

For Immediate Release
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March 5, 2009

NEW NORTHERN EXPEDITION SET TO ARRIVE FRIDAY - Public Viewing Opportunities -

VICTORIA – BC Ferries’ new northern cruise ferry, the Northern Expedition, will arrive in B.C. on Friday, March 6, 2009.

The new ferry departed Flensburg, Germany on January 30 and travelled over 9,900 nautical miles via the Panama Canal to Canada.

The ship is scheduled to sail past Beacon Hill Park in Victoria at approximately 7.00 a.m. and then proceed to Burrard Inlet in Vancouver. Following a sail past Stanley Park and Lions Gate Bridge in Vancouver, the vessel will then travel to BC Ferries’ Departure Bay terminal in Nanaimo for tie up.

The Northern Expedition will berth at Departure Bay for approximately three weeks for post-voyage inspections and formal transfer of ownership from FSG Shipyards to BC Ferries.

The new ship will then proceed to Prince Rupert for crew training and familiarization prior to entering service on the Port Hardy – Prince Rupert run in mid May.

The following public viewing and photographic opportunities will be available on Friday, March 6, 2009:

City:	Viewing Location:	Time:
Victoria	Beacon Hill Park/ Ogden Point	Approximately 7:00 a.m.
Vancouver	Stanley Park/Burrard Inlet/North Shore	Approximately 12 noon
Nanaimo	Departure Bay	Approximately 4:30 p.m.

The Northern Expedition is the fourth new ship built for BC Ferries at FSG Shipyards in Germany. Over the last three years, BC Ferries has built seven new vessels to replace older ships in its fleet.

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NORTHERN EXPEDITION

- The Northern Expedition, BC Ferries' new northern vessel, will arrive in B.C. on March 6 after a 35-day journey from Flensburg, Germany via the Panama Canal to Canada.
- The voyage was 9,990 nautical miles.
- The vessel departed Germany on January 30 and stopped for fuel in Las Palmas, Canary Islands; Willemstad, Curacao; and Manzanillo, Mexico.
- The Northern Expedition will enter service on BC Ferries' Port Hardy – Prince Rupert route mid-May in time for the busy summer season.
- The 150-metre Northern Expedition has 55 modern staterooms and will accommodate 600 passengers and 130 vehicles.
- Two passenger decks offer spacious areas, such as the Canoe Café, Vista Restaurant and reserved seating in the Aurora Lounge. Three large screen TV's in the Raven's Lounge will offer customers plenty of comfort during their northern B.C. voyage.
- The Northern Expedition is a single-ended roll-on-roll-off vessel with a service speed of 20.5 knots.
- The ship meets "COMF+" designation of the American Bureau of Shipping, which means the ship meets detailed standards of comfort based on physical structure, as well as noise and vibration levels.
- Main engines: two – MAK 9M32C – 4500 KW each at 600 RPM.
- Auxiliary power: three MAK 8M20 – 1360 KW each at 900 RPM.
- The vessel has state-of-the-art fire suppression systems in all passenger and machinery spaces.
- The ship is equipped with two marine evacuation slides with a combination of 50 and 100 person life rafts and life boats plus two fast emergency rescue craft.
- The vessel is equipped with an IMO approved Hamworthy sewage treatment plant.
- The \$133 million contract with FSG Shipyards is a design-build, fixed-price contract that provides BC Ferries with substantial guarantees for delivery dates, performance criteria, cost certainty and quality construction.

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