



## Travel Guidelines from Vancouver to Fair Harbour

Travel on the Vancouver Island logging roads is common for tourists and requires that drivers and passengers be very alert for oncoming traffic in narrow stretches, on bridges, and around corners with restricted visibility. It is important to know that **logging trucks have right of way**. Many of the truck drivers own their own rigs and the adage “time is money” applies. They know each route intimately, travel at fast speeds, and take up most of the road width. Once on logging roads, you are advised to:

- **Drive with your lights on,**
- **Slow down** on corners,
- **Hug the right side** of the road whenever you can't see what is ahead of you, and
- **Always be prepared** to pull over.

This is not intended to scare you but to heighten your awareness. The Fair Harbour logging roads are kept in pretty good condition, though flat tires are not uncommon. We recommend that you carry a full-size good quality spare, especially if your vehicle has a small temporary spare tire that come with many of today's cars. If you do get a flat, pull off the road as far as possible before stopping. Be sure you are visible for at least 300 meters in front and behind. You may have to place emergency triangles ahead and behind you to ensure oncoming traffic is aware that you are stopped on the road. On dry days, the roads can also be very dusty from other traffic, which temporarily reduces vision.

To ensure that you meet your water taxi as arranged, always allow some extra time for changing a flat tire or for any delays because of road maintenance that is underway.

In the event of a breakdown or flat tire, there is frequent other traffic that will stop to help, but no reliable cell phone coverage once north of Campbell River, nor on the gravel roads to Fair Harbour, so be prepared to be self sufficient if you experience difficulties.

This outline can be used as a supplement to a good road map of Vancouver Island. Travelling in your own vehicle will give you the freedom to discover the many stops of interest along the way. Drive safely and enjoy!

### Vancouver to Campbell River

There are a couple of different car ferry routes that will get you onto Vancouver Island. If you are coming directly from Vancouver to Campbell River, the shortest route is to take the ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo. The B.C. Ferry Corporation ([www.bcferries.com](http://www.bcferries.com)) has a good website to access information about routes, costs and timings. There is also a reservation system (by phone or on-line) for those who are on tight schedules. The BC Ferries phone numbers are: 1-888-223-3779 (from anywhere in B.C.) and 250-386-3431 (from outside B.C.).

The crossing time from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo is 1hr 35 min., and you should arrive well in advance of the ferry that you intend to catch, or within the prescribed time period if you have made a reservation in advance.

Campbell River is 156 km (96 miles) north of Nanaimo. The main Island Highway is #19. As you leave the ferry terminal in Nanaimo, turn right. The route is quite well marked and you should follow signs to Campbell River (you will also see signs for Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Comox and Courtenay - all of these are towns between Nanaimo and Campbell River and all are accessed by Highway 19).

Driving time from Nanaimo (Departure Bay Ferry terminal) to Campbell River is about 1hr 45 min.

### **Campbell River to Woss**

From Campbell River, continue North along the Island Highway 19 to Woss (fuel, convenience store, liquor store, toilets, cafe).

Distance: 125 km (78 miles)  
Driving Time: 1 hr 45 min

Important note: Once north of Campbell River, the Sayward Junction, Woss, and Zeballos are the only places to stop for fuel while enroute to Fair Harbour.

### **Woss to Zeballos**

Continue north from Woss on Highway 19. Take the Zeballos turn-off (left) after approximately 22 km (14 miles), just past the Steele River bridge along the Island Hwy. This is the start of the gravel logging road to Fair Harbour. Use your headlights and be aware of logging trucks. You are now traversing Vancouver Island toward the west coast! You can bypass Zeballos and travel directly to Fair Harbour, or follow signs into the Zeballos townsite where there is accommodation, a store, fuel station, and some small shops.

Distance: 64 km (39 miles) approximately  
Driving Time: 1 hr 10 min.

### **Zeballos to Fair Harbour**

Follow the main logging road along the 35 km (22 mile) stretch between Zeballos and Fair Harbour. Forks in the road are usually well marked but if you encounter one which is not sign posted, follow the most well-travelled route.

Distance: 35 km (22 miles) approximately  
Driving Time: 45-60 min

Important note: Fair Harbour is basically a large gravel parking lot with some nearby camping and a small convenience store in a trailer (on the second terrace of parking). The parking area is also used by logging companies, other tourists, sport fishermen, and the residents of Kyuquot. This is where you leave your vehicle. Although theft is very uncommon, we advise that you lock all doors and do not leave valuables inside. Pay (and somewhat supervised) parking in assigned spots is available through the store for approximately \$7/night; otherwise, you may find a free parking space to the left of the large Government Wharf (when facing the water).