

# Welcome to Singapore



# BushProof

## Visa

People from the majority of countries can visit Singapore visa-free for limited periods of time. However, for some countries all visitors require visas. To check your eligibility, visit:

[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)

Follow the links on this web page for the application procedure. A letter of invitation from WTO may be required.

If you are in a country without a Singapore Embassy it is also possible for WTO to assist with an online visa application. The process is reasonably efficient but the sooner you begin the better.

## Money changing

In general only Singapore dollars can be used in Singapore shops and hotels. Credit cards are widely accepted.

There are ATMs throughout Singapore that will accept international cards, and almost all hotels and restaurants accept credit cards.

The exchange rate (as of October 2009) is:

1 Euro = S\$ 2.07; 1 US\$ = S\$ 1.36; 1 £ = S\$ 2.31

## Internet

It is handy to bring your laptop. There is wireless internet connection at the Training Centre.

There is free wireless internet at the airport, and free wireless is widely available throughout the island, including at all Starbucks outlets (of which there are many). (You may have to sign up with a local provider, of which there are three). There are also internet cafes at various places throughout Singapore.

Depending on which hotel you stay at there should be internet access either free or for a nominal charge.

## Climate and Clothes

Singapore is 1° north of the equator, and as such has no distinct seasons. Singapore is hot and humid, and it rains frequently. Temperatures hover around 23 to 34 °C, with humidity from 50 – 90%, or even higher during prolonged rain.

Bring a rain jacket, and light clothes (which dry easily!). Also bring a hat, and plenty of sunscreen and mosquito repellent. Sometimes mosquitoes are around during the day, and these are more likely to be the dengue carrying variety. You will need work shoes/trainers and clothes to get **dirty** in for some practical sessions. Wearing shorts is fine.

## Transport from the airport

There are shuttles, taxis, trains (MRT) and public buses from the airport to town, see

[http://www.changiairport.com/changi/en/airport\\_guide/t\\_ofrom\\_ap/ap\\_tocity.html](http://www.changiairport.com/changi/en/airport_guide/t_ofrom_ap/ap_tocity.html).

Talk to your hotel about whether they have their own airport shuttle services. Otherwise there is an Airport Shuttle (see Airport Shuttle Counter at the airport) that serves all hotels in Singapore. This runs 24 hours a day and costs S\$9 per adult, but could be slow.

Taxis can be picked up outside Arrivals. The journey will take up to 30 minutes (approximately) and will cost S\$20 to S\$40.

The airport MRT is located under Terminals 2 and 3. Services run from 0530 to 2300. Single fares to the city cost about S\$2.70 with a S\$1 refund upon returning your ticket, and takes up to half an hour. For hotels in or near Balesteir Road you will want Novena MRT station. Bear in mind that the MRT coverage is limited, and there could be long walks from the stations to your ultimate destination. A taxi from the MRT to the hotel would be recommended.

Public buses run from 0600 to midnight. The fare will be under S\$2 but exact change is required, and the service could be slow.

## Transport to the SAGE (Training Centre)

You are responsible for your own transport to and from your hotel to the SAGE building and back every day. This can be done by MRT, taxi, bus or foot. Bear the heat and/or rain in mind before deciding to walk any distance! The nearest MRT stations to SAGE are Braddell and Toa Payoh; both are approximately 1km from the offices. Please ask your hotel for advice on buses.

## The Training Centre

Training will take place at the Singapore Action Group for Elders (SAGE) building at 19 Toa Payoh West, Singapore 318876. SAGE has training rooms and outdoor space for practicals, and this is the location of the World Toilet Organization and World Toilet College offices.



## Health and Safety

General security: Singapore is a very safe city, day and night, for men and women. Take the usual precautions against pick pockets, particularly in the busiest parts of town.

Water from the tap is safe to drink everywhere.

Dysenteries and diarrhoeal diseases are rare but it is still prudent to pay attention to what you eat, and don't forget to wash your hands.

### Special notes:

There is a mandatory death penalty for certain offences including drug trafficking. Trafficking is defined by possession of drugs above a certain amount (e.g. 500g of cannabis). There are severe penalties for all drug offences in Singapore.

## Getting around

### Taxi

Taxis are generally easy to find, and reasonably priced. In less busy areas (including the training centre) taxis may need to be ordered. The taxi booking number is 6552 1111; there is an additional booking fee for on-call taxis (which varies according to time of day, as does the overall fare) but the service is generally very prompt and reliable, with taxis arriving within minutes of being called for. Taxis can also be booked in advance. All taxis are metered.

### Buses and minibuses

Buses travel throughout Singapore, day and night. Check at bus stops for scheduling, or ask the advice of your hotel or the WTO office staff.

### MRT (Mass Rapid Transit)

The underground train system is clean, reliable, efficient and affordable. Its outreach, however, is limited and outside the main business and commercial areas there can be long walks from MRT stations to one's destination (or no MRT access at all).

## Accommodation

There are countless hotels in Singapore, accommodating almost any budget. It is your responsibility to select and arrange your own accommodation.

For your ease, a selection of budget hotels within a short distance of the SAGE building is attached on the following page, with contact details. There is no obligation to stay in any of these listed hotels.

## Places to visits and things to do in Singapore

There are a host of activities and attractions in Singapore, and Singapore is renowned for good shopping and dining. Visit websites such as <http://www.newasia-singapore.com/>, <http://www.visitsingapore.com/publish/stbportal/en/home.html>, and many more similar sites.

## Budget Hotels in Singapore

<u>Hotel</u> (Located about 25 minutes from training centre. Direct bus available to training centre. 24hrs food outlets and convenience stores nearby)	<u>Room Cost</u> (Tax and service charge included)
<p><b>1. Fragrance Hotel - Oasis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 435 Balestier Road, Singapore 329816</li> <li>▶ Tel: (65) 6345 6116</li> <li>▶ Fax: (65) 6345 3433</li> <li>▶ Email: <a href="mailto:contact@fragrancehotel.com">contact@fragrancehotel.com</a></li> <li>▶ Website: <a href="http://www.fragrancehotel.com">www.fragrancehotel.com</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Superior Room(queen-size bed or twin single beds): <u>SGD \$79</u></b></li> <li>▶ Check-in 3pm / check-out 12 noon</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Fragrance Hotel - Classic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 418 Balestier Road, Singapore 329808</li> <li>▶ Tel: (65) 6345 6116</li> <li>▶ Fax: (65) 6345 3433</li> <li>▶ Email: <a href="mailto:contact@fragrancehotel.com">contact@fragrancehotel.com</a></li> <li>▶ Website: <a href="http://www.fragrancehotel.com">www.fragrancehotel.com</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Superior Room(queen-size beds only): <u>SGD \$69</u></b></li> <li>▶ Check-in 3pm / check-out 12 noon</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Hotel 81 – Fuji</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 269 Balestier Road, Singapore 329720</li> <li>▶ Tel: (65) 6355 8181</li> <li>▶ Fax: (65) 6256 4487</li> <li>▶ Email: <a href="mailto:hotel81@hotel81.com.sg">hotel81@hotel81.com.sg</a></li> <li>▶ Website: <a href="http://www.hotel81.com.sg">www.hotel81.com.sg</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Superior Room(queen-size bed): <u>SGD \$109</u></b></li> <li>▶ <b>Deluxe Room(queen-size bed with bath tub): <u>SGD \$119</u></b></li> <li>▶ <b>Triple Room(queen-size bed with one folding sofa bed): <u>SGD 129</u></b></li> <li>▶ Check-in / check-out: 12 noon</li> <li>▶ <b><i>Note: additional \$20 will be charged for Fridays and Saturdays</i></b></li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Value Hotel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 218 Balestier Road, Singapore 329684</li> <li>▶ Tel: +65 6352 2323</li> <li>▶ Fax: +65 6256 1158</li> <li>▶ Email: <a href="mailto:vhb-res@valuehotel.com.sg">vhb-res@valuehotel.com.sg</a></li> <li>▶ Website: <a href="http://www.valuehotel.com.sg">www.valuehotel.com.sg</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <b>Standard Room(Single bed): <u>SGD \$69</u></b></li> <li>▶ <b>Twin Room(2 single beds): <u>SGD \$79</u></b></li> <li>▶ <b>Triple Room(1 queen-size bed and 1 single bed): <u>SGD \$109</u></b></li> <li>▶ Check-in 2pm / check-out 12 noon</li> </ul>