

For Immediate Release
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BC FERRIES OFFERS TRAVEL TIPS FOR THE B.C. DAY LONG WEEKEND

VICTORIA – The B.C. Day long weekend is just around the corner. BC Ferries has some travel tips for customers planning to take the ferry between Thursday, August 1 and Tuesday, August 6.

Last year, across all routes, BC Ferries carried more than 625,000 passengers for the B.C. Day long weekend. Historically, the most popular travel times are Thursday and Friday afternoon, as well as Saturday morning, with lots of travellers departing from Tsawwassen and Horseshoe Bay terminals. B.C. Day Monday and the following Tuesday morning are typically the most popular times for people to return from Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.

To avoid sailing waits, BC Ferries recommends customers make a reservation, or travel at less busy times. The best times to travel and travel tips are available on our [Travel Planning](http://bcferries.com) pages at bcferries.com.

BC Day Long Weekend Travel Tips

- Reserve in advance – Reserve 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.
- 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 reservation may experience sailing waits. The best times to travel are posted on our [Travel Planning](http://bcferries.com) pages at bcferries.com.

Did you know? On our 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. If a sailing wait occurs, it means that non-reserved traffic will be placed on the next available ferry. In the summertime, when sailings are hourly between

Tsawwassen and Swartz Bay for example, a one-sailing wait can mean staying in the terminal for just an additional 60 minutes.

- 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 car-pool or travel as a foot passenger. Vehicle deck space can fill up quickly and will be sold out at popular times.
- Travel at off-peak times and get a deal – The Sunrise and Sunset Savings promotion features savings on more than 1,600 early morning and late evening sailings throughout the summer. Select sailings are discounted to \$49, \$59 or \$69 for a one-way standard passenger vehicle and driver on the Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay, Tsawwassen – Duke Point and Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay routes. For details, visit bcferries.com/promotions.
- Bring it all – The Bring it All promotion offers an opportunity to save when travelling with an extra length recreational vehicle between May 16 and Sept. 4. Customers with vehicles longer than 20 feet (6.1 metres) will pay only \$3.25 per additional foot (regularly \$6.50) on select sailings on two of the routes between Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island. More than 1,100 sailings are discounted on the Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay and Tsawwassen – Duke Point routes. Details of the promotion can be found at bcferries.com/promotions.
- Celebrate B.C. Day – Enjoy entertainment at major terminals while waiting for the ferry. There will be face painting, bubble machines, mascots, kids music, magic and more. The Coastal Naturalists will be on site at varying times throughout the long weekend.

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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