

GP Singapore 2015 Travel Guide



Welcome to Singapore!

Official event information:

<https://magic.wizards.com/en/content/fact-sheet-grand-prix-singapore-2015>

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1. Practical/Brief Information

Time zone:

GMT+8

Language:

The official language of Singapore is Malay, but English is the lingua franca, with Mandarin being commonly spoken by the Chinese majority of the population. Signs/notices are in English, often together with Chinese, Malay and Tamil.

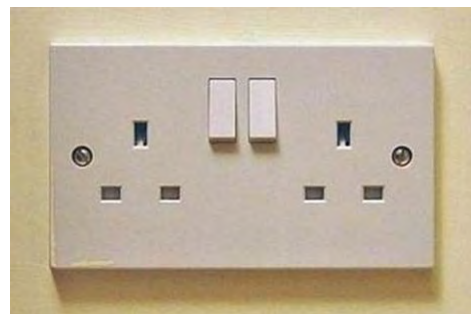
Currency:

Singapore Dollar (S\$ or SGD). The exchange rate of the SGD to the USD and Euro (as of end-March 2015) is around 1.37 and 1.50 respectively. Money changers can be found in almost every shopping mall and offer more competitive rates than those found at the airport. Credit cards are widely accepted in malls, although smaller shops might add a 3% surcharge. Cash is necessary if you want to enjoy the local fare in hawker centers or small eateries.

Restaurants and service establishments will add a 10% service charge to the bill. There is also a 7% Goods and Services Tax (GST) which will be added to most bills (some stores might absorb the GST). As such, tipping is not practiced in Singapore.

Electricity:

220-240V AC, 50Hz; 3-pin British plug

**Phone numbers:**

Dialing code - +65

999 - Police

995 - Ambulance and Fire

Climate and weather (for June):

Hot and humid. Always. The June-July period is one of the best times to visit Singapore, as it is one of the drier periods in terms of rainfall. That said, it is still advisable to bring along an umbrella when going out, as the rain tends to fall in heavy showers. The average temperature range is 26-32°C. With this in mind, T-shirts and shorts are the norm for locals and are recommended.

Smoking:

Smoking is banned in all air-conditioned places, as well as within 5 meters from any building entrance. Violation of smoking laws can incur a maximum fine of S\$1,000. Do take note that it is not possible to purchase cigarettes from Duty Free Shops on arrival at Changi Airport and all cigarettes brought into Singapore would require customs declaration as the penalty is severe.

2. Accommodations

Cameron Hotel

<http://www.cameronhotel.com.sg/>



This hotel is a 10 or 15 minute walk to the venue.

Rates are from \$70 to \$90 depending on the room type chosen.

TV and coffee/tea maker are only available for Deluxe rooms (\$20 more per night).

Comes with breakfast but no wifi. Rumored to be haunted by Loco.

As far as it goes, there is nothing nearby with regards to food or convenience stores.



bunc @ radius

<http://www.radiancegrp.com/bunc@radius/>



This hostel has two locations, and the 2 locations can be chosen depending on your preference.

The one that's at Little India is the hostel that's nearer to Sim Lim Square where one can find the best deals for computer parts and tech gadgets in Singapore..

If you're more interested in quenching your night thirst, go for the one at Clarke Quay, as that stretch along the River Quay is a popular location.

Both hostels are about a 10-15 minute walk to the nearest train station which is a 20-25 minute ride of about 9 train stations to the venue.

This boutique hostel has mid-sized dorm rooms (6-8 beds), large-sized dorm rooms (10-12 rooms), ladies dorm rooms and private ensuite rooms.

There is less privacy for dorm rooms but if there are enough people to fill up whole rooms, it would be most ideal for drafts and/or commander. Comes with breakfast and wifi.

Located in the outskirts of the city center, there are plenty of food and convenience stores within walking distance.



Five Stones Hostel

<http://www.fivestoneshostel.com/>



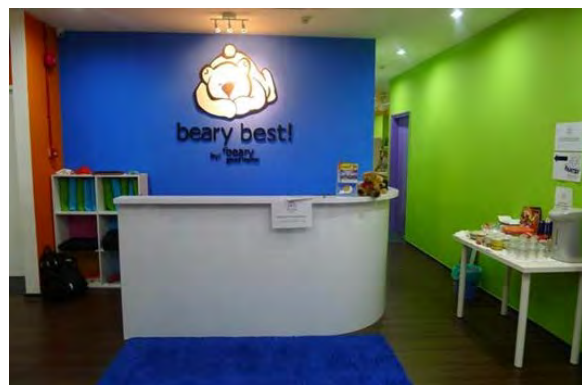
Another hostel, a 3 minute walk to the nearest train station which is a 30-40 minute ride of 14 train stations to the venue. This hostel has themed rooms with 6-14 bed dorm rooms, female dorm rooms and private double rooms.

Comes with breakfast and wifi. Located in the heart of the city center, right at the doorstep of Clarke Quay, *the* place in Singapore to go for trendy restaurants, bars and clubs.



a beary good hostel

<https://www.abeargoodhostel.com/>



An interestingly themed hostel with 3 locations available to choose from.

All locations are conveniently located in Chinatown, where most backpackers congregate.

Depending on the hostel chosen, it's about 5-15 minutes' walk from the hostel to Chinatown MRT.

pillows & toast

<http://www.pillowsntoast.com/>



A simple and cozy hostel located in Chinatown, a 5-10 minutes' walk to Chinatown MRT.

They offer discounts to popular tourist locations like the Universal Studios Singapore, Zoo, and Night Safari.

3. Travelling in Singapore

Singapore has great public transportation.



The most preferred and recommended mode of transport when in Singapore is via the MRT, also known as trains/subway. The MRT trains can get you close to any destination that you may want to visit.

The maps are easy to read and everything in the MRT stations is in English. To travel by the MRT, an EZ-Link card or a Standard Ticket is required. You can choose between a reloadable EZ-Link card, a Standard Ticket card, or a Singapore Tourist Pass, depending on your frequency of travel.

If you plan to travel frequently while in Singapore, the Singapore Tourist Pass is the most recommended, followed by the EZ-Link card, then the Standard Ticket (in decreasing order of travel frequency).

3a. Trains

MRT (Mass Rapid Transit)



There are currently four main lines in the MRT system with a sub line that is partially completed. They are the red North-South Line (with stations coded **NS**), green East-West Line (**EW**), purple North-East Line (**NE**), yellow Circle Line (**CC**) and the blue Downtown Line (**DTL**). The network covers most places of interest.

All lines are seamlessly integrated, even if the lines are operated by different transport companies, so you do not need to buy a new ticket to transfer. The North-East, Circle and Downtown lines are fully automated, there are no drivers and you can get a view of the tunnel at the front of the train. Travel via the MRT is the most preferred method as it is fast and connects to almost all the locations in Singapore. You can download a MRT map on your smartphone for easy reference or pick up a copy from any of the passenger service center.

http://www.sbstransit.com.sg/transport/trpt_dtl_sysmap.htm

3b. Taxis



Taxis are the most convenient method of getting around in Singapore...at a price. Most taxi drivers are able to converse in English, which is a great assistance for tourists in locating places.

Hail a taxi along a road, at a taxi stand, or make a phone booking with one of the many taxi companies in Singapore.

In Singapore, taxi cab fares must be charged by the taxi meter and are based on a flag down rate and the distance travelled. The flag down rate ranges from S\$3.00 to S\$5.00 (depending on the type of taxi). A location surcharge may also apply. Please check with the driver or taxi company on the surcharge and ask for a receipt at the end of the trip. (This will come in handy if you do accidentally leave some of your belongings in the taxi)

During peak periods (e.g. 7am to 9.30am and 5pm to 11pm on weekdays), rainy days or festive seasons, demand for taxis rises. If you are at a hotel, have concierge call you a taxi.

Alternatively, you may try booking a taxi by phone. Do note that a booking fee is applicable.

Limousine taxi service charges a flat rate and can be booked from the respective taxi companies and approved limousine counters at Airport Terminals, Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal, Singapore Expo and certain hotels. Please check with the taxi companies or limousine counters on the rates when you book a limousine taxi service.

Past midnight, Taxis are the only default mode of public transportation.

Do take note that cash is the default and usually the only payment option for taxi charges.

For more information, you may wish to visit:

<http://www.taxisingapore.com/>

3c. Travel Payment Options

3ci. Standard Ticket



If you are staying for less than 4 days, the most recommended method for travel payment on **trains** is the Standard Ticket.

The Standard Ticket is a paper-like card that is issued from General Ticket Machines (GTM) found in the train stations. There is no deposit required for the ticket, and it will give a 10 cents discount on the 3rd and 6th trips.

Do take note that the Standard Ticket can be used up to 6 times within 30 days from the date of purchase and it is only valid for use on the MRT (trains).

3cii. EZ-Link card



If you intend to travel around and visit Singapore, you may consider a stored value card called ez-link card if you do not wish to purchase a standard ticket.

An ez-link card will cost S\$12 or S\$10 and is widely available within most MRT passenger service center or any 7/11 convenience stores, with an S\$5 non-refundable deposit with the rest as travel credit.

There are fare discounts (depending on distance) for trips made with ez-link cards (e.g. the trip to the venue will cost 50-80 cents less with an ez-link card). Ez-link cards can also be used on buses and at some dining and retail outlets.

The ez-link card is recommended as you don't have to queue at the General Ticketing Machine to purchase your fare every trip and the discounts may cover the non-refundable deposit cost. You can keep the ez-link card as a souvenir and use it during your next visit in Singapore, or choose to refund any balance cash amount at any of the MRT passenger service center, when you leave Singapore.

3ciii. Singapore Tourist Pass

This pass allows unlimited rides on trains and busses for a fixed amount of days. The prices are S\$10 for 1 day, S\$16 for 2 days, and S\$20 for 3 days with an S\$10 refundable deposit.



SINGAPORE TOURIST PASS

| TYPE | DAY PASS | REFUNDABLE RENTAL DEPOSIT | TOTAL |
|-------|----------|---------------------------|---------|
| 1 Day | \$10.00 | \$10.00 | \$20.00 |
| 2 Day | \$16.00 | | \$26.00 |
| 3 Day | \$20.00 | | \$30.00 |



SINGAPORE TOURIST PASS PLUS (STP+)

| 1 DAY PASS | 2 DAY PASS | 3 DAY PASS |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| \$20.00 | \$26.00 | \$30.00 |

INCLUSIVE OF:

- Unlimited travel* on Singapore's public bus services, MRT and LRT trains for the duration that is valid
- Each pass is subjected to a \$10 rental deposit which will be refunded if you return the card within 5 days after the day of purchase

INCLUSIVE OF:

- Unlimited travel* on Singapore's public bus services, MRT and LRT trains for the duration that is valid
- **1 Day Bubble Jet Ride****
- **1 Day FUNVEE Bus Tour****
- **ez-link card**
- **NO Deposit Needed**

* Unlimited travel is only applicable for basic public bus and train services. The pass excludes rides on premium bus services such as the Fast Forward, Night Rider and Night Owl buses.

The duration and validity of the pass is based on the operating hours of the public transport system. Service and coverage of the pass typically ends at midnight for bus services and 0030hrs for MRT services.

For more information on the Singapore Tourist Pass Plus, visit www.thesingaporetouristpass.com.sg

** Flash your STP+ at the 3 selected Bubble Jet points and **ANY** FUNVEE points.

This pass is not recommended unless you are going sightseeing and will be transiting a lot around the island.

However, if you are staying longer and are interested, you may find out more at the official site:

<http://www.thesingaporetouristpass.com.sg/about-the-passes/>

4. Places of Interest

Singapore Zoo

With a reputation of being the best rainforest zoo in the world, the Singapore Zoo houses 3,000 animals in a natural living environment so visitors can enjoy the closest contact they can get within a safe range.



Operating hours: 8.30 am - 6 pm daily
Getting there: **NS16** Ang Mo Kio and transfer to bus 138

Night Safari **Recommended!!**

The world's first enclosure for nocturnal animals, the Singapore Night Safari turns an exciting zoo experience into a beautiful evening soiree with these extraordinary species that come alive at night. Visitors can explore the park on foot or in a tram, both of which brings you up close and personal with some of these exotic species.



Operating hours: 6 pm - 12 midnight daily
Getting there: **NS16** Ang Mo Kio and transfer to bus 138

Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall

A Chinese heritage institution tracing Dr. Sun's revolutionary activities in the Southeast Asian region and highlights the impact of the 1911 Chinese Revolution on Singapore as well as Singapore's contributions to the Revolution.



Operating hours: Tuesdays to Sundays
10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Closed on Mondays

Getting there:

NS19 Toa Payoh and transfer with bus 139 or 145, alight after 3 stops.

NS20 Novena and transfer with bus 21 or 131, alight after 3 stops

For more information:

<http://www.acm.org.sg/>

River Safari



Nestled between Singapore's two award-winning wildlife parks – Singapore Zoo and Night Safari – River Safari offers an unforgettable adventure inspired by the world's most iconic rivers. This attraction features state-of-the-art exhibit design as well as the world's largest freshwater aquarium. Housing one of the world's largest collections of freshwater fauna, the park features over 6,000 animals including 40 threatened species, including Singapore's resident giant pandas, Kai Kai and Jia Jia.

Operating hours: 9 am - 6 pm daily

Getting there: **NS16** Ang Mo Kio and transfer to bus 138

For more information:

<http://www.riversafari.com.sg/>

Jurong Bird Park



With its well-manicured landscape embellished with exotic plants and flowers, the Jurong Bird Park showcases 5,000 birds of 380 varieties, as well as an aerial trail that brings you closer to the colors of nature.

Operating hours: 8.30 am - 6 pm daily

Getting there: **EW27** Boon Lay and transfer to bus 194 or 251

Chinatown **Recommended!!**



Also known as 'bullock-cart water' (牛车水) to the local Chinese, Chinatown is your destination for everything Chinese in Singapore. Step into the side-streets where you can enjoy local Chinese cuisine or food from mainland China, or explore the heritage of the Chinese community in Singapore.

Getting there: **NE4DT19** Chinatown

Orchard Road

Densely populated with scores of multi-story malls, the famed Orchard Road is a dream come true for the seasoned urban shopper. Anything and everything can be found here, from high fashion to cult brands, international department stores to local designers. You can also feed your appetite with an international selection of restaurants and cafes available in every mall.



Getting there: **NS22** Orchard, **NS23** Somerset, **NS24NE6CC1** Dhoby Ghaut

Merlion Park

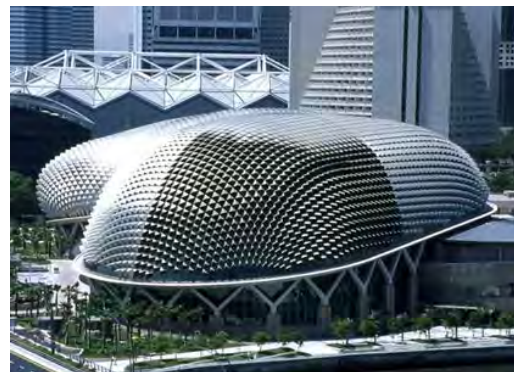
Measuring 8.6m tall and weighing in at 70 tons, the famous water-spouting Merlion is the national symbol of Singapore, with its story of origins dating back to the 11th century.

Getting there: **NS25EW13** City Hall



Esplanade **Recommended!!**

Known for its unique architectural style with window shades that resemble the spikes of a durian, Esplanade is a world-class concert and performance hall that has seen many a famous production within its theatres. Perhaps more mouthwatering is the Makansutra Glutton Bay Food Centre, which is located beside the Esplanade, offering a variety of local hawker cuisines.



Getting there: **CC3** Esplanade

Clarke Quay



Formerly the quieter side of the Singapore River, Clarke Quay has in the last decade flourished into the trendiest nightlife center in Singapore. Previously used as warehouses, these buildings are now occupied by restaurants, bars, pool halls and dance clubs.

Getting there: **NE5** Clarke Quay

Marina Bay Sands



Magnificent in architecture and scale, Marina Bay Sands is the ultimate city-dweller's playground with its impressive Sky Park, grand casino, inviting shops and restaurants of every imaginable cuisine. The Sky Park (that spaceship shaped thing 'docked' at the top of Marina Bay Sands Hotel) is designed to offer visitors a close-up view of Singapore's skyline.

Getting there: **CE1** Bayfront

Gardens by the Bay



The newest development on the bay, Gardens by the Bay is the epitome of a garden in the city. Covering an area of 101 hectares, it consists of three distinct waterfront gardens that feature two indoor plant conservatories and 23,000 plants, 18 super trees (that look like something out of Avatar), as well as themed gardens that showcase a variety of floral and tropical plants from 6 continents.

Getting there: **CE1** Bayfront

Singapore Flyer

Recommended!!

Standing at 165 meters high, the Singapore Flyer is the world's largest observation wheel, looking out at the vast Singapore Strait. Being in the capsule gives you a 360-degree view of the dazzling bay, while its transparent floors offer another dimension to the experience.

Getting there: **CE1** Bayfront



Resorts World Sentosa

A large-scale integrated resort owned by Malaysia's Genting Group, Resorts World Sentosa is a fun-filled destination for the young and old. Spend the day catching thrills in the glitzy casino, or finding spills at the recently opened marine life park.

Getting there: **NE1CC29** Harbourfront and transfer to Sentosa Skytrain



Universal Studios Singapore **Recommended!!**

The first internationally-renowned theme park to set up in Asia, Universal Studios Singapore offers 24 themed attractions, including the world's first 'Transformers 3D' ride. Also features 'Battlestar Galactica', the world's highest double-track roller coaster.

Getting there: **NE1CC29** Harbourfront and transfer to Sentosa Skytrain



iFly Singapore



Built at the cost of S\$25 million, iFly Singapore is the world's largest indoor skydiving wind tunnel that allows you to experience wind speeds of up to 216 km/h. The tunnel reaches a height that's equivalent to a 5-story building, which makes it a perfect training ground for gravity-defying spins and somersaults.

Getting there: **NE1CC29** Harbourfront and transfer to Sentosa Skytrain

Singapore Cable Car



Get a bird's eye view of Sentosa island from the top of Mount Faber, before launching on a 1.6km cable car ride onto the island itself. This is definitely the most scenic route onto the island, surrounded by lush greenery of Mount Faber and panoramic views of the Singapore coastline.

Getting there: **NE1CC29** Harbourfront and hop on a taxi to Mount Faber



Bugis

Bugis Junction, Singapore's teenage haven, built around the restored shop houses of Hylam and Malay Streets, covered with a roof for shopping in any weather. Right across is Bugis+, housing Ramen Champion, a unique food court, comprising Japanese ramen shops.

Right next to Bugis+ is Bugis Street, which presents a bazaar that sells all sorts of vaguely touristy knick-knacks as well as mass-market streetwear. If you haven't sampled tropical fruits yet, take a look at the fruit stalls too.

Getting there: **EW12DT14** Bugis

National Museum of Singapore

With a history dating back to its inception in 1887, the National Museum of Singapore is the nation's oldest museum with a progressive mind. It is custodian of 10 National Treasures, and its Singapore History and Living Galleries adopt cutting-edge and varied ways of presenting history and culture to redefine conventional museum experience.



A cultural and architectural landmark in Singapore, the Museum hosts innovative festivals and events all year round – the dynamic Night Festival, visually arresting art installations, as well as amazing performances and film screenings – in addition to presenting thought-provoking exhibitions involving critically important collections of artefacts.

Operating hours: 10 am - 6 pm daily

Getting there: **CC2** Bras Basah, **NS24NE6CC1** Dhoby Ghaut , **NS25EW13** City Hall

For more information:

<http://www.nationalmuseum.sg/>

Asia Civilization Museum

The Asian Civilizations Museum (ACM), located at the historic Empress Place Building presents the history and culture of Singapore's ancestral cultures, with artefacts that span the entire Asian continent and over five thousand years of recorded history.



The Empress Place Building itself is a National Monument. Built in 1864-65 as a city courthouse, it was subsequently used as government offices until the late 1980s. It is a prime example of the neo-classical Palladian architectural style used for civic and cultural buildings during Singapore's Colonial Period.

Operating hours: Saturdays to Thursdays 10AM - 7PM, Fridays 10AM - 9PM

Getting there: **NS26EW14** Raffles Place

For more information:

<http://www.acm.org.sg/>

5. Card Gaming Stores

Agorahobby

808 French Road, Kitchener Complex, #02-26
Singapore 200808

<https://www.facebook.com/Agorahobby?fref=ts>

Nearest MRT: **EW11** Lavender

CardmasterGames

60 Orchard Road, Dhoby Ghaut MRT Station, #B1-01/02/03,
Singapore 238889

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/CardMaster-Games-Dhoby-Ghaut/592442767441054>

Nearest MRT: **NS24****NE6****CC1** Dhoby Ghaut

Dueller's Point

Blk 450, Hougang Ave 10, #B1-541
Singapore 530450

<https://www.facebook.com/DuellersPoint?fref=ts>

Nearest MRT: **NE15** Buangkok

Gameforge (formerly SG Cards / Epic Gamers)

159A Thomson Road, Goldhill Centre (Second level)
Singapore 307612

<http://facebook.com/gameforgeSG>

Nearest MRT: **NS20** Novena

GamesHaven

736A, Geylang Road, #02-00
Singapore 389647

<https://www.facebook.com/gameshavensg>

Getting there: **EW8****CC9** Paya Lebar

Millennium Game World Paya Lebar

AZ Building, 140 Paya Lebar Road #01-02
Singapore 409015

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Millennium-Game-World/549769568460218?sk=info&tab=overview>

Nearest MRT: **CC10** Macpherson