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Guide to Singapore travel regulations

February 2021



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General notes

Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to summarise the regulations around travelling into and out of Singapore as of February 2021. The regulations for inbound and outbound travel continue to evolve. The guide does not provide detailed explanations of immigration law. For specific questions, please consult an immigration specialist.

Resources

There are frequent changes and complexity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit the [ICA Safe Travel](#) website for the most up to date information regarding special travel arrangements, COVID-19 testing and Stay-Home Notice (SHN) requirements.

Contact

The Deloitte immigration team can be reached with further inquiries.

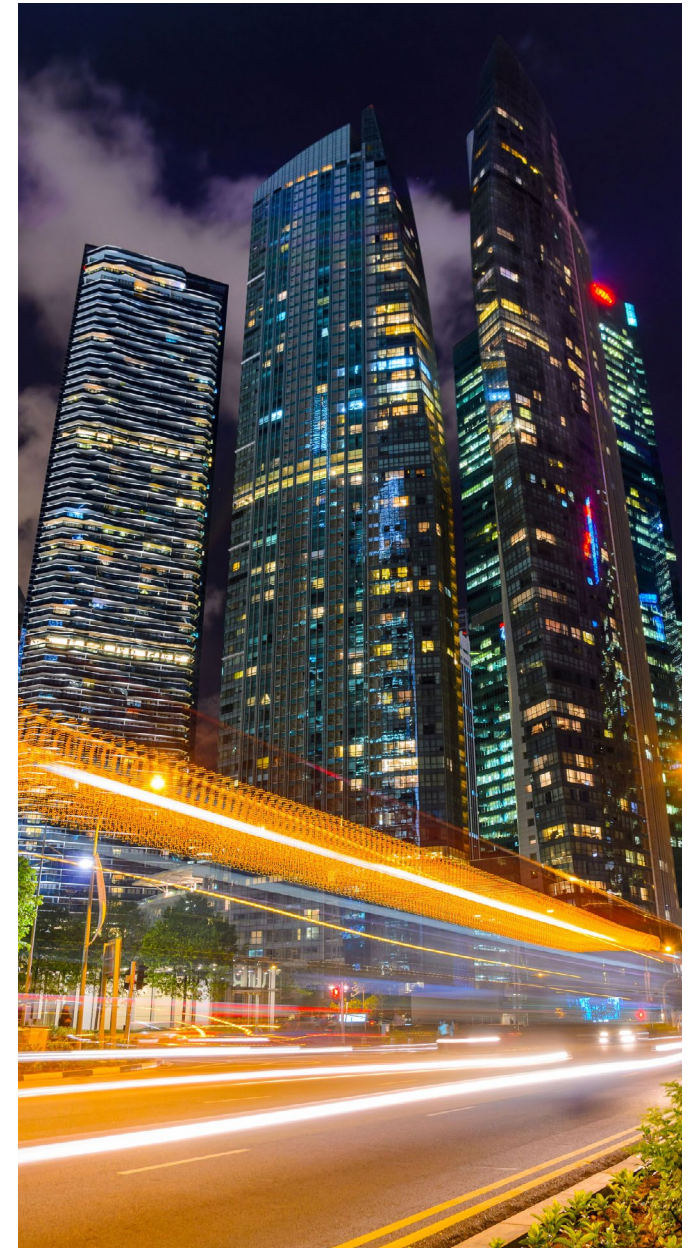
Singapore

There are two governing bodies in Singapore that oversee inbound travel. The Immigration & Checkpoints Authority also known as ICA administers immigration and registration services (i.e., issuing passports and identity cards to Singapore citizens, and immigration passes and permits to foreigners). The ICA enforces laws and regulations related to immigration and registration. The Ministry of Manpower also known as MOM develops labour and employment legislation practices. MOM administers employment related services in Singapore (i.e., issuing work passes, Dependent passes, and Long Term Visit passes).

Changes in regulations

Singapore regulations around inbound travel are currently based on nationality and travel history and have changed multiple times in response to COVID-19.

Entry into Singapore is restricted to citizens and permanent residents (PRs) and certain pass holders. For all other entries, pre-entry approval conditions apply.



Latest updates

The entry approval process varies depending on factors such as nationality, long term pass, travel pass, and travel history

Singapore nationals and PRs do not need special approval to enter Singapore. All other travellers into Singapore do require approval before entering Singapore.

Changes to rules around short-term visitors

Short-term visitors are still not allowed entry into Singapore, except those coming in under the Fast lane/Reciprocal Green Lane (RGL) arrangements, the Air Travel Pass (ATP), Air Travel Bubble (ATB) or those with special prior approval.

Quarantine restrictions and COVID-19 requirements vary based on travel history

There is a mandated SHN and COVID-19 testing for individuals arriving in Singapore. Whether or not the SHN is required, the location of SHN, and the length SHN are based on the personal travel history. The COVID-19 testing is required by all individuals above 6 years of age and may be required multiple times (i.e., before departure and after arrival in Singapore).

New and renewal work pass applications for individuals in and out of the country continue to be processed

MOM is continuing to review applications for new/renewal work passes and issuing In-Principle Approvals (IPAs).

Changes to rules around travel from Singapore to other countries

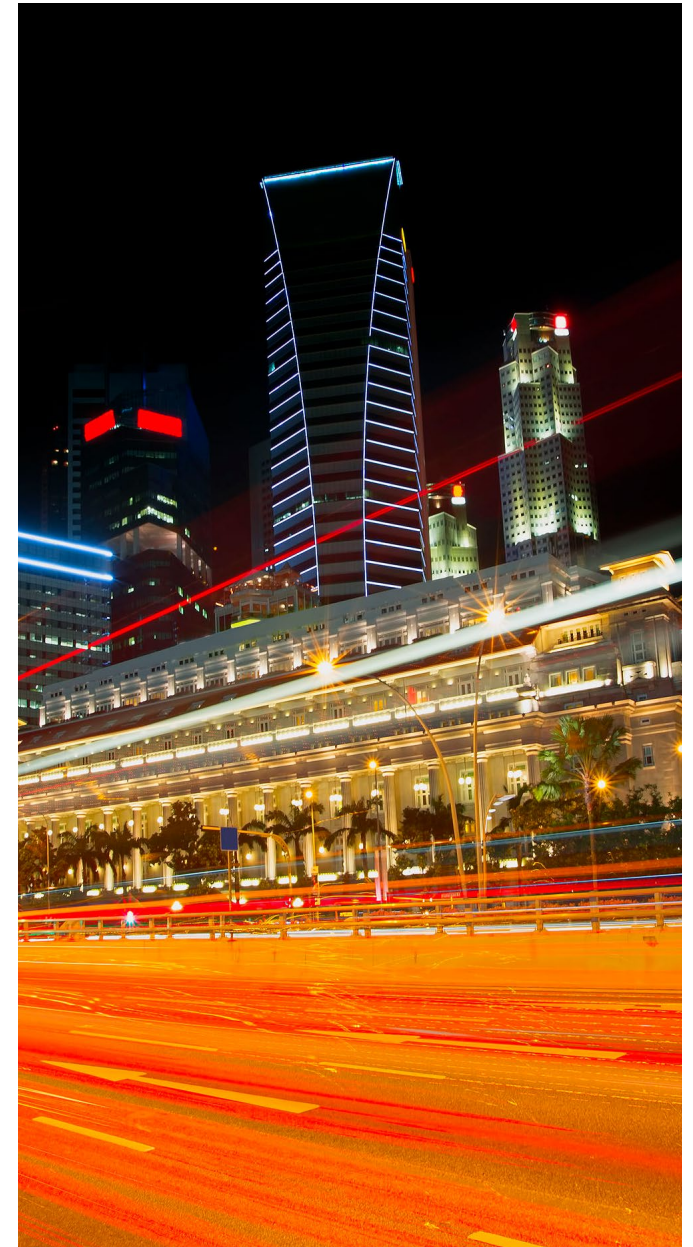
The Periodic Commuter Arrangement (PCA), Fast Lane/RGL arrangements, ATP and ATB allow individuals to travel between Singapore and approved countries.

Changes to entry approval for individuals with travel history to certain locations

Individuals with travel history to the United Kingdom (UK) and South Africa within the last 14 days will not be allowed entry into Singapore. The restriction will apply to long-term pass holders and short-term visitors, including those who have obtained prior approval to enter Singapore.

Singapore will launch a new segregated travel lane aimed at business travellers on short-term stays

Singapore will launch a new segregated travel lane aimed at business travellers on short-term stays. The travel lane, or the Connect@Singapore initiative, will be open to a limited number of business, official, and high economic value travellers from all countries who are staying in Singapore for up to 14 days. More information will be included in this guide once available.



Singapore entry approval

Approval process

Singapore citizens and permanent residents

For Singapore citizens (SCs) and PRs intending to return to Singapore, a health declaration within 3 days prior to the date of arrival must be submitted via the SG Arrival Card (SGAC) e-Service. A pre-entry approval to return is not required.

Singapore pass holders issued by MOM (Existing and IPA holders)

For pass holders and IPA holders intending to travel to Singapore, approval must first be sought from MOM. Approval to enter Singapore can be requested up to 60 days before the expected travel date.

Once the application is approved, an electronic approval will be sent by email with an attached approval containing a date of entry which enables the resident to be allowed entrance into Singapore +/- 1 day from the date on the approval. If travel will not be within +/- 1 day of the date on the approval, a new approval will need to be requested. Additionally, there are additional requirements such as SHN and COVID-19 testing. The requirements depend on the individual's circumstances and will be included in MOM approval letter.

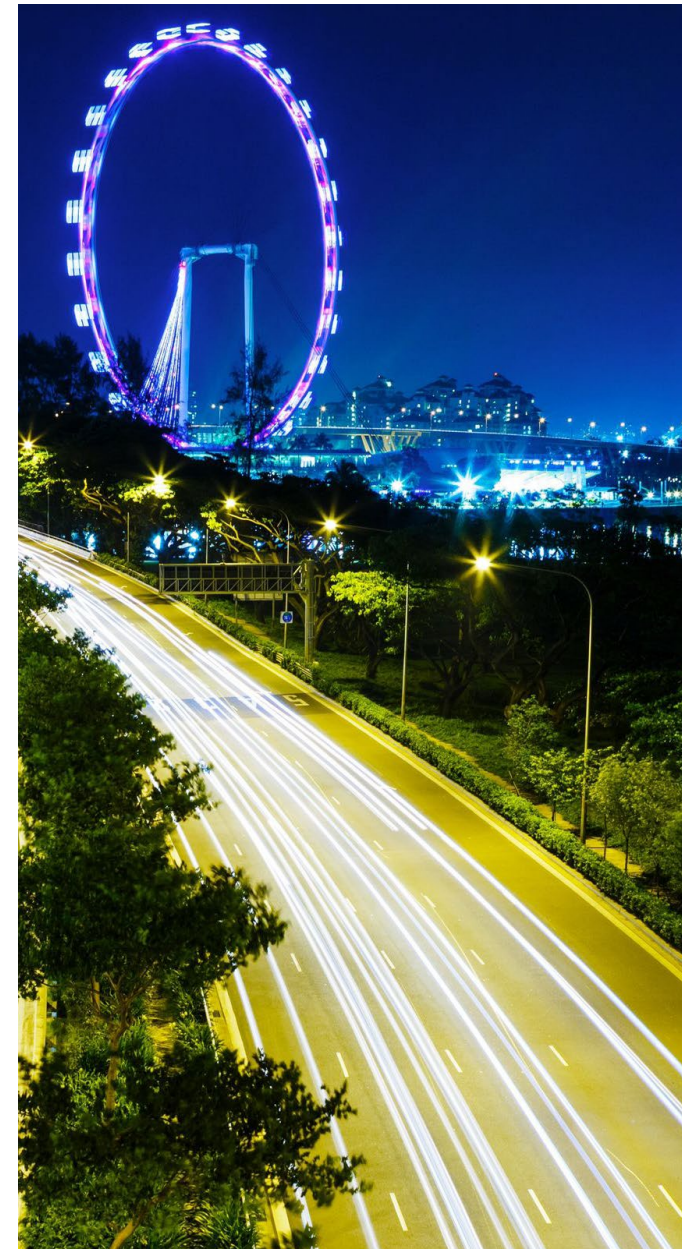
Full details of entry requirements are listed [here](#).

Singapore short-term visitors

Short-term visitors are still not allowed entry into Singapore except those with approval under one of the special arrangements. This includes those who previously obtained entry visa that is still valid.

Short-term visits are allowed for those coming in under the Fast Lane/RGL arrangements, PCA, ATP, and ATB. The short term visit pass that the visitor applies for depends on their travel history and nature of their visit.

The full list of countries and arrangement details can be viewed on the [Safe Travel](#) Website. Please see more information under Singapore Special Entry Arrangements in this guide.



Singapore entry procedures

Requirements to enter Singapore

Quarantine undertaking and health declaration forms

All travellers must submit a health declaration via the SGAC e-Service before proceeding with immigration clearance in Singapore. They are required to show their health declaration acknowledgement email to an ICA officer for arrival immigration clearance.

Travellers can submit their health declaration via the SGAC e-Service within 3 days prior to the date of their arrival in Singapore. Travellers are also reminded to update and resubmit their declarations prior to arrival in Singapore if they have recently visited a hospital, had contact with a COVID-19 case, and/or if there is any change in their health status and/or travel history.

Travellers entering Singapore may be required to serve a SHN period either at their home or in a dedicated facility. There are requirements on the length and location of SHN based on the individual's travel history.

COVID-19 test

Pre-departure COVID-19 tests are required for travellers from all countries/regions except Australia, Brunei, Macao, Mainland China, New Zealand, Taiwan and Vietnam. There is an exception for those that are 6 years and below. The test has to be conducted within the 72 hours before their departure and a valid negative test result will need to be presented as a condition of approval to enter Singapore. The negative COVID-19 test result that selected travellers must produce for entry into Singapore has to come from a recognised laboratory in the respective country. These approved laboratories which process the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test results must be internationally accredited or recognised by the respective country's government.

Upon arrival, all travellers, including SCs and PRs, will need to take a COVID-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

Post-arrival, additional COVID-19 tests may be required for incoming individuals. The timing of the test will depend on the SHN requirements and where the individual is travelling from. For example, SCs and PRs travelling from the **UK** or South Africa will be tested at the end of their stay-home notice and again after they have completed their seven-day self-isolation period.



Singapore entry procedures

Requirements to enter Singapore

Pre-departure COVID-19 tests are required for approved travellers on RGL arrangement and on ATB. The test has to be conducted within the 72 hours before departure and a valid negative test result will need to be presented to enter Singapore. Users of the RGL or ATB will bear the cost of the pre-departure PCR test, and obtain a certificate of having tested negative for the coronavirus.

Stay-At Home Notice

There is a 14 day SHN for most travellers into Singapore. The 14 day SHN is reduced to 7-day SHN for individuals travelling from Macao and New South Wales (NSW), Australia. They will undergo a COVID-19 test during the 7 day SHN.

The SHN is waived for individuals travelling from Australia (except NSW), Brunei, Mainland China, New Zealand, Taiwan, and Vietnam and have resided there for the last consecutive 14 days prior to their entry to Singapore. Instead, they will undergo a COVID-19 test upon arrival at the airport and only be allowed to go about their activities after receiving a negative test result.

All SCs and PRs returning from the **UK** and South Africa will be subject to an additional 7-days of self-isolation at their place of residence, following their 14-day stay-home notice period at dedicated facilities.

Selected Apps for monitoring



FWMOMCare: The FWMOMCare app is used by long term pass holders to record temperature and symptoms 3 times per day during the SHN period. More details available [here](#).



WhatsApp: All individuals on SHN are required to obtain a local cell phone number and download WhatsApp. Individuals should be available to receive SMS, WhatsApp calls, and WhatsApp video calls from MOM.



SGWorkPass App: The SGWorkPass is used to check the validity of Singapore work passes or long-term passes issued by MOM. As part of phased approach to resume activities safely after Circuit Breaker period, workers can use SGWorkPass to check if they can leave for work based on their AccessCode status. More details available [here](#).



Trace Together App: To facilitate contact tracing, visitors must keep the TraceTogether app activated on their mobile devices while in Singapore. Visitors are also required to retain the TraceTogether app with the data for 14 consecutive days after leaving Singapore. More details available [here](#).

Accommodation

The SHN will generally be served at a dedicated facility.

Individuals can serve the SHN at their private residence if the last 14 days consecutive were spent in Macao and NSW. If serving SHN outside of dedicated facility, a private residence must be available for the duration of SHN. This can include hotel/ temporary rented accommodation. It should include sufficient space to allow segregation from anyone already at the residence. Non-availability of suitable accommodation may mean that the quarantine will be at a government-dedicated hotel (at the traveller's expense).

Individuals travelling from Hong Kong, Fiji, Sri Lanka, and Thailand can apply to opt out of dedicated facility if they fulfil the following criteria; 1) Travelled to no other country in the last consecutive 14 days prior to departure to Singapore; 2) Are occupying their place of residence (i.e., residential address) alone, or only with household members with the same travel history, who are also serving SHN of the same duration and period; and 3) There is no one ordinarily residing at the place of residence (e.g., domestic helper) who does not share the same travel history, and the traveller has already made necessary arrangements to ensure that any such person will not reside at the place of residence until the conclusion of the SHN period.

Individuals over the age of 12 who are serving their SHN outside of a dedicated facility will have to wear an electronic monitoring device throughout the SHN period.

Singapore exit procedure

Requirements to exit Singapore

General

For those exiting Singapore, travel is permitted subject to host country rules and the regulations. However, no one with an existing SHN will be allowed to leave Singapore.

Essential business or official travel and short term visits may be permitted under existing arrangements. Singapore residents travelling out of the country will not be eligible for subsidised healthcare should they contract COVID-19.

Singapore travellers should review each host country's travel restrictions before making travel arrangements as there may be requirements around pre-departure COVID-19 testing or special approval forms.

Pre-departure COVID-19 testing

Singapore travellers to China will have to take a COVID-19 test within 2 days before their flight to the country. They must also declare that, in the last 14 days, they have not had a fever at or above 37.3 degrees Celsius, or respiratory symptoms, and have not been in contact with patients with a fever or respiratory symptoms, among other things. More details can be found on the [China embassy's](#) website.

Singapore travellers to Tamil Nadu (i.e., Tiruchirappalli, Chennai, Madurai and Coimbatore) and West Bengal (i.e., Kolkata) States will be required to take the PCR test for COVID-19 before boarding. The test must be taken within 96 hours prior to departure. Printed hard copy results should be produced for checking at the airport. Prior approval from the Ministry has to be obtained for the PCR test.

Singapore travellers to Japan will be required to take the pre-entry COVID-19 test prior to departure as well as the PCR test at the port of entry in Japan. More details can be found on the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) website.

Travellers using the RGL may be required to take a PCR test 72 hours before departure. The terms of the RGL are available via the [Safe Travel](#) site.

Please find the criteria and relevant links to submit a request via [Safe Travel](#) website.



Singapore pass holders

Applications and renewals

Applications

Applications continue to be reviewed and approved by MOM within 3-6 weeks. Once the IPA is issued, it is valid for a certain period depending on the type of work pass. The work pass can only be issued once the individual arrives in Singapore.

MOM allows for an extension of the IPA by 1 to 2 months when there is a need to do so such as delays due to travel restrictions. If the IPA expires, the employer will need to restart the application process. However, IPAs issued before June 2020 will no longer be extended.

In-country renewals

Applications continue to be reviewed and approved by MOM within 3 weeks.

New expiry dates may be viewed online (non-log in) or through [SGWorkPass](#) app.

Out-of-country renewals

There are no specific rules prohibiting application of renewals of work passes for out-of-country residents. An employer can apply to extend the employee and dependent passes as needed. MOM will review the application and issue an IPA. The work pass renewal can be issued only after the individual arrives in Singapore.

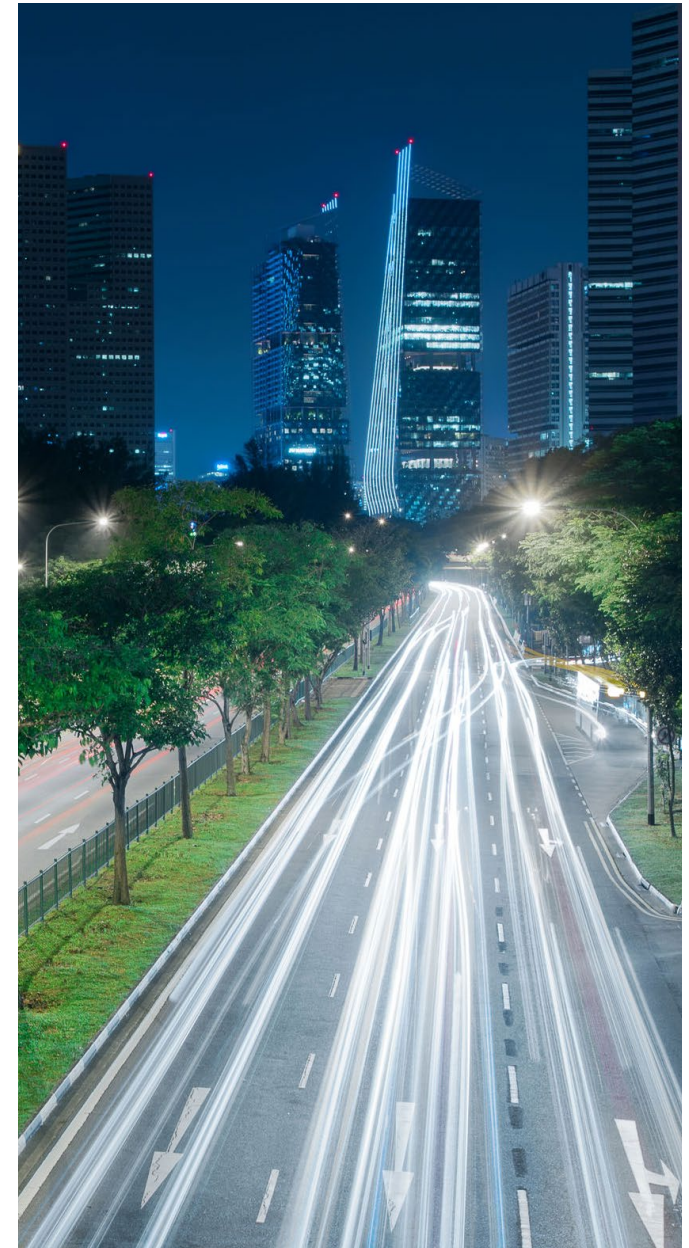
Pre-entry approval must be in place prior to the return of the work pass holders for issuance of their renewed passes. Employers can submit pre-entry applications [here](#). For pass holders who are unable to return to Singapore to have their passes renewed, MOM requests that employers cancel the passes and re-apply for them when the COVID-19 situation has stabilised.

MOM allows for an extension of the IPA by 1 to 2 months when there is a need to do so such as delays due to travel restrictions. If the IPA expires, the employer will need to restart the application process for a new work pass by submitting a new application. However, IPAs issued before June 2020 will no longer be extended.

For pass holders who are currently on SHN or Quarantine Order and cannot do their medical examinations, you can [request for time to get the renewed pass issued](#).

Cancelled work pass holders currently in Singapore

Employers should extend the stay of foreign employees and their dependents who may have been planning to depart Singapore but can no longer leave until travel restrictions are lifted. If the employer is unable to send the work and/or dependent pass holder to their home country following pass cancellation, a request to extend their stay may be lodged within 7 days from the short-term visit pass expiry.



Singapore special arrangements

Reciprocal Green Lane Arrangement

Reciprocal Green Lane Arrangement

The RGL facilitates short-term business and official travel between Singapore and certain countries. In order to utilise the RGL, a Safe Travel Pass should be obtained. The Safe Travel Pass provides travellers with permission to travel to Singapore under Fast & RGL arrangements for essential business travel.

The terms and conditions of the Safe Travel Pass are outlined in the [Safe Travel](#) website. The traveller must meet certain entry requirements before they can be granted a pass for entry/stay in Singapore such as undergoing a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours of departure and obtaining a negative test result. Upon arrival in Singapore, the traveller is required to take a COVID-19 PCR test. Travellers from Malaysia, Germany, Indonesia and Japan are required to do a 14-day SHN at dedicated facility. Travellers must adhere to a controlled itinerary for the duration of their stay. The traveller is prohibited from using public transportation for this purpose, with the exception of private hire cars/taxis or company transport.



China (Chongqing, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Tianjin and Zhejiang)

China and Singapore established the Fast Lane or RGL to facilitate essential business or official travel between both countries by exempting inbound travellers from the mandatory quarantine on both sides. The RGL is currently applicable for travel to/from the following six Chinese provinces/municipalities: Shanghai, Tianjin, Chongqing, Guangdong, Jiangsu and Zhejiang. SCs, PRs and long-term pass (LTP) holders are eligible to apply for travel under RGL. They must obtain a Letter of Invitation (LOI) which is to be applied for by the host company from the China Foreign Affairs Office (FAO) or Commerce Authority.

For more information, please visit the [China Embassy](#) and [SafeTravel](#) websites.



Germany

RGL was implemented to facilitate single-entry, short-term essential business and official travel between both countries and only applicable between airports that have nonstop flight routes. SCs, PRs and LTP holders are eligible to apply for travel under RGL. They must be either sponsored by a registered company or a government agency in Germany.

The RGL is suspended for three months from February 1, 2021.

For more information, please visit the [SafeTravel](#) website.

Singapore special arrangements

Reciprocal Green Lane Arrangement



Japan

The RGL or 'Business Track' between Singapore and Japan is intended for short-term business travellers and are only applicable for travellers on a direct flight with a maximum 30 day stay in Japan.

SCs, PRs and LTP holders are eligible to apply for travel under RGL. They must be sponsored by a Japanese entity.

The RGL is suspended from January 21, 2021 until the State of Emergency is lifted.

For more information, please visit the [Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) and Singapore's [SafeTravel](#) websites.



South Korea

The Republic of Korea and Singapore implemented the Fast Lane or RGL to facilitate essential business and official travel between Korea (via Incheon International Airport only) and Singapore by exempting the isolation requirements at the arriving country. SCs, PRs and LTP holders are eligible to apply for travel under RGL. They must obtain a Quarantine Exemption Application which is applied for by the Korean sponsoring company/ government agency.

The RGL is suspended for three months from February 1, 2021.

For more information, please visit the [Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of Singapore](#) and Singapore's [SafeTravel](#) websites.

Singapore special arrangements

Reciprocal Green Lane Arrangement



Brunei

RGL was implemented to facilitate single-entry, short-term essential business and official travel between both countries and only applicable between airports that have non-stop flight routes. SCs, PRs and LTP

holders are eligible to apply for travel under RGL. They must be either sponsored by a registered company or a government agency in Brunei.

For more information, please visit the following the [Safe Travel](#) site.



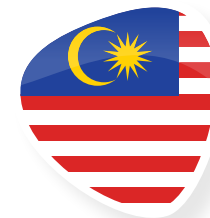
Indonesia

The RGL or Travel Corridor Arrangement (TCA) was implemented to facilitate short-term single-entry travel for business or official purposes. SCs, PRs and LTP holders are eligible to

apply for travel under RGL. They must be either sponsored by a registered company or a government agency in Indonesia.

The RGL is suspended from January 15, 2021 until the travel ban is lifted.

For more information, please visit the [Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Singapore](#) and Singapore's [SafeTravel](#) websites.



Malaysia

SCs, PRs and LTP holders will be eligible to travel under RGL, either sponsored by a registered company or by a government agency in Malaysia, which will file an application on behalf of the applicant on the [MyTravelPass](#) website.

The RGL is suspended for three months from February 1, 2021.

For more information, please visit the [Safe Travel](#) site.

Singapore special arrangements

Air Travel Pass

Air Travel Pass

Australia (except NSW), Brunei, Mainland China, New Zealand, Taiwan and Vietnam

The ATP allows short-term visitors from Australia (except NSW), Brunei, Mainland China, New Zealand, Taiwan and Vietnam to enter Singapore as short-term visitors. The visitors will need to apply for an ATP between 7 and 30 days before their intended entry into Singapore. Short-term visitors refers to business or general travellers. Upon arrival, the ATP holders will be required to take a PCR test for COVID-19 and will be quarantined until the PCR test results return. They will be responsible for their medical bills should they require medical treatment for COVID-19 while in Singapore. For more information, please visit the [Safe Travel](#) site.

Expiring short-term passes for visitors currently in Singapore

Visitors can extend their short-term visitor pass through the ICA. The pass holder needs to have local sponsorship (i.e., SC or PR to be allowed an extension. For more information go [here](#).



Singapore special arrangements

Air Travel Bubble

Air Travel Bubble

Hong Kong

The ATB enables travel between Singapore and Hong Kong. The ATB start date has been deferred to 2021 from the original start date of 22 November 2020. Travellers have to take the dedicated flights, but will have no restrictions on their travel purpose and do not have to follow a controlled itinerary. They will also not be subject to quarantine or SHN. For more details on the application process, please visit the [Safe Travel](#) site or [Hong Kong Air Travel Bubble](#) site.

Eligibility: Any person who has spent the last 14 consecutive days in Hong Kong or Singapore. The ATB excludes holders of Work Permits or S Passes issued by the Singapore Ministry of Manpower working in the construction, marine shipyard or process sectors.

Travel from Hong Kong to Singapore

- Before travelling to Singapore, the individual must complete the below:
 - Apply for ATP between 7 and 30 days before travel (applicable to foreigners travelling to Singapore)
 - Apply for pre-entry approval (applicable to Singapore residents that hold Long Term Passes)
 - Obtain visa (only if applicable)
 - Obtain ticket on designated flight
 - Take pre-departure COVID-19 test within 72 hours before flight
 - No travel history to any country or region other than Hong Kong and Singapore in the last 14 days prior to the day of departure
 - Submit SG Arrival Card within 3 days of arrival in Singapore
 - Download Trace Together App (applicable to Foreigners travelling to Singapore under ATP)

- Upon arrival in Singapore, the individual may proceed with their stay after the showing documentation and completion of the above.

Travel from Singapore to Hong Kong

- Before entering Hong Kong, the individual must complete the below:
 - Obtain visa (if applicable)
 - Obtain ticket on designated flight
 - Take pre-departure COVID-19 test within 72 hours before flight
 - No travel history to any country or region other than Hong Kong and Singapore in the last 14 days prior to the day of departure
 - Submit health declaration within 48 hours of arrival
 - Book post-arrival COVID-19 test

- Upon arrival in Hong Kong, the individual will take a COVID-19 test. The individual may proceed with their stay after the negative results are obtained.

Singapore special arrangements

Periodic Commuting Arrangement

Periodic Commuting Arrangement

Malaysia

The PCA enables work and business-related travel between Malaysia and Singapore via the land border crossings at the Johor-Singapore Causeway and Malaysia-Singapore Second Link. The PCA allows Singapore and Malaysia residents, who hold valid work passes in the other country, to enter that country for work. The entry and exit between Singapore and Malaysia must be by land via Woodlands Checkpoint or Tuas Checkpoint. Upon arrival in Singapore, please note that travellers must carry out SHN of 14 days at the dedicated SHN facilities. Upon arrival in Malaysia, the travellers must carry out 7 day Home Surveillance Order.

For more details on the application process, please visit the [Safe Travel](#) site or [Malaysia Immigration Department](#) site.

Residents in Malaysia travelling to Singapore

- Persons who are Malaysia citizens or PR, who hold valid Singapore work pass are eligible to apply to travel to Singapore under the PCA.
- Traveller must agree to spend at least 90 days in Singapore before returning to Malaysia for short term home leave.
- Applications for the PCA must be hosted by a company or a Government agency in Singapore.
- The application for the SafeTravel Pass must be submitted at least 7 days prior to the intended date of entry.
- Travellers must take a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours before departure.

Residents in Singapore travelling to Malaysia

- Persons who are SC or PR, who hold valid Malaysian long-term social visit passes for business or work purposes or who are citizens of Malaysia are eligible to apply to travel to Malaysia under the PCA.
- After entering Malaysia, the employee must work at least three (3) consecutive months in Malaysia before returning to Singapore for short term home leave.
- Residents in Singapore seeking to travel to Malaysia via the PCA must be sponsored by either a company or a government agency in Malaysia.
- The application should be filed on behalf of the applicant on the [MyTravelPass](#) website at least 10 working days before departure.

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