



## SINGAPORE: PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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To help you prepare for your trip to Singapore, we are pleased to provide you with the following practical information:

### 1. Local Time

Singapore is 8 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT +8). It is known as Singapore Standard Time (SST). Singapore does not operate Daylight Saving Time.

### 2. Climate

Singapore has a warm and humid climate throughout the year with a daily average temperature range of 24 degrees Celsius to 31 degrees Celsius. Light and summer clothing made from natural fabrics like cotton is best for everyday wear.

### 3. Electricity

Singapore voltage is 220-240 volts AC, 50 cycles per second. The power plugs used in Singapore are three-pin, of the square-shaped type.

### 4. Currency

The local currency is Singapore dollars and cents. Note come in denominations commonly ranging from S\$2, S\$5, S\$10, S\$50 to S\$100. Coins come in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents and S\$1. For your convenience, an online currency converter service is available at <http://sg.finance.yahoo.com/currency>. You may also check on the most updated foreign exchange rates at the Monetary Authority of Singapore's homepage - <https://secure.sgs.gov.sg/apps/msbs/exchangeRatesForm.jsp>. Please note that currency exchange rates may vary from city to city.

### 5. Credit Cards

Major cards are widely accepted by establishments in Singapore. Should any shop insist on adding a surcharge, contact the respective card company to report the errant shop owner.

<b>American Express</b>	(65) 6880 1111
<b>Diners Card</b>	(65) 6416 0800
<b>JCB</b>	(65) 6734 0096
<b>MasterCard</b>	800 - 110 0113 (toll-free in Singapore only)
<b>Visa</b>	800 - 448 1250 (toll-free in Singapore only)

### 6. Arrival in Singapore

Meet-and-Greet - Upon arrival at the airport, please look out for the General Assembly "Meet-and-Greet" ambassadors as you disembark from the plane. Please also look out the General Assembly signage if that you are not immediately able to locate the "Meet-and-Greet" ambassadors. You may also contact the Front Desk Team of JetQuay CIP Terminal at Changi Airport at Tel: (65) 65434248 or (65) 65131052.

Airport Tax - A passenger service charge of S\$21 should be incorporated in the air ticket (including tickets issued outside of Singapore). If this has not been done, you may be required to pay the S\$21 during check-in. In some cases, the airline may absorb the service charge.

Prohibited Items – The following items are NOT allowed to be brought into Singapore:

- Chewing gum (except dental or nicotine gum)
- Chewing tobacco and imitation tobacco products
- Cigarette lighters of pistol or revolver shape
- Controlled drugs and psychotropic substances
- Live dogs of selected breeds



- Endangered species of wildlife and their by-products
- Firecrackers
- Obscene articles, publications, video tapes/discs and software
- Reproduction of copyright publications, video tapes, video compact discs, laser discs, records or cassettes
- Seditious and treasonable materials

Reporting of Cross Border Movement of Physical Currency and Bearer Negotiable Instruments (CBNI) - This measure requires the disclosure of information regarding movements of CBNI into and out of Singapore, for the purpose of detecting, investigating and prosecuting drug trafficking offences and serious offences. Examples of bearer negotiable instruments include a bill of exchange, a cheque, a promissory note, a bearer bond, a traveller's cheque, a money order or postal order.

Any person entering or leaving Singapore with CBNI, the total value of which exceeds S\$30,000 (or its equivalent in a foreign currency) is required to fill up the CBNI Report (Traveller) form (also known as Form NP727). Completed forms are to be submitted at the Customs Red Channel on arrival in Singapore, and at the immigration counters on departure from Singapore.

**THIS IS NOT A CURRENCY CONTROL MEASURE.** There are no restrictions to the type or amount of CBNI that may be moved into or out of Singapore. This measure only requires a report to be made when the total value of the CBNI being moved exceeds the equivalent of S\$30,000. It does not seek to restrict legitimate cross border trade payments for goods and services, or the freedom of capital movements.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

Entry Visas –

[http://www.ica.gov.sg/services\\_centre\\_overview.aspx?pageid=252&secid=165](http://www.ica.gov.sg/services_centre_overview.aspx?pageid=252&secid=165)

Prohibited, Controlled and Dutiable Items –

<http://www.customs.gov.sg/leftNav/trav/Dutiable+Controlled+and+Prohibited+Goods.htm>

Reporting of CBNI –

<http://www.spf.gov.sg/cbni>

## 7. Health considerations

Medical Services – Medical facilities are readily available at the vicinity of Raffles City Convention Centre and the 3 official hotels. For emergency cases, please call 995 for an ambulance to be activated for immediate medical attention. The cost of prescription of drugs and hospitalisation will be borne by the delegates.

Drinking Water – It is perfectly safe to drink water straight from the tap in Singapore. However, for those who prefer bottled mineral water, local supermarkets and grocers usually carry a sizeable selection.

Influenza A (H1N1-2009) Advisory – Influenza A (H1N1-2009) has already been confirmed in many parts of the world. Currently, The World Health Organization is recommending no travel restrictions relating to H1N1, and has characterized the virus to be moderate in severity. Nevertheless, delegates are advised to delay or cancel their travel plans to Singapore if you are experiencing high fever or other influenza-like symptoms before your departure. If you develop flu-like symptoms during the course of your flight, please inform the General Assembly “Meet-and-Greet” ambassadors upon your arrival at the airport, and they will refer you to the nearest Airport clinic.

## 8. Registration of Delegates



All delegates must be registered and issued with event passes for identification and security purposes. During registration and issuance of event passes at the Convention Foyer of the Raffles City Convention Centre (located on level 4), please be reminded that all participants should produce their passport, pre-registration confirmation slip and a copy of the credentials (head of delegation only).

#### **9. Tourist Refund Scheme**

Travellers who buy goods in Singapore from participating GST registered retailers can claim a refund of the GST (tax) paid if the goods are brought out of Singapore via Changi Airport or Seletar Airport within 2 months from the date of purchase. Eligible tourists can receive GST refunds from retailers or a central refund agency. There are currently two central refund agencies in Singapore, as follows:



Global Refund Singapore Pte Ltd  
<http://www.globalrefund.com>



Premier Tax Free (Singapore) Pte Ltd  
<http://www.premiertaxfree.com>

Please look out for the above logos, or the wordings "TAX REFUND" and "TAX FREE SHOPPING" displayed at the shops.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

Singapore Customs –

<http://www.customs.gov.sg/leftNav/trav/Tourist+Refund+Scheme.htm>

Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore –

<http://www.iras.gov.sg/irasHome/page04.aspx?id=2062>