionally for mourning.
- If you receive a present, express thanks but do not open it in front of the giver.
- Establish your bona fides by explaining who you are or represent, how you came to be visiting, and what contacts you have in common.
- Try not to be late.
- Be polite and humble and show appreciation of things Singaporean.
- Do not hurry or try to hurry others, and don't issue ultimatums.
- Don't cause loss of face or criticise anyone publicly.
- A long-sleeved shirt and tie is adequate for men in most meetings, but a jacket should be worn for meetings with prominent business people or senior bureaucrats. Women should dress conservatively.



- Since 1 March 2002, all fixed-line telephone and fax numbers in Singapore have 8 digits. To connect with companies who still list a 7 digit number, simply add "6" in front of the existing telephone/fax numbers. Mobile phone numbers (those beginning with "9") remain unchanged.

Tips from the industry

If you have any tips that you can share with your fellow industry members, please email them to educationnz@educationnz.org.nz

Information correct as at 7 September 2006.
