



Durham to Southeast Asia

Where is South East Asia (SEA)?

- Brunei
 - Cambodia
 - Indonesia
 - Laos
 - Malaysia
 - Myanmar
 - Philippines
 - Singapore
 - Thailand
 - Vietnam
- SEA is one of the most culturally diverse regions of the world (2nd actually!)
 - There are many different languages, ethnicities and religions in the region.
 - Historically, SEA was significantly influenced by Indian, Chinese, Malay and European colonial cultures, which became core components of the region's cultural and political institutions.



Durham's Exchange Partners in SEA

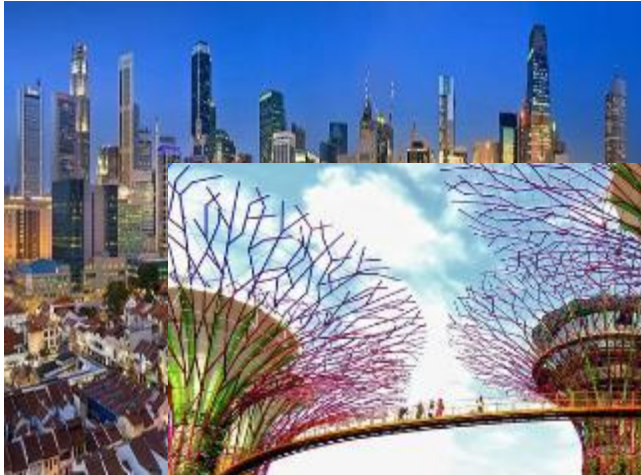
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Thailand
- ...coming soon...



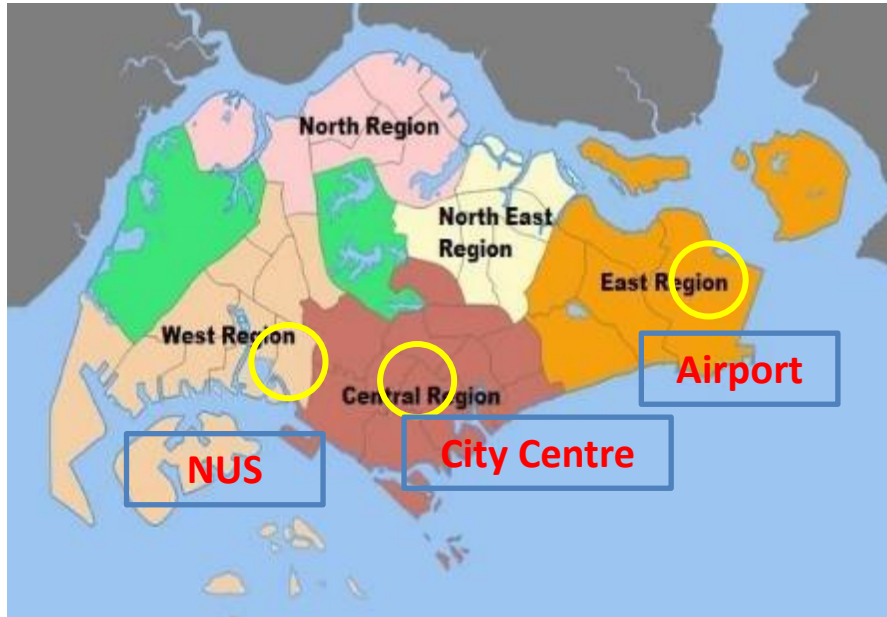
This is Singapore



The “Lion” City



Quick Facts



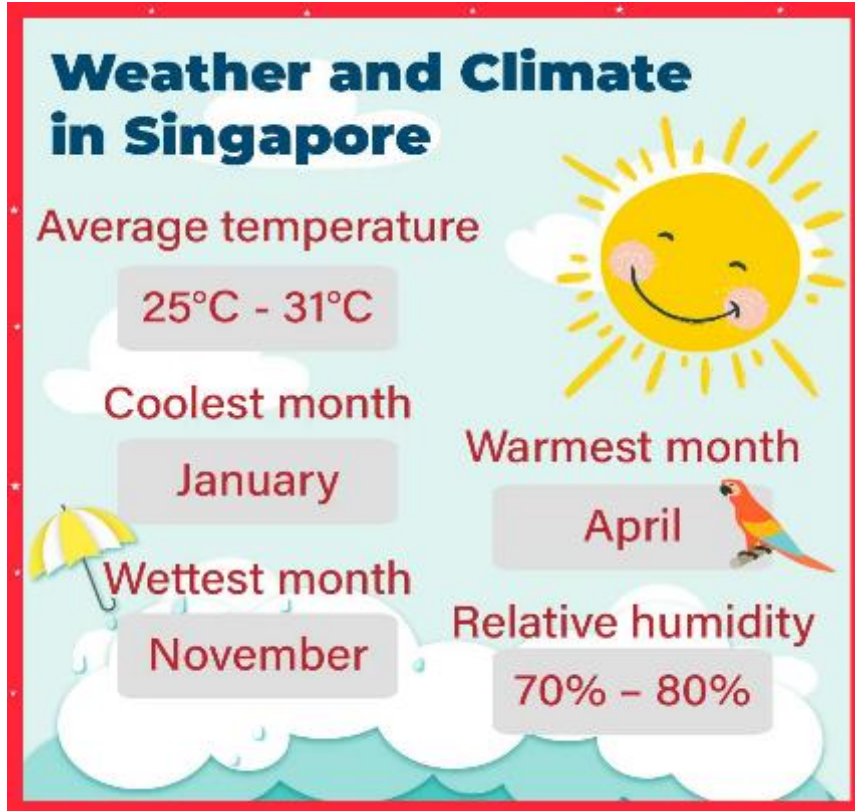
- It is a 'city nation' that is 100% urban and divided into 5 regions
- There are around 62 islets around the main island
- It is only about 130km² after some land reclamation but a population of 6Mil making it the 2nd most dense state in the world

A touch of History



- Singapore was part of the British Straits Settlements (British Empire colony) from the 1800s to 1942
- It was part of Malaysia until it gained independence in 1965, but remained as a Commonwealth of Nations member state
- It was the first and remains the ONLY nation in Southeast Asia with a 'Developed' status (the rest are 'Developing')

Climate and Weather



- With climate change, the overall average temperatures has gone up over the years and there can be heatwaves of up to 40°C
- There are no distinct seasons in Singapore as it sits almost on the Equator line. However, it is affected by the rainy monsoons.

Education & Language



- Singapore has some of the highest ranked universities in the world and Asia.
- Education is seen as an integral part of life for Singaporeans and education is taken very seriously
- Emphasis is given to Maths and Science which is why Singaporeans have been consistently ranked as the best in the world in these areas (e.g. PISA ratings)
- Singapore's national language comprise of English, Chinese-Mandarin, Malay and Indian-Tamil
- The main language for all education, business and government matters is English
- All public signage, printed commercial material and information is in English
- In fact, most people consider English as the official national language there and the proficiency level is very high across the country

Pragmatic Perspectives



PROS

- It is one of the top 10 safest cities in the world
- 99% speak English
- Multicultural / international nation
- Loads of delicious food, shopping is great
- Excellent transportation system
- High standard of education and living
- Very good healthcare standards (globally competitive)

CONS

- There are quite a lot of rules and regulations with strict fines
- Alcohol can be expensive (this is only relevant to those who drink!)
- Accommodation is expensive
- Most popular places, malls, roads can get pretty crowded during the weekends / peak hours
- It has been said that Singaporeans are one of the world's 'fastest walkers' as many people are always seeming to be rushing (fast moving society)

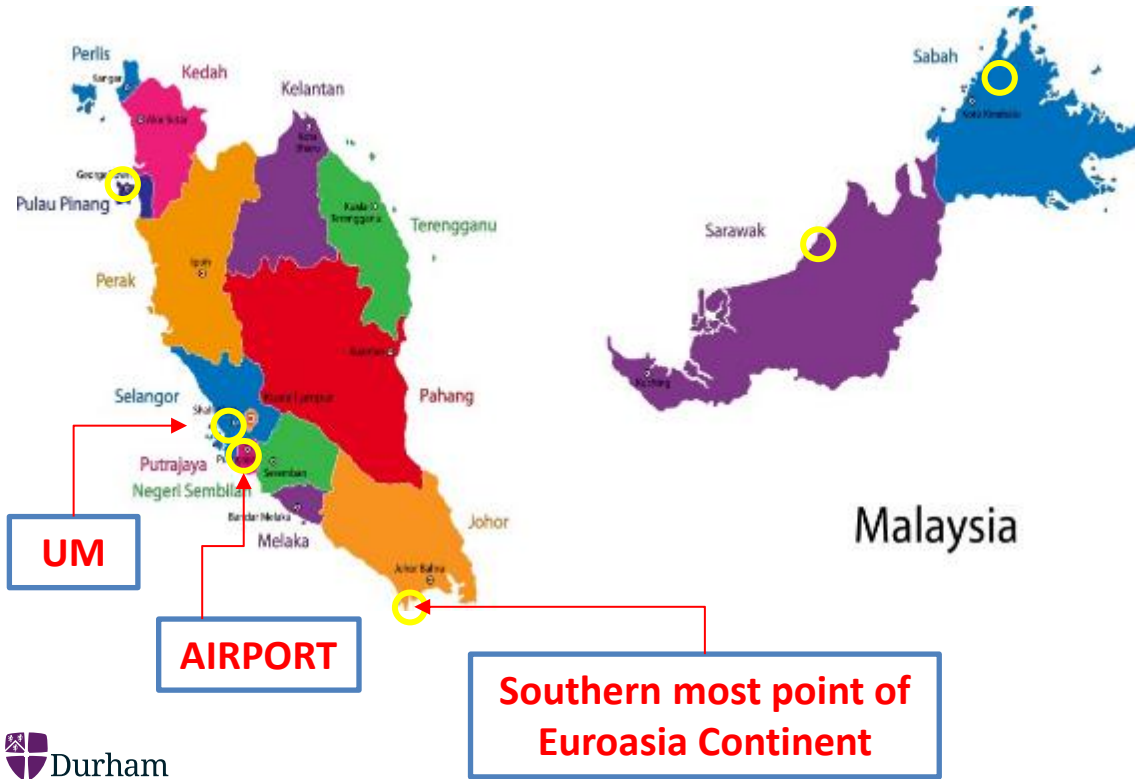
An aerial photograph of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, at dusk. The Petronas Twin Towers are the central focus, illuminated with warm lights. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue. Other skyscrapers and city buildings are visible, some with lights on. In the foreground, there is a large green park area with a winding path and a small pond.

This is Kuala Lumpur

The “Golden Peninsular”



Quick Facts



- Malaysia has 13 States and 3 Federal Territories, across the West (Peninsular) and East (Borneo) sides
- It follows a federal constitutional monarchy system
- It has a population of 34.6Mil with almost 9Mil (about 25%) in the capital city of Kuala Lumpur

A touch of History



- Malaysia is the modern name of the country (coined in 1963) which used to be the Federation of Malaya before it achieved independence in 1957.
- After the ancient kingdoms, the country was colonized for 445 years under Portuguese, Dutch, British (longest) and briefly Japan; before it gained independence; and remained as a Commonwealth of Nations member state

Climate and Weather



- With climate change, the overall average temperatures has gone up over the years and there can be heatwaves of over 40°C with warnings on heatstroke / dehydration
- There are some major thunderstorms during the wet monsoon seasons (year-end)
- There are “4 local seasons” - hot, hotter, hazy and rainy



Education & Language



- Malaysia has the most international higher education institutions in SEA and 3rd in the world
- Education one of the top priorities for Malaysians and ingrained in the culture
- There is a vast difference between urban and rural mindsets to education & language
- Malaysia's national language is Bahasa Melayu. English is the 2nd official language and is widely spoken and preferred in business / international context.
- All public signage, printed commercial material and information are often in bi-lingual format (Malay and English)
- With strong anthropological history of early influences from Indo-Malay, Chinese, Indian and European cultures, Malaysia is a melting pot of diverse heritage seen in all aspects of life (food, language, arts, fashion, etc)
- Most Malaysians are tri-lingual (or more) in the multi-cultural / multi-ethnic society
- The English proficiency level is high in the urban cities and moderate in most other parts of the country

Pragmatic Perspectives



PROS

- It is one of the most “preferred” countries for travel and tourism
- More than 60% speak English and almost 90% in the urban cities
- Multicultural nation
- World famous for delicious food, and shopping is great
- High standard of education in the urban cities
- Good healthcare standards (globally competitive)

CONS

- Traffic is often terrible during peak hours especially getting in / out of the city centre
- Alcohol is expensive and not as easily available (this is only relevant to those who drink!)
- There is a need for common sense about overall safety and security
- The weather can be rather extreme in terms of heat, humidity and rainstorms
- It is a relatively conservative society (controversial / sensitive issues)

This is Bangkok



The “Land of Smiles”



Quick Facts



- Thailand has 76 provinces which are further divided into districts within each province
- It has a population of 66Mil and 11.2Mil itself are in the capital city of Bangkok
- There are many ethnic groups in Thailand, with the majority being Thai (sub-divided into 3 main groups), Burmese, Hill tribes and Others
- There is significant diverse cultural heritage from Chinese (North), Burmese (NW), Laos (NE) and Malay (South)


A touch of History



- The Kingdom of Thailand was known as 'Siam' before the name change in 1939.
- Thailand follows an absolute monarchy system and is the only country in SEA that has never been colonized.
- It follows a modern constitutional monarchy system now although it has been alternating between democratic and military regimes

Climate and Weather



 Bangkok, Thailand



Lat/long: 13°44'N / 100°30'E
Currency: Baht (THB)
Languages: English, Thai



TIME ZONE

- ICT (Indochina Time), UTC/GMT +7 hours



AIRPORTS

- Suvarnabhumi Airport, BKK, About 28 km E of Bangkok
- Don Muang International Airport, DMK, About 24 km NNE of Bangkok



Weather



°C

26



SUNRISE

06:10 102° East



SUNSET

17:54 258° West



DAY LENGTH

11 hours, 43 minutes
-41s shorter

- With climate change, the overall average temperatures has gone up over the years and there can be heatwaves of over 40°C (and the cool season suddenly became winter cold in the North one time)
- There are some major thunderstorms during the wet monsoon seasons (year-end)
- There are “3 local seasons” – dry mild pre-summer, hot summer and rainy monsoon

Education & Language



- Education is an important element in the Thai culture although there is a significant gap between the urban and rural communities making this not as widely accessible (for the rural)
- The majority of Thai students will study up to tertiary education (if possible) and there is strong entrepreneurial mindsets
- Thailand's national and official language is Thai. English is the 2nd official language and is commonly used in business contexts (bilingual).
- All public signage, printed commercial material and information are often in bi-lingual format (Thai and English / Romanized letters)
- Thailand has a very strong and rich history making it one of the oldest civilizations that has kept much of its heritage into the modern world
- Most Thais are bi-lingual (or more) and in the multi-cultural / multi-ethnic society
- The English proficiency level is moderate in the urban cities and low-moderate in the other parts of the country (depending on where you are)

Pragmatic Perspectives



PROS

- It is one of the most preferred countries for travel and tourism
- World famous for delicious food
- Shopping is great and consistently voted as Top 10 in the World
- Public transport is relatively good with a train (BTS) and metro (MRT) line
- Alcohol, nightlife and entertainment is affordable and with many options (but this should not be a deciding factor!)

CONS

- Traffic is often terrible during peak hours especially getting in / out of the city centre
- Relatively good healthcare standards in the urban cities (maybe not so in the rural areas / islands)
- There is a need for common sense about overall safety and security
- The weather is significantly different in the North, Midlands and South but generally hot, humid and with tropical rainstorms



Any Questions?

Inspiring the Extraordinary

