



border crossing information

Contacts (helpful websites listed on page 4)

BC Tourist Information	800-435-5622
Canada Border Services Agency:	
In Canada call:	800-461-9999 "0"
Outside of Canada:	204-983-3500 "0"
*Open until 4pm PST Mon-Fri	
US Customs / Border Protection	360-332-8511, Blaine
US Customs / Border Protection	360-734-5463, Bellingham
Duty Rates Info	360-332-5771

Personal Border Identification Requirements

Auto/Driver Requirements: A valid drivers license and vehicle registration are required. Proof of insurance showing coverage is recommended. Registration forms for rental vehicles must be carried together with the rental contract indicating that use in Canada or the U.S. is authorized.

U.S. and Canadian Citizen Requirements:

Air Travel - Passports are REQUIRED

Land and Sea Travel:

ADULTS (16 and older)

ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Passport (\$100)
- U.S. Passport Card (\$45)
- Enhanced Driver's License (only available in certain states)
- NEXUS Card (\$50)
- Specific military documents OR Tribal ID

CHILDREN (15 and younger) EXPECTED TO HAVE ONE OF THESE:

- Proof of citizenship (such as original/copy of Birth or Naturalization Certificate)
- Enhanced Government-issued photo I.D. (issued in some states)
- Passport (\$85)
- U.S. Passport Card (\$35)

If children are not traveling with both parents, a written statement is required from the parent or guardian stating travel is authorized.

Non-Americans going to Canada: Passport and/or Visa required.

Legal Permanent Residents Not Citizens: Must carry a Green Card.

Alaska Bound Travelers: Must show proof of sufficient funds for travel in Canada. Call ahead if transporting household effects or tools of the trade.

Pet Requirements: (Same for Canada & U.S.) Dogs and cats must have certificates issued by a licensed veterinarian identifying each animal and certifying that each has been vaccinated against rabies during the preceding 36 month period. Up to two puppies and kittens under 3 months are exempt. **Pet Food Restrictions:** Varies depending on current restrictions. Recommend only bringing small amounts in original package.

**Bellingham Whatcom
County Tourism**

904 Potter Street
Bellingham, WA 98229

360.671.3990 | 800.487.2032

bellingham.org

tourism@bellingham.org



Duty Free Allowances

Canadian Residents Re-Entering Canada (Per person allowance)

After 24 hours absence

Goods valued at \$200 CAN (Beginning June 1, 2012). No alcohol or tobacco
Less than 24 hours absence, no duty free allowance

After 48 hours absence

Goods valued at \$800 CAN (Beginning June 1, 2012)
Alcohol: (1.14L) liquor, (1.5L) wine, or 24 cans beer (12 oz.)
Tobacco: 200 cigarettes + 50 cigars + 200 gms. tobacco + 200 tobacco sticks

Canadians Entering USA (Per person allowance)

Alcohol: 1 liter liquor / beer / wine (must be 21 years old)
Tobacco: 1 carton cigarettes, 2 kg tobacco, 50 cigars (non-Cuban)

Americans Entering Canada (per person allowance)

Alcohol: 40 oz. liquor or wine, or 24 containers beer (12 oz.)
Tobacco: 200 cigarettes + 50 cigars + 200 gms. tobacco + 200 tobacco sticks
Gifts - no duty up to \$60

Other Foreign Visitors Entering Canada (non Canadian & U.S.)

May take goods into Canada that will later be taken out of Canada.
Alcohol, Tobacco and gift restrictions same as above.

Americans Re-Entering USA (per person allowance)

Less than 48 hours: Goods valued up to US\$200
Alcohol: 5 oz. of alcoholic beverages or 150 ml of perfume containing alcohol.
Tobacco: 50 cigarettes + 10 cigars (non-Cuban)
More than 48 hours: Goods valued up to US\$800 - once every 30 days
Alcohol: 1 litre (33.8 oz.) liquor / wine / beer (24 bottles/cans)
Tobacco: 200 cigarettes + 100 cigars (non Cuban)
*May **mail** gift parcels to friends or family in US worth up to \$100 U.S.

Duty Free Stores - Duty Free Americas

Intended for export only / restrictions apply
Truck crossing in Blaine (I-5, exit 275) / 360-332-5223
Lynden crossing (Guide Meridian Rd. / Hwy. 539) / 360-354-2481
Sumas crossing / 360-988-9413

Border Crossing Hours

Blaine (Peace Arch/Douglas) Open 24 hours a day
Truck (Pacific) Open 24 hours a day
Lynden (Aldergrove) Open 8am-midnight
Sumas (Abbotsford/Huntington) Open 24 hours a day
Point Roberts (access to/from Canada only) Open 24 hours

Border Wait Times On-line:

North into Canada
www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/border

South into U.S.
www.th.gov.bc.ca/ATIS/index.htm

NEXUS Program

For NEXUS card holders there are four crossings with NEXUS lanes between Whatcom County and British Columbia: Douglas Peace Arch (I-5 & Hwy. 99), Pacific Highway (Hwy. 543 & 15), Sumas/Abbotsford (Hwy. 9 & 11) and the crossing at Point Roberts. Check hours and limitations.

Currency Exchange

There are a few businesses that offer exchange services: Duty Free Americas stores, just before crossing into Canada; Travelex in Bellingham; Mobile Exchange in Blaine; and Calforex in Canada at the I-5 crossing. Most Canadian and U.S. retailers accept Canadian or U.S. currency, but rate may vary. Cash machines can be used and your bank will automatically adjust your account, although they usually charge a percentage fee. Banks will only exchange if you are a customer.

Washington Sales Tax Exemption

This exemption applies only to residents of Oregon, Alberta, Samoa, Guam, Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire, North Marianna Islands, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands. This exemption does not apply to residents of British Columbia unless the merchandise is shipped to the purchaser's home address outside of Washington, the seller agrees to waive the sales tax and fills out the proper documentation. This applies to tangible goods and personal property only, not for food, accommodations, services, etc., or for motor vehicles. The non-resident must present one picture I.D. showing residency. For information phone WA Dept. of Revenue at 360-676-2114.

"GST" Refund Cancelled

The GST Refund is no longer available for visitors to Canada, except for specific tour groups.

Prohibited Items

Food & Plant Items into Canada: There are many restrictions on what food & plant items you can bring into Canada. **Prohibited** - Some pet food; Most plants; Many fresh fruits & vegetables (including apples, apricots, nectarines, plums, peaches, blueberries, strawberries, avocado, cherries and corn-on-the-cob). *Call for specific information, or don't bring what you're not willing to give up at the border.

Allowed - Condiments; Dry goods; Coffee/tea; Canned, frozen & dried fruits & vegetables; some fresh fruits/vegetables; Most seafood; Limited amounts of fresh edible meat, poultry, eggs and dairy products from the U.S.

Food & Plant Items into US: **Prohibited** - Most pet food (US made in original package OK), citrus fruit, tropical fruit, out of season produce, garlic, potatoes from Van. Island, corn-on-cob not from BC; All beef, lamb, goat, bison, uncooked poultry, raw eggs; produce & meats from countries other than US & Canada; Hawaiian origin plants & produce; Canadian plants & seeds without Phytosanitary certificates.

Allowed - Most commercially grown fruits & vegetables from the US and Canada with proof of origin; Pork and seafood; Canadian & US plants & seeds with Phytosanitary certificate; Most Canadian cut flowers (will require inspection).

Firearms: Handguns are **not** allowed entry into Canada. Firearms with no legitimate sporting or recreational use, mace, capstan, stun guns and switchblades are **not** permitted. Sporting rifles or shotguns are usually permitted for sport or hunting. As of January 1, 2001, one must complete a "**Firearms Declaration Form,**" and there is a **\$50 fee**. For more information or forms call 1-800-731-4000, go to www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca/Default-en.html, or contact Canadian Customs. It is recommended that the form be completed in advance.

Gun Storage:

Seaside Locker Room - 922 Peace Portal Dr., Blaine, 360-332-8922

*Must have a permit and picture ID. \$20 flat rate for 1-30 days. Cash only.

Dave's Sports Shop - 1738 Front St., Lynden, 360-354-5591.

Passports

To apply for a U.S Passport Book or Card:

- Applications must be made in person by appointment.
- Need proof of citizenship and two identical 2x2 color photos.
- \$135 for adult passport, \$55 for a card (card can not be used for air travel).
- \$85 for children 15 and younger, \$40 for a card.
- Wait time: 6 weeks.
- Expediated service available for \$60 more.

Where to apply locally:

- U.S. Post Office, 315 Prospect St., Bellingham / 360-752-9822
- Whatcom County Treasurer, Courthouse, 311 Grand Ave. / 360-676-6774
- Ferndale City Hall, 2095 Main Street / 360-384-4302

Passport Info Online:

Learn how to apply for a passport, renew one, or check the status of your passport application at <http://travel.state.gov>.

NEXUS Cards

If you live in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia or Washington State and you regularly cross the border, consider applying for a NEXUS card. You will have access to a specialized lane both directions at Douglas/Peace Arch, Pacific Highway, Sumas/Abbotsford and the Point Roberts border crossings, and can skip the lengthy queues. Go to getnexus.com for details and qualifications.

Helpful Websites

U.S. Government

dhs.gov/crossing-us-borders
cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/contacts/ports/wa/

Washington State Department of Transportation

wsdot.wa.gov/Congestion/border/Info.htm

Canada Government

cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html