

# An American in Singapore

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A sepia-toned photograph of a man with short, light-colored hair and glasses, wearing a plaid shirt. He is looking towards the left side of the frame. In the background, there is a sign with text in Indonesian and Chinese. The sign reads "Dalam keadaan darurat gunakan jendela banting" (In case of emergency, use this window) and "紧急时, 请使用此窗" (Emergency, please use this window).

Justin Burris

<3 PDXRuby

Please ask questions!



# What is Singapore?

# Statistics

- 5.26 million people
- \$55,182.42 GDP per capita (53k in US)
- 18,513 people per mile squared
- 17% of households have over \$1,000,000
- \$1.20 kopi (kopi)
- \$3-\$4 food options
- 28% of population are expats







Orchard Rd

Fort Canning Rd







Why go?

# Why go?

Travel all over South East Asia



# Why go?

Work with a diverse team

# Why go?

## Interesting work

- Startups
- Unique SEA opportunities
- Banking

# Why go?

## Stable economy

Why go?

roadtrip

Why not?

**E**xpensive

Why not?



Why not?

Hot! Hot! Hot!

Merry  
Christmas

from Singapore



# Why not?

Cultural friction & different social norms



Why not?

Less opportunity than U.S.

# Why not?

Low number of western cultural events

# Why not?

Very different freedoms & lack of a free press

# How to contribute?

# How to contribute

- Hackerspace.SG
- block71
- JFDI
- Others

# How to contribute

- Meetup.com
- (Ruby user's group is awesome)
- Facebook groups

# How to contribute

consultancies (Neo, Thoughtworks, etc)

# How to contribute

## banks (oh so many banks)

# Recommendations?

# Recommendations

Live like a local  
and be a regular

60 历史  
Years' History

# 珍云吞面 PONTIAN WANTON NOODLES®

手工面条 • 香滑可口, 无防腐剂 • 打包后, 面条不会变软  
Handmade noodles • Very tasty • No preservatives • Takeaway noodles won't soften

Chef Recommended  
Fried Wanton  
好介绍! 香脆炸云吞



#01-18

笨珍  
手工云吞面  
PONTIAN  
Handmade  
Wanton Noodles



排队, 请

Please Thank  
You!



# Recommendations

Understand local laws

# Recommendations

Find a good housing agent

# Recommendations

Record your thoughts when you visit new places

# Recommendations

Use this opportunity to evaluate yourself

# Recommendations

Remember you're the foreigner

# Recommendations

Have at least \$10,000 USD when you arrive

- Or get a company to pay to move you

Bring it home

A nighttime photograph of a city street. In the background, a dense skyline of skyscrapers is visible, their windows glowing with light. In the foreground, a multi-lane road curves from the left side of the frame towards the right. Several cars are on the road; one is clearly visible in the center lane, and others are further back or on adjacent lanes. The street is lined with trees and streetlights, which cast a warm glow. The overall atmosphere is dark and urban.

It's a Big Place Out There

# Bring it home

## RailsCamp

- It's like a big group hug

Bring it home

Be passionate about what you do

# Bring it home

- Safety
- Security
- Cleanliness

# Thanks!

Slides: [github.com/justinbburris/slides](https://github.com/justinbburris/slides)

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