

# Singapore Travel Guide for First-Timers - Bacall Associates



Singapore is South East Asia's most prosperous city and smallest nation by land area. In recent years, newly developed mega-attractions and casino driven integrated resorts had transformed this "all work" economic powerhouse into one of the region's most popular destinations for leisure travel.

Because of its compact size, Singapore is very easy to travel and generally safe. It is a top choice for first-time international travel, family trips, and those seeking to indulge in metropolitan luxuries. While costs are significantly higher than the rest of Southeast Asia, a lot of people continue to visit Singapore because of its unique and top-notch attractions that cater to almost every type of traveler.

I honestly didn't expect to travel to Singapore as often as I have, considering the high number of seemingly more "exotic" and adventurous destinations elsewhere in the region. Singapore was just too irresistibly accessible with so many direct flights to other cities all over the region as well as convenient land crossing to Kuala Lumpur, another popular international gateway, in Malaysia. Singapore was a worthwhile jump-off point to Southeast Asia and a fitting "last stop" for indulging in urban comforts before the journey home.

## Top Things to See and Do

**Merlion Park** — Pretty hard to miss anyway because of its prominent location at the mouth of the Singapore River. Not only could you get a good photo with the Merlion statue, Singapore's most iconic monument, but there are amazing views to be seen of the Singapore Skyline, Marina Bay Sands, The Esplanade: Theatres by the Bay, and the Singapore Flyer.

**Singapore Riverside and Civic District** — this relaxing promenaded riverside area is a short walk away from the Merlion Park. Take a stroll down memory lane and get acquainted with the city's early development and colonial history. A happening nightlife scene can be experienced at Clark and Boat Quay.

**Chinatown** — Experience Singapore's multi-cultural diversity by taking a walking and food tour of Chinatown. Visit a church, a mosque, Indian and Chinese temples all in one walk. Go on a food adventure and try dishes from Singapore's different cultural influences at affordable hawker centers of Chinatown.

**Marina Bay** — Marvel at Singapore's new urban cape by taking a walk around Marina Bay. Visit Marina Bay Sands, the Helix Bridge, Singapore Flyer, and Esplanade: Theatres on the bay. Amazing overlooking views can be seen from the sky park of Marina Bay Sands and the Singapore Flyer.

**Gardens by the Bay** — an ambitious project set to transform Singapore from a "Garden City" to a "City in a Garden." The main attractions here are the 25 towering man-made Super trees and two equally extraordinary bio domes.

**Singapore Zoo** — an impressively maintained zoo where you can find a wide array of animals from around the world. The River Safari is also worth checking out.

**Sentosa Island** — spends a fun day on rides and themed attractions or relax at the beaches of Sentosa. The island is home to Universal Studios Singapore, the first theme park of its kind to open in Southeast Asia and the second in Asia after Universal Studios Japan.