

**Directions – To and From Nanaimo**

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- a) to Vancouver
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## A. How to travel to Nanaimo:

### a) From Vancouver:

#### *Options: i) by car ii) on foot iii) by air*

- i) **By car** – cross the Lions Gate Bridge and drive on Highway 1 to Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal (approx 20 minutes) and catch a BC ferry to Departure Bay in Nanaimo (approx 1 hour and 35 minutes crossing); or take the Oak Street Bridge south in Highway 99, turn on Highway 17 to Tsawwassen ferry terminal (approx 35 minutes) and catch a BC Ferry to Duke Point (south of Nanaimo) – approx 2 hour crossing.
  
- ii) **On foot** – choose either Harbourlynx (passenger ferry downtown Vancouver to downtown Nanaimo) or a bus/ferry combination using BC Ferries.  
**Harbourlynx** – leaves the Seabus Terminal on Waterfront Road West in Vancouver and docks downtown Nanaimo approximately 80 minutes later.  
**Bus/BC Ferries** – - Greyhound bus leaves the bus terminal at VIA Rail Station on Station Street, Vancouver approximately one hour before the BC Ferry leaves Horseshoe Bay. The bus drives on the ferry at Horseshoe Bay, then off the ferry in Departure Bay and delivers you to the Bus Terminal near downtown Nanaimo (bus trip 30 minutes, ferry crossing 1 hour 35 min).  
You can use a **transit bus** to travel from downtown Vancouver to the ferry terminal at Horseshoe Bay, and then walk on the ferry to travel to the Departure Bay ferry terminal in Nanaimo. The bus picks up on West Georgia in Vancouver, and is **#257 – “Horseshoe Bay Express”** and takes approximately 40 minutes.
  
- iii) **By air** – from downtown Vancouver to Nanaimo choose **Baxter Airline** or **Harbour Air**. Both leave Vancouver Harbour from one block west of Canada Place, at the foot of Burrard St. Flight time on a seaplane is approx. 20 minutes.

**b) From Vancouver Airport:**

*Options: i) by car ii) on foot iii) by air*

- i) **By car** - you may drive to a BC Ferry Terminal at Horseshoe Bay (West Vancouver) or at Tsawwassen (south of Vancouver). There is a Transportation Desk in the Arrivals area of the Vancouver International Airport where you can acquire a road map.

**For Horseshoe Bay terminal**, follow signs for Highway 99 to Vancouver, then use Georgia Street W., through Stanley Park, cross the Lions Gate bridge, and drive on Highway 1 to Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal and catch a BC ferry to Departure Bay in Nanaimo (approx 1 hour and 35 minutes crossing). Total estimated driving time: about 50 minutes depending upon traffic conditions.

**For Tsawwassen terminal**, look for destination signs leaving the airport terminal and follow Highway 99 South to Highway 17. Follow Highway 17 to the Tsawwassen ferry terminal. Total estimated driving time: about 25 minutes, depending upon traffic conditions. Catch a BC Ferry to Duke Point (south of Nanaimo) –crossing takes 2 hours.

- ii) **On foot** – You have a variety of choices here. You may take a bus or taxi to the Greyhound Bus Terminal in Vancouver, then catch the Greyhound bus to Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal and walk on the ferry to Departure Bay in Nanaimo; you can use BC Transit to Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal, walk on the ferry for Departure Bay you may use the **Island Link Express Bus** service from the Airport directly to Nanaimo's Departure Bay ferry terminal (via Horseshoe Bay and BC Ferry); you can use a taxi or shuttle bus to go to the Harbourlynx passenger ferry which crosses to downtown Nanaimo you can take a BC Transit bus or taxi to Tsawwassen ferry terminal and cross to Duke Point (16km south of Nanaimo), then catch a taxi into Nanaimo.

**Using Greyhound** - here is an Airporter which leaves just outside the Airport Arrivals exit door. It departs every 15 minutes during the day or early evening. It stops at the bus terminal at VIA Rail Station on Station Street, Vancouver. There you can purchase a ticket on the Greyhound bus to Horseshoe Bay terminal and on and

off the ferry to Departure Bay, Nanaimo.

**Using public transport** - Your trip has 2 transfers and will take approximately 90 minutes. Depart Vancouver International Airport Level 1 on "**424 AIRPORT STATION**". Arrive at stop Airport Stn Bay 5 Transfer at Airport Stn Bay 1 to "**98 BARRARD STN**" SIDE SIGN "**98 B-LINE**"; Arrive at stop NB Seymour St FS W. George St. Transfer to "**250 HORSESHOE BAY**" and leave the bus there where you will buy a ferry ticket and walk on the BC Ferry to Departure Bay, Nanaimo.

**Using Island Link** - If your timing matches, you can catch the Island Link Express Bus service at the Airport (departing at 1.10pm from the Airport) it goes to Horseshoe Bay and catches the 3pm ferry to Departure Bay, Nanaimo.

**Using the Harbourlynx foot passenger ferry** you can take a taxi from the Airport to the Seabus Terminal on West Waterfront St., or catch the Airporter and alight at the Pan Pacific Hotel (about 200 metres) from the terminal. The ferry leaves from this terminal and docks downtown Nanaimo approximately 80 minutes later.

**Via Tsawwassen and Duke Point** – you can take a taxi from the Airport to the Tsawwassen terminal, or you can use BC Transit. Leave from Vancouver International Airport Level 1 on "**424 AIRPORT STATION**". Arrive at stop Airport Stn Bay 5. Transfer at to "**620 TSAWWASSEN FERRY**". At the Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal you buy a ticket to Duke Point, walk on the ferry, and then off again at Duke Point which is 16km south of Nanaimo. Catch a taxi to downtown Nanaimo.

*iii)* ***By air-*** you have choices here between airport to airport on a regular plane, or airport to Nanaimo Harbour by seaplane. An Air Canada regional service flies from Vancouver International Airport to Nanaimo Airport (YCD –Cassidy). Once you arrive at the Nanaimo Airport, there is an Airport Shuttle Bus which provides service (door to door) to addresses in Nanaimo.

For seaplane service from the Vancouver Airport (South Terminal) you can choose between Amigo Airways and Baxter Aviation. Both provide a shuttle bus to the South Terminal from the International Terminal. Baxter flies into

Nanaimo Harbour; Amigo flies into a dock close to the Departure Bay Ferry Terminal.

c) **From Seattle:**

**Options: i) by car ii) by train iii) by bus iv) by air**

- i) **By car** the most direct route is to follow I-5 to the border continue on Highway 99 in BC, and take Highway 17 to the Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal and take the ferry to Duke Point (16km south of Nanaimo), then drive north on Highway 19 to downtown Nanaimo.

You can also follow Highway 99 right into Vancouver, then follow the signs on Highway 1 across the Lions Gate Bridge to the Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal north of Vancouver, and take the BC Ferry across to Departure Bay, Nanaimo.

The third alternative, while driving north from Seattle on the I-5, is to take the turn to Anacortes. The Washington State Ferry system provides a service from Anacortes to Sidney (in BC), and you can then drive on Highway 17 into Victoria, then north on Highway 1 to Nanaimo.

- ii) **By train** – several times a day trains leave the King Street Station (on South Jackson St. Seattle) and travel to Vancouver. The journey takes approximately 3 hours and 45 minutes and the train arrives at the station on Station Street which allows connection with the Greyhound bus to Nanaimo.

- iii) **By bus** – there are two options – Greyhound Bus and Quick Coach. The Greyhound Bus leaves from the terminal at 811 Stewart Ave. Seattle. The trip to Vancouver takes approx 4 hours and arrives at the Station Street terminal which allows connection with the Greyhound Bus to Nanaimo.

Quick Coach provides a shuttle service from most major hotels in Seattle (and Seatac Airport) through to Vancouver Airport and most major hotels in Vancouver. You could alight at Canada Place and walk to the Harbourlynx foot passenger ferry to Nanaimo. The journey takes approx four hours and runs four trips a day.

- iv) **By air** – several options here. There is a seaplane service from Lake Washington in Seattle direct to Nanaimo on

Kenmore Air – or you can combine various airline connections from Seatac to Vancouver to Nanaimo.

d) **From Seatac**

**Options: i) by car b) on foot c) by air**

- i) **By car** – follow signs out of Seatac for Seattle and join I-5. After driving through Seattle, your most direct route is north on I-5 to the Canada/US border, then north on Highway 99, turning west on Highway 17 to the Tsawwassen ferry terminal. Take the ferry to Duke Point (about 16km south of Nanaimo) and follow highway 19 into Nanaimo from the terminal.
- ii) **On foot** – Quick Coach provides the most direct route from the airport at Seatac through to Vancouver. Check previous entries for foot passenger and bus/ferry options from Vancouver to Nanaimo.
- iii) **By air** – you can make connections by air from Seatac through Vancouver to Nanaimo, or through Victoria to Nanaimo. Check major carriers for routes and schedules.
- iv) **From Tofino** You can travel on Grayline Bus Company on a regular schedule from Tofino (Ucluelet) to Nanaimo; you can use Tofino Bus (two scheduled trips a day); or you can travel in more luxury on Pacific Rim Five Star Limousine Service (a custom service).

**B. How to travel from Nanaimo**

a) **To Vancouver**

**Options: i) by car ii) on foot iii) by air**

- i) **By car** – you can choose to drive to Departure Bay Ferry Terminal and cross on BC Ferries to Horseshoe Bay Ferry Terminal (north of Vancouver), or use Duke Point Ferry Terminal to Tsawwassen Ferry Terminal (38 km south of Vancouver). There are other routes, but these are the two most direct.

**For Departure Bay** – follow signs in Nanaimo to Departure Bay Ferry Terminal (3km north of downtown Nanaimo) using Highway 1. Once you leave the ferry at Horseshoe Bay, the road to Vancouver is clearly marked (Highway 1 and 99) – for downtown Vancouver follow signs to Lions Gate Bridge and drive up West Georgia Street.

***For Duke Point*** – The terminal is located at 400 Duke Point Highway, 15 km south of Nanaimo off Highway 1 (on Highway 19). The exit to Duke Point is well marked. Once off the ferry at Tsawwassen follow Highway 17 until you see signs to Vancouver, turn onto Highway 99 and proceed north, cross the Oak Street Bridge, then follow signs to downtown Vancouver.

- ii) ***By foot*** – there are several choices here, and variations within the different options. You can go harbour to harbour on the foot passenger Harbourlynx; you can use the Greyhound bus on the Departure Bay to Vancouver via Horseshoe Bay ferry option; you can use the Departure Bay to Vancouver via Horseshoe Bay ferry and catch BC Transit into Vancouver; you can use the Duke Point to Tsawwassen ferry, then either taxi, or use BC Transit to Vancouver.

***Using Harbourlynx*** – go to the ticket office on the waterfront in downtown Nanaimo 30 minutes before scheduled departure. The ferry takes approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes to cross to the Seabus Terminal on the waterfront in downtown Vancouver.

***Using the Greyhound Bus*** – on the Departure Bay to Horseshoe Bay ferry you can go to the Bus Terminal (behind the Howard Johnson Hotel on Terminal and Comox Rd) at least 30 minutes before the ferry leaves Departure Bay, buy a ticket and board the bus to Vancouver. The bus goes on the ferry at Departure Bay, leaves the ferry at Horseshoe Bay and drives through Vancouver to the Greyhound Bus Terminal on Station Street in Vancouver (driver will also stop and let passengers off at various points downtown).

Or you can go directly to the Departure Bay ferry terminal and walk on the ferry. The bus driver for Greyhound will sell tickets for the bus at a counter on the ferry, and tell you where to board the bus on the ferry for the ride into Vancouver.

***Walk On*** – if you walk on the ferry in Departure Bay and choose to walk off the ferry in Horseshoe Bay, you can then catch BC Transit into Vancouver. The bus leaves from a stop just outside the ferry terminal, and you can catch either the “257 Vancouver Express” or the “250

Vancouver" bus – both go to downtown Vancouver.

**Ferry from Duke Point** (south of Nanaimo) and walk off at Tsawwassen ferry terminal, you can take a taxi to Vancouver or take BC Transit. The transit bus leaves from just outside the Tsawwassen Terminal - catch "620 AIRPORT STATION" and at the stop Ladner Exchange transfer to "**601 VANCOUVER**" which will stop at W. Georgia St. in downtown Vancouver.

iii) **By air** – from downtown Nanaimo to Vancouver choose Baxter Airline or Harbour Air. Both leave Nanaimo Harbour from the seaplane Terminal on the waterfront downtown Nanaimo, and fly to a dock one block west of Canada Place, at the foot of Burrard St. in Vancouver. Flight time on the seaplane is approx. 20 minutes.

## b) To Vancouver Airport

**Options: i) by car ii) on foot iii) by air**

i) **By car** – the most direct route is via the Duke Point to Tsawwassen Ferry. Duke Point terminal is located at 400 Duke Point Highway, 15 km south of Nanaimo off Highway 1 (on Highway 19). The exit to Duke Point is well marked. Once off the ferry at Tsawwassen follow Highway 17 until you see signs to Vancouver, turn onto Highway 99 and proceed north, then follow signs to the Vancouver International Airport which is a few km south of Vancouver.

ii) **On foot** – the most direct route is via the Harbourlynx foot passenger ferry to Vancouver followed by the Airporter; Other options include using the Departure Bay ferry and Greyhound bus then an Airporter; the Departure Bay ferry combined with Island Link Airporter; or you can use the Duke Point ferry and either BC Transit or Pacific Coach Line bus from Tsawwassen to the Airport. Using transit in combination with either ferry route is possible, but this involves several transfers each way.

**Using Harbourlynx** - go to the ticket office on the waterfront in downtown Nanaimo 30 minutes before scheduled departure. The ferry takes approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes to cross to the Seabus Terminal on the waterfront in downtown Vancouver. After leaving the ferry, walk (200 metres) to the hotel at Canada Place and

catch the Vancouver Airporter (leaves every 20 minutes).

***Using Departure Bay Ferry/Greyhound/Airporter*** - you can go to the Bus Terminal (behind the Howard Johnson Hotel on Terminal and Comox Rd) at least 30 minutes before the ferry leaves Departure Bay, buy a ticket and board the bus to Vancouver. The bus goes on the ferry at Departure Bay, leaves the ferry at Horseshoe Bay and drives through Vancouver to the Greyhound Bus Terminal on Station Street in Vancouver. There you can buy tickets and board the Vancouver Airporter which goes to Vancouver International Airport.

Or, if luggage is not a concern, you can go directly to the Departure Bay ferry terminal and walk on the ferry. The bus driver for Greyhound will sell tickets on the bus at a counter on the ferry, and tell you where to board the bus on the ferry for the ride into Vancouver where you can transfer to the Vancouver Airporter at the Bus Terminal.

***Using Departure Bay terminal and Island Link Airporter*** – once a day (currently 8.10am at Departure Bay) to catch the 8.30am ferry from Departure Bay, Island Link provides an express service to the Vancouver International Airport.

***Using Duke Point terminal south of Nanaimo***, you can walk on the ferry to Tsawwassen. From the ferry terminal there you can catch a taxi to the Vancouver International Airport, or use BC Transit by going to the bus stop outside the terminal and catching the **"620 AIRPORT STATION"** bus to AIRPORT STN BAY 2, where you transfer to **"424 AIRPORT"** to Vancouver International Airport.

Also using Duke Point terminal, you can walk off the ferry (car deck level) at Tsawwassen and catch the Pacific Coach Lines bus which comes from Victoria, via Tsawwassen, en route to Vancouver International Airport. To do this, you must inform the Purser on the ferry of your intention to make the switch. The Purser contacts the bus driver on the ferry from Victoria and informs the driver of your plan. The Purser will also tell you where to wait for the bus; it is not outside the terminal. Depending upon the timing, there may be a wait for the Victoria ferry to dock and unload the bus. The driver will collect your fare, and the bus heads to the Vancouver International Airport.

- iii) **By air** – choose between Amigo Airways and Baxter Aviation. Baxter flies out of Nanaimo Harbour (seaplane terminal) and Amigo flies from a dock near the Departure Bay ferry terminal. Both fly to the Vancouver South Terminal, and a shuttle to the International Terminal.

**C. Websites and phone numbers for services quoted in these pages**

BC Transit schedules see - [www.translink.bc.ca](http://www.translink.bc.ca) or phone 604-953-3333.

BC Ferries –[www.bcferries.com](http://www.bcferries.com); or toll free in BC 1-888-BCFERRY (1-888-223-3779).

Harbourlynx foot passenger service - [www.harbourlynx.ca](http://www.harbourlynx.ca) or phone toll free 1 866 206 5969.

Greyhound Bus to ferries –[www.greyhound.ca](http://www.greyhound.ca) or phone toll free 1 800 661 8747.

Grayline Bus Services – see [www.grayline.ca](http://www.grayline.ca) or phone 1 800 6638390.

Nanaimo Airport Shuttle – phone (250) 758 2133 or 1 800 209 7792.

Vancouver Airporter – [www.yvrairporter.com](http://www.yvrairporter.com) or phone (Vancouver only) 604 946 8866 – toll free 1 800 668 3141.

Seaplanes – Amigo Airways ([www.amigoairways.ca](http://www.amigoairways.ca) (250) 753 1115 or 1 866 692 6440); Baxter Aviation ([www.baxterair.com](http://www.baxterair.com) or phone toll free 1 800 661 5599); Harbour Airlines ([www.harbour-air.com](http://www.harbour-air.com) or phone 604 274 1277).

Air Canada schedules and fares – [www.aircanada.com](http://www.aircanada.com) or phone 1 888 247 2262.

Island Link Express Bus to the Vancouver Airport – [www.islandlinkbus.com](http://www.islandlinkbus.com) or phone 1 877 954 3556.

Pacific Coach Lines – [www.pacificcoach.com](http://www.pacificcoach.com) or phone toll free 1 800 661 1725.

Washington State Ferries – for schedules and fares see [www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov) or phone 1 888 808 7977.

Amtrak rail – for schedules and fare see [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) or phone 1 800 USA RAIL.

Quick Coach – for schedules and fares see [www.quickcoach.com](http://www.quickcoach.com) or phone 1 800 665 2122.

Kenmore Air – for schedules and fares see [www.kenmoreair.com](http://www.kenmoreair.com) or phone 1 800 543 9595.

Tofino Bus – for schedules and fares see [www.tofinobus.com](http://www.tofinobus.com) or phone 1 866 986 3466.

For Pacific Rim Five Star Luxury Limousine Service – see [www.prshuttle.ca](http://www.prshuttle.ca) or phone 1 800 697 1114.