

# GRAND SWEDEN CRUISE, 6 DAYS

## Gothenburg – Stockholm 2017

### Day 1

10.00	Dep. Gothenburg	Departure from Gothenburg, Packhuskajen 10.
14.15 - 14.30	Lilla Edet	Ströms lock at Lilla Edet was built in 1916 and is the first lock on our journey. The original lock was opened in 1607 and was the first lock in Sweden.
15.45 - 16.45	Trollhättan, locks	The impressive lock staircase at Trollhättan consists of four locks, and has a total drop of 32 metres. Of the three parallel lock systems here, only the biggest one (from 1916) is still in use.
16.45 - 18.45	<u>Trollhättan</u>	The Trollhättan Canal Museum is located in a storehouse from 1893. Learn more about the fascinating history of the Trollhätte Canal through the interesting exhibition and film shown here. You can also take a walk through the beautiful old lock area.
20.45	Arr. Vänersborg	This is the last town before we head out into Lake Vänern. The Brinkebergskulle lock is just before Vänersborg. Overnight stop.

### Day 2

04.45	Dep. Vänersborg	
05.00 - 15.10	Lake Vänern	44 metres above sea level. Lake Vänern is Sweden's largest lake and the third largest lake in Europe, after the Ladoga and Onega lakes in Russia.
09.30 - 11.30	<u>Läckö Castle</u>	Läckö Castle is situated on a promontory in Lake Vänern. It was built as a fortified bishop's castle in 1298 and during the mid-17th century, the castle was transformed into Baroque style. We are given a guided tour of the castle and the exhibitions (lots of stairs). App. 1 km walk.
15.10 - 17.30	<u>Sjötorp</u>	We now enter the first of the 58 narrow locks on the Göta Canal. At Sjötorp we have a set of eight locks and also the remains of some old shipyards. We visit the old warehouse, where you can find a shop selling, among other things, clothes and home décor, a café and the Sjötorp Canal Museum. In the museum you can see old pictures of Sjötorp, the interiors of several old ships, and also learn more about the building of the canal. There is also a map of all the sunken ships in the Lake Vänern. Enjoy a lovely walk along the locks.
19.50 - 21.30	Godhøgen–Hajstorp övre	We pass a lock system consisting of four locks in very beautiful surroundings. In 1822 the western section of the Göta Canal was inaugurated at Hajstorp.
21.30	Arr. Hajstorp	At Hajstorp our ship berths for the night, close to what used to be the Canal Engineer's home, now privately owned.

### Day 3

06.00	Dep. Hajstorp	
07.00	Töreboda	The railway line between Stockholm and Gothenburg crosses the canal here. Töreboda also proudly presents Sweden's smallest ferry, "Lina", which travels back and forth across the Göta Canal.
09.00	The Berg Canal	This part of the canal is called the Berg Canal and originally had a sharp bend which was straightened in 1930-33.
09.30	The Obelisk	An obelisk marks the highest point (91.5 metres above sea level) of the Göta Canal.
10.00 - 10.10	Tåtorp	One of the canal's two hand-operated locks is found at Tåtorp.
10.10 - 12.15	Lake Viken	The beautiful Lake Viken (91.8 metres above sea level) serves as a water reservoir for the western section of the Göta Canal.
11.15 - 12.15	The Spetsnäs Canal/ Billströmmen	We steer through two narrow, wood-lined passages and small lakes full of water lilies.
12.15 - 12.30	Forsvik	Forsvik has a very interesting industrial history. The lock, built in 1813, is the oldest one in the canal. The impressive iron bridge dates from the same year. In the lock we are sometimes greeted with songs and flowers by the Kindbom family, a religious group. From here on we will be going downwards!
13.15	Karlsborg	Before our ship enters Lake Vättern, we pass Karlsborg and will be able to see the roof of the fortress, which was built in 1819-1909.
13.15 - 15.00	Lake Vättern	With a length of 135 km and a width of 31 km, Lake Vättern is Sweden's second largest lake, 89 metres above sea level. The lake is unusually deep and its water is very clear.
15.00 - 18.00	<u>Vadstena</u>	Today Vadstena is an idyllic little town. It evolved around the 14th century convent of the Saint Bridget (St. Birgitta), becoming a spiritual, cultural and commercial centre. The Abbey was built according to St. Bridget's plans, and was consecrated in 1430. The Castle was built in the 1540s by King Gustav Vasa. Local guides will meet us and take us with the sightseeing train to see the Abbey and the castle. You will also have time here to walk around the town on your own, or go for a swim in the lake.

19.30 Arr. Motala It was Baltzar von Platen who drew up the plans for Motala, and today it is called “the Capital of the Göta Canal”. In 1822 an engineering works, Motala Werkstad, was established here to serve the canal and is today considered to be the cradle of Swedish industry. Here you also find the head office of the Göta Canal Company, responsible for operation and maintenance. We visit the Motala Motor Museum, with its large exhibition of antique cars and motorcycles in authentic surroundings, collection of radios, toys, household appliances and more. You can also walk to see Baltzar von Platen’s grave, about 1 km along the left side of the canal. Overnight stop.

#### Day 4

08.00 Dep. Motala You can enjoy a beautiful morning walk from Motala to Borensult, app. 4 km.

09.00 - 09.40 Borensult The lock staircase at Borensult is the second longest in the canal, with five locks connected and a total rise of 15.3 metres. Here you might hear the nightingale sing.

09.40 - 10.40 Lake Boren Our boat slowly traverses Lake Boren, 73 metres above sea level.

10.40 - 10.50 Borensberg In the idyllic village Borensberg there is a hand-operated lock, after which we see the well-known Göta Hotel from 1908. Just past the hotel there is a small gazebo leaning out over a sharp bend in the canal, known as the “Helmsman’s Horror”.

11.10 Kungs Norrby, aqueduct The aqueduct at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 and leads over the national route 36.

14.20 Ljungsbro, aqueduct We pass the second aqueduct on our journey. This one was built in 1970.

14.40 Berg (Heda) We start our descent in the lock system of Berg (15 locks) towards Lake Roxen. The tour guide takes us on a walk (app. 3 km) to see the church and the remains of the convent. As an alternative you can walk along the canal or take a refreshing swim in Lake Roxen.  
The convent of Vreta dates from about 1100 and was the first nunnery in Sweden. Its importance was later superseded by the convent founded by Saint Bridget (St. Birgitta) at Vadstena. The old convent church at Vreta is one of Sweden’s most interesting, offering many medieval treasures. Today, it is used as a parish church and is therefore not always open to visitors.

16.00 - 17.00 Berg (Carl Johan) The Carl Johan lock staircase is the longest in the canal with seven connected locks. The lock staircase will lower the boat 18.8 metres from the Berg guest harbour to Lake Roxen. Here we board the ship again before steering out on the lake.

17.00 - 19.00 Lake Roxen 33 metres above sea level.

19.00 - 19.10 Norsholm lock Here the canal crosses the main railway line Stockholm – Malmö.

20.40 - 21.20 Lake Asplången 27 metres above sea level.

21.40 Arr. Klämman We stop for the night at the idyllic lock Klämman, a water regulating lock. Take the opportunity to enjoy the total stillness.

#### Day 5

07.45 Dep. Klämman

08.50 - 10.05 Carlsborg–Marie-hov–Duvkullen At the lock Carlsborg Övre we have the first of the eight locks taking us down to Söderköping. Here you can stretch your legs between the locks, or, if you want more exercise, walk all the way down to Söderköping, app. 4 km.

10.35 - 12.45 Söderköping The idyllic town Söderköping was founded in the early 1200s and was very important during the Hanseatic period. The town also has a long and interesting history as a spa. Today, it is also known for its ice cream parlours. Söderköping is yours to explore on your own.

14.05 - 14.15 Mem Passing through the last narrow lock before Slåtbaken, an inlet of the Baltic, we leave the canal. On 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1832, the Göta Canal was inaugurated at Mem amid great pomp and circumstance in the presence of King Karl XIV Johan and his family.

14.15 - The Baltic Sea We cross open water for a short bit and then weave through the archipelago.

15.10 - 16.10 Stegeborg The ruins of the Stegeborg Fortress are beautifully situated on a small island overlooking the bay of Slåtbaken. The fort was constructed during the early Middle Ages and was built to guard the inlet to Söderköping. We are given a guided tour through the interesting history of Stegeborg. The walk is short, but somewhat uneven.

20.45 Arr. Sävsundet We await dawn at the old pilot station. Overnight stop.

#### Day 6

04.40 Dep. Sävsundet

08.40 - 08.50 Södertälje Södertälje lock, 135 metres long, is the largest lock in Scandinavia.

08.50 - 15.15 Lake Mälaren 0.3 metres above sea level. In the Viking Age, Sweden’s third largest lake was not a lake, it was a part of the Baltic Sea. There are two UNESCO World Heritage Sites by Lake Mälaren – Drottningholm Palace and Birka, the Viking City.

10.15 - 12.15 Birka The Viking community of Birka on the island of Björkö is often regarded as Sweden’s first town. The town was then an important harbour for international shipping and trade. It was in use for about 250 years and was abandoned before the year 1000. Birka features on UNESCO’S World Heritage list. There will be a guided tour around on the island (app. 3 km, uneven terrain), and we also visit the Viking museum.

14.15 Drottningholm Palace Drottningholm Palace, home of the Royal family since 1981, is also found on the World Heritage list. We pass the castle if time admits.

15.15 - 15.30 Hammarby lock The final lock on our journey delivers us from Lake Mälaren into Saltsjön.

16.00 Arr. Stockholm Our cruise ends at Skeppsbrokajen 103, in the Old Town of Stockholm.