

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Singapore has banned smoking in restaurants, cinemas, public transport, and other public places. There are fines for littering and crossing streets outside of intersections and crosswalks (jaywalking), and not flushing after using public toilets. Chewing gum is not sold commercially, although visitors can import it for personal use. Magazines, newspapers, and video tapes may be refused entry on editorial or moral grounds, even if they are for personal or business use.

SINGAPORE HAS VERY STRICT LAWS AGAINST CRIME AND DRUGS. CONTRAVENTION OF DRUG LAWS CAN RESULT IN THE APPLICATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY.



CLIMATE

The climate is tropical, with little seasonal variation. The average temperatures range from 31C (88F) during the day to 25C (77F) at night. Daily humidity ranges from 85 to 95 percent. November to January is considered the wet season. Rain falls on most days throughout the year somewhere on the island. Business jackets are rarely worn.

HOLIDAYS

The periods immediately before and for two weeks after the Chinese New Year are busy in Singapore and are not a good time to visit. Several holidays follow the lunar calendar and vary from year to year. The following public holidays are observed:

New Year's Day: January 1

Chinese New Year: Late January to mid-February depending on lunar calendar

Hari Raya Puasa (Muslim): March to April, depending on lunar calendar

Good Friday: Same as Canada

Labour Day: May 1

Vesak Day (Buddhist): April to May, depending on lunar calendar

Hari Raya Haji (Muslim): July to July, depending on lunar calendar

National Day: August 9

Deepavali (Hindu): October to November, depending on lunar calendar

Christmas Day: December 25.