

TRAVEL TO VANCOUVER

Vancouver, British Columbia, site of the *June 18-20, 2007 ISFL North America Regional Conference*, is accessible by automobile, railroad, airplane, and ship.

Persons attending the ISFL North America Regional Conference, and *planning to fly into Vancouver, B.C.*, should not delay making reservations. The airline fares have been rising since early March (2007). Those flying to Vancouver from cities in the USA will find that airline tickets cost more when a national border is crossed. Flights into Seattle, Washington from other US cities are generally less expensive than flights into Vancouver, B.C.. Airline passengers flying to Seattle might rent a car there and drive the 145 beautiful miles to Vancouver.

Participants might also consider traveling to Vancouver by *railroad*. The railroad route across BC to or from Vancouver is quite spectacular. In fact, it is a popular tourist destination-trip in itself.

Of course, highways access is also an option. Participants, especially those bringing families, might consider driving to Vancouver and enjoying the scenery at ground level.

A more complicated route is by *passenger or vehicle ferry ship* over water. There is no direct ferry service between Seattle and Victoria. However, there is a *passenger ferry* from Seattle to Victoria, and passenger/vehicle ferries from Nanaimo (north of Victoria) to Vancouver, and the passage is beautiful and relaxing. (Ground transportation between the Victoria and Nanaimo would have to be arranged.) The ferries are a great attraction for those planning to stay in the area a few days. Advance checking of times and availability for ferries is prudent. As one website notes, the Seattle-Victoria ferry “is an enormously popular year-round ferry service which must be booked in advance.” <http://www.ferrytravel.com/seattle.htm> .

IMPORTANT: All travelers should be aware of the new immigration/border crossing requirements. Since January 23, 2007, *passports are required for persons crossing the US-Canada border by air*, and passports also will be required soon (January 1, 2008 according to the State Department) for all persons travelling by land or sea to and from Canada. Check the U.S. Department of State travel website (for instance start by looking at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html) for further details and the latest information.