

Republic of Singapore



About Singapore

Capital City:

- Singapore

Monetary Unit:

- Singapore Dollar (SGD)

Major Languages:

- English
- Mandarin
- Malay
- Tamil

Main Exports:

- Computer equipment
- Machinery
- Rubber Products
- Petroleum Products

Our Immigration Services in Singapore

Business Travel – Guidance & assistance with Professional Visit Passes & visas for foreign nationals who require a visa for entry to Singapore for short-term business travel

Training Visit Passes – For foreign nationals who will travel to Singapore for short-term trainings

Types P, Q & S Employment Passes – Entry Permit applications for foreign nationals wishing to engage in employment in Singapore

EntrePasses & Personalized Employment Passes – For entrepreneurs & self-sponsored foreign nationals

Entry Permit applications – For foreign nationals under fifty years of age who are seeking permanent residency

The Singaporean Economy

Home to over 4.7 million people, Singapore has a highly developed and successful free-market economy. It enjoys a remarkably open and relatively corruption-free environment, stable prices, and a per capita Growth Domestic Product (GDP) higher than that of most developed countries. Regarded as one of Asia's economic "Tigers," Singapore's economy depends heavily on exports, particularly in consumer electronics, information technology products, pharmaceuticals, and on a growing financial services sector.

The 2011 World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index ranks Singapore as the best country in the world to do business – ahead of Hong Kong and New Zealand. Singapore is also ranked third in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report behind Switzerland and Sweden. Singapore has attracted major investments in pharmaceuticals and medical technology production and continues its efforts to establish Singapore as Southeast Asia's financial and high-tech hub.

Singapore is currently the only Asian country to have AAA credit ratings from all three major credit rating agencies. According to the 2011 Index of Economic Freedom, Singapore is the second freest economy in the world. Singapore's business freedom score is exceptionally high – it takes three days to start a business in Singapore compared to the world's average of 34 days. Apart from strong business and regulatory policies, other factors such as the country's strategic geographic position, a vast natural seaport, a highly skilled workforce and a favorable tax regime, have created a conducive business environment for companies and industries.

Sources: <http://tinyurl.com/2cokok>;
<http://tinyurl.com/3lk19wf>

For more detailed information about Singapore's Economy, visit the Economic Development Board Singapore (EDB) web site at: www.edb.gov.sg

Business Travel to Singapore

Foreign nationals who wish to travel to Singapore for business should ensure they have a passport valid for at least six months beyond the last day of intended stay in Singapore. Citizens of the U.S., Canada, and most EU member states may enter Singapore on a visit pass, which is issued upon arrival. The period of stay will be determined by the Immigration Officer upon arrival and is normally between 14 to 30 days.

For those who will require a business visa to enter Singapore, including Chinese, Egyptian and Indian nationals, such visas are available to persons who wish to visit the country for temporary periods, representing public or private foreign entities of a commercial or industrial nature, with the purpose of initiating or discussing business, or opening branches of their businesses in Singapore. Business Visa holders are prohibited from establishing permanent residence or engaging in any remunerative activities while in Singapore.

The Singaporean Immigration and Checkpoint Authority (ICA) maintains an updated list of nationals of foreign countries requiring a visa to enter Singapore at their web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/ybwgtoy>

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Living in Singapore

Singapore is a small, stable, highly developed country with an elected parliamentary system of government. It is one of the most densely populated areas and ranks as the 10th most expensive city for expatriates in the world. English is widely spoken in Singapore.

Singapore is home to a diverse workforce. Chinese make up more than 75% of the community; Malays and Indians make up much of the remainder. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) reports Singapore is home to 110,000 expatriates and more than 7,000 multi-national companies. Sources: <http://tinyurl.com/yvs2z8>
<http://tinyurl.com/3h92gcu>

Singaporean Work Permit Process

1

Application for work authorization must be submitted by a local sponsoring company to the MOM via EP Online, preferred

2

An In-Principle Approval Letter will be issued to the employer and may be used for entry to Singapore

3

Upon arrival, EP endorsement for EP Card and registration for SingPass

How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Singapore

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Singapore. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration Practice group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Work Permit and Visa Application preparation and

Singaporean Business Culture

Singapore's business culture, much like the country itself, is a mix of Chinese, Malay and Indian customs and tradition. As such it is important to know the cultural background of your business partner in order to understand their expectations. Generally, business in Singapore is formal and the chain of command is followed.

A light handshake and the careful inspection of business cards are customary when introducing oneself in a business setting. Singaporeans tend speak in a calm, soft, and composed tone and inspect the same from their business counterparts.
(<http://tinyurl.com/3karplo>)

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at jill.bussey@goellaw.com or +1 703.796.9881.

*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.

filing; detailed guidance on the visa stamping and post-entry process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Singaporean Consulates abroad and EP registration assistance may be available.

Non-residents must hold a valid work pass before they can work in Singapore. Employers who hire foreigners without valid work passes can be prosecuted under the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act. Thus, if your company's office in Singapore anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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