

For Immediate Release

FESTIVALS
A Celebration of Culture and Heritage



Singapore, 2 July 2004 - SingPost will release a set of “FESTIVALS” stamps on **7 July 2004**.

Singapore is as much a place of diverse cultures as it is a place where people of different cultures and religions can live, work and play. Every ethnic group in Singapore has its own festivals, mostly related to its culture and heritage.

This rich and multicultural diversity is best reflected in the many colourful and vibrant festivals celebrated during the year. The four main festivals celebrated in Singapore are beautifully featured with various festive elements and traditional motifs within the frame of this set of 8 stamps.

Deepavali

Deepavali, or Diwali, celebrates the victory of good over evil, symbolized by the legendary slaying of the oppressive Narakasura by Lord Krishna. It marks the beginning of the Indian New Year, and for the business community it is a time for settling debts. It is also believed that the souls of departed relatives descend to earth during this festival, and oil lamps are lit to guide them. Like the Chinese and Muslim New Year festivals, it is celebrated with 'open-house' visits among friends of all races.

Hari Raya Aidilfitri

Hari Raya Aidilfitri or Hari Raya Puasa is the most significant festival for Muslims as it marks the end of the fasting month. It is also the time for the family reunions when people gather to forgive and forget past quarrels. It is every Muslim's religious virtue to ask for pardon on this day and this is done in order of the family seniority. The festive mood is reflected with the lighting of oil lamps. All mosques, homes, government and commercial buildings are decorated and brightly lit to mark the significant day.

Christmas

Christmas is the commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ, whom Christians believe to be the Son of God. To the Christians, Christ's birth is an initiative taken by God to reconcile man to Him and to redeem man from sin. The event is marked by special Christmas services in churches. In the week prior to Christmas, many Christians visit homes to sing Christmas carols. This joyous occasion is celebrated with much pomp and gaiety as shopping malls are adorned with beautiful window decorations and the streets are lit up with festive lights.

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year marks the start of a New Year in the Chinese lunar calendar. It is an important festival as it is a time to reaffirm family and kinship ties and grudges are set aside and resolved. Reunion dinners, visitations among relatives and friends are celebrated over a period of 15 days starting from the first day of the first month of the lunar calendar. Houses are gaily decorated and there are many lion dance performances at home and in shops to drive away evil and bring good fortune.

Information and Enquiries

For more information on these new stamps, please call the Singapore Philatelic Bureau at telephone numbers 1800 741 4111 (toll-free within Singapore) or 6845 6756 during office hours or visit www.singpost.com.

These stamps can also be ordered online at <http://vpostmall.vpost.com.sg>.

FACTSHEET

Items on Sale

The following items will be on sale at all post offices and the Singapore Philatelic Bureau (Singapore Post Centre Branch), unless otherwise stated:

Items	Price	Date Available
Complete Stamp Set	\$2.92	7 July 2004 onwards
1 st Local Sheetlet (10stamps) (Four designs)	\$2.30ea	7 July 2004 onwards
First Day Cover (Without stamps)	\$0.25	Available from now until 7 July 2004 only
Pre-cancelled First Day Cover (with a set of stamps)	\$3.50	7 July 2004 only
Presentation Pack (affixed with stamps)	\$4.40	7 July 2004 onwards

*Obtainable from any post office
 Prices inclusive of 5% GST for purchases within Singapore.*

Technical details of this stamp issue are as follow:

Date of issue	:	7 July 2004
Denominations	:	1 st Local and 50¢ (Each value x 4 designs)
Stamp Size	:	26.01 mm x 38 mm
Perforation	:	13
Paper	:	Unwatermarked
Printing Process	:	Offset Lithography
Printer	:	Cartor Security Printing
Sheet Content	:	10 stamps
Designed by	:	Tze Ngan



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About SingPost

SingPost is a household name in Singapore with strong brand recognition. It is the dominant provider of domestic and international postal services in Singapore. It is one of the most efficient and profitable postal operators globally and offers customers a one-stop logistics business and retail distribution network in Singapore.

With a highly efficient mail delivery services system utilising a sophisticated distribution infrastructure and advanced mail processing technology, SingPost estimates that it has achieved domestic mail market share of greater than 95 per cent. It believes that its Spring joint venture is a market leader in private cross-border mail solutions.

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