

Daufuskie Island Public Ferry Services Passenger Guide



Beaufort County
SOUTH CAROLINA

PUBLIC FERRY SERVICES PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Effective January 16, 2024, the County Council of Beaufort County, South Carolina (“Beaufort County” or “the County”) has a contract with Lowcountry Ferry Service (“Ferry Contractor”) to provide limited public ferry transportation services for residents and property owners of Daufuskie Island, South Carolina subject to funding availability. The Ferry Contractor is responsible for transporting passengers between [CC Haigh, Jr](#) Public Boat Landing in Hilton Head and [Melrose Landing](#) on Daufuskie Island. Beaufort County does not set the ferry schedule or sell tickets. The Ferry Contractor is responsible for setting and publishing the ferry schedule, which may change due to weather or vessel conditions. Passengers should contact the Ferry Contractor directly with questions regarding the ferry schedule, which is published online at ferry website at <https://www.lowcoferry.com>.

Daufuskie Island property owners and renters, to include immediate household members of full-time residents and minor dependents of non-full-time residents, seeking public ferry transportation must obtain a QDR (Qualified Discount Rider) card via the Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority dba Palmetto Breeze Transit (“Palmetto Breeze”). Minors age five or younger are not required to have an ID card and may ride without a ticket.

Current Ferry Schedule:

To Daufuskie Island (departing from CC Haigh, Jr.):
7 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m.

From Daufuskie Island (departing from Melrose Landing):
8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 5:30 p.m

CONTENTS

- Public Ferry Services Program Overview 3
- Qualified Discount Rider Cards and Classification of Fares 4
- Regular Rider Fare Information 5
- Parking and Landing Information 5
- Guidelines and Rules of Conduct 6
- Cargo and Freight 7

This guide is not a contract and is presented for informational use only. The information is subject to change by the County Council of Beaufort County, South Carolina. The County is committed to providing a professional and safe public ferry program. Comments or suggestions regarding the program should be sent via email to bcvendors@bcgov.net

[Beaufort County Government](#)
(Eligibility for ID Cards)
Telephone: : 843-255-6055
Email: bcvendors@bcgov.net

[Lowcountry Ferry Service](#)
(Ferry Schedule and Tickets)
Telephone: (843)422-1597
Email: info@locoferry.com

[Palmetto Breeze Transit](#) (Issuance of QDR Cards)
Telephone: 843-757-5782
Email: lnorton@palmettobreezetransit.com



QUALIFIED DISCOUNT RIDER CARDS AND CLASSIFICATION OF FARES

Beaufort County makes final determinations regarding authorizations for QDR cards, which are issued by Palmetto Breeze at three different classification levels:

Level 1 - \$4 one-way

- Full-Time Resident Homeowners (4% Assessment Rate) and their resident dependents.*
- Based on records of the Beaufort County Assessor's Office.
- Closing documents and verification of application for 4% assessment will be required to verify recent purchase and/or new home construction.

Level 2 - \$5 one-way

- Full-Time Resident Property Renter and their resident dependents.*
- Must provide a copy of a signed lease/rental agreement from landlord and/or property owner verifying rental term for a period of at least one year. The County may request a notarized statement.

Level 3 - \$8 one-way

- Non-Full-Time Resident Property or Homeowner (6% Assessment Rate) and their resident dependents.*
- Eligibility determined by records of the Beaufort County Assessor's Office.
- Time-Share ownership is not eligible as a QDR.

Important Reminders:

- Fare prices are subject to change.
- If the designated status of an ID card holder has changed, it is the responsibility of the card holder to notify Palmetto Breeze.
- Failure to update the status of an ID card could result in denial of access to the public ferry service until the appropriate change is completed.

**Resident Dependent is defined as a dependent currently living within the household of property owners and full-time renters. This includes college students claimed on their parents taxes and adult disabled dependents.*

***These rates may be adjusted with the approval of the County on an annual basis.*

****All QDRs must register for and be in possession of a QDR Pass issued by the County in order to receive the discounted rate.*

Individuals seeking a QDR card for public ferry services to Daufuskie Island should apply to Beaufort County at 843-255-6055 or bcvendors@bcgov.net. Once eligibility has been determined, approval will be given to schedule an appointment with Palmetto Breeze for having a QDR card made. Once the QDR card is issued, one is eligible to purchase ferry tickets at the applicable discounted rate.

Non-discount tickets exclusive of the County's program can be purchased online at www.lowcoferry.com. The discounted ticket system involves Palmetto Breeze issuing a QDR card which will allow the rider to create a discounted account with the ferry provider. Additional information is available on the Palmetto Breeze Transit website. Passengers with questions should call Palmetto Breeze Transit at 843-757-5782 and press option 2 for Daufuskie Island.

Important Reminders:

- Individuals should only purchase tickets for the level reflected on their ID card.
- The first QDR card will be issued at no cost to the applicant.
- The cost for replacing an ID card is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

Questions regarding ferry service should be directed to the Ferry Contractor at (843)422-1597.

REGULAR RIDER FARE INFORMATION

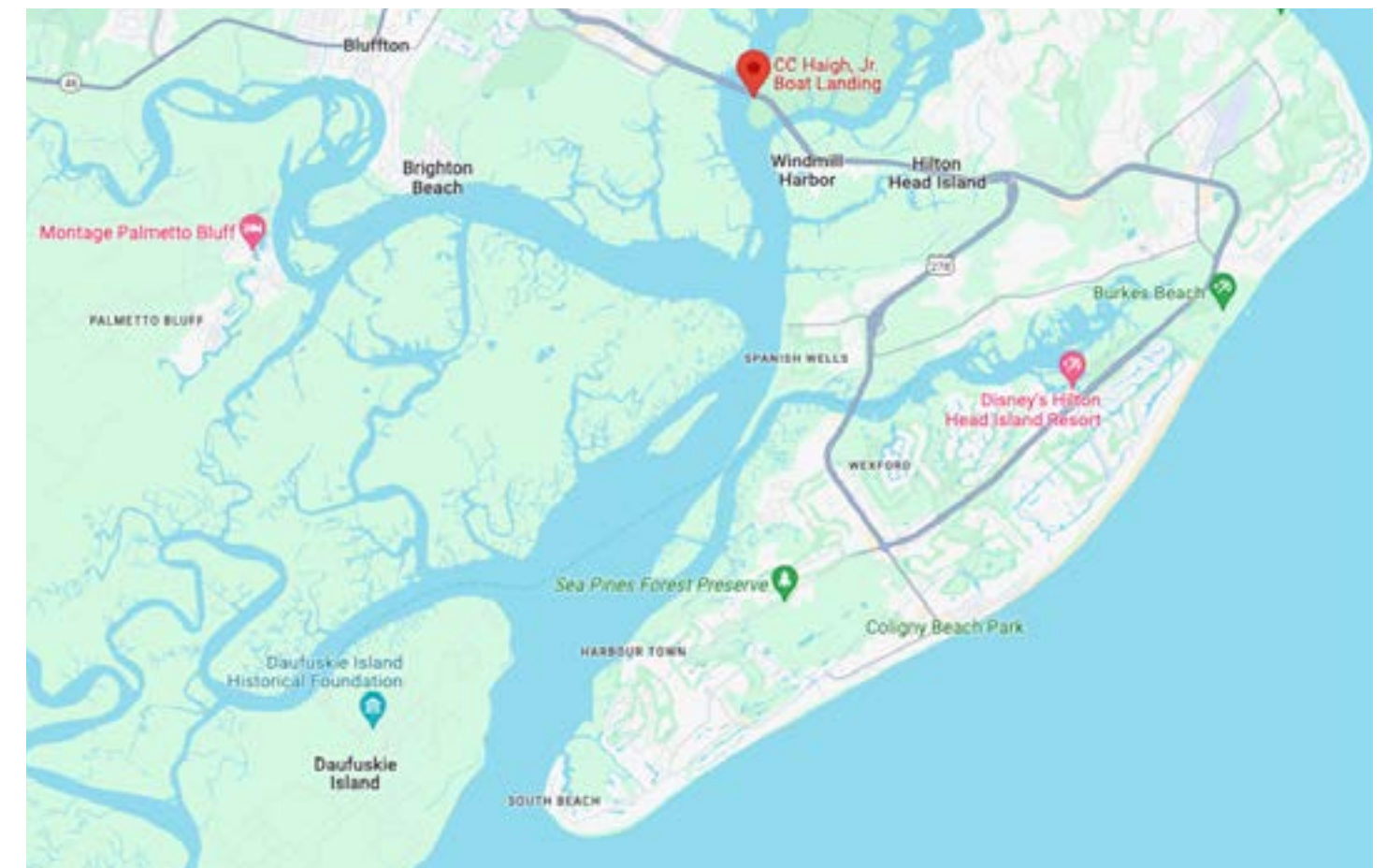
All reservations will need to be made online prior to booking at www.lowcoferry.com. Reservations will be charged at time of booking.

- Children 5 years and under ride for free when accompanied by a paying adult.
- Pets require their own tickets (\$10) and must remain on leashes and restrained at all times.
- When selecting your tickets please choose the quantity of seats you need for your entire party.
- Tickets are for one way, please make sure to book your return ticket separately.
- All riders are to arrive at embarkations 45 minutes prior to departure. Gate closes 5 minutes prior to departure to ensure an on time departure.

Ferry Tip: Please have your ID card and ticket reservation ready when boarding the boat.

PARKING AND LANDING INFORMATION

The County offers 175 parking spaces at the CC Haigh, Jr Public Boat Landing. While parking at the site is complimentary for Ferry riders, riders should display their verification slip on the dashboard of their vehicle. This will inform operators that the vehicle is authorized for overnight parking. The County and Ferry Contractor assumes no liability for the condition, security, or contents of vehicles parked at this location.



GUIDELINES AND RULES OF CONDUCT

The instructions and guidance of ferry staff must be followed at all times. Any passenger failing to follow guidelines and rules of conduct may be refused transit.

- Any QDR card holder found violating the guidelines for use of the QDR card or purchase of tickets may have their privileges rescinded.
- Seats on the vessels are provided on a space available basis, regardless of the level of QDR card holder.
- All passengers must be prepared to show their government-issued ID, QDR card, and matching ticket upon boarding a vessel.
- Any passenger unable to show their ID card and matching ticket may be refused transit.
- Passengers are requested to wait in the staging area until the boarding call is made.
- Passengers must be appropriately dressed (shoes and shirts are required).
- Smoking is not allowed on any ferry vessel.
- Headphones should be used when listening to music or other audio programs on personal devices.
- Passengers are responsible for collecting their personal items when leaving a ferry vessel.
- Passengers finding items left behind should turn them into ferry staff.
- Lost and found inquiries should be made to the Ferry Contractor at (843)422-1597.
- Beaufort County and the Ferry Contractor are not responsible for the personal belongings of passengers.
- Eating or drinking on any ferry vessel is not allowed, with the exception of bottled water (no glass containers allowed).
- Passengers with personal pets must keep them on leashes and restrained at all times. All pets require a ticket.
- Guide dogs or trained personal assistant animals can accompany their owner.

CARGO AND FREIGHT

Ticket prices do not reflect any costs associated with cargo or freight as determined necessary by the Ferry Contractor.

Cargo is anything that is more than one carry-on (to include one approved expandable wagon) plus a personal item such as a purse or briefcase. Cargo and freight handling is the personal responsibility of passengers through terms set by the Ferry Contractor. The County is not involved in matters regarding cargo and freight.

The Ferry Contractor is responsible for the safe transport of passengers, and may deny or limit the quantity or types of carry-on baggage, if deemed a potential operational hazard to ferry vessels and/or the comfort of other passengers.

Cargo will be handled in two fashions. First, every ticket is allowed one carry on luggage the size of airport luggage and one carry on personal items, such as a purse or brief case. Second, extra or over-sized cargo will be priced based on size starting \$25.00 for a 27-gallon HDX tote. The cargo boat or “luggage barge” will be a separate boat that comes over once a day. If demand due to number of items calls for more runs, those will added as needed. The ferry operator suggests placing all refrigerated items in cooler bags that will fit in the approved expandable wagons.

Lowcountry Ferry has approved all “wagons” that are no larger than 35.5” long by 19” wide by 23” high, and wagons may not weigh more than 100lbs with items included in. Any wagons larger or heavier than these dimensions will be considered over sized luggage and incur an extra luggage charge. In addition, these wagons are to be for groceries only and should not be carrying propane, wood, large items or similar. All items that are within the level of the siding on the cart will be allowed, anything that is not covered by the siding of the wagons will be considered as extra luggage. The exception to our luggage policy for the approved wagons is to help facilitate grocery runs and not moving large amounts of cargo or freight. Double stacking or items over the side wall of the wagons is considered extra luggage, and will incur an extra luggage fee.

Lowcountry Ferry limits boats to 15 wagons per run and any additional wagons will come over by separate boat or another run depending on weight and passenger count. Any cargo which cannot be carried aboard must be arranged ahead of departure time with the Ferry Contractor.

The instructions and guidance of ferry staff regarding cargo and other operations must be followed at all times.

See www.lowcoferry.com for more information.



COUNTY COUNCIL OF
BEAUFORT COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA
Post Office Drawer 1228
Beaufort, SC 29901-1228

Beaufort County Government
Office of Public Information
wpio@bcgov.net | 843-255-2250



Beaufort County
SOUTH CAROLINA

www.beaufortcountysc.gov