



Let's compare the Steamship Authority's auto fare for the seven-mile, 45-min., run from Woods Hole to Vineyard Haven with fares of similar auto ferries in the region and country that are also operated year-round.

1.

Bridgeport (CT) and Point Jefferson Steamship Ferry (privately run)

Distance: 18 miles

Crossing time: 75 min.

Autos (includes driver), any vehicle under 20': \$62.00

Price per mile with auto (includes driver): \$3.44/mile

Source: <https://www.88844ferry.com/Rates.aspx>

2.

Cross Sound Ferry (privately run)

New London (CT) to Orient Point (Long Island)

Distance: 16 miles

Crossing time: 80 min.

Auto (includes driver), any vehicle under 20': \$59

Price per mile with auto (includes driver): \$3.28/mile

Source: <https://www.longislandferry.com/Common/Help.aspx?page=fares>

3.

Cape May-Lewes Ferry (public)

Distance: 17 miles

Time for crossing: 85 minutes

Auto (includes driver), any vehicle under 20': \$47

Price per mile with auto (includes driver): \$2.76/mile

Source: <https://www.cmlf.com/schedules-fares>

4.

North Carolina Ferry (public)

Cedar Island-Ocracoke

Distance: 22 miles

Time for crossing: 2 hr 15 minutes

Auto (includes driver), any vehicle under 20': \$15.00

Price per mile with auto (includes driver): \$.68/mile

Source: <https://www.ncdot.gov/download/transit/ferry/ferryschedule.pdf>

5.

Washington State Ferries (public)

Seattle–Bainbridge Island

Distance: 8.6 miles

Time for crossing: 35 minutes

Auto (includes driver), any vehicle under 22': \$18.70

Price per mile with auto (includes driver): \$2.17/mile

Source: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/pdf/CurrentFares.pdf>

6.

Steamship Authority (quasi public, partially subsidized by Commonwealth of Massachusetts taxpayers by dint of paying no taxes, including property tax for parking lots/admin buildings/etc.)

Woods Hole-Vineyard Haven

Distance: 7 miles

Time for crossing: 45 minutes

Auto with driver: \$68.50 if vehicle < 17' + \$8.50 for driver = \$77; \$78.50 if vehicle 17' – 20' + \$8.50 for driver = \$87; winter excursion fares are \$25 less

Price per mile with auto (includes driver): \$11.00/mile if under 17', \$12.43/mile if vehicle 17' – 20'

(Winter excursion fare: \$7.43 if under 17', \$8.86/mile if 17'-20')

Source: <https://www.steamshipauthority.com/reservations/fares>

Conclusions:

The Steamship Authority operates by far and away the most expensive auto ferry service in the country on a per mile basis.

The SSA's auto rate on a per mile basis exceeds the next highest priced ferry by a factor of 300%, or by a factor of 250% if one compares the SSA's winter excursion rate.

The Steamship Authority also charges one of the absolute highest auto ferry fares in the country.