

Media Advisory

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EXTRA SAILINGS AND TRAVEL TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

VICTORIA – Santa isn't the only one who needs to travel this holiday season. That's why BC Ferries is adding extra sailings and offering travel tips to ensure smooth sailing at this time of year.

Between December 20 and January 1 BC Ferries is adding:

- 130 extra sailings on the Vancouver Victoria route (Tsawwassen Swartz Bay), the most popular route in the fleet, including:
 - o 6 a.m. departures from Tsawwassen and Swartz Bay on December 26 and 27
 - o 10 p.m. from Tsawwassen on December 21 and 28
 - o 10 p.m. from Swartz Bay on December 23, 26 and 27
 - o Midnight sailings from Tsawwassen on December 26 and 27
- 30+ 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)

BC Ferries expects December 23 to be the most popular travel day before Christmas. December 26 – 28 are likely to have the highest traffic volume after Christmas, while December 27 will likely be the most popular travel day of the holiday season overall. Customers can find full schedules and current conditions online at <u>bcferries.com</u>.

Holiday Travel Tips

- Book in advance 'Tis the season to travel. BC Ferries invites customers to reserve early to guarantee a spot on the sailing of their choice. Customers with flexibility in their schedules can travel at off-peak times to avoid the rush. Reservations start at just \$10 when booked 7 days in advance. Book online at bcferries.com or by phone, 1-888-BCFERRY (1-888-223-3779).
- Arrive early BC Ferries encourages customers with advance bookings to arrive at the
 terminal 30 to 60 minutes before their scheduled departure. We recommend walk-on
 passengers arrive 45 minutes early for their anticipated sailing. Non-reserved vehicle traffic
 may experience higher volumes at peak times. Please refer to current conditions and plan
 accordingly.

- Consider parking options During the holiday season, parking lots at the major terminals tend to fill up quickly. If possible, travellers can take public transit or arrange to be dropped off at the terminal. When parking lots fill up, BC Ferries informs customers via Twitter @BCFerries.
- Give the gift of travel BC Ferries' gift certificates make great stocking stuffers, and are available online.

For reservations, schedule information, BC Ferries Vacation packages and gift certificates, visit BC Ferries online.

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