

Singapore The Lion City

Singapore consists of 62 small islands and one large island (270 mi²) just north of Indonesia. While about 23% of Singapore's land area consists of forest and nature reserves, it is also the world's second most densely populated independent country. Singapore has one of the world's busiest ports and is a commercial, financial and technical hub for Southeast Asia. It has the highest standard of living in Asia (11th worldwide).

The city has a fascinating mix of cultures. It is known

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ *Pray that God will give local Christians opportunities and training to proclaim Christ to the Malay, Indian, Pakistani and other communities in an appropriate way (Isaiah 60:1-3).*
- ▶ *Pray that Christians will be able to forge relationships with Muslims and open the way for them to hear the good news (Romans 10:14).*
- ▶ *Pray that believers involved in business will be able to share Christ with their Muslim counterparts (Psalm 49:6-8).*

as the largest Chinese city outside of China, since 76% of its peoples trace their heritage back to the mainland. Other major ethnic groups include the Malays (14%) and Indians (7%).

Singapore's government has established a religious harmony law with recommendations on how different faiths should interact and how they should be separate from politics. The law doesn't prohibit proclaiming the gospel to Muslim peoples, but it does discourage it. The fear is that there would be a public outcry if evangelism was encouraged. A Malay Christian once commented that, in Singapore, the Muslims could easily become an unreachable people group through restrictions and their own indecision.

The government maintains a semi-official relationship with the Muslim community through the Islamic Religious Council (MUIS). The council advises the government on concerns in the Muslim community, drafts the approved Friday sermons, regulates instruction in Islamic schools, and oversees a mosque-building fund financed by voluntary payroll deductions. It also supervises obligatory giving or "zakat" by a centralized and computerized collection.



Singapore statistics

- *Population: 4.5 million*
- *40% Buddhist*
- *15% Christian (mostly Chinese and Indians)*
- *15% no religion*
- *13.9% Muslim (Over 500,000 people)*

Also pray for ...

- ▶ *Over half of the December 2004 tsunami victims lived in the area of Banda Aceh on the northwest coast of Sumatra Island in Indonesia. Only Jesus can bring healing and hope for those suffering the loss of loved ones, jobs and homes.*