

For Immediate Release
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EXTRA SAILINGS AND TRAVEL TIPS FOR THANKSGIVING LONG WEEKEND

VICTORIA – BC Ferries is adding lots of extra sailings for the upcoming Thanksgiving long weekend and is offering some travel tips to make the customer travel experience smooth and seamless.

Metro Vancouver – Vancouver Island and Metro Vancouver – Sunshine Coast routes:

The company scheduled over 80 extra sailings for the long weekend on the Metro Vancouver – Victoria route (Tsawwassen – Swartz Bay), which is the most popular route in the fleet. These extra sailings include 6 a.m. departures on Oct. 5, 6, 8, and 9 for those travellers who wish to get a jump on the day. Sailings at 10 p.m. from Tsawwassen are scheduled for Oct. 4, 5 and 8 and from Swartz Bay on Oct. 5 and 8 at the end of the day.

BC Ferries has also added extra sailings at popular times over the long weekend on the Metro Vancouver – Nanaimo route (Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay) and on the Metro Vancouver – Sunshine Coast route (Horseshoe Bay – Langdale).

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

For travel certainty and to ensure the sailing of choice, BC Ferries suggests customers make a reservation. For travellers with vehicle reservations, please let the ticket agent know you have a reservation as this self-identification helps speed up the check-in process.

Walk-on passengers:

For customers travelling as walk-on passengers on the weekend, BC Ferries suggests arriving about 45 to 60 minutes prior to the scheduled sailing. The holiday Monday of the Thanksgiving long weekend is traditionally the most popular day of the year for foot passengers.

Southern Gulf Island routes:

Southern Gulf Island customers (Salt Spring, Pender, Mayne, Galiano and Saturna Islands) are reminded the holiday Monday schedule will be in effect after 2 p.m. on Oct. 8. Passengers travelling from Tsawwassen to the Southern Gulf Islands also have the option of sailing via Swartz Bay terminal.

Foot passenger reservations are also available for customers travelling from Tsawwassen to the Southern Gulf Islands. For schedule details and reservations, visit bcferries.com.

Parking:

On long weekends, parking lots at the major terminals tend to fill up quickly. It's likely a number of them will be at maximum capacity at the beginning of the weekend. If possible, BC Ferries encourages customers to take public transit or arrange to be dropped off at the terminal. When parking lots are at capacity BC Ferries will let customers know via Twitter @BCFerries.

Looking for a long weekend getaway? BC Ferries Vacations packages from Metro Vancouver to Victoria start from \$239 per person are available by calling 1-888-223-3779 ext. 3.

Follow @BCFerries on Twitter, for sailing status, current conditions, travel advisories and service updates throughout the weekend or check the website at bcferries.com.

– 30 –

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