

Singapore

Business visitors: FAQs



If planning on traveling to Singapore for temporary business, it is important to remain compliant with the immigration laws of Singapore. The purpose of the visitor's intended travel, duration of stay and the nationality of the passport will determine if an entry visa is required. The information in this document is intended to serve as an informational resource about business visitor requirements in Singapore.

Who needs a business visitor visa for Singapore?

Singapore does not issue an entry visa specific for business visitors. Instead, a general entry visa allows travelers to enter Singapore for business, social visit or leisure purposes.

Business visitors who are nationals of non-visa-exempt countries are required to apply for an Entry Visa from a Singapore Consulate in his/her home country prior to entry to Singapore. At the time of application, the business traveller must declare the intent for the visit to Singapore is for business purposes. In addition to other standard visa application documents, an Invitation Letter issued by the host office in Singapore is required for the business visa application. Once approved, an Entry Visa will be issued with single, double, or multiple entries.

This Immigration Checkpoints Authority maintains a list of citizens of passport nationals that are required to apply for a visa to prior to entry to Singapore as a business visitor. Nationals not on the list can enjoy visa-free entry to Singapore. They include citizens of the U.S., Canada, Australia, South Korea, Japan and most EU countries nationals.

Business visitor (visa-exempt)

What activities are permitted as a business visitor?

Activities permitted typically include:

- Attend business seminars or professional conferences or conventions as an audience

- Observe business operations and have meetings with business associates in Singapore
- Attend board meetings or annual meetings
- Explore business opportunities
- Conduct site visits
- Finalize contract agreements

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) has a list of Work Pass Exempt Activities which state foreigners can perform the following activities up to 60 days in Singapore, provided the foreigner has reported to MOM before they carry out the activities:

- Conduct business seminars and conferences
- Attend workshops, gatherings or talks
- Provide expertise or specialised skills. Example such as auditing new plant and equipment or any audits required to ensure regulatory compliance
- Equipment and machinery work, such as installation, dismantling, transfer, repair, or maintenance for the purpose to improve operations efficiency
- Participate in exhibitions or trade fairs as an exhibitor or a trader
- Provide arbitration or mediation services

These lists are subject to change and are not all-inclusive.

How long can a traveler stay in Singapore as a business visitor?

The duration a business visitor is permitted to stay in Singapore is determined by the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) officers at the point of entry at Singapore checkpoints. Generally, visitors from visa-exempt countries are permitted to stay in Singapore from 30 to 90 days from the date of arrival, while visitors from non-visa exempt countries are permitted to stay and remain in Singapore for 30 days from the date of arrival.

Is there a limit on the number of times a visitor may travel to Singapore as a business visitor in any given period?

There are no general guidelines or limit on how many visits a person can make to Singapore in any given period as a business visitor. However, a visitor who spends prolonged periods in Singapore or makes frequent visits may be questioned by the immigration officers at the entry points.

Immigration officials have the absolute authority to deny entry for visitors into Singapore without giving a reason.

Can a visitor's spouse and children also come to Singapore?

A business visitor's spouse and children can come to Singapore as social visitors. However, they must each apply for their own entry visa (if required) and entry will still be subject to the discretion of the immigration officers at checkpoints.

Penalties related to non-compliance for the business visa category?

Engaging in unlawful work in Singapore can result in serious consequences for both the employer and the individual employee. They may face prison sentences, fines, deportation and blacklist of the employee from reentering Singapore in the future.

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