

For Immediate Release
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December 10, 2019

BC FERRIES ADDS MORE THAN 170 EXTRA SAILINGS FOR THE HOLIDAYS **Extra sailings include 6 a.m. departures on select days between Vancouver and Victoria**

VICTORIA – There’s no place like home for the holidays, and BC Ferries is adding 171 extra sailings to make travel easier for customers sailing between Metro Vancouver, Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast.

Between Thursday, Dec. 19 and Wednesday, Jan. 1, BC Ferries is adding:

- 128 extra sailings on the Vancouver – Victoria route (Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay), the most popular route in the network, including:
 - 6 a.m. departures from Tsawwassen and Swartz Bay on Dec. 23, 26 and 27
 - 10 p.m. departure from Tsawwassen on Dec. 21
- 37 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 over the holidays are between Dec. 20 and 23 for traffic moving from the Tsawwassen and Horseshoe Bay terminals to Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. The most popular travel days over the holidays will be Dec. 26 and 27, with traffic returning from the Departure Bay, Swartz Bay and Langdale terminals.

Holiday Travel Tips

- Reserve in advance – Make a vehicle reservation early to secure a spot on the sailing of your choice. Customers with flexibility can travel at off-peak times to avoid the rush. Reserve online at bcferries.com.
- 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.
- 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.

- Customers travelling between Swartz Bay and Salt Spring Island are reminded that from Dec. 20, 2019 to Jan. 1, 2020, the 60-vehicle Bowen Queen will be on the route replacing the 90-vehicle Skeena Queen, which is undergoing a mid-life upgrade. The Bowen Queen will do two additional round trips per day on the route so the maximum number of customers can be accommodated. However, BC Ferries expects peak sailing times will still be popular. There will be a revised schedule in place to accommodate the most customers possible. Due to the smaller capacity of the Bowen Queen, customers travelling in vehicles from Fulford Harbour on Salt Spring Island may experience longer lineups. Customers connecting with busses may see longer waits upon arrival at the terminal due to the revised ferry schedule.
- Consider parking options – Parking lots at the major terminals fill up quickly at peak periods. 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.
- Save at the pump – Customers planning to explore B.C. this holiday season can book their getaway with BC Ferries Vacations. For a limited time, receive a \$50 Chevron gas credit when booking a Holiday Package including return ferry travel and hotel accommodation. Choose from coastal destinations like Victoria, Vancouver, the Gulf Islands and the Sunshine Coast. For details, visit bcferries.com/vacations or drop by the BC Ferries Vacations Centre in downtown Vancouver at 1010 Canada Place.
- Get in the holiday spirit – Starting on December 11, the Pacific Buffet will be serving a seasonal carved turkey menu that includes roast turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and vegetables. The Pacific Buffet is available on the Spirit of Vancouver Island, Spirit of British Columbia and Coastal Celebration.
- Make the holidays magical – BC Ferries’ gift certificates make great stocking stuffers, and are available in Passages and online. Get your shopping done on board at Passages as well. There are two promotions running until December 24:
 - Buy two pairs of Sock it To Me socks and get the third pair free
 - 30% off Native Northwest items featuring traditional Salish weave pattern by local Coast Salish Artists Leila Stogan

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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