

HICA Barge Scheduling: Frequently Asked Questions

Question: When do you schedule the Barge?

Answer: The Barge is scheduled approximately every three months. See the Barge Schedule for dates.

Question: When will I know the upcoming schedule?

Answer: We list the current year's barge schedule on our website under the Tab called Barge Services. This tab will include the schedule of Barge Runs (subject to change), Directions to the Port of Everett Departure/Arrival location, Sample letter that contains details regarding your barge reservation, and so on. Approximately 2 months before the scheduled Barge Run we will send out a community wide email to residents announcing that we are taking reservations for the Barge. Sorry, we can only book one Barge Run at a time. A call for reservation requests will be announced prior to their scheduled dates.

Question: Can I determine what day and time I am scheduled?

Answer: We cannot guarantee a specific date and time until we get enough requests so we can configure the loads. We will take your requested date and time and do our best to meet it if at all possible.

Question: Once I book my reservation can I change it?

Answer: Please try to plan ahead for what you want to have barged. It does take quite a bit of time to put the schedule together. It is like a big jigsaw puzzle! We know that there are times when things just happen, and you need to add or remove items, please call us as soon as possible if that is the case. We will do our best to accommodate any changes if possible. **Please also read your reservation confirmation letter.** It will contain refund information you will need to know before you cancel a reservation. Please note there all partial refund and no-refund deadlines.

Question: Not all the items I want to bring on the barge are listed on the the Barge Rules and Rates sheet, does that mean I cannot bring them on the Barge?

Answer: No, we have many different items that people request to have brought to and from the island. When you email the harbormaster regarding your request, it is important to give an exact description of the item(s), dimensions (length, width, and height) and weight so staff can give you pricing. Whenever possible, large/heavy items should be palletized for ease of moving by the Barge Captain's forklift.

Question: If I put items on a pallet how much weight can I place on it and how high can I stack it?

Answer: We recommend the use of pallets for many items. If you are buying appliances have them place it on a pallet wrapped. This protects the item and limits the amount of sea water that can splash on your delivery items. The forklift can lift up to 3500 pounds. You can stack items up to 5 ft. high depending on the item that you are stacking. If you have any questions about the item you are wishing to stack, please contact the office and we will check with the Barge Master.

Question: Do I have to be at the Departure and Arrival locations or will staff do that for me?

Answer: Yes, you must be at both sites or have someone there in your place. Staff are too busy with the run and it is not their responsibility to load and unload your items. Staff will assist where they can, but please do not assume they will due to the time needed to supervise load and offloading of items. All heavy palletized items will be forklifted on and off by the Barge Captain.

Question: Is the Ferry Captain and HICA responsible for the safety of my items?

Answer: The use of the Barge service is at your own risk. We are not responsible for any damage during transport. Please make sure your items are well packed for the voyage. We run the barge in most weather conditions so protect your items as needed from rain or sea water splashing.

Question: Can I just pay when I get to the Barge?

Answer: All bookings must be paid in advance of the Barge run. We can take smaller items the day of the Barge Run on a space available basis (best to call in advance). If there is room to add items at the departure location, you will be required to pay by check. **No Cash** is to be taken during Barge Runs. It is always best to plan ahead and book your requests ahead of time.

Question: Can I ride on the Barge and possibly bring other helpers?

Answer: Due to Coast Guard regulations the Barge Captain can only take on an addition of 5 extra passengers besides his crew. We give commercial truck/vehicle drivers priority. If there is room for additional passengers, there is a \$10-dollar passenger fee charged each way. Many people coordinate with other boat owners to get to and from Hat Island. We are not responsible for guaranteeing passenger passage to and from the island with their loads.

Question: Can I ride the Barge just to get to or from Hat Island?

Answer: No, due to insurance and Coast Guard regulations, we can only permit people associated with loads on the Barge.

Question: Does the Barge do Beach Landings?

Answer: We have done beach landings for lots without road access. The landing is based on tide schedules and beach conditions i.e. rocky or sandy. Once we determine that the Barge can safely land near your residence, we will schedule you. This type of barge landing may require additional time which will be billed directly to the owner in addition to the items being barged.

Question: How much weight can I place on a pallet?

Answer: Our Barge Captain has a forklift that can lift pallet weight up to 3,000 pounds. The pallet load should be no more than _____ feet high.

Can Non-Owner's book the Barge?

Answer: No, only owners in good standing may book the Barge. Owners who have not closed on property (and are listed in the county records as the owner) may not book the Barge. If you are a relative of an owner, it is important for you to gain their approval and notify the office that you are booking in the name of the owner.