

## Singapore Soars in Splendor

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### Abstract

The Republic of Singapore as Singapore is officially known, is a sovereign island city state. It is situated in Southeast Asia off the southern tip of Malay Peninsula. It comprises of one main island and several islets. With a multicultural population and recognizing the need to respect cultural identities, Singapore has four official languages - Tamil, English, Mandarin and Malay.

### Keyword

Gardens, Waterpark, Zoo, Safari, Finance, Education.

### Introduction

The moniker Singapore comes from the words “Singa Pura” which means Lion City. In Sanskrit, Simha means lion and Pura is the city. Legend has it that Sang Nila Utama, a Sumatran prince from Palembang, gave this name to the island after he came ashore and saw a creature resembling a lion. Previously it was known as Temasek which means sea town and was primarily a fishing village.

So, it is very obvious that the Lion Head is the national symbol of Singapore. It symbolizes courage, strength, and excellence. It is in solid red against a clear white background- the colors of the national flag. The mane has five partings representing the same five ideals reflected by the five stars of the national flag- namely democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality. The lion’s tenacious mien symbolizes the nation’s determination to accept and overcome any obstacle.



**Image 1: Singapore Lion Logo**

The Merlion is the official mascot of Singapore, a mythical creature with the head of a lion and body of a fish. The fish body represents Singapore's origin as a fishing village, the lion head represents the original name Singapura.



**Image 2: Merlion Statue**

The popular nicknames of Singapore are Garden City, Fine City, Little Red Dot.

### **Emerging Landscape of Singapore**

Gardens are an integral part of Singapore. These oases of green soothe the senses and uplifts the city to a whole new level. They are also instruments of boosting tourism. The most extravagant among all is perhaps the Gardens by the Bay.

**The Gardens by the Bay:** A nature park of a grand scale consisting of three waterfront gardens- Bay South Garden, Bay East Garden, Bay Central Garden, The Garden proffers a lush green atmosphere with amazing floral displays. The Flower Dome inspires awe with thousands of magnificent flowers and plants from the Mediterranean and semi-arid subtropical regions in this conservatory.

Cloud Forest is a magnificent greenhouse like glass dome featuring world's tallest indoor waterfalls at a height of 30 metre. The climate-controlled dome has spiraling walkways and temperature is kept low to replicate the damp moist conditions of tropical mountains. The flowers and vegetation changes at every level imitating the difference at different altitudes. Huge panes of glass set within a massive steel grid with no visible concrete columns is an architectural marvel.



**Image 3: Supertrees at Singapore Botanical Garden**



**Image 4: Glass Dome in Botanical Garden**

**Singapore Botanic Gardens:** One of Singapore's oldest parks, it is home to ten thousand species of plants. It is also a premier orchid research and breeding center.

East Coast Park, Mac Ritchie Reservoir Park, Fort Canning Park, Chinese and Japanese Gardens are some of the green patches offering various adventure and recreational facilities. These are perfect for nature lovers, there are hiking trails, rental facilities for kayak and canoes, cycling track, rock climbing, mountain biking, and pony rides.

Sentosa is an island resort of Singapore's southern coast connected to the city by road, cable car, pedestrian boardwalk, monorail. By Sentosa Station, Tiger Sky Tower has panoramic views that stretch as far as Indonesia. Marine Life Park is a part of the resort's world Sentosa. The 8-hectare park consists of two attractions the SEA Aquarium and the Adventure Cove Waterpark.



**Image 5: Sentosa, Singapore**

**S.E.A Aquarium:** The second largest aquarium provides an unforgettable marine life experience, registers a high footfall of tourists. A viewing panel designed uniquely to give visitors the feel of being on the ocean floor. A conservation group by the name of Guardians of the Sea Aquarium is engaged in research and protection of the marine life. The aquarium houses the world's largest collection of manta ray, Indo Pacific Bottlenose, Dolphins, scalloped hammerhead sharks, Japanese spider crab among many others.



**Image 6: S.E.A Aquarium, Singapore**

**Adventure Cove Waterpark:** The amusement park is a joy for kids and adults alike. Apart from the water slides and other common rides it features a Rainbow Reef, where one can snorkel amongst reefs and tropical fishes, Adventure River to float around in a tube, through different habitats including a dolphin lagoon. Then there is Ray Bay for an up-close encounter with the rays.



**Image 7: Adventure Cove Waterpark**

**Universal Studios:** Another prime tourist attraction is Universal Studios on Sentosa island featuring rides, shows and a plethora of attractions in seven themed zones.



**Image 8: Universal Studios**

Wildlife Reserves Singapore is a self-funded organization that manages Singapore Zoo, Night Safari, River Safari and Jurong Bird Park.

**Singapore Zoo**, formerly known as Singapore Zoological Garden or Mandai Zoo is 69 acres and is home to 315 species of animals of which 16 percent are considered to be threatened species. The Zoo is a major tourist attraction. Here the animals are displayed in naturalistic, spacious, landscaped enclosures with hidden barriers, moats, and glass between the animals and visitors. The zoo also offers various modes of rides available with the premises – trams, boats, pony, horse carriage, wagons. The zoo is divided into multiple zones.



**Image 9: Singapore Zoo**

**The River Safari** is a river-themed zoo nestled between its two counterparts Singapore Zoo and Night Safari. The River Safari aims to inspire visitors to appreciate and protect freshwater ecosystems. First, of its kind in Asia, it has a riverboat ride as its main highlight.



**Image 10: River Safari, Singapore**

**The Night Safari** is the world's first nocturnal zoo. It is a shelter for over 900 animals across 100 species and is a major tourist attraction. A forty-minute tram ride takes one through seven geographical zones.



**Image 11: Night Safari, Singapore**

**Jurong Bird Park:** Situated on the western slope of Jurong Hill it is an aviary with heavy tourist footfall, there are specimens of magnificent bird life from around the world. The following are its main exhibits

**Waterfall Aviary** with birds mostly from Africa. A suspension bridge provides a panoramic view and a hiking trail to catch sight of reticent birds. Roseate spoonbill, Javan Green magpie.



Dinosaur descendants have some of the largest extant birds like various species of crane, ostriches, emus, cassowaries.

**Wings of Asia** is populated by South Asia birds like fruit doves, common emerald doves, parakeet, Bali Mynah etc.

**Lory Loft** is the world's largest walk-in flight aviary with free flying lorries and lorikeets among other species. Visitors can feed them a special nectar mix. Parrot Paradise is a collection of macaws and cockatoos etc.

Pelican Cove houses pelicans, herons, storks. There is a boardwalk for visitors to stroll and admire the birds. Flamingo Pool- is the address of a flock of flamingos representing four species.

### **Singapore: A Financial Hub**

With a population of around five and a half million, Singapore is an important center of financial activities. Behind London and New York, it has overtaken the likes of Hong Kong as the top financial hub in Asia. Deloitte ranked Singapore as the sixth in the top wealth management centers.

### **Singapore: As an Educational Hub**

Singapore is a top-ranking education center in Asia preferring a diverse mix of educational services. Its internal reputation for excellence in education has attracted a legion of the world's top institutions to Singapore. There are Autonomous, Private, and International Universities to cater to various educational needs.

## Conclusion

Singapore has set the bar very high for other Asian countries. Despite its small size, it has taken significant strides on the way to development. A burgeoning economy, a major tourist destination, academic excellence, and overall prosperity is to be looked up to and emulated.

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## About the Author

Ms. Amrita Chatterjee, a trained Hindustani classical vocalist, and a proud homemaker were associated with teaching in her early years. She loves to explore herself through her writing. Her work features in several anthologies and has authored My Book of Poems.

