

- SINGAPORE RELOCATION -



EXECUTIVE DNA

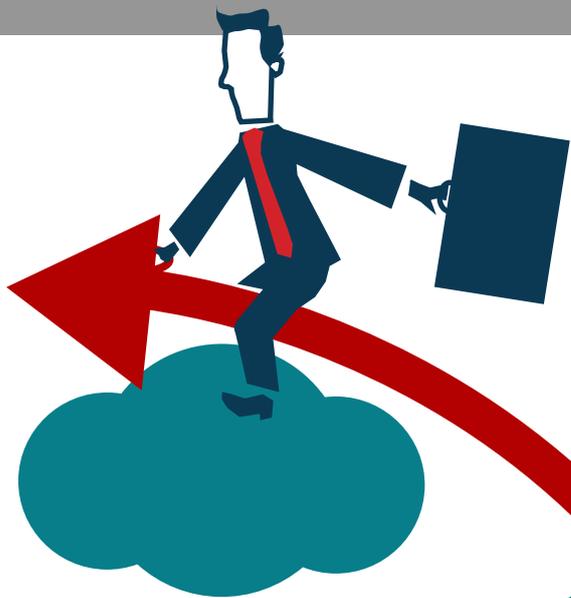
Landed your Ideal Job...



Now What?

It is time to plan an international move to Singapore!
This is the ultimate guide designed to help you transition
& settle into your new life.

Remember with more than 1/3 of all Singaporean
residents being foreigners, you are not alone!





Before You Pack...



Determine your Expectations

Set realistic expectations & understand that it will take time to transition into your new life.



Develop a Plan

Have you thought about how long you intend to stay? Where are you going to stay? How you are going to set up a bank account? Creating a plan for the first month is key to alleviating stress on arrival.



Be Open Minded & Willing to Learn

Be willing to try new things & explore. Remember that different is not always a bad thing! Try to find a balance between the new & familiar; remember that in order to grow, we need new experiences!

PRO TIP



PRO TIP: Try to get into a daily routine as quickly as possible. For example, if you go to the gym regularly before moving, start going again when you arrive.

Deciding where to stay is one of the biggest decisions; the majority of Expats live in Condos.

Accommodation



Where to stay...

HDB



HDBs are the cheapest & most affordable of properties to rent (similar concept to UK, USA & EU). The price is based on the size of the property, typically a 2 bedroom HDB (including 1 bathroom, 1 toilet & a connected living room/ kitchen) will cost you between \$1,800 SGD* - \$2,200 SGD* per month.

CONDOMINIUM



Condos are the most common accommodation for Singaporean expats. What sets the HDB & Condos apart are the facilities available to you; many new condos shooting up all over Singapore & their facilities can range from swimming pools, tennis courts, gyms, saunas, BBQ pits, & much more. Condos are also generally much bigger than HDBs & normally start from \$3,000 SGD* per month for a 1 bedroom.

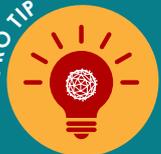
LANDED PROPERTY



In short supply, a landed property is essentially a semi-detached house, which sometimes has several floors. Landed properties normally start from \$6,000 SGD*, but securing one can be difficult, normally come unfurnished, & have a waiting list.

NOTE: You will most likely need to pay 3 months of rent upfront (1X1st month's rent & 2 months for bond). If your accommodation is under \$4,000 SGD*, you may also need to pay a finders fee to the agent.

PRO TIP



PRO TIP: Location, Location, Location... do your due diligence and work out your journey time; this will help you in deciding where you need to look for properties and greatly effect the price.

* Prices are estimates as of 2015

Getting around in Singapore is cheap and easy; the most popular modes are public transport and taxis.

Transportation



Singapore's transportation infrastructure is great value. Buy an EZ link card at any MRT station & you'll save on bus/ MRT travel. 5 stops will cost around \$1.50 SGD* on any line & it is even cheaper on the bus. The card is designed to deposit money on & as you enter & exist the station, you simply swipe your card & the journey value is deducted from your card.



Taxis are also extremely good value; a 10 minute trip will set you back around \$6 SGD*. Getting to work has never been so straight-forward, but getting a taxi in Singapore when it is raining can be difficult.



The cost of driving in Singapore can be extremely expensive, costing as much as \$100,000 SGD* for the license to put a car on the road. Many expats opt for car leasing to avoid the large lump sum payment.



PRO TIP 1: Majority of people save their money & get a taxi or public transport instead of the cost of having a car.

PRO TIP 2: You can download an application for your phone, which makes getting a taxi easier. Taxis will pick you up from a location/building, so always know the postcode of your location!

* Prices are estimates as of 2015

Getting around in Singapore is cheap and easy; most popular modes are public transport and taxis.

Social Life



One of the great things about Singapore is the social life. It can be as expensive or cheap as you like. Eating and drinking is indeed a national past-time in Singapore. The country's food is a true representation of its multicultural heritage, as it serves up a true melting pot of flavours and foods.



Going out for a drink in Singapore can be very expensive. A reasonable bar will set you back: Pint of lager or beer - \$12 SGD*, Glass of wine - \$14 SGD*, Juice & softdrink - \$8 SGD*.

Places that overlook Marina Bay will cost between \$20 - \$30 SGD* per drink. Ensure to look out for the '1 for 1' offers: this actually means 2 for the price of 1! Knowing happy hours can save you money.



Dining in Singapore can be extremely good value, especially if you go for the local food at hawker centres. Dinner here can cost as little as a couple of dollars per person. Some of the most famous stalls are in Mustafa, which has a massive Indian community. Here you will find some of the best Indian food, be it North or South & everything in between! In Chinatown you will find a wide array of local & Chinese food. The best thing to do is take a weekend out & just get yourself lost - immerse yourself in the high quality & value for money eateries across Singapore.

* Prices are estimates as of 2015



Other Factors

It is important to investigate as many elements of your expenses as possible.

HEALTHCARE



Healthcare in Singapore can be expensive for an expat, so you need to make sure that you are well-covered when you arrive. Depending on your employment arrangement you may or may not be covered by your Employer. Typical insurance will start from around \$100 SGD* per person, per month for a basic medical walk-in service & hospitalisation.

UTILITIES



Electricity & Water costs are relatively expensive. For a two-bed apartment you should expect to pay around \$150-200 SGD* per month on electricity & water depending on usage.

EDUCATION



The cost of living in Singapore can be relatively high when it comes to your children's education. International schools' tuition fees can range from \$6,000 to \$20,000 SGD* per year depending on whether you choose a local or international school.

PRO TIP



PRO TIP: Turning off your air-con and hot water system when you do not need it will save a quite a bit on your electricity bill!

* Prices are estimates as of 2015

This may not be the most exciting part of relocating, but it will enable you to fully plan and settle in quickly.

Taxes & Banking



One of the biggest benefits of working in Singapore is the significantly low tax rate when compared to other countries.

Tax in Singapore is not withheld & paid by the employers & as such employees are paid their entire salary. Instead, an employee must file income tax in the following year, where they are then able to pay over a period of time.



There is a wide selection of global, regional & local banks in Singapore. To open a bank account in Singapore, you will need an employment pass. If you have a partner who is on a dependent pass, they will only be able to have a joint account.

NETS is a debit system that is arranged with your bank, which is accepted at all supermarkets & most stores. Some retailers only accept NETS or cash, so it can be a good idea to opt for a bank that offers NETS cards.

International banks provide financial plans that are specifically designed for expats that manage currency conversions & international transfers.



Relocation Checklist

What to do	When to do it*	
Start job hunting & contacting companies in Singapore (yourself & spouse)	6 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan a visit	6 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Investigate housing options	6 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tell your friends & family	6 mths to go	
Assess your finances	6 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check what types of visas you & your family will need	6 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check that your passport has at least 2 years	6 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make a folder with all personal documents, including driver's licences, birth certificate, marriage & evidence of qualifications	6 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research the requirements for moving your pet	6 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>

What to do	When to do it*	
Once you have Job Offer spend time to review & gain career advice	4 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start arranging your exit housing arrangements	4 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Obtain quotes from freight companies about moving your belongings	4 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Go for your medicals	4 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Request credit references from your bank	4 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research cost of living & taxes in Singapore	4 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sell any unwanted furniture or belongings	3 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Give formal notice to your current employer	3 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>

* The ideal ExecutiveDNA suggested timelines

Relocation Checklist



What to do	When to do it*	
Book temporary accomodation in Singapore	2 mths	<input type="checkbox"/>
Register your children at their new schools in Singapore	2 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Book your pet's kennel accomodation in Singapore	2 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Give notice to your landlord	2 mths to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start packing any non-essential items	1 mth to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Give a forwarding address to all your contacts, including your bank, passport office & accountants	1 mth to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cancel accounts for TV, internet, phone & insurance	1 mth to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pay off any outstanding debts	1 mth to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arrange for your post to be redirected	1 mth to go	<input type="checkbox"/>

What to do	When to do it*	
Confirm bookings with travel agents & freight companies	1 mth to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Confirm banking limits, international transfer capability & cancel direct debits	1 mth to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sell your car	2 weeks to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wind down the goodbye parties to give you breathing space	1 week to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organise transport to the airport	1 week to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change money into Singaporean dollars	2 days to go	<input type="checkbox"/>
Double check your hand luggage has everything you need, including your travel documents	1 day to go	<input type="checkbox"/>

* The ideal ExecutiveDNA suggested timelines



Useful Resources

Accommodation

[Property Guru](#)

[iProperty](#)

Banking

[iMoney](#)

Taxes

[Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore](#)

Transport

[Singapore MRT](#)

[Taxis Singapore](#)

[What is the Fare?](#)

What is Happening?

[City Nomads](#)

Healthcare Insurance

[Money Smart](#)

Education

[Ministry of Education](#)

Utilities

[Singapore Power](#)

Living Comparison

[Numbeo](#)

Telecommunications

[Starhub](#)

[Singtel](#)

Expatriation Information

[Expatriation Living Singapore](#)



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