

# Traveling to Friday Harbor, San Juan Island, Washington State

Thanks to Cat Bordhi for all the details!

## **BY CAR (your own or a rental): Washington State Ferries**

Current schedule for Anacortes-San Juan ferry:  
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/>

Reservations: <http://1.usa.gov/1A10sOG>

*A few notes about the ferries:* Fares are collected only on the way to the island. Coming back, no money is required. Fares are significantly lower off-season, and the retreat will be in the off-season window.

Some ferry runs take longer than others, because they stop at more islands on the way from Anacortes to Friday Harbor. Some do not go all the way to Friday Harbor. Check the schedule.

If people want to spend an afternoon on the *inter-island* ferry, for passengers only (no vehicle) that ferry is free! If you want to sightsee other islands with a car, it's least expensive to do this on the way back, because cars are charged on westbound legs but not on eastbound runs.

*More notes about the ferries:* See "Getting to Lakedale by car and ferry."

## **DRIVE: Rental Cars**

SeaTac Airport has many rental car services. If you drive to the Anacortes Ferry Terminal, it is a good idea to arrive at least 1 hour before your scheduled sailing, since ferries sometimes run out of room for vehicles. This isn't common in the off-season, but it does happen. (There is always room for walk-on passengers, but then you have to leave the car on the Anacortes side.) It takes about 2 hours to drive directly from the airport to Anacortes. Cat tells me that if you are using a GPS, you need to type

in Anacortes (Ferry Terminal Road), not Friday Harbor, or the GPS will send you on an insane route via Whidbey Island and a second ferry.

## **SHUTTLE OPTION 1 (not Sundays): Island Airporter**

A Friday Harbor-based shuttle runs directly between SeaTac (Seattle-Tacoma Airport) and Friday Harbor once daily (*except Sundays*). If your schedule can match it, you won't need to carry your luggage on the ferry (it will be in the van). For an extra fee, owner John Nash will deliver you right to Lakedale. Current schedules and rates can be found at [www.islandairporter.com](http://www.islandairporter.com) or by calling (360) 378-7438.

## **SHUTTLE OPTION 2 (every day): Bellair Charters Airporter Shuttle**

This service offers 12 round trips daily between SeaTac (Seattle-Tacoma Airport) and the Anacortes Ferry Terminal. The trip is lengthened by additional stops en route. Current schedules and rates are available at [www.airporter.com/shuttle](http://www.airporter.com/shuttle). Make sure to allow at least 45 minutes between the scheduled arrival time of the shuttle at Anacortes and the ferry's departure, in case the shuttle runs into traffic.

## **FLY: Kenmore Air**

For those who prefer to fly (and to see beautiful sights!), Kenmore Air offers both land and sea plane services. Those traveling by land plane are shuttled between SeaTac (Seattle-Tacoma Airport) and Boeing Field. Those traveling by sea plane are shuttled from SeaTac to Lake Union and land in the Friday Harbor Marina. Current schedules as well as reservation information can be found at [www.kenmoreair.com](http://www.kenmoreair.com). Before making reservations, make sure to coordinate your arrival and departure from SeaTac with Kenmore's schedule, allowing enough time to collect your baggage.

# Getting to Lakedale by car and ferry

**I love the ferries. They're the start of the retreats.**

**As of January 2015, there is a new reservation system for the Friday Harbor ferry.**

Information is here: <http://1.usa.gov/1A10sOG>

The current ferry schedule is here:

<http://bit.ly/eqB3RZ>

Fares are charged only on westbound travel; you won't pay a fee for the return from Friday Harbor. Make sure the ferry you have your eye on (westbound from Anacortes) stops at Friday Harbor.

*One time I was in that little black car that just made it on: still an amusing memory.*



The ferry terminal is several miles west of the town of Anacortes. There is a small cafe at the ferry terminal that is open for all but the most off-normal-hours sailings. It's also possible to park your car in line and go for a nice walk, or sit and knit or spin or read or chat, either in the car or in the terminal waiting room.

If you end up with time in Anacortes itself, there is a needlework shop (Ana-Cross Stitch) and at least one good place to eat, called Gere-a-Deli, both on Commercial Avenue. Anacortes map here: <http://bit.ly/x9nJbG>

The good news is that we are off-season, so there is far less ferry traffic than in the summer. Even with a reservation, it is still a good idea to arrive an hour ahead of your intended ferry. Non-reservation vehicles will be loaded on a space-available basis.

If you want to get an idea of how the traffic is looking for a particular ferry, there's a cool site that has cameras of the Anacortes loading area and indicators of how many cars can be accommodated: <http://1.usa.gov/1AvAJyK>

**When you get off the ferry in Friday Harbor,** you will be funneled onto Spring Street downtown. King's Market will be on your right as you enter town, in case you forgot something.

From Spring Street, take a RIGHT on 2nd Street, just past King's Market, then go to Tucker Ave. (there's a stop sign) and take another RIGHT there. Tucker automatically turns into Roche Harbor Road, which is what you want.

In a few miles you will see a sign on the right for Egg Lake Road, which means it's time to pay attention. (If you thought you saw a camel in a field to your left shortly before that, you are correct. That's Mona. She's very old and friendly, but don't feed her.)

*This is what the Lakedale sign looks like:*



As you turn in, you'll be on a one-lane entry road. Soon you'll see a view resembling the one just below.

*Drive past the cabins (all are on the left) to register at the lodge. There are signs. It's not a big place.*



If you need to arrive late, call the front desk (360-378-2350) and they'll tell you how to access your room; you can check in the next morning.

There's a promotional interactive map of San Juan Island that's useful at <http://bit.ly/xmerBI>

It's available in print form once you get to Lakedale.