

## DO'S AND DON'T'S WHILE IN SINGAPORE

- ❖ All foreigners entering Singapore are required to hold a valid pass allowing them to stay in Singapore. The purpose of the valid pass is to regulate the stay of foreigners in Singapore. It may be granted at the checkpoint to a foreigner who wishes to enter Singapore for social, business or professional purposes or as a tourist. Students of foreign nationality are not allowed to work in Singapore during study time or vacation time unless they are granted Work Pass exemption under the Employment of Foreign Manpower (Work Pass Exemptions) Notification. –  
<http://www.mom.gov.sg/foreign-manpower/working-in-singapore/Pages/employment-of-foreign-students.aspx#sthash.agjtseSo.dpuf>.  
Source: <http://www.ica.gov.sg/>
- ❖ Singapore has strict laws on littering of any kind. First-time offenders face a fine and subject to Corrective Work Order (CWO). The CWO requires litterbugs to spend a few hours cleaning a public place, for example, picking up litter in a park. They are made to wear bright jackets, and sometimes, the local media are invited to cover the public spectacle.  
Source: <http://www.nea.gov.sg/public-health/public-cleanliness>
- ❖ No smoking is allowed in public areas, E.g.; buses, MRT, taxis, lifts, theatres, cinemas, government offices, and in air-conditioned restaurants and shopping centres. Dropping a cigarette butt in the street would lead to a fine of minimum S\$300. Singapore has a mandatory caning sentence for vandalism offences. Caning may also be imposed for immigration violations and other offences.  
Source: <http://www.nea.gov.sg/public-health/smoking>
- ❖ There are strict penalties for possession and use of drugs as well as for trafficking in illegal drugs. Trafficking charges may be brought based on the quantity of illegal drugs in a subject's possession, regardless of whether there is any proven or demonstrated intent to distribute the drugs. Possessing these quantities is considered evidence of trafficking. This means, if a person possesses these quantities, they are deemed to be a trafficker and therefore subject to the death penalty; is a maximum of 10 years' jail or fine of S\$20,000, or both as defined by the authorities. This MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT (MDA) compels both residents and non-residents to submit to random drug analysis and do not distinguish between drugs consumed before or after entering Singapore in applying local laws.  
Source: <http://www.cnb.gov.sg/drugs/bannedsubstance.aspx>
- ❖ There are strict penalties for those who possess or carry arms, or who commit crimes with arms while in Singapore. The authorities define "arm" as any firearm, air-gun, air-pistol, automatic gun, automatic pistol and any other kind of gun or pistol from which any shot, bullet or other projectiles can be discharged or from which noxious liquid, flame or fumes can be emitted, and any component part thereof. This definition also includes any bomb or grenade and any component part thereof. The unlawful possession of any arm or ammunition could result in imprisonment and caning. Any person convicted of committing a crime with an arm could receive punishment which could result in the maximum penalty of imprisonment for life and caning.  
Source: <http://www.customs.gov.sg/leftNav/trav/Controlled+and+Prohibited+Goods.html>
- ❖ Any possession of Cigarettes, Liquors and branded goods are subjected to Customs Clearance.  
Source: <http://www.customs.gov.sg/leftNav/trav/Controlled+and+Prohibited+Goods.html>
- ❖ As Singapore is a compact city, we need to share many of our public spaces. It is common for the practices of different races and religions to exist side-by-side in one locality. For example, public housing void decks can be used for private events such as weddings or community functions such as block parties. The Sedition Act and Maintenance of Religious Harmony Act preserves harmony among the different races and religious groups, by preventing individuals from inciting ill-will, division or hatred among different groups, or among those from the same ethnic group. One thing that must be observed in Singapore is not to direct ethnic insults at a person of a different race or religion. We should also not insult or defame the ethnic and religious practices of other groups, our national symbols and other Singaporeans. In Singapore, discussion and mediation are encouraged as ways to solve differences and disputes  
Source: [www.nationalintegratedcouncil.org](http://www.nationalintegratedcouncil.org).

❖ Singapore enforces strict laws pertaining to the propriety of behavior between people and the modesty of individuals. The Singaporean law "Outrage of Modesty" is defined as an assault or use of criminal force on any person intended to, or knowing it to be likely to, outrage the modesty of that person. Penalties may include imprisonment for up to two years, a fine, caning, or a combination thereof. Men are sometimes accused of inappropriately touching other people, often women, resulting in their prosecution and punishment under this Singaporean law.

Source: <http://www.ncpc.gov.sg>

❖ Students of foreign nationality are not allowed to work in Singapore during term time or vacation time unless they are granted Work Pass exemption under the Employment of Foreign Manpower (Work Pass Exemptions) Notification. –

<http://www.mom.gov.sg/foreign-manpower/working-in-singapore/Pages/employment-of-foreign-students.aspx#sthash.agjtseSo.dpuf>.

Source: <http://www.ica.gov.sg/>

❖ To drive a vehicle in Singapore, a valid Singapore driving licence for the class of vehicle that intended to drive. This requirement applies to all citizens and permanent residents of Singapore and also foreigners who are residing in Singapore for more than twelve (12) months. Foreigners who reside here for less than twelve (12) months must possess a International Driving Permit (IDP) issued by an authorised body in their country of origin e.g. the Automobile Association (AA). If an International Driving Permit is not available, an official translation of your foreign licence in English is required. Driver from ASEAN member countries only need to possess a valid driving licence issued by the relevant driving licence Authority in order to drive in Singapore without IDP.

Source: [http://driving-in-singapore.spf.gov.sg/services/driving\\_in\\_singapore/services/information.html](http://driving-in-singapore.spf.gov.sg/services/driving_in_singapore/services/information.html)

❖ Other:

A person is below 18 years old, are prohibited from buying and consuming tobacco and liquor.

Residents and visitors to Singapore must abide by all prevailing Singapore laws

Source: <http://www.contactsingapore.sg/>

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

<https://www.stb.gov.sg/>

<http://statutes.agc.gov.sg> (Type penal code on the search and click Penal Code (chapter 224))

<http://www.mda.gov.sg/>

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

Refer to Singapore Penal Code for more information on Singapore law

## ❖ CULTURE AND ETIQUETTE

🕒 Handshaking is a warm way of greeting others regardless of racial background. Once invited to a home remove your shoes and also while entering a temple or a mosque.

🕒 Be punctual for the appointments. Exchange of cards is quite common and while giving hold it with both hands. It is considered proper to address by using Mr., Mrs. or Miss and not first names. Don't touch opposite sex as it may not be received in a good light. On the other hand don't point with your finger this is considered rude and you may use entire hand with the palm to draw attention. Source: [www.nationalintegratedcouncil.org](http://www.nationalintegratedcouncil.org).