

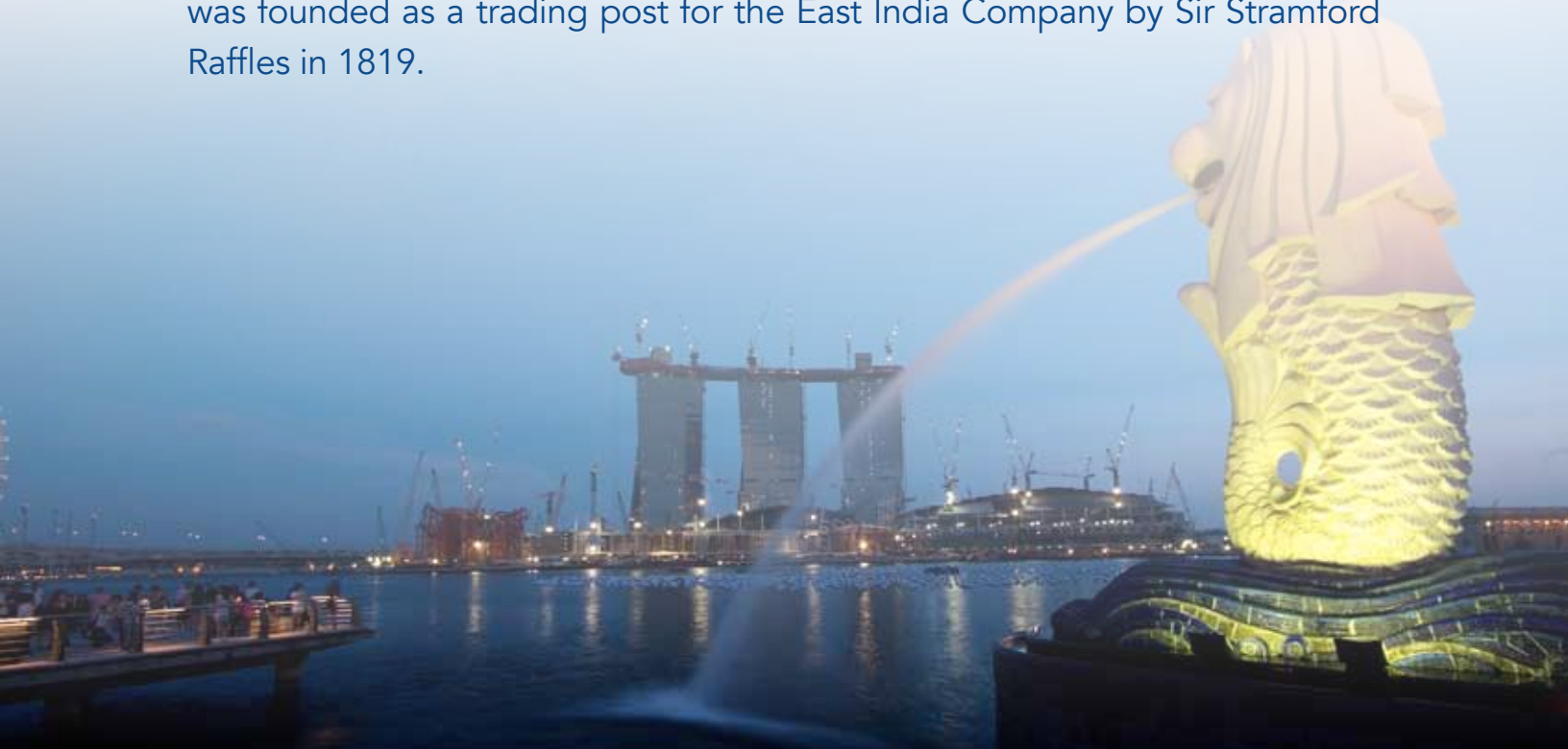
# SINGAPORE FACTS & FIGURES: An Overview

## Singapore—Where the Old World Meets the New

Singapore is a vibrant modern city-state bridging the old world with the new. One of three surviving city states in the world, following Monaco and Vatican City, the Republic of Singapore has successfully become a leader in the global economy. **Modern Singapore has a highly developed economy and ranks as the second freest economy in the world.**

Society in Singapore is cosmopolitan, multicultural and based on an ideology of racial and religious harmony. Singapore's residents are of Chinese, Malay, Indian and Eurasian descent. The official languages are English, Tamil, Malay and Standard Mandarin. The family is the basic unit of society and respect for the elders is of great importance. The group is regarded as more important than the individual and social hierarchy is more strictly observed than in the West, with respect and deference shown to older and more senior people.

Sanskrit for the Lion City, Singapore's civic history dates back to the second century AD originally belonging to a series of local empires. Modern Singapore was founded as a trading post for the East India Company by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1819.



## SINGAPORE FACTS & FIGURES: Economy

### Singapore—The Easiest Place to Do Business

**Singapore has attracted major investments in pharmaceuticals and medical technology production and will continue efforts to strengthen its position as Southeast Asia's leading financial and high-tech hub.** As a major port city situated at the center of heavily travelled sea-lanes, Singapore is a developed free market economy with commerce being its chief source of income. Along with Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan, Singapore is one of the original Four Asian Tigers, with Singapore surpassing its peers in terms of GDP. Unemployment is very low with the average work week of 45 hours. The economy depends heavily on exports, particularly of consumer electronics, information technology products, medical and optical devices, pharmaceuticals, business and financial services sectors.

**Singapore has the world's third largest foreign exchange center, fourth largest financial center and is one of the top two busiest container ports in the world,** only recently surpassed by Shanghai in 2014. The World Bank's Doing Business report has ranked Singapore the "easiest place to do business" for nine consecutive years. Its globalized and diversified economy depends heavily on trade, with manufacturing accounting for around 30 percent of Singapore's GDP in 2013. For the past decade, it has been the only Asian country with the top AAA rating from all major credit rating agencies, i.e. Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch Ratings.

# SINGAPORE FACTS & FIGURES: Climate

## Singapore—A Tropical Paradise

Lying north of the equator and located between the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea, Singapore has a tropical rain-forest climate with uniformly hot, humid temperatures and rainfall throughout the year.

**Average temperatures stay around 31° C (88° F) during the day** with little seasonal variation, although it's slightly cooler in December and January, and hottest in April and May. Temperatures are unlikely to dip below 23° C (74° F) at night; the lowest temperature ever recorded was just over 19° C (66° F).

Singapore consists of 63 islands, including the main island, widely known as Singapore Island or Pulau Ujong in Malay. There are two man-made connections to Johor, Malaysia: the Johor–Singapore Causeway in the north and the Tuas Second Link in the west. Jurong Island, Pulau Tekong, Pulau Ubin and Sentosa are the largest of Singapore's smaller islands. The highest natural point is Bukit Timah Hill at 163.63 m (537 feet).



# SINGAPORE FACTS & FIGURES: Sustainability

## Singapore—An Environmental Achiever

Ongoing land reclamation projects have increased Singapore's land area from 581.5 km<sup>2</sup> (224.5 sq. miles) in the 1960s to 718.3 km<sup>2</sup> (277.3 sq. miles) presently. The country is projected to grow by another 100 km<sup>2</sup> (40 sq. miles) by 2030. Some projects involve merging smaller islands through land reclamation to form larger, more functional islands, as has been done with Jurong Island.

Nearly 10% of Singapore's land has been set aside for parks and nature reserves. The network of nature reserves, parks, park connectors, nature ways, tree-lined roads and other natural areas have enhanced the sense of green space in the city. This is a result of five decades of greening efforts, which began in 1963, when Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew launched Singapore's first tree-planting campaign by planting a *mempat* tree. This initiative continued into the 1970s and 1980s under the Parks and Recreation Department, renamed the National Parks Board in July 1996. Due to these efforts, Singapore was ranked fourth in the 2014 Environmental Performance Index, which measures the effectiveness of state policies for environmental sustainability.



## SINGAPORE FACTS & FIGURES: Culture

### Singapore— Rich in Culture & Cuisine!

Singapore offers a unique mix of culture, including a variety of cuisine, art and inviting venues to explore. Customs such as the Festival of Lights, Vesak Day celebrating Buddha's birthday and Hari Raya Haji, known to the Muslim world as Eid al-Adha, bring different ethnic groups together in Singapore highlighting the nation's rich cultural heritage. Singapore's people, largely descendants of immigrants from the Malay Peninsula, China, the Indian sub-continent and Sri Lanka, retain their traditional practices and religious customs.

A cultural melting pot, Singapore offers a variety of cuisine derived from Chinese, Malay and Indian identities. Influences from Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Middle East are present along with the more traditional Chinese, Malay and Indian cuisine. The fast paced environment of the working crowd lends itself easily to variety of street food dining. Hawker centres found throughout the city provide dishes such as Wonton Mee, Laksa, Dim Sum and Fried Carrot cake. The tree lined city offers a variety of outdoor space to be explored. Dotted throughout the city, Singapore offers local attractions such as the Botanic Gardens, Peranakan Museum, Chinatown Heritage Centre and the modern Singapore Flyer.

