

31 July 2008

Don't miss the boat for Christmas Sea Mail

Australia Post is reminding people wishing to send Christmas presents to family and friends overseas not to miss the boat, with final deadlines fast approaching for postage via Sea Mail.

Sea Mail is best suited for sending parcels and offers substantial cost savings, but Australia Post spokesperson, Elizabeth Rich, said people need to plan ahead to take advantage of its lower prices.

"If you need to send Christmas gifts overseas you need to start planning now," she said.

"The Sea Mail closing date for gifts being sent to the United Kingdom is 22 September, while most of mainland Europe is one week later, on 29 September. If you need to send gifts to South America you'll have to get organised even sooner with some closing dates as early as 18 August."

All Sea Mail departs from Sydney so people sending parcels from interstate or outside the metropolitan area should allow extra time for their parcels to travel to Sydney before the listed closing date.

Ms Rich also reminded senders there are certain dangerous and prohibited items that must not be sent through the mail. She said staff at Australia Post outlets can advise customers on restrictions for dangerous goods and give tips on the most secure packaging.

"To expedite delivery, you should always address your parcels clearly, complete the appropriate customs forms and include a return address on the back of your parcel. You might also need to provide identification when lodging your parcel.

"If you miss the Sea Mail Christmas closing deadlines you can still get your gifts overseas using Airmail and if you're really in a last minute rush, our Express Courier International service provides a door-to-door courier delivery to most major international metropolitan cities within two to four business days."

Anyone wishing to find out more about Sea Mail or Australia Post's other international services should ask at their local Australia Post outlet or call 131318.

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For further media information, please call:

Australia Post National media line, 03 9204 5362

Note to editors: A complete listing of Sea Mail closing dates is included overleaf.

Sea Mail closing dates for delivery before Christmas 2008

Destination	Date	Destination	Date	Destination	Date
Albania	29 Sep	French Guiana	18 Aug	Norfolk Island	10 Nov
Algeria	22 Sep	Germany	29 Sep	Panama	18 Aug
Argentina	18 Aug	Ghana	08 Sep	Paraguay	18 Aug
Ascension & St Helena	01 Sep	Gibraltar	22 Sep	Peru	18 Aug
Austria	29 Sep	Greece	29 Sep	Poland	29 Sep
Bahamas	01 Sep	Guatemala	01 Sep	Portugal	29 Sep
Bahrain	29 Sep	Guinea	15 Sep	Qatar	29 Sep
Barbados	01 Sep	Guyana	18 Aug	Romania	29 Sep
Belgium	29 Sep	Haiti	01 Sep	Russia	29 Sep
Belize	22 Sep	Hungary	29 Sep	Saudi Arabia	29 Sep
Bermuda	01 Sep	Iceland	29 Sep	Serbia & Montenegro	29 Sep
Bolivia	18 Aug	Iran	15 Sep	Sierra Leone	15 Sep
Bosnia & Herzegovina	29 Sep	Iraq	15 Sep	Slovak Republic	29 Sep
Botswana	29 Sep	Ireland	29 Sep	Slovenia	29 Sep
Brazil	18 Aug	Israel	29 Sep	South Africa	29 Sep
Bulgaria	29 Sep	Italy	29 Sep	Spain	29 Sep
Burundi	15 Sep	Jamaica	01 Sep	Sweden	29 Sep
Canada	29 Sep	Jordan	08 Sep	Switzerland	29 Sep
Central Africa	08 Sep	Kenya	08 Sep	Syria	22 Sep
Chile	18 Aug	Kuwait	29 Sep	Trinidad & Tobago	18 Aug
Colombia	18 Aug	Latvia	29 Sep	Turkey	29 Sep
Congo	08 Sep	Lesotho	29 Sep	Uganda	08 Sep
Costa Rica	01 Sep	Liberia	01 Sep	United Arab Emirates	29 Sep
Croatia	29 Sep	Libya	15 Sep	Ukraine	29 Sep
Cuba	18 Aug	Leichtenstein	29 Sep	United Kingdom	22 Sep
Cyprus	29 Sep	Lithuania	29 Sep	United States	29 Sep
Czech Republic	29 Sep	Luxemborg	29 Sep	Uruguay (No sea mail)	
Denmark	29 Sep	Macedonia	29 Sep	Zambia	29 Sep
Djibouti	08 Sep	Malawi	08 Sep	Zimbabwe	29 Sep
Ecuador	18 Sep	Malta	22 Sep	<p>The dates shown are correct at the time of printing and are the latest recommended posting dates for delivery before Christmas 2008.</p> <p>As these schedules are reliant on third party shipping company timetables some dates may be subject to change.</p> <p>There is no Sea Mail service to the Asia-Pacific region.</p>	
Egypt	29 Sep	Mauritania	15 Sep		
El Salvador	01 Sep	Mauritius	29 Sep		
Equatorial Guinea	08 Sep	Mexico	18 Aug		
Estonia	29 Sep	Morocco	15 Sep		
Ethiopia	08 Sep	Netherlands	29 Sep		
Falkland Islands	01 Sep	Nicaragua	01 Sep		
Finland	29 Sep	Nigeria	15 Sep		
France	29 Sep	Norway	29 Sep		