

# 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: 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

- 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 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

Clear customs via the [CBP Roam App](#) or in person at Roche Harbor, Friday Harbor, Point Roberts or Port Angeles. (If everyone aboard has Nexus call 800-562-5943.)

- **If you were in Canada less than 48 hours:** Each person may bring articles valued up to \$200 US duty free. (Family members may not combine exemptions.)
- **If you were in Canada more than 48 hours:** Each person may bring articles valued up to \$800, including (if at least 21 years of age) 1 liter alcoholic beverages, 200 cigarettes and 100 cigars.
- US Customs will disallow some product from Canada including lamb, goat, whole tomatoes and peppers, allium vegetables, citrus, out of season fruits or fruits and vegetables of unclear origin. Information on current restrictions can be found [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.**
- Bring your completed custom worksheet with you to the customs office. In addition to the information that was needed to clear in to Canada they will also want the customs clearance number from when you entered Canada as well as the number from the Customs User Fee decal (we have recorded it on the customs worksheet, but just in case on sailboats it is attached to the aft side of the binnacle, below the wheel, and on powerboats it is posted near the boarding gate or door). That number tells Customs that we have already paid the \$27.50 entry fee for you.
- Log the US "release number" on your customs worksheet sheet for your protection.
- Normal hours are 8AM to 5PM, Monday - Saturday. If the office is closed when you arrive, call 1-800-562-5943. Call from the customs dock, not from the boat while out on the water.

## Helpful Numbers:

### CANADIAN CUSTOMS OFFICES

- **Bedwell Harbor (S. Pender Island)** 5/1 - 8/30 9am - 8 pm; 9/1-30, 9am - 5pm. Open May through September.
- On standby: 8pm-midnight. From midnight-8am there is a \$56.00 fee. Number: (250) 629-3363 or toll free at 1-888-226-7277.
- **Victoria and Sydney** manned 24 hours, all year. Toll free at 1-888-226-7277.  
Victoria: (250)363-3339 Sydney: (250)363-6644
- **White Rock** - (nearer Blaine than Pt. Roberts) 24 hrs, (604)531-7581 or 1-888-226-7277.
- **Nanaimo** - 24 hrs, (250)754-0341 or 1-888-226-7277.
- **CanPass** – Six to eight weeks processing, \$25 fee, immediate family only. Toll free: 1-888-226-7277.

### UNITED STATES CUSTOMS OFFICES

- **Friday Harbor** – (360) 378-2080 (customs dock normally manned, call 800-562-5943 after hours)
- **Roche Harbor** - same phone and policies as Friday Harbor
- **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.)