



Let's compare the Steamship Authority's trailer truck fare for the seven-mile, 45-min., run from Woods Hole to Vineyard Haven with fares of similar trailer truck 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.

Summer fare

40' - 50 ' \$186

50' to 60 ' (60' is max) \$215

Price per mile of 53' trailer + cab (includes driver), midweek: \$11.94/mile

2.

Cross Sound Ferry

Carries passengers, autos, and truck freight across Long Island Sound (New London CT to Orient Point, NY). 21 miles.

A one-way also takes a little over an hour, operates in approx. the same sea conditions as the Steamship does to the Vineyard.

Cross Sound Ferry is an entirely privately run family service. They operate year-round, just like the Steamship. They run about a dozen ferries in each direction in winter, more in the summer.

Distance: 16 miles

Crossing time: 80 min.

Mon-Thurs

\$2.80/ft; for example, 53' trailer + cab + 1 driver = \$166.40

Fri.-Sun

\$3.50/ft; for example, 53' trailer + cab + 1 driver = \$220.50

Price per mile of 53' trailer + cab (includes driver): \$10.40/mile on Mon-Thurs. and \$13.78/mile on weekend

Reservation cancellation fees? \$15 cancellation fee for same-day reservation cancellation. Rescheduling one day in advance, one can reschedule with a \$5 fee.

Source: <https://www.longislandferry.com/>

3.

Cape May-Lewes Ferries, crosses Delaware Bay, 17 miles

45' to 60' Nov. - March \$60

April - June, and Sept. - Oct. \$73

July Aug \$78

60' and above Nov. - March \$83

April - June, and Sept. - Oct. \$96

July Aug \$101

Price per mile of 53' trailer + cab (includes driver): \$7.79/mile

Source: <https://www.cmlf.com/rvs-long-vehicle-information>

4.

North Carolina Ferry System

Cedar Island - Ocracoke

Distance: 22 miles

Vehicle and/or combination over 40 feet up to 65 feet: \$45

Price per mile of 53' trailer + cab (includes driver): \$2.05/mile

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

5.

Washington State Ferries

On Seattle to Bremerton route

Distance: 17 miles

50' to 60' Regular season \$90.85

Peak season \$113.60

60' to 70' Regular \$105.95

Peak season \$132.45

Price per mile of 53' trailer + cab (includes driver): \$7.79/mile

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

6.

Steamship Authority

WH-Vineyard trailer truck fare, Woods Hole-Martha's Vineyard:

Distance: 7 miles

Time for crossing: 45 minutes

53' trailer + cab + one driver = \$260 (does not depend on day of week; it's the same rate year round.)

Price per mile of 53' trailer + cab (includes driver): \$37.14/mile

Source: The Steamship Authority is the only ferry system here which does not give its longer length vehicle rates on its website. One has to call.

Conclusions:

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

The SSA's trailer truck rate on a per mile basis exceeds the next highest priced ferry by a factor of more than 300%.

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