



Travel Guidelines from Campbell River to Fair Harbour

Travelling on Vancouver Island logging roads is common for tourists, and requires that drivers and passengers be very alert for oncoming traffic. This is especially important on narrow stretches, on bridges (many are one-lane only), and around corners with restricted visibility. It is also 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, honk when approaching a sharp corner
- **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 tire, especially if your vehicle has a small temporary space 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 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 visibility.

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.

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.

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 to Vancouver Island. If you are coming directly from Vancouver to the Comox Valley or Campbell River, the shortest route is via the ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo (Departure Bay). The crossing time from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo is approximately 1hr 35 min. BC Ferries has a good website (www.bcferrries.com) to access details about routes, costs and sailing times. They also have an online reservation system for those on a tight schedule. During the summer months reservations are recommended, particularly around holiday long weekends (July 1st and August 1st). Without a reservation you will want to arrive at the

terminal well in advance of the sailing you are hoping to catch and be prepared to wait for at least one sailing. If you do make a reservation, be sure to arrive within the 45-minute window before the scheduled departure time.

Driving time from Nanaimo to Campbell River is about 1hr 45 min.

Campbell River to Woss

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

Distance: 125 km (78 miles)

Driving Time: 1 hr 45 min

Important note: Once north of Campbell River, Sayward Junction (45 min north of Campbell River) and Woss are the only places to stop for fuel while enroute to Fair Harbour. Sayward Junction has a small grocery store, fuel, clean bathrooms and a liquor store.

Woss to Zeballos

Continue north on Highway 19. Take the Zeballos turn off on your **left** approximately 22 km (14 miles) beyond Woss, just past the Steele River bridge. 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 if you have extra time, follow signs into the Zeballos townsite where there is accommodation, a small general store, and fuel station – all with limited and irregular hours.

Distance: 64 km (39 miles) approximately

Driving Time: 1 hr

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 min

Important note: Fair Harbour Campground and Marina offers camping, a few rental cabins and a small convenience store with adjoining bathrooms. 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. Register and pay for parking (approx. \$8.50/day) at the store, otherwise you might be able to find a free parking space to the left of the large Government Wharf (when facing the water), however this area is primarily intended for use by locals.