

Customs Information

Documentation needed for yourself and your crew:

As of 2009 every person onboard (adults and children) needs a passport to travel by air between the USA and Canada. There are currently a few other acceptable forms of documentation for travel by land or sea. Click [here](#) for information on current list of Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative accepted documentation.

RESTRICTIONS FOR TRAVEL TO CANADA

1. If you are a **Canadian citizen** who is chartering a boat with the intent of cruising to Canada during your charter, please be sure to discuss this with us before you book your charter.
2. Anyone with a criminal record (including a drunk driving conviction) may be excluded from Canada. A waiver of exclusion may be issued but it takes time and a processing fee must be paid. Click [here](#) for more information on this process.

Procedures:

*Customs procedures on both sides are very courteous, civilized, and simple.
These few steps will help keep it that way.*

Cardinal Rule: Clear customs or touch land at customs dock before any other stops. You must clear customs before anchoring, landing a dinghy/kayak, or touching a dock (other than the customs dock), a mooring buoy or another boat. Your crew may help you secure the boat at the customs dock, but will need to get back onboard while you (the skipper) clear customs. (No dog walking on Customs dock.)

Documentation: Everyone aboard, including children, will need a passport to clear customs. In some cases other documentation may be acceptable. Click [here](#) for options that may apply to you.

I. CLEARING INTO CANADA

- The US/Canada border is currently open. Effective 10/1/22 Canada will no longer require that visitors be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and will suspend the requirement for travelers to use the [ArriveCan App](#).
- Normally you will clear customs at Bedwell Harbor (May-September), Sidney, Victoria, Nanaimo, White Rock or Vancouver.
- *Common things to avoid:* *apples, blueberries, quince, peaches, nectarines, plums, cherries (or bring them the cores/pits in a plastic bag), potatoes, corn on the cob, firewood. Information on current restrictions can be found [here](#).
- *Limited items:* (per adult) No more than 1.5 liter of wine, **or** 1.14 liter spirits, **or** 24 cans of beer per adult. No more than 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, or 2 kilograms of tobacco. (For further information call 250-363-3618 or click [here](#).)
- Upon arrival at the customs dock your crew may help you secure the boat but then must immediately re-board the boat. Only the skipper may leave the boat until after you have cleared customs – **All other passengers must remain onboard until cleared.**
- Using the customs worksheet provided in your arrival packet, record the names, citizenship, birth date, and passport # of all passengers. This worksheet also contains some important vessel numbers you will need for clearance. Bring the customs worksheet, passports and your charter agreement to the customs office or dock

phone. Leave the ship's papers onboard. You will also need written permission from a parent or legal guardian for any children that are not your own.

- Log the Canadian clearance number onto the customs worksheet in your Guest Notebook. You will use this number for reporting to US customs.

II. CLEARING BACK INTO THE USA

- US Customs & Border Protection **strongly** recommends using the [CBP Roam App](#) to clear customs. CBP ROAM is a free mobile application that allows pleasure boaters to report their U.S. entry to CBP via their personal smart device.
- In circumstances where you are unable to clear via the CBP ROAM APP, you may clear in person at Friday Harbor, Point Roberts or Anacortes (in-person clearance no longer available at Roche Harbor). However, in this case you **MUST** clear during business hours (8am - 8pm, mid-May to mid-September. The rest of the year 8am – 5pm, Sun-Sat. 360-378-2080), arriving at least 30 minutes before closing. Also, be aware that typically you will still be asked to clear via the CBP ROAM APP while you sit on the customs dock.
- **Cannot bring from Canada into the US:** Poultry products, tomatoes and peppers, allium vegetables, citrus, out of season fruits or fruits and vegetables of unclear origin. Call 360-332-8511 for current information on restrictions.
- **Duty Free** per adult:
 - **In Canada less than 48 hours:** US\$200 value. (Family members may not combine exemptions.)
 - **In Canada more than 48 hours:** US\$800 value, including (if at least 21 years old) 1 liter alcohol, 200 cigarettes and 100 cigars. (Family members may combine their exemptions.)

Clearing procedure using CBP ROAM app on your phone/tablet:

1. **At least 24 hours before you plan to clear customs** download the “CBP ROAM” app from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.
2. **At least 24 hours before you plan to clear customs** use CBP ROAM app to create login profile, sign into app and create mode of travel and traveler profiles. Then submit a trip by selecting your profiles and completing trip information.
3. **As soon as you cross the border line into the US (but not before)**, initiate a report of arrival via the app. A CBP officer may initiate a video chat and will send a notification of approved entry or next steps. Be prepared to divert to Friday Harbor, Anacortes or Point Roberts if instructed. Otherwise, once cleared, continue to your next US destination. ***(Note that Roche Harbor is no longer an option for in person clearance.)***

Procedure when visiting a US customs dock (only if the CBP ROAM APP is not an option):

1. Dock at customs dock. CREW MAY HELP SECURE LINES BUT THEN MUST REBOARD AND REMAIN ONBOARD UNTIL CLEARED.
2. The skipper should bring the Customs Worksheet, charter agreement and all passports to the customs office. Leave the ship's papers on board. Make sure you have the number from the Customs User Fee decal as well as your Canadian Customs clearance number entered on the worksheet. The Customs User Fee decal number tells Customs that we have already paid the entry fee for you (decal number on worksheet, actual decal attached to aft side of binnacle on sailboats, or by boarding gate or door on powerboats).
3. After clearing, log your US clearance number on the bottom of the Customs Worksheet.

Important note about marijuana: The cruising grounds in Washington State are under federal control (US Coast Guard is the enforcing agency), which does not recognize marijuana as legal. If the Coast Guard finds any drugs, including marijuana, on a boat they can seize the boat. In addition, while recreational marijuana is legal in both Canada and Washington State (when not on Coast Guard dominion waters) neither country is allowing transportation over the border. If the vessel is seized because of drug violations (including, but not limited to possession of “medical marijuana”), charter guest acknowledges full responsibility.

Helpful Numbers:

CANADIAN CUSTOMS OFFICES

- **Bedwell Harbor (S. Pender Island)** – Open seasonally: 9am - 8 pm May through August and 9am - 5pm in September. 250-629-3363 or toll free at 1-888-226-7277.
- **Victoria and Sydney** - 24 hours, year-round. 1-888-226-7277 or 250-363-3339 (Victoria) 250-363-6644 (Sidney)
- **White Rock** - 24 hrs, 604-531-7581 or 1-888-226-7277.
- **Nanaimo** - 24 hrs, 250-754-0341 or 1-888-226-7277.

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS OFFICES

- **Friday Harbor** - (360) 378-2080 (customs dock normally manned, call 800-562-5943 after hours)
- **Point Roberts** - (360) 945-2314 (customs dock normally manned, call 800-562-5943 after hours)
- **Port Angeles** - (360) 457-4311 (Call for appointment. Clearance available until 6:30 pm year-round and until 9 pm during the summer.)