

For Immediate Release
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BC FERRIES RETURNS AS PRESENTING SPONSOR OF BC BIKE RACE
Opportunity to showcase B.C.'s coastal communities

VICTORIA – BC Ferries returns for the 10th year as presenting sponsor of the BC Bike Race from July 4 – 12, 2019.

The BC Bike Race features seven days of mountain biking on a hand-built single track through the lush rainforest of British Columbia's West Coast. Celebrating its 13th anniversary this year, the race brings approximately 600 riders and their support teams on a 310-kilometre circle tour starting on July 4 from Metro Vancouver to Vancouver Island, Powell River, the Sunshine Coast, and wrapping up in Squamish on July 12. BC Ferries provides in-kind travel to race participants and helps promote the event through its social platforms.

“This seven-day staged mountain bike race is recognized as one of the best in the world and offers these communities the opportunity to showcase their local hospitality and natural surroundings to an international audience,” said Janet Carson, BC Ferries' Vice President of Marketing & Customer Experience. “Helping drive tourism is one of many things BC Ferries does to support our coastal communities.”

This year, the BC Bike Race will feature participants from 38 countries. The event is so popular it sold out in less than 24 hours.

“The BC Bike Race is bursting with pride that our event has captured the imagination of the world, while helping to promote B.C. as a premiere mountain biking destination,” said Andreas Hestler, Marketing Director for BC Bike Race. “We are immensely proud to showcase the communities we work within and talk about the story that is mountain biking in British Columbia. It is the unique relationship between BC Ferries, BC Bike Race and these towns that enables a route of such beauty to exist and keep the racers returning year after year, even after they have finished the event.”

BC Ferries' customers can cheer on the large groups of cyclists on the following sailings:

- Friday, July 5 – 2:45 pm sailing from Horseshoe Bay to Departure Bay.
- Monday, July 8 – 3:25 pm and 7:10 pm sailings from Comox to Powell River.
(Additional sailings are scheduled on this route on Monday, July 8 only departing from Comox at 10:30 pm and from Powell River at 11:59 pm)

On Wednesday, July 10, BC Ferries wants to inform customers travelling from Saltery Bay to Earls Cove of the following:

- The 9:25 am sailing from Saltery Bay will be exclusively for BC Bike Race cyclists and support vehicles only.
- Customers may choose to take an early sailing departing Saltery Bay at 5:35 am to avoid congestion around the dedicated BC Bike Race sailing at 9:25 am.
- High traffic volume is expected on the 7:25 am and 11:45 am sailings departing Saltery Bay.

On Thursday, July 11, BC Ferries wants to inform customers travelling from Langdale to Horseshoe Bay of the following:

- Large groups of cyclists and support vehicles are expected on the 2:05 pm and 4:20 pm sailings departing Langdale.
- The Langdale terminal will have additional traffic control and there may be traffic diversions, if necessary.

For schedule information, visit bcferries.com. For information on the BC Bike Race, visit bcbikerace.com.

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