



### HISTORY

While the earliest known historical records of Singapore are shrouded in time, a third century Chinese account describes it as "Pu-lu-chung", or the "island at the end of a peninsula". Later, the city was known as Temasek ("Sea Town"), when the first settlements were established from AD 1298-1299.

During the 14<sup>th</sup> century, this small but strategically-located island earned a new name. According to legend, Sang Nila Utama, a Prince from Palembang (the capital of Srivijaya), was out on a hunting trip when he caught sight of an animal he had never seen before. Taking it to be a good sign, he founded a city where the animal had been spotted, naming it "The Lion City" or Singapura, from the Sanskrit words "simha" (lion) and "pura" (city).

The city was then ruled by the five kings of ancient Singapura. Located at the tip of the Malay Peninsula, the natural meeting point of sea routes, the city flourished as a trading post for vessels such as Chinese junks, Arab dhows, Portuguese battleships, and Buginese schooners.

Modern day Singapore was established in the 19th century with the arrival of Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles who arrived in Singapore on 29 January 1819 who saw the potential of the city, coming from his previous post as Lieutenant-Governor of Bencoolen (now Bengkulu) in Sumatra. He helped negotiate a treaty with the local rulers and established Singapore as a trading station. The city quickly grew as a trade hub, attracting immigrants from China, India, the

## Luxury lifestyle destinations

### Exploring Singapore



**POPULATION:** 4,296,000  
**CAPITAL:** Singapore  
**AREA:** 660 square kilometers (255 square miles)  
**LANGUAGE:** Chinese,

Malay, Tamil, English  
**RELIGION:** Buddhist, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Taoist, Confucianist  
**CURRENCY:**

Singapore dollar  
**LIFE EXPECTANCY:** 79  
**GDP PER CAPITA:** U.S. \$25,200  
**LITERACY PERCENT:** 93





Malay Archipelago and beyond. The city continued to thrive and managed to develop a well organised economy until their prosperity was crushed by the Japanese invasion during World War II. The invaders arrived from the north, confounding the British military commanders who had expected an attack by sea from the south. Despite their superior numbers, the Allied forces surrendered to the Japanese on Chinese New Year, 15 February 1942. It was the largest surrender of British-led forces in history. The island, once feted as an "impregnable fortress", was renamed Syonan-to (or "Light of the South Island" in Japanese).

When the Japanese surrendered in 1945, the island was handed over to the British Military Administration, which remained in power until the dissolution of the Straits Settlement comprising Penang, Melaka and Singapore. In April 1946, Singapore became a British Crown Colony until 1959, which saw the country host their first ever general election and chose their own government. The country has since continued to thrive and is a unique destination for any traveller looking for something a little bit special. The multi cultural country celebrates its colonial and war time past through preserving the historical aspects of the city, whilst being at the very fore of innovation and technology.

### WHERE TO STAY

Established in 1971, Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore celebrates 45 illustrious years of milestones this year. It has been a remarkable journey since the very first Shangri-La Hotel in the world opened



The new Garden Wing epitomises the best of resort-style hospitality. With its dedicated guest relations and housekeeping team, Garden Wing guests will enjoy a refreshing resort experience in the heart of cosmopolitan Singapore. While guests enjoy the tranquillity of the hotel's cascading waterfalls and koi pond, business efficiency and urban pleasures are within immediate access. Services such as complimentary Wi-Fi access throughout the hotel, usage of the hotel's vast meeting and banquet facilities as well as scheduled complimentary shuttle bus services to Orchard Road will appeal to both corporate and leisure travellers alike.

Since 1971, the hotel has been renowned as Singapore's second botanic garden. The new herb garden at the Garden Wing further strengthens this position by adding 82 different types of plants with healing properties. The culinary team, spa therapists and bartenders look to the herb garden for inspiration when developing healthy options for guests. Potted palms, ferns and flowers are nurtured by a team of resident gardeners who create landscaping designs for the public areas and client events. After use, these plants are returned to the gardens.

A ceiling fan in each room makes a good alternative for air conditioning. The Garden Wing's rooftop houses 432 square metres of solar panels, which provide heating for the Garden Wing's water system. A water catchment facility helps to irrigate the gardens and prevents wastage of precious water. Electrical devices installed in all guestrooms, such as automated air conditioning sensors for the balcony door and the key card controlled lighting system, help optimise energy consumption.

Bougainvillea-laden private balconies, which form the Garden Wing's signature scalloped terrace, bring nature directly into the guestrooms. To take full advantage of the tropical landscape, each guestroom and suite has its own balcony complete with coffee table and lounge chair. For those guestrooms at the corner of the Garden Wing overlooking the pool, the balconies are even larger, allowing exclusive private parties to be hosted.

All 158 nature-inspired guest rooms and suites are installed with energy-efficient interior design and solar water-heating system. Nestled amidst 15 acres of lush tropical greenery, all Garden Wing rooms feature a large balcony with verdant views of Shangri-La's famed gardens. Each of the three Premier Balcony Suites offer the ultimate retreat with an outdoor private barbecue grill on the large balcony; the true epitome of innovation, luxury and retreat.

her doors and as Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore turns 45 years young in 2016.

The nine-storey Garden Wing, famous for its bougainvillea-laden balconies amidst 15 acres of lush tropical gardens was first opened on 19 August 1978.

Popular with leisure travellers and business executives alike, the Garden Wing extends a privacy and tropical welcome to all who stay and an atmosphere that is a far cry from the frenetic energy of a modern cosmopolitan city.

Comprising a three-storey rock garden, the Garden Wing Atrium is at the very heart of the Garden Wing and Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore's famed tropical gardens. It is a veritable oasis of different varieties of ferns, flower and plants normally found in cooler climates and of tumbling waterfalls.

**The Shangri-La, Singapore hotel offers the epitome of luxurious lifestyle choices and 2016 sees the property celebrate 45 years of operation.**

