



# Singapore Spotlight

Tom Benner

毎月第1週掲載



自家用車の購入や維持にかかる費用が驚くほど高額なシンガポール。車はお金持ちのステータスシンボルとなっている。一方、バスや電車は路線がたくさんあり運行間隔が短いので、郊外に住む筆者も「車は全く必要ない」と感じている。

## 3) A bus, a train, a cab, and no car

公共交通機関が発達した国



### ■ 自家用車所有は高額で面倒

One of the things I love about Singapore is that you can get anywhere on public transit. Granted, it's a pretty small place. But there is a conscious effort by policy makers to put every neighborhood within reach of a train line or a bus route.

People who can afford it — well-off Singaporeans and rich expats — generally own cars. But they pay through the nose, and it's a lot of hassle to own a car.

“You're lucky,” says my friend Paul, who owns a fancy Lexus. “You don't have to worry about car payments and parking and upkeep.”

Paul doesn't really need a car, either. Car ownership is a status symbol — a nice thing to have, but not a necessity.

For me, it's a status symbol not to own one.

When urban planners talk about cities of the future, they frequently point to Singapore and its transportation system.

Getting around is a major quality of life issue and a challenge for any densely populated place, and Singapore wins high praise for leading the way in thinking about how to efficiently move people from their homes to their jobs, schools and other daily destinations.

The island nation purposely makes owning a car prohibitively expensive. The eye-popping costs of owning a car (and driving it, and parking it, and all of the rules that come with the privilege) are enough to make all but the truly wealthy think twice about personal car ownership.

### ■ バスや電車で快適に移動

Singapore is smart enough to give its people an alternative: an amazing mass transit system. The network of clean and inexpensive subways and buses reaches virtually everywhere on the island.

By 2030, Singapore plans to have 80 percent of all homes within 10 minutes' walk of a train station. That's pretty impressive. I've lived in other cities with great

public transit — I've always been impressed with Tokyo's rail and subway system — but you generally need a car or a taxi to get to some of the far reaches of those cities.

And then there's the orderliness. Lines on subway platforms in Singapore denote where to stand, allowing passengers to alight before others enter a train. When conditions are crowded, people dutifully line up and wait their turn to get on board. Passengers must refrain from eating or drinking, and treat their fellow passengers with respect.

Wait times are generally short. You barely have time to regret missing one train or bus when another comes along.

I live in the suburbs — outside of Singapore's Central Business District — and I rely on mass transit to get around.

I prefer taking the subway, because it's guaranteed to be fast. Buses are slowed down when the



シンガポール国内を網羅する電車。郊外では高架上を、市街地では地下を走っている (Singapore Tourism Board 提供)

▼ 中心地に近いバス停。バスの路線番号がびっしり (筆者提供)



roads are slow with traffic. Singapore's traffic would be far worse if everyone owned a car.

When I feel like splurging, I'll take a cab. Taxis are cheap by international standards, and I love talking with the drivers. I ask them all sorts of questions.

“Uncle,” I'll say (that's how middle-aged and elderly men are referred to in Singapore), “what's your favorite place for makan?”

Makan means “food” or “eating” in Malay — and taxi drivers always have an opinion on that.

Tom Benner is a freelance journalist who moved to Singapore from Boston, U.S., in the fall of 2012. His recent journalism has appeared in Al Jazeera English, Global Post and Nikkei Asian Review.

## KEYWORDS

**cab (= taxi)** タクシー

**public transit** 公共交通機関

(後出 mass transit (system) は大量輸送機関)

**granted** 確かに

**conscious** 意識的な

**policy maker** 政策立案者

**within reach of** ~ ~の近くに (後出 far reaches of ~ は、~の遠くの方)

**well-off** 裕福な

**Singaporean** シンガポール人

**expat (= expatriate)** 駐在員、出張者

**pay ... nose** 法外な金を払う

(後出 prohibitively は法外に)

**hassle** 手間、面倒

**fancy** シャれた

**Lexus** トヨタの高級ブランド (車)

**upkeep** 維持

**point to** ~ ~を挙げる

**densely populated** 人口密度が高い

**win high praise** 高評価を得る

**lead the way** 率先する

**eye-popping** 驚くべき

**privilege** 特権

**think twice** ためらう

**virtually** ほぼ

**orderliness** 規律正しいこと

**denote** 示す

**alight** 降りる

**dutifully** 従順に、律儀に

**refrain from ~-ing** ~するのを控える

**treat ~ with respect** ~に敬意を払う

**fellow passenger** (ここでは) 乗り合わせた客

**suburbs** 郊外

**Central Business District** 都市の中心部にある商業地区

**splurge** ぜいたくをする

**Malay** マレー語

[本文 - 532 words]

## MACHIGAI! © Tim Young

毎週掲載



by Tim Young

彼はスプーンでスパゲティを食べる。

### ✗ He eats spaghetti by a spoon.

When you use an object as a tool to do something, the proper preposition (前置詞) is usually “with.” “By” is only used in this meaning in a few cases, and in such cases it is always used **without “a”**: “by hand,” “by train,” etc.

### ○ He eats spaghetti with a spoon.

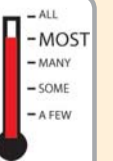


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米アイオワ州出身。イリノイ州オーガススタナ大学で英文学学士号取得。1989年から日本在住。現在はスカイプでマンツーマンの英語レッスンをやるほか、高校でのALT (外国人英語指導助手) やポッドキャストの製作など幅広く活躍。Twitter (@machigai) でもつぶやき中。

MACHIGAI Meter

How many of Tim's students made this mistake?



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