

## **Seymour Landing: Tips for BC Ferry Travel to Bowen Island**

When planning a trip to Bowen Island, it is important to realize that ferry congestion, particularly in the summer months, is a reality that must be considered. Therefore, you need to be prepared to do a little due diligence before you arrive at the Horseshoe Bay terminal or in Snug Cove for the return trip.

### **General Tips:**

- (1) Always make sure that you are consulting a current ferry schedule. Schedules are subject to change throughout the year. You can use the BC Ferries online schedule or you can you use a local favourite at [www.bowenferry.ca](http://www.bowenferry.ca). This schedule includes vessel tracking, time of arrival and departure and deck space for vehicles. It is very easy to understand and is updated every few minutes.
- (2) Always make sure you arrive at the Horseshoe Bay terminal at least ten minutes ahead of the scheduled sailing time you desire. There is a ten-minute cut off rule in effect all year round. Please see below for more tips in respect of busy sailings. During these sailings, ten minutes won't suffice.
- (3) Please be aware that there are dangerous cargo sailings during which no passengers are allowed on the ferry. As these sailings periodically change, please consult the current ferry schedule of your choice to be certain of these restricted sailings.
- (4) Summer months bring on the most annual congestion. There are many more walk-on visitors compared with the balance of the year. As such, morning and evening congestion is even more heightened. If you need to utilize these sailings, please be prepared to arrive early and use your preferred schedule to anticipate arrival times based on the vessel tracking tools available.
- (5) There are no reservations available for the Horseshoe Bay to Bowen ferry route.

### **Horseshoe Bay (HSB) to Bowen Island Tips:**

- (1) Morning ferries from the HSB can be busy with large vehicles, contractors and suppliers commuting to work on the Island from 6:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. Sailings throughout the working week are busy. Please check to see if there is capacity on these morning sailings to Bowen. And if you need to get an early start, get to terminal early.

- (2) Students and Island Commuters coming home from work create congestion on the afternoon and evening sailings from 2:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Sailings throughout the working week are busy. Please consult your preferred schedule for current conditions and be prepared to be in line early for your desired sailing.

Bowen Island to Horseshoe Bay Tips:

- (3) Many Islanders commute to the mainland for work so the “commuter runs” from the island are busy during workday mornings. From 6:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. throughout the working week are busy. In addition, Bowen students commute to school on the 7:30 a.m. ferry so the walk-on volume is very high on this sailing. So, if you need to return to the mainland from Bowen early in the day and are driving, please arrive at least half-an-hour before your desired morning sailing. If you are walking on, you should arrive at least ten minutes before your desired sailing.
- (4) Late afternoon and early evening sailings back to the mainland are congested with the large vehicles, contractors and suppliers that came over in the morning from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Sailings throughout the working week are busy. Please consult your preferred schedule for current conditions and be prepared to be in line early for your desired sailing.