

## Tips for Summer Ferry Travel

Summer is upon us with longer, sunny days and plans for vacations. We thought we'd share some ferry travel tips from those who know the terrain well - the San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau. The San Juans are a destination on the dream lists of travelers from near and far - and since they are true islands without bridges, a degree of savvy about the Washington State Ferries can ensure a pleasurable beginning and end to the islands experience. It is so true that "Getting Here is Half the Fun!"



Tip #1: Ferry fares from Anacortes on the mainland to the San Juan Islands are for roundtrip travel. No fares are collected on eastbound sailings or for foot passengers or bicyclists on the interisland runs.



Tip #2: Think of your ferry ticket as the best cruise deal around. As an example, a family of four can cruise roundtrip to Lopez Island (40 minutes each way) this summer in their car for \$52.35 (two adults, one child 6-18 years of age and one child under 6). Bring Grandma for only \$5.75 more! Passenger fares for Orcas Island and San Juan Island are the same as for Lopez Island, although car fares increase by distance.



Tip #3: Ferry ridership is down this year so the wait times for sailings are also down. If you really want to choose the less crowded and more carefree times to cruise, pick a Sunday through Tuesday sailing. The fares for these sailings are also 10% lower than the other days of the week. These days are particularly good choices if you bring a vehicle over.



Tip #4: Consider leaving your car behind to use local shuttles and taxis or rent an island car, moped, scoot car, or bicycle. Ferries always have room for foot passengers (and welcome rolling luggage that make it easy to travel.) Friday Harbor on San Juan Island is a walkable town right from the ferry landing. Orcas Village is also at a ferry landing. Throughout the islands, many accommodations are happy to pick up their guests at ferry landings.



Tip #5: There are two full-service restaurants adjacent to the Anacortes ferry landing and a café inside the terminal. Galley service on board the Anacortes-San Juans ferries returns this summer.



Tip #6 Look forward to experiencing on board natural history presentations by the WSU/San Juan County Beach Watchers, a new program this summer, and getting local information and assistance from the Island Ambassadors, specially trained youth on the lookout for visitor needs.

There is much good news about riding the Washington State Ferries to the San Juan Islands this summer!