

So, you are going to Canada!

Anyone reading this that has additional information to put in this document, please contact Jill Lehman and I will update it. There are no guarantees the information is current, check websites yourself!

Tips:

Plan your trip around times that Customs is open when you arrive.

Make reservations ahead of time if you want to be on the dock at the Marinas

Use the Waggoner Cruising guide as it will have helpful information for each Marina in Canada as well as cruising recommendations.

Some Marinas may require \$2M in liability insurance, so check beforehand. This can be a combination of boat insurance and personal umbrella insurance usually.

Keep your water tanks full as getting water in Canada can be difficult unless you are on the mainland. For example Ganges will not provide water unless you get fuel and very little at that. You should be able to get water at Maple Bay or Sidney, no problem, so fill up there.

You have to pay to discard garbage at some Canadian Marinas, so again, try to do this at the Mainland marinas.

Documents and Useful Applications

Nexus – If you already have Nexus and everyone on your boat has Nexus you can use the call in numbers to enter Canada and also Return to the US.

Here is the latest link I've found on reporting sites but they keep changing so check back if you are trying to go to a more obscure location.

<https://www.ussuperyacht.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/20220310-map-bc-coast-cbsa-open-reporting-sites.pdf>

If you do not have Nexus, you will need to report to Customs in Canada and the US, although I believe you can use the following reporting app even if you don't have Nexus when arriving back in the US.

CBP Roam App – IOS and Android – Look for the App in the App Store. You can read more about it here: <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/pleasure-boats/pleasure-boat-overview/roam>. We found that if we entered the data about an hour before or right as we were entering US waters, we got feedback within 20 minutes or so.

DTOPS – This sticker is required when you are returning to the US.

<https://dtops.cbp.dhs.gov/main/#%20>

Alcohol, etc.

Be aware of the limitations of taking un-opened alcohol into Canada. Their concern is mainly about resale as alcohol is very expensive in Canada. The limit is 2 bottles of wine per person, OR a case of beer OR 750 ml hard alcohol. Marijuana is a NO NO even though it is now legal in Canada, as are Guns... All must be declared.

Some members have had to pay duty on their alcohol over the limit, which is equivalent to buying the alcohol again. We declare all alcohol, but state that it is “**ship stores**” and opened (we open the foil/cork slightly)

Wind

Predict Wind is our “go to” app for forecasting weather in the Strait of Georgia or Juan De Fuca. Others use **Windy**, and **NOAA Buoy** can show you what is happening at various Buoys around the Straits.

We also use **Boat Beacon** to track large vessels, especially in fog. Keeping an eye on Ferry times is a good idea as well in the Gulf Islands as US and BC Ferries go through some narrow areas.