

Singapore

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Singapore (/ˈsɪŋ(g)əpɔːr/ (listen)), officially the Republic of Singapore, is an island country and city-state in maritime Southeast Asia. It is located about one degree of latitude (137 kilometres or 85 miles) north of the equator, off the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, bordering the Strait of Malacca to the west, the Singapore Strait to the south, the South China Sea to the east, and the Straits of Johor to the north. The country's territory is composed of one main island, 63 satellite islands and islets, and one outlying islet; the combined area of these has increased by 25% since the country's independence as a result of extensive land reclamation projects. It has the third highest population density in the world, although there are numerous green and recreational spaces as a result of urban planning. With a multicultural population and in recognition of the cultural identities of the major ethnic groups within the nation, Singapore has four official languages – English, Malay, Mandarin, and Tamil. English is the lingua franca, with its exclusive use in numerous public services. Multi-racialism is enshrined in the constitution and continues to shape national policies in education, housing, and politics.

Singapore's history dates back at least a millennium, having been a maritime emporium known as Temasek and subsequently as a major constituent part of several successive thalassocratic empires. Its contemporary era began in 1819 when Stamford Raffles established Singapore as an entrepôt trading post of the British Empire. In 1867, the colonies in Southeast Asia were reorganised and Singapore came under the direct control of Britain as part of the Straits Settlements. During World War II, Singapore was occupied by Japan in 1942, and returned to British control as a separate Crown colony following Japan's surrender in 1945. Singapore gained self-governance in 1959 and in 1963 became part of the new federation of Malaysia, alongside Malaya, North Borneo, and Sarawak. Ideological differences, most notably the perceived encroachment of the egalitarian "Malaysian Malaysia" political ideology led by Lee Kuan Yew into the other constituent entities of Malaysia—at the perceived expense of the bumiputera and the policies of Ketuanan Melayu—eventually led to Singapore's expulsion from the federation two years later; Singapore became an independent sovereign country in 1965.

After early years of turbulence and despite lacking natural resources and a hinterland, the nation rapidly developed to become one of the Four Asian Tigers. With its growth based on international trade and economic globalisation, it integrated itself with the world economy through free trade with minimal-to-no trade barriers or tariffs, export-oriented industrialisation, and the large accumulation of received foreign direct investments, foreign-exchange reserves, and

Republic of Singapore
Republik Singapura (Malay)
新加坡共和国 (Mandarin Chinese)
சிங்கப்பூர் குடியரசு (Tamil)
Flag
Coat of arms
Motto: Majulah Singapura (Malay)
"Onward Singapore"
Anthem: Majulah Singapura (Malay)
"Onward Singapore"
0:00 / 0:00
Official languages: English • Malay • Mandarin • Tamil
National language: Malay
Ethnic groups (2020): 74.3% Chinese, 13.5% Malay, 9.0% Indian, 3.2% Others
Religion (2020): 31.1% Buddhism, 20.0% No religion, 18.9% Christianity

assets held by sovereign wealth funds. A highly developed country, it has the second-highest GDP per capita (PPP) in the world. Identified as a tax haven, Singapore is the only country in Asia with a AAA sovereign credit rating from all major rating agencies. It is a major aviation, financial, and maritime shipping hub, and has consistently been ranked as one of the most expensive cities to live in for expatriates and foreign workers. Singapore ranks highly in key social indicators: education, healthcare, quality of life, personal safety, infrastructure, and housing, with a home-ownership rate of 88 percent. Singaporeans enjoy one of the longest life expectancies, fastest Internet connection speeds, lowest infant mortality rates, and lowest levels of corruption in the world.

Singapore is a unitary parliamentary republic with a Westminster system of unicameral parliamentary government, and its legal system is based on common law. While the country is a multi-party democracy with free elections, the government under the People's Action Party (PAP) wields significant control and dominance over politics and society. The PAP has governed the country continuously since full internal self-government was achieved in 1959, with 83 out of 104 seats in Parliament as of the 2020 general election with 61.23% of the popular vote. One of the five founding members of ASEAN, Singapore is also the headquarters of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Secretariat, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) Secretariat, and is the host city of many international conferences and events. Singapore is also a member of the United Nations (UN), World Trade Organization (WTO), East Asia Summit (EAS), Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the Commonwealth of Nations.

Name and etymology

The English name of "Singapore" is an anglicisation of the native Malay name for the country, *Singapura* (pronounced [sinapura]), which was in turn derived from the Sanskrit word for "lion city" (Sanskrit: सिंहपुर; romanised: *Siṃhapura*; Brahmi: 𑀲𑀺𑀭𑀸𑀓𑀺𑀭𑀺𑀓; literally "lion city"; *siṃha* means "lion", *pura* means "city" or "fortress").^[7] A Chinese account from the third century referred to a place as *Pú Luó Zhōng* (Chinese: 蒲羅中), which sounds like Malay for "island at the end of a peninsula."^[8] Early references to the name Temasek (or Tumasik) are found in the Nagarakretagama, a Javanese eulogy written in 1365, and a Vietnamese source from the same time period. The name possibly means "Sea Town", being derived from the Malay *tasek*, meaning "sea" or "lake".^[9] The Chinese traveller Wang Dayuan visited a place around 1330 named *Danmaxi* (Chinese: 淡馬錫; pinyin: *Dànmǎxí*; Wade–Giles: *Tan Ma Hsi*) or *Tam ma siak*, depending on pronunciation. *Danmaxi* may be a transcription of Temasek, alternatively, it may be a combination of the Malay *Tanah* meaning "land" and Chinese *Xi* meaning "tin," which was traded on the island.^{[10][9]}

Variations of the name *Siṃhapura* were used for a number of cities throughout the region prior to the establishment of the Kingdom of Singapura. In Hindu-Buddhist culture, lions were associated with power and protection, which may explain the attraction of such a name.^{[11][12]} The name *Singapura* supplanted Temasek sometime

	15.6% <u>Islam</u> <div></div> 8.8% <u>Taoism</u> <div></div> 5.0% <u>Hinduism</u> <div></div> 0.6% <u>Others</u> <div></div>
Demonym(s)	<u>Singaporean</u>
Government	<u>Unitary dominant-party parliamentary republic</u>
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>President</u>• <u>Prime Minister</u></div>	<div>Halimah Yacob</div> <div>Lee Hsien Loong</div>
Legislature	<u>Parliament</u>
Independence from the <u>United Kingdom and Malaysia</u>	
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Self-governance</u>• <u>Malaysia Agreement</u>• <u>Proclamation of Singapore</u></div>	<div>3 June 1959</div> <div>16 September 1963</div> <div>9 August 1965</div>
Area	
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Total</u></div>	<div>733.1 km²</div> <div>(283.1 sq mi)^[2]</div> <div>(176th)</div>
Population	
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>2022 estimate</u>• <u>Density</u></div>	<div>▼ 5,637,000^[c]</div> <div>(115th)</div> <div>7,804/km²</div> <div>(20,212.3/sq mi)</div> <div>(3rd)</div>
GDP (PPP)	<div>2023 estimate</div>
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Total</u>• <u>Per capita</u></div>	<div>▲</div> <div>\$757.726 billion^[4]</div> <div>(38th)</div> <div>▲ \$133,894^[4]</div> <div>(3rd)</div>
GDP (nominal)	<div>2022 estimate</div>
<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Total</u>• <u>Per capita</u></div>	<div>▲</div> <div>\$515.548 billion^[4]</div> <div>(30th)</div> <div>▲ \$91,100^[4]</div> <div>(5th)</div>
Gini (2017)	<div>— 45.9^[5]</div> <div>medium</div>
HDI (2021)	<div>▲ 0.939^[6]</div> <div>very high · 12th</div>
Currency	<u>Singapore dollar (S\$) (SGD)</u>
Time zone	<u>UTC+8 (Singapore Standard Time)</u>