

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 Tab on the website for the current Barge Schedule.

Question: When will I know the upcoming schedule?

Answer: We have now included a Tab on the hatisland.org website for 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. Other dates 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 that you need to know before you cancel a reservation. Please note the partial refund and no-refund deadlines.

Question: Not all the items I want to bring on the barge are listed on 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: 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 Barge Master 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: If I bring over a Rental Truck, is there anything I need to know before renting it?

Answer: Delivery and Rental vans/trucks with boxes/beds longer than 20 feet tend to have long and low rear overhanging hitches, bumpers, and lift gate tracks, and should be avoided if possible. If the use of those vehicles is necessary, please inform the HICA office as they require more loading time and work for each loading. All rental company vehicles present this challenge with their 24 foot boxes; however, PENSKE seems to have the highest clearance. Occasionally there may be some damage to rear bumpers (we recommend that you consider buying insurance!).

Question: I need to have my septic pumped. Do you provide these services?

Answer: Yes, we do. When we send out the community email for Barge Services, we also do a call for owners who need their septic systems pumped. We use a private provider called CUZ. A pump truck can pump out 3 septic systems per truck run. The cost to bring the truck over is currently \$900 dollars. If we can get 3 homes scheduled your fee to bring the truck over will be \$300.00, more if we have less requests. In addition to this fee, you will need to pay for your pump out separately. This fee averages \$450 dollars. The pumping fee is payable at the site or if you are not there you must pay by credit card in advance of the pumping date. We will provide you with the number to call to take care of that aspect of business. All septic tanks must be uncovered and lids visible for pumping. If the driver needs to dig, you will be responsible for the additional fee: \$50.00 minimum and/or additional costs if the truck misses their departure time. Please be ready for your service.

More Questions? Give us a call at the HICA office: (360) 444-6611