

For Immediate Release
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BC FERRIES SCHEDULES MORE THAN 90 EXTRA SAILINGS FOR THE THANKSGIVING LONG WEEKEND

Extra sailings include 6 a.m. departures on select days between Vancouver and Victoria

VICTORIA – BC Ferries is adding 93 extra sailings for the upcoming Thanksgiving long weekend to ensure smooth sailing for customers travelling between Metro Vancouver, Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.

Between Thursday, October 10 and Tuesday, October 15, BC Ferries is adding:

- 74 extra sailings on the Vancouver – Victoria route (Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay), the most popular route in the fleet, including:
 - 6:00 a.m. departures from Swartz Bay and Tsawwassen on October 11, 12, 14 and 15
- 13 extra sailings on the West Vancouver – Nanaimo route (Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay)
- 6 extra sailings on the West Vancouver – Sunshine Coast route (Horseshoe Bay – Langdale)

Historically, the most popular travel times are Thursday and Friday afternoon, and Saturday morning for traffic moving from the Tsawwassen and Horseshoe Bay terminals to Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. The most popular travel day of the long weekend will be Thanksgiving Monday, with traffic returning from the Departure Bay, Swartz Bay and Langdale terminals.

The Thanksgiving long weekend is typically the most popular travel weekend of the year for walk-on passengers. At peak times, some sailings may reach passenger capacity and some walk-on customers may experience a sailing wait.

Thanksgiving Long Weekend Travel Tips

- Reserve in advance – Make a vehicle reservation early to secure a spot on the sailing time of your choice. Customers with flexibility can travel at off-peak times to avoid the rush. Reserve online at bcferries.com. Reserved customers do not have sailing waits, even when multiple waits are reported.
- Arrive early – Customers with reservations should plan to arrive at the terminal 45-60 minutes before their scheduled departure. Walk-on passengers should arrive 45 minutes before their anticipated sailing. Please refer to current conditions and plan accordingly.

- Check-in smoothly – Follow traffic control flaggers and have your booking reference number ready upon arrival at the ticket booth to expedite the check-in process if you have made a reservation.
- Be prepared for sailing waits – At popular times, customers travelling without a vehicle reservation may experience sailing waits. The best times to travel are posted on the [Travel Planning](#) pages at bcferries.com.

Did you know? On reservable routes, a sailing wait only applies to people without reservations, when a vessel has reached capacity. Customers who make reservations are guaranteed to be on their sailing of choice. Reserved traffic moves smoothly.

- Departure Bay terminal is usually more popular than Duke Point terminal. Customers returning to Metro Vancouver from the Nanaimo area may consider travelling via Duke Point, to avoid the rush often experienced at Departure Bay.
- Southern Gulf Island customers (Salt Spring, Pender, Mayne, Galiano and Saturna Islands) are reminded the holiday Monday schedule will be in effect after 2:00 p.m. on October 14. Passengers travelling from Tsawwassen to the Southern Gulf Islands also have the option of sailing via Swartz Bay terminal.
- Consider parking options – Parking lots at the major terminals fill up quickly on long weekends. If possible, choose public transit or arrange to be dropped off at the terminal to avoid traffic congestion. When parking lots fill up, BC Ferries informs customers via Twitter @BCFerries and on the website.
- Ride-share, if possible – BC Ferries encourages customers to carpool or travel as a foot passenger. Vehicle deck space can fill up quickly and will be sold out at popular travel times.
- Customers planning to explore B.C. this Thanksgiving can book their getaway with BC Ferries Vacations. Packages to coastal destinations like Victoria, Vancouver and the Gulf Islands include ferry travel, hotel accommodation, complimentary room upgrades, and more. Visit www.bcferries.com/vacations or drop by the BC Ferries Vacations Centre in downtown Vancouver at 1010 Canada Place.
- Due to a number of events taking place in Bella Bella over the long weekend, we strongly advise customers travelling our northern routes to book in advance.

For full schedule information, current conditions and reservations, please visit bcferries.com. For the most up-to-date travel information, follow @BCFerries on Twitter.

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