



ESSEC
BUSINESS SCHOOL



The ESSEC Guide to Singapore

2nd Edition, Jan 2019



The pioneering spirit

Welcome Note

Dear Student,

Welcome to the ESSEC Asia Pacific campus! And welcome to Singapore for those of you from overseas.

We have published this guide in the hope that it will be useful in navigating the Singapore landscape in your early days here. It contains (almost!) everything you need to know – right from bus routes to the best restaurants to the free attractions– to manage your daily life here.

Singapore is a brilliant city, and once you get hooked, you will never want to leave. Tons of discoveries, experiences, memories went into compiling this guide. We hope you find it useful and enjoy your stay here in Singapore!

This guide would not have been possible without the initial groundwork provided by current and previous students, staff and faculty of ESSEC Business School. I would like to express our gratitude to them for making our lives much easier and providing the foundations for this guide.

Thank you!

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Singapore at a Glance

A Brief History

The earliest known mention of Singapore was a 3rd-century Chinese account describing Singapore as "Pu-luo-chung" ("island at the end of a peninsula"). By the 14th century, Singapore had become part of the mighty Sri Vijayan Empire and was known as Temasek ("Sea Town").

During the 14th century, it earned a new name – "Singa Pura", or "Lion City". According to legend, a visiting Srivijayan prince, Sang Nila Utama, saw an animal he mistook for a lion and Singapore's modern-day name was born.

The British provided the next notable chapter in the Singapore story. During the 18th century, they saw the need for a strategic "half way house" to support their growing empire. In 1819, Sir Stamford Raffles, the British administrator who founded modern Singapore, quickly established Singapore as a trading station. By 1824, the population had grown from a mere 150 to 10,000.

Years later, during World War II, Singapore was captured by the Japanese in 1942. After the war, Singapore became a Crown Colony. The growth of nationalism led to self-government in 1959 and on 9 August 1965, Singapore became an independent republic.

Singapore Today

Singapore is made up of not just one island but a main island with 63 surrounding islets. The main island has a total land area of 710.3 square km. It is located 136.8 km north of the equator, between latitudes 103 degrees 38'E and 104 degrees 06'E. Singapore is closely situated to Malaysia and Indonesia.

In just 150 years, Singapore has grown into a thriving center of commerce and industry. Though its former role as an entrepôt has diminished, it remains the busiest port in the world with over 600 shipping lines. In addition, Singapore has developed a strong manufacturing base that was developed primarily in the 1960s, and has

evolved into one geared towards the production of high value-added goods today. It is also one of the world's major oil refining and distribution centers and a leader in shipbuilding and repairing.

In recent years, Singapore has become Asia's leading financial center, with more than 130 banks. Business dealings are facilitated by Singapore's excellent communications network, which links the nation with the rest of the world.

National Flag / Anthem / Symbol

The Singapore Flag

Singapore's National Flag is red and white, with a crescent and five stars. Red represents universal brotherhood and equality of men. White symbolizes pervading and everlasting purity and virtue. The crescent moon signifies a young nation on the ascent, and the five stars stand for democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality. The national anthem, written in Malay, embodies the hopes and spirit of Singaporeans in their quest for progress and success.

The National Anthem – Majulah Singapura (Onward Singapore)

Original (in Malay)

English Translation

Mari kita rakyat Singapura
Sama-sama menuju bahagia
Cita-cita kita yang mulia
Berjaya Singapura

Come, fellow Singaporeans
Let us progress towards happiness together
May our noble aspiration bring Singapore
success

Marilah kita bersatu
Dengan semangat yang baru
Semua kita berseru
Majulah Singapura
Majulah Singapura

Come, let us unite
In a new spirit
Let our voices soar as one
Onward Singapore
Onward Singapore

The Merlion

The Merlion is a symbol of welcome to all visitors to Singapore. It was designed as an emblem for the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board (STPB) in 1964. The Merlion has a lion head and a fish body resting on a crest of waves. The lion head symbolises the legend of the rediscovery of "Singapura", as recorded in the "Malay Annals" and symbolises courage, strength, excellence and resilience in the face of challenges. The fish tail symbolises the ancient city of Temasek and represents Singapore's humble beginnings as a fishing village.

Climate

Singapore's climate is warm and humid throughout the year. The temperature ranges from 23 to 32 degrees Celsius. Heavy rainfall is usually experienced from November to January.

Population – Race, Language, and Religion

There are 5.61 million people in Singapore, out of which 3.87 million are citizens and permanent residents. Singapore's people are largely descendants of immigrants from the Malay Peninsula, China and the Indian sub-continent. The rest of the population is largely foreigners who are either working or studying here.

Singapore is a melting pot of races. Of its total resident population (citizens and permanent residents), some 74.3% are Chinese, 13.4% are Malay, 9.0% are Indian, and 3.3% are Eurasian and people of other descent.

The national language of Singapore is Malay and its main language for business, administration and instruction (for schools) is English. The four official languages are Malay, English, Mandarin, and Tamil.

With so much cultural diversity, Singapore is also multi-religious. The main religions are Buddhism, Taoism, Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. Other religions include Sikhism, Judaism and Zoroastrianism. There is also a large atheist population in Singapore.

Festivals

Local cultures can be observed at their most expressive and captivating moments during festivals which are marked by the colorful street processions, elaborate worship ceremonies and sumptuous feasts. Different ethnic districts come aglow with brilliant colorful lights and crowded street markets during the festivals of Lunar New Year, Hari Raya Puasa, Deepavali, and Christmas.

Chinese New Year / Lunar New Year (Chun Jie)

The most important event in the Chinese Lunar calendar, it is a time for much rejoicing. On New Year's Eve, Chinese families gather around the dining table to enjoy a sumptuous dinner known as the Reunion Dinner. The next 15 days are spent visiting friends, relatives and feasting. Parents and other married relatives will give "hong baos" (gifts of money in red packets) to the unmarried children in the family. It is a gesture of good fortune. Entertaining cultural shows are put up by performers at Marina Bay, and you can also shop for more goodies at the Singapore River Hong Bao extravaganza. The Chingay Parade of Dreams is a colorful finale to the Lunar New Year celebrations. With eye-catching floats and costumed performers, it is one of Southeast Asia's grandest street parade. The next dates are 5th and 6th Feb 2019.

Mid-Autumn Festival (Mooncake Festival)

This festival falls on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month, usually in September. According to popular legend, the event commemorates the overthrow of the tyrannical Yuan Dynasty in the 14th century, which was brought about with the aid of secret messages placed in mooncakes. It is marked by much celebration in Chinatown and in parks around Singapore. Children show off bright and colorful lanterns while adults enjoy pomelo (a local citrus fruit) and delicious mooncakes filled with lotus paste, melon seeds, red bean paste, egg yolks and local flavors such as durian and green tea. The next date is on 13th Sep 2019.

Vesak Day

Buddhists celebrate Vesak Day, which commemorates Buddha's entry into Nirvana after attaining spiritual enlightenment. Devotees usually go to the temple for a day of prayer and worship. Monks chant holy sutras and devotees release captive birds as a mark of respect to all living creatures and to gain merit. The next date is on 19th May

Ponggal

Thai Ponggal is a Tamil harvest festival. It is a 4-day festival which is normally celebrated from Jan 14 to 17. This corresponds to the last day of the Tamil month Maargazhi to the third day of the Tamil month Thai. Thai Pongal corresponds to Makara Sankranti, the winter harvest festival celebrated throughout India. It is celebrated to convey appreciation to the Sun God for providing the energy for agriculture. Part of the celebration is the boiling of the first rice of the season. The next date is 15th Jan 2019.

Thaipusam

Thaipusam is a passionate and dramatic festival, whereby Hindu penitents and worshippers carry kavadi (structures that hold fruits, flowers and pots of milk) in a procession that stretches from the Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple in Serangoon Road to the Sri Thandayuthapani Temple in Tank Road. This festival is an awesome display of mind over matter as the entranced devotees walk the 3 kilometer route with their heavy loads. Some devotees have skewers and hooks pierced through their tongues, cheeks and bodies. The next date is 21st Jan 2019.

Deepavali

The Hindus celebrate Deepavali, the Festival of Lights, in Oct-Nov. It symbolises the triumph of good over evil and is celebrated in the Tamil month of Aipasi. During the period, Hindu homes around Singapore are decked with flickering oil lamps, and Little India, in particular, is festively decorated and bustling with activity. As a form of self-cleansing, Hindus take a ritual oil bath before daybreak. Social visits and sweet treats are part of the celebration. The next date is 27th Oct 2019.

Hari Raya Puasa / Eid-UI-Fitri

After Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, Muslims celebrate Hari Raya Puasa. Weeks before the event, Geylang Serai transforms into a lively bazaar with roadside stalls selling various snacks, accessories and costumes. On the actual day of celebration, male members of households rise early to attend special prayers at the mosque. Past wrongs are forgiven and families visit the graves of those who departed as a sign of remembrance. In the homes, traditional delicacies and snacks are prepared for visiting friends and relatives. The next date is 5th Jun 2019.

Hari Raya Haji / Eid-UI-Adha

For Muslims, the 'Haj' or pilgrimage to Mecca is the most important journey of their lives. Hari Raya Haji commemorates the pilgrimage and celebrates the return of the pilgrims. Muslims spend a day in prayer; and after the morning session at the mosques, sheep and goats are ritually slaughtered as sacrifices. The meat is then distributed among the worshippers and the poor. The next date is 11th Aug 2019.

Christmas

Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. Christmas carols reverberate in malls as the season approaches. Be amazed by the beautifully decorated streets, shopping malls and hotels as they dazzle with fairy lights. Join the crowds at buoyant events across the island. In all churches, special services are held on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning to mark this special day. The next date is 25th Dec 2019.

Good Friday

Christians and Catholics commemorate the day Jesus Christ sacrificed himself on the cross to exonerate the sins of all mankind. Worshippers attend special prayer services and other events to demonstrate their gratification to the Lord. The next date is 19th Apr 2019.

Public Holidays in Singapore – 11 days per year

2019		2020	
1 Jan	New Year	1 Jan	New Year
5-6 Feb	Chinese New Year	25-26 Jan	Chinese New Year
19 Apr	Good Friday	10 Apr	Good Friday
1 May	Labor Day	1 May	Labor Day
19 May	Vesak Day	7 May	Vesak Day
5 Jun	Hari Raya Puasa	24 May	Hari Raya Puasa
9 Aug	National Day	31 Jul	Hari Raya Haji
11 Aug	Hari Raya Haji	9 Aug	National Day
27 Oct	Deepavali (Diwali)	14 Nov	Deepavali (Diwali)
25 Dec	Christmas	25 Dec	Christmas

Culture Shock!

With the diversity of Singapore's population, it is important to note the different customs, practices and social etiquette. But fear not! This condensed guide presents a good summary of different norms and traditions you should understand to save you from embarrassing moments as you interact with locals.

Greetings and Introductions

Singaporeans do not usually hug or kiss at their first meeting. A firm handshake will do, but a nod or smile sometimes suffices if the other party indicates discomfort at the former gesture. If possible, begin the greetings and introductions with the most elderly person or those with higher social status.

The right hand is used for interactions such as handshakes, eating without cutlery, pointing etc. Indian and Malay communities reserve the use the left hand for more personal tasks, and it is considered "unclean".

Punctuality is also considered an important virtue in Singapore. To avoid leaving a negative impression, do try to arrange all meetings in advance and arrive at the designated meeting point on time.

Food

Certain ethnic groups and religions avoid consumption of some foodstuff. Muslims only eat Halal food and do not consume pork, lard or alcohol ('Halal' is an Arabic word which means lawful or allowable). Hindus and Buddhists do not eat beef, some are vegetarian and others may also avoid foodstuff like garlic, onions and spices.

During the Ramadan period, Muslims fast and avoid eating or drinking from dawn to dusk. It would be polite to avoid asking your Muslim friends out for meals or offering them food in the day during this period.

Purchasing Food and Services

Bargaining is not normally practiced in Singapore shops; the prices marked are the prices at which the goods are sold. Likewise, tipping is not necessary, as a service charge of 10% is normally levied at restaurants, hotels and other establishments. A tip should only be exercised in instances where the bill does not include a service charge.

You may bargain at smaller shops in Bugis or Chinatown. Please check the prices to avoid getting fleeced.

Presenting Gifts

You can give gifts of money in "Hong Baos" (Chinese red packets) for all auspicious Chinese occasions such as weddings, birthdays etc. Do note, however, that the sum of money should be even and not four ('sei' in Cantonese means death). The Chinese generally believe red is an auspicious color but black is not. Items which should not be considered for gifts include clocks ("zhong"= funerals), handkerchiefs (associated with tearful partings) and umbrellas (associated with mishaps).

Many Indians are Hindus, and hence leather gifts are inappropriate, as they consider the cow to be a sacred animal. Gold, money and flowers are good gifts for all auspicious occasions.

During the Christening of a baby, Eurasians do not usually give gifts of money, but rather give gifts that are religious and more symbolic of the child's union with Christ, e.g. a scapular.

When considering foodstuff as a gift, note the taboos and customs as stated above.

Money Matters

As a financial hub in Asia, Singapore boasts excellent, state-of-the-art banking and financial services. Many local and international banks and financial institutions offer a full suite of financial services to meet all your financial needs. You will be glad to know that though Singapore has one of the highest standards of living in Asia, its cost of living is kept at an affordable level compared to many Western countries.

Currencies

The Singapore currency is in dollars and cents. 100 cents are equivalent to one Singapore dollar. The notes run in denominations of \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$1,000 and \$10,000. The coins run in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50 cents and \$1. Cashless payment methods include credit cards, debit cards a.k.a. Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS), EZ-Link cards and mobile/internet banking.

Exchange Rates (as of 9th Jan 2019)

United States	US\$1 = S\$1.36	Taiwan	S\$1 = NT\$ 23
Euro	Euro 1 = S\$1.55	Malaysia	S\$1 = RM 3.03
United Kingdom	& 1 = S\$1.73	Indonesia	S\$1 = 10,400 Rp
Switzerland	CHF 1 = S\$1.38	Thailand	S\$1 = 24 Baht
Russia	S\$1 = 50 Ruble	Cambodia	S\$1 = 3000 Riel
Japan	S\$1 = 80 Yen	Vietnam	S\$1 = 17,000 Dong
China	S\$1 = 5 Yuan	Philippines	S\$1 = 39 Peso
India	S\$1 = Rs 51	Nepal	S\$1 = Rs 81
South Korea	S\$1 = 828 Won	Morocco	S\$1 = 7 Dirham

Banking

You can open an account with a local or international bank. Local banks include DBS, POSB, UOB and OCBC. International banks include Citibank, Bank of China, State Bank of India, or HSBC. If you need to open a savings account, simply visit any bank with your passport, Student's Pass and Letter of Admission to your PEI. A minimum deposit of \$100 is usually required if you are below 21 years old. Other services include telegraphic transfer, bank drafts, traveler's cheques and changing of foreign currencies. Nearest DBS Bank is at Holland Drive (Near Holland Drive Food Centre)

Once your savings account is set up, you will be able to enjoy the following services:

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs)

Bank accounts usually come with Debit cards, that allow you to withdraw money from your bank's ATM machines, make payments at shops and top-up your EZ link cards. Most ATM machines are available 24 hours. Please note that you cannot withdraw from an ATM which is not from your bank, contrary to Europe. The nearest ATMS to campus are at One-North MRT – DBS & UOB (can use OCBC cards too). Certain ATMs allow you to use overseas cards to withdraw cash (check the relevant symbols at the back of your card & the ATM machines e.g. Cirrus, Plus or Maestro).

Internet/On-line Banking/Mobile Banking

This convenient way of organizing your finances allows you to view your financial records from any mobile phone or computer with Internet access. You can transfer funds, pay for purchases and conduct other financial activities via this mode of banking. All local banks offer online and mobile banking.

Inter-bank GIRO

A means to pay bills electronically, the Interbank GIRO (IBG) is an arrangement whereby you authorize the Bank to deduct money from your account to pay an organization/merchant on a regular basis. This arrangement requires no further action from you once it has been set up, apart from checks on your part to ensure that there are sufficient funds in your account at time of deductions and the correct amount is deducted.

Issuing and Depositing of Cheques

Cheques usually take one or two working days to clear and they can be dropped off at quick cheque deposit slots near ATMs or at the bank.

Network for Electronic Transfers (NETS)

You can also use your ATM card to make NETS payment for your purchases. NETS is a cashless payment transaction system that deducts the exact purchase amount directly from your bank account at the point of sale. In Singapore many vendors have NETS facilities and will accept NETS cards.

Telegraphic Transfers and Bank Drafts

Money transfers between banks take between four to six working days to clear, depending on the currency, destination, period and the agent bank used. Be prepared to wait in line for assistance when you cash in your bank draft.

Money Changers

Other than banks, you can also change your foreign currencies with licensed moneychangers. These outlets are usually located within shopping malls and commercial centers.

Cost Of Living (as of 1st Sept 2018)

It is advisable to plan your budget, as it teaches you money management and instills discipline. On average, an international student can expect to spend about S\$1000 to 2500 a month on living expenses, though this depends on each student's lifestyle. Below is a compilation of common expense items, per month in Singapore dollars.

Item	Budget per month (S\$)	Comments
Food	350 - 500	3 meals per day
Transportation	30 - 100	Depends on transport mode and distance
Accommodation	400 - 1,500	Depends on location & type of housing
Utilities	50 - 80	May be included in Accommodation costs
Telecommunications	30 – 60	Depends on usage
Medical	10 – 50	Consultation & meds ~ \$50 at clinics, \$100 at specialists / hospitals
Personal Expenses	100 - 200	Entertainment, household items, etc.
Books and Stationery	30 - 100	-
Girlfriend/Boyfriend	100 – Infinity	Depends on <i>their</i> spending ability 😊
TOTAL	\$1000 - \$2500	

Getting Around

Public transport is very efficient and convenient in Singapore. You have three main options. In general, for directions to anyplace, use Google Maps mobile app, available for both iOS and Android.'

1. MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) Trains

Singapore subways are fast and cheap. MRT frequencies are 2-3 minutes during weekday peak hours, and 4-6 mins during non-peak hours and weekends. The nearest MRT stations to our campus are

- One-North MRT (Circle Line) – 3 mins walk from ESSEC's rear entrance on Level 3
- Buona Vista MRT (East West Line) – 7 mins walk north from ESSEC's main entrance on Level 1

2. Buses

There are 3 providers of public bus services: SMRT, SBS and Tower (no difference in fares, just routes). The bus is usually the most convenient way to get to the MRT stations. The nearest bus stop to our campus is

Bus Stop Name	Location fr ESSEC AP Campus	Buses
Opp ACJC	Take the stairs outside Lev 3	74, 91, 92, 95, 191, 196, 198, 200
After ACJC	Walk north fr Lev 1 entrance	74, 91, 92, 95, 191, 196, 198, 200

Want to find out when your bus will arrive? Install the Bus@SG mobile app, available for both iOS and Android.

**Bus and MRT services terminate around midnight.*

EZ link and NETS Flashpay Cards

The cheapest and most convenient way to pay for both buses and the MRT is with an EZLink or a NETS Flashpay stored-value card. These are pre-paid cards that need to be tapped in and out when you travel. You can purchase them at any MRT station's ticket booth. Make sure that you have a minimum balance of S\$2 before you start your journey. Otherwise, you can buy a ticket for the bus with exact change (\$1.10 for nearby stops) and for the MRT from the ticket machine (GTM).

To top-up/add value to the EZ Link cards, you can go to the GTM machines at MRT stations or Bus Interchanges, ticket booths at MRT stations and 7/11 stores
To top-up the NETS Flashpay cards, you would need to go to a 7/11 store.
These cards can even be used at many merchants for payment. A 'NETS Cash' card is also available. But if you wish to travel with the card, make sure you get the Flashpay

3. Taxis

This is the easiest but most expensive mode of transport, though they are less expensive when compared to Western Europe. Taxis can be booked beforehand for a booking fare of \$3.30. Flag down fares start from S\$ 3.20, and cost extra at peak hours and after 6pm. Following is the list of taxi companies:

#	Service	Phone Number
1	City Cab	6552 1111
2	Maxi Cab*	8481 9737
3	Grab Taxi	Grab Mobile App

**Maxi Cab can accommodate up to 7 passengers with space for luggage. Usually opted for transfers to and from the airport, these cabs have a fixed fare.*

4. Bicycles

Bicycle can be a useful mode of transportation for short distances. That said, most people view cycling as a recreational activity here. Riding a bicycle has its pros and cons in Singapore.

Pros: It's often faster than a bus, cheap, available anytime, and good exercise too.

Cons: Vehicle drivers have little respect for two-wheeled traffic, so you would to ride safely on the road or ride on the sidewalk, which becomes a hassle for pedestrians.

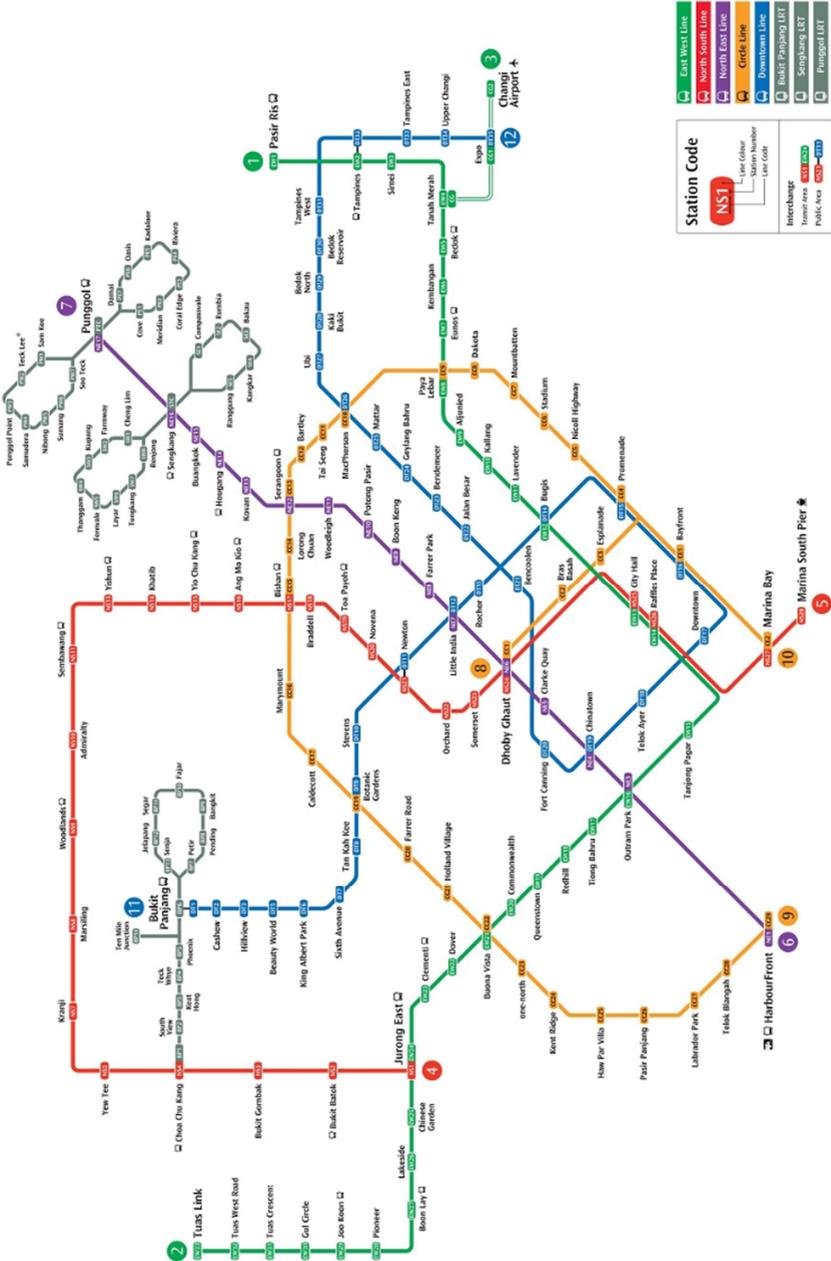
Also, the hot and humid weather will make you perspire.

To access a bicycle, there is no requirement to buy one as numerous bike sharing services have sprung up in the last 2 years. The most popular ones are

1. OFO <https://www.ofo.com/sg/en> and
2. Mobike <https://mobike.com/sg/>.

The nearest OFO bikes are parked next to the After ACJC Bus Stop, which is 50m north of Level 1 entrance.

Singapore MRT Map – Note: ESSEC is located just above one-north MRT



Map Adapted from Transport Planning, © 2017 by Land Transport Authority Singapore

Airport
 Interchange
 Circle Centre
 Expressway

Getting Started

Things you need when you drop down that luggage in your dorm. Find everything in the following stores. Our recommendations use the ESSEC Asia Pacific campus as the base since we assume most students will opt to live near the campus.

1. IKEA

The ideal one stop shop to make your room feel like home. All your start-up needs like household items, kitchen utensils, and bathroom accessories can be found here.

Timings: 10 am – 10 pm

Location: Alexandra Road, near Queenstown MRT

Getting there: Bus 14 from Opp ACJC, alight 5 stops later next to IKEA

2. NTUC Fair Price

Grocery store for daily needs, Widest network in Singapore and lowest prices.

Timings: 24 hours

Location: Fair Price Holland Drive, near Buona Vista MRT

Getting there: Bus 74, 91, 191, 200 fr After ACJC, alight 3 stops later next to NTUC

3. Cold Storage

Classy grocery store. More imported items than Fair Price, and pricier.

Timings: 8:30 am – 10 pm

Location: Fusionopolis Basement 2, next to one-North MRT entrance

Getting there: Walk towards one-North MRT – 4 mins from ESSEC

4. 7/11

24hr store to pick up snacks, phone & bus top-ups. Prices are steeper though.

Location: NUH Medical Centre, outside Kent Ridge MRT

Getting there: Take MRT and alight at Kent Ridge, 1 stop away. Walk 2 mins

5. Mustafa

This mega-mall carries over 100, 000 items – clothes, electronics, grocery, jewelry.

Timings: 24 hours

Location: Syed Alwi Road, Little India

Getting there: Take MRT and change 4 stops later at Botanic Gardens to Downtown Line. Alight at Little India 3 stops later and walk 10 mins.

For the Foodies

One of the joys of being in Singapore is the amazing variety of food available from hawker centers, fast food outlets and restaurants to hotels, and catering to all budgets. Singapore is famous for its “hawker centers,” open-air food courts with a bunch of little stalls selling local food. There is one (or few) in every HDB area (public housing complex) and shopping malls. Try the fried noodles, n, chicken rice, carrot cake, pratas, briyanis, nasi padang and a myriad of other dishes for less than \$5.00. Popular cuisines include Chinese, Malay, Indian, Peranakan, Japanese, Korean, Indonesian, Thai, Vietnamese, ‘Western’, American, Italian, French, Mexican and Mediterranean. Below is a summary of places, mostly a short travel from our campus

Hawker Centers & Food Courts

1. Fusionopolis

This is the nearest food court to our campus. Dishes/cuisines 1 include Chicken rice, Fishball noodle, Economic Bee hoon, Yong tau foo, Herbal soup, Mini wok, Hot pot, Fish soup, Ban mian, Dim Sum, Western, Thai, Japanese, and Indian.

Location: *Fusionopolis Basement 2, next to one-North MRT entrance*

Getting there: *Walk towards one-north MRT – 4 mins from ESSEC*

2. Holland Drive Market & Food Centre, Buona Vista

Chee Cheong Fun, Hakka Noodle, Kway chap, Thunder tea rice, Veg Bee hoon

Location: *44, Holland Drive, near Buona Vista MRT*

Getting there: *Bus 74, 91, 191, 200 fr After ACJC, alight 3 stops later, walk 1 min*

3. Holland Village Market, Holland Village

Nasi lemak, Fried bee hoon, Wonton noodles, Claypot chicken rice, Ba chor mee

Location: *1, Lorong Mambong, near Holland Village MRT*

Getting there: *MRT to Holland Village, 2 stops away. Walk 4 mins west*

4. On the Ridge by Kopitiam, Kent Ridge

Apam, Ayam Penyet, Ban mian, Chicken laksa, Chicken Tikka, Mee goreng, Rojak

Location: *One@Kent Ridge, outside Kent Ridge MRT*

Getting there: *Take MRT and alight at Kent Ridge, 1 stop away. Walk 1 min*

Restaurants, Cafes and Bakeries

1. Sodexo

Our very own in-house café that serves different cuisines every day!

Cuisine: French, Western, Chinese, Indian

Location: Level 5, ESSEC Asia Pacific Campus (and many other locations)

2. Din Tai Fung

From Taiwan, famous for their steamed dumplings, Michelin Star awarded.

Cuisine: Chinese

Location: Jurong East Mall (JEM) #02-07 (and 21 other locations)

Getting there: Take MRT to Jurong East. Walk 3 mins to JEM Mall

3. Greendot Vista Vegetarian

Cuisine: Chinese, Vegetarian

Location: 1 Vista Exchange Green, #01-33 The Star Vista (and 3 other locations)

Getting there: Walk 5 minutes north to Star Vista Mall

4. Komala Vilas

The best Indian vegetarian food chain here. Rated best by Lonely Planet founder!

Cuisine: South Indian. Vegetarian.

Location: 76, Serangoon Road (and 12 other locations)

Getting there: Take MRT to Little India via Downtown Line. Walk 3 mins

5. Indian Curry House

Get you fill of Naans, Chicken tikkas, bryanis and fish head curry

Cuisine: North Indian, South Indian

Location: Fusionopolis, Galaxis #02-03 (and 3 other locations)

6. Porn's

Tom yum soup, green chicken curry, pad thai, papaya salad. Yummy!

Cuisine: Thai

Location: 1 Vista Exchange Green, #02-09 The Star Vista

7. Katto

Sashimi, Grilled salmon, Chicken yakitori with weekday lunch sets

Cuisine: Japanese

Location: Fusionopolis, Galaxis #01-21

8. Entre-nous Creperie

Rated one of the best restaurants in Singapore, they serve delicious crepes

Cuisine: French

Location: 27, Seah Street, behind Bras Basah Complex, near City Hall MRT

Getting there: Take MRT to City Hall, walk northwest for 6 mins

9. Marco

Cuisine: Italian, Cafe

Location: #01-05, The Metropolis, North Buona Vista Drive, opp Buona Vista MRT

Getting there: Walk 10 mins north of ESSEC

10. Food Barn

Offering good breakfast, pastas, salads, sandwiches, coffee and smoothies

Cuisine: Western, Asian, Cafe

Location: Fusionopolis, Galaxis #01-13

11. El Patio Mexican Restaurant & Wine Bar

Located in the popular Holland Village, offers fajitas, burritos & tacos

Cuisine: Mexican

Location: 34, Lorong Mambong, near Holland Village MRT

Getting there: MRT to Holland Village and walk 3 mins west

12. Levure Naturelle

The nearest good bakery to our campus

Cuisine: Breads, tarts

Location: Liat Towers, Orchard and Velocity, Novena

Getting there: MRT to Orchard or Novena and walk up

Food Deliveries

Food deliveries have become very popular over last few years. Your options include:

	Service	Cuisine / Scope	Operating Hours	
1	Dominos	Pizza	10:30am – 11:00pm	Ph: 6222 6333
2	McDonalds	Fast food	24 hours	Ph: 6777 3777
3	Foodpanda	Many restaurants	24 hours	Foodpanda app
4	Deliveroo	Many restaurants	12:00pm – 11:00pm	Deliveroo App
5	UberEATS	Many restaurants	11:00am – 11:00pm	UberEATS App

Sports and Wellbeing

Singapore has an array of sporting facilities all over the island. Popular sports and outdoor activities include gym, swimming, jogging, running, badminton and football. Below is a list of sporting facilities near the campus.

1. Gym – Bespoke Fitness

Offers a good deal and near ESSEC too. More info at www.bespokefitness.fit

Opening Hours: 24/7 via Biometric Access

Rates: \$70 a month - No contract period (most gyms have a 1 year contract period)

Location: 21, Media Circle #01-06

Getting there: Bus 191 fr Opp ACJC, Alight 4 stops later at Whitchurch Rd. Walk 3 min

2. Swimming Pool – Queenstown Swimming Complex

Government-run swimming complex, popular with locals. Entry fee = \$1.30 per entry

Opening Hours: Mon, Fri, Sun - 8:00am to 9:30pm, Tue, Thu, Sat – 6:30am to 9:30pm

Location: 473, Stirling Road

Getting there: MRT to Queenstown and walk 5 mins north

3. Stadium – Queenstown Stadium

Football field & 6-lane track. Free admission for jogging from 4.30am to 8.30pm

Opening Hours: 7:00am to 10:00pm

Location: 473, Stirling Road

Getting there: MRT to Queenstown and walk 5 mins north

4. Football Field – Clementi Town Secondary School

A secondary school that rents out its' football field and badminton courts

Opening Hours: Sat 3:00pm to 7:00pm, Sun 9:00am to 7:00pm

Location: 10, Clementi Avenue 3

Getting there: MRT to Clementi and walk 5 mins west

To book: <https://www.myactivesg.com/Facilities/clementi-town-secondary-school-field>

Shopping, Malls & Ethnic Enclaves

A list of places, where you can chill out, have a nice cup of coffee, enjoy a nice meal. explore, shop till you drop or just enjoy the sights, sounds and smells!

1. Star Vista Mall

The nearest mall to our campus, it houses numerous shops & restaurants and a 5000-seat auditorium. It's conveniently located next to Buona Vista MRT

Getting there: Walk 5 mins north of campus

Places to Eat: Ah Mei Prata, Canton Paradise, EspresSOUP, Gelare, GreenDot, Gyu-kaku Japanese BBQ, The Kitchen, Morganfield's, Porn's, Wrap & Roll

2. Holland Village

Holland Village is a popular shopping and dining destination for younger Singaporeans and expats. It is dominated by over 150 eateries and watering holes, along with some specialist shops.

Getting there: MRT to Holland Village and walk 2 mins west

Places to Eat: Bar Bar Black Sheep, Breko Café, Crust Gourmet Pizza, El Patio Mexican, Harry's, Kanpai Izakaya, La Nonna, Provence, Qasr Grille & Mezze Bar

Other Places: Holland Road Shopping Centre, cheap electronics at Lucky Store

3. Vivo City

Vivo City is the biggest mall in Singapore with over 300 stores. It houses most big brands and you can buy almost anything here. You can also take the monorail or bus (or walk) from Vivo City to enter Sentosa, a big resort island.

Getting there: MRT to Harbourfront. Take escalator up

Places to Eat: Barrio, Ben & Jerry's, Brotzeit German, The Chop House, Crystal Jade, Dian Xiao Er, Jamie's Italian, KFC, Krispy Kreme, McDonalds, Modesto's, Marche, Petit Provence, Putien, Shin Kushiya, Starbucks, Sushi Tei

Other Places: Golden Village Cinemas, Giant Supermarket, Adidas, Calvin Klein, Candy Empire, Chanel, Coach, Garret Popcorn, Kate Spade, LEGO, Levi's, Massimo Dutti, Marks & Spencer, Muji, Nike, Ray-Ban, Tangs, banks & telcos.

4. Orchard Road

The main shopping belt of Singapore. A beautiful road just to walk along, it hosts everything from cafes and high-end designer brands to 5-star hotels.

Getting there: MRT to Orchard, Somerset or Dhoby Ghaut and walk up.

Shopping Malls: 313@Somerset, Centrepont, ION Orchard, Ngee Ann City, Orchard Gateway, Paragon, Plaza Singapura, Tang, Wheelock Place, Wisma Atria
Stores: Audemars Piguet, Balenciaga, Burberry, Bvlgari, Cartier, Chanel, Coach, Dior, Dolce Gabbana, Donna Karan, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Hermes, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Loewe, Louis Vuitton, Massimo Dutti, Patek Philippe, Prada, Zara
Cinemas: Shaw Lido, Cathay Cineleisure, Golden Village Plaza Singapura,

5. Chinatown

This market has yummy Chinese food on the streets with an array of shops that sell T-shirts, artifacts, souvenirs, cheap goods – great gift options for everybody. During the Chinese New Year, the whole place is lit up for celebrations.

Getting there: MRT to Chinatown, and walk up

Places to Eat: Chinatown Complex, Chinatown Food Street, Ah Tai, Din Tai Fung, Oriental Chinese, Song Fa Bah Kut Teh, Tian Tian Chicken Rice, Xiao Ya Tou

Attractions: Al-Abrar Mosque, Buddha Tooth Relic Temple, Layan Sithi Vinayagar Temple, Masjid Jame, Sri Mariamman Temple, Thian Hock Theng Temple

6. Little India

Commonly known as *Tekka* by the local Indian community, Little India is full of Indian restaurants; businesses selling Indian goods, sundry, flowers and jewelry located in quaint shophouses; numerous Indian places of worship; and shopping centres such as Mustafa and Jothi Store. In the last decade, the back lanes have become *bohemian* with tourist-oriented services such as backpackers' hostels, boutique hotels, new restaurants, tattoo places, and massage parlors.

Getting there: MRT to Little India or Farrer Park and walk up.

Places to Eat: Ananda Bhavan, Aromas of India, Gayatri, Gokul, Jaggi's, Kalash Parbat, Khansama Tandoori, Komala Vilas, Tekka Centre, Zam Zam

Attractions: Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple, Abdul Gafoor Mosque, Kampong Kapor Methodist Church, Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple, Sakyamuni Buddha Gaya Temple, Sri Vadapathra Kalliamman Temple, Central Sikh Temple

7. Arab Street

Basically, a miniature version of the Middle East, Arab Street boasts authentic Arab cuisine and shops selling carpets, perfumes and other Arabic & Islamic goods. It's a popular spot for football (soccer) fans to gather during weekends and watch the EPL while enjoying mouth-watering kebabs, and shawarmas.

Getting there: MRT to Bugis and walk 5 mins east.

Places to Eat: Alaturka, Beirut, Byblos Grill, Derwish, Istanbul, Tabbouleh

Other Places: Aladdin's, Anglia, Dilip Textiles, Poppy Fabric, Rishi Handicrafts

Entertainment – *Nightlife, Movies, etc*

Clubs

If you enjoy nightlife, then you won't be disappointed by Singapore's nightclubs. However if you want to have a nice time, don't forget: bring your ID (student pass or passport since some bars are not satisfied with a simple student card (Essec type)) and get dressed!

1. Attica

Atmosphere: two rooms with different atmospheres (R&B and commercial / techno)

Opening Hours: Wed-Thu 10:30pm-3am; Fri-Sat until 4am

Location: 3A River Valley Rd, Clarke Quay, #01-03 (near Clarke Quay MRT)

2. Kilo Lounge

Atmosphere: One of the best techno night club in Singapore with great DJs and many French people

Opening Hours: Tue-Fri 5:30pm-3am; Sat 7pm-4am

Location: 21 Tanjong Pagar Road (near **Tanjong** Pagar MRT, exit A)

3. ZOUK

Atmosphere: One of the biggest nightclubs in Singapore with several rooms. They usually play commercial music and sometimes invite worldwide famous DJs.

For 25+ people, the Capital, Zouk's VIP room is really nice to hang out, only with table reservations but expensive as hell! (around SGD 160 per pax).

Opening Hours: Wednesday – Friday – Saturday

Location: 3C River Valley Road, The Cannery

Bowling

Another popular past time for locals is bowling. The one nearest to our campus is

West Bowl

Location: 12, West Coast Walk

Getting There: Bus 198 from Opp ACJC, alight 5 stops later at Clementi Stadium, walk 1m

Details & Rates: <https://www.csc.sg/westwoodbowl/rates.aspx>

Movies

Moviegoing is a popular pastime in Singapore. A standard ticket costs between \$7 to \$9.50 for weekdays, and between \$11 to \$13.50 for weekends/ public holidays. For the premium screens with reclining couple seats, food service, blankets e.g. GV Gold Class or Cathay Platinum, prices range from \$25 to \$38. Surcharges apply for 3D and IMAX screenings. It can be cold in cinemas, so please bring your sweater. **Look out for student discounts and offers on selected credit/ debit cards** Most cinemas are conveniently located near MRT stations. Listed below are the 3 closest to our campus

1. Golden Village Cinemas

Location: Vivo City (Harbourfront MRT) and 13 other locations

Languages: English, Chinese, Malay, Tamil, Hindi, others occasionally

Details & Booking: www.gv.com.sg

Getting there: MRT to Harbourfront and walk up

2. Cathay Cinemas

Location: Jurong East Mall – JEM (Jurong East MRT)

Languages : English, Chinese, Malay, Tamil, Hindi, others occasionally

Details & Booking: <https://www.cathaycinplexes.com.sg/movies/>

Getting there: MRT to Jurong East and walk 2 mins east

3. Shaw Cinemas

Location: JCube (Jurong East MRT)

Languages: English, Chinese, Malay, Tamil, Hindi, others occasionally

Details & Booking: <https://shaw.sg/>

Getting there: MRT to Jurong East and walk 2 mins west

For event listings, please check out

1. <http://www.singapore-guide.com/nightlife/>
2. <https://a-list.sg/>
3. www.eventbrite.sg
4. <https://thehoneycombers.com/singapore/>
5. <https://www.timeout.com/Singapore>
6. <http://www.singapourlemag.com/>

Places of Worship

Singapore is one of the few truly multi-religious countries where no single faith forms a majority. For the faithful, below is a list of the various traditions' places of worship nearest to our campus. This may come in handy during exam times ;-)

Catholic: Blessed Sacrament Church

1 Commonwealth Drive
Bus 198 fr Aft ACJC, alight Opp Church

Evangelical: New Creation Church

Star Vista
Walk 5 mins north from campus

Methodist: Holland Village Methodist

61 Jalan Hitam Manis
MRT to Holland Village, walk 7 min east

Orthodox: Armenian Church

60, Hill Street
MRT to City Hall, walk 5 mins west

Presbyterian: True Way Presbyterian

156B, Stirling Road
MRT to Queenstown, walk 3 mins south

Jewish : Maghain Aboth Synagogue

24 Waterloo Street
MRT to Bras Basah, walk 2 mins east

Islam - Sunni : Mujahidin Mosque

590 Stirling Road
Bus 196/198 fr Aft ACJC, alight Polyclini

Islam – Shia : Masjid Al-Burhani

39 Hill Street
MRT to City Hall, walk 3 mins west

Buddhist: Wat Ananda Metryama Thai

50B, Jalan Bukit Merah
Bus 196 fr Aft ACJC, alight Opp Blk 140

Buddhist: Sakya Muni Buddha Gaya Tp

366 Race Course Road
MRT to Farrer Park, Walk 5 mins east

Taoist : Thian Hock Keng Temple

158 Telok Ayer Street
MRT to Tanjong Pagar, walk 8 mins nth

Taoist : Tiong Ghee Temple

1085 Stirling Road
MRT to Quesntown, walk 5 mins south

Hindu : Sri Muneeswarar Temple

No. 3 Commonwealth Drive
Bus 198 fr Aft ACJC, alight Opp Church

Hindu : Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple

397, Serangoon Road
MRT to Farrer Park, Walk 3 mins east

Sikh : Gurdwara Sahib Silat Road

8 Jalan Bukit Merah
Bus 196 fr Aft ACJC, alight Opp Blk 149

Jain : Singapore Jain Religious Society

18 Jalan Yasin (near Eunos MRT)
MRT to Eunos, 5 mins south

Penny-less Past-times

Here are the places that you can go to without spending a dime or at the most, a few dollars.

1. Marina Bay

Situated at the heart of the city, **Marina Bay** is the lifestyle center of the city. It is where you can see the most innovative facilities and where huge activities take place. Surrounded by the famous **Marina Bay Sands**, **Gardens by the Bay**, the **Helix Bridge**, the **Singapore Flyer**, the **Esplanade Theater**, the **Merlion** and Singapore's famous **office buildings and towers**, this is the place to be. It is also where the **F1** takes place in Singapore around the time school starts. As this is Singapore's signature skyline, it is great just to take a walk around Marina Bay and click many pictures of all the sights there. You can also take a walk around **Waterfront Promenade**, which is beautifully illuminated at night, across the Helix Bridge and visit the Merlion, the national symbol of Singapore. But make sure to be back at your starting point on time, to experience **Spectra**, Southeast Asia's largest light and water show –completely for free! Don't forget to visit the **Esplanade Theater**, in which regularly concerts and operas are played and performed. Once every month on a Sunday, there is a free concert! So, keep checking their website.

2. Gardens by the Bay

Gardens by the Bay is one of Singapore's most popular tourist attractions with over 6.4 million visitors annually. Though you would need to pay to enter the Cloud Forest or Flower Dome, the Supertrees are free. **Supertrees** are tree-like structures that dominate the Gardens' landscape with heights that range between 25 meters (82 ft) and 50 meters (160 ft). They are vertical gardens that perform a multitude of functions, which include planting, shading and working as environmental engines for the gardens. Every night, at **7:45pm and 8:45pm**, the **Supertree Grove** comes alive with a coordinated light and music show known as the Garden Rhapsody. The accompanying music to the show changes every month or so, with certain themes such as A World of Wonder and A Night of Musical Theatre, which features excerpts/pieces from films like Jurassic Parks & Pirates of the Caribbean

3. Suntec City

Suntec City is only a walk away from Marina Bay and is one of the largest shopping centers in Singapore. It is built after the principle of Feng Shui and stretches over five buildings! You can find almost any brand and any style in this huge shopping paradise. If you don't want to spend any money, window shopping is always great

fun. Just make sure you don't get lost. Another highlight is the so-called **Fountain of Wealth**. This huge fountain is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest fountain of the world. At night, the fountain is the setting for laser performances between 8pm to 9pm. But not only at night is the fountain beautiful to look at; during the day it is decorated according for seasons or special festivals.

4. Sentosa Island

Hop on to the monorail at Vivocity or make your way through the cheaper boardwalk to reach Sentosa Island. Though, most attractions here are expensive, you can definitely opt for the other options. Grab your swimwear for a dip in the sea, rent a cheap bike or segues or even walk around for free shows and sight-seeing. This place is ideal for a one day picnic.

5. Pulau Ubin

You can spend a great day walking or pedaling through rustic roads under coconut palms, exploring shady trails in overgrown rubber plantations, checking out secluded beaches and flourishing mangroves. Admission to the island is free and you can avail most services in the daytime. This getaway is only a 10 minute 'bumboat' ride away from Changi Jetty. If you are too lazy to go by yourself, wait for an email from Thanneer for an all SPJ trip.

6. East Coast Park

Being the largest park of Singapore, ECP is a popular hangout place. Rent a skateboard or bike and ride along the coast. You can even rent a barbeque pit for a nice, lazy evening with good food and music. After enjoying a choice of water sports like kayaking, you would like to rent a comfortable tent and camp with your friends.

7. Make Singapore YOUR Adventure

For most of you it will be the first time in Singapore. And this is really something special. You are in a new place, in a new city, in a new country with new people. So make the most out of it! Go for walks and strolls. Be adventurous and together with your friends discover China Town or Little India. Take a bus somewhere and just explore all these new places and faces that you meet. Don't be shy or scared; Singapore is a safe city.

Make it your own adventure, with experiences and impressions that no one can take away from you and share them with all your friends and family back home. Money can't buy you that. So even with a small budget, living in Singapore can be a great experience and most definitely a real adventure!

Staying Safe and Sound

Singapore is famous for being one of the safest countries in the world. However, a low crime rate does not mean no crime at all. So exercise caution at all times.

Please note down the contact details of your country's embassy in Singapore.

Singapore has a very strict legal system. You will be fined if you are caught smoking in public, jaywalking, littering, chewing gum, spitting and the like. Carry your ID card when you go to night clubs for security purposes. Identity theft is a major offence; don't try using somebody else's ID to get into a place.

Emergency Numbers

Fire/Ambulance	995
Non-Emergency Ambulance Services	1777
Police	999

Medical facilities

1. The Clinic @ Fusionopolis

The nearest clinic to our campus

Location: Fusionopolis Place #01-05

Getting there: Walk towards one-north MRT – 4 mins from ESSEC

Opening hours: Monday – Friday 8:30am to 1:00pm
2:00pm to 5:30pm

Saturday 8:30am to 12:30pm

Phone: 6466 0602 (It is better to book appointments during busy periods)

2. National University Hospital (NUH)

The nearest hospital to our campus, it serves as a tertiary hospital, clinical training & research center for the medical & dental faculties of the Nat'l Uni of Singapore (NUS)

Location: 5, Lower Kent Ridge Road

Getting there: MRT to Kent Ridge, walk 2 mins

Opening hours: A & E is 24 hours. Other clinics and services vary

Phone: 6799 5555 (24 hours)

More details at <https://www.nuh.com.sg/>

NOTES