

GRAND SWEDEN CRUISE

GOthenBURG – STOCKHOLM 2018

Day 1

10.00 Dep. Gothenburg Our cruise begins at Packhuskajen 10 in Gothenburg.

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 Trollhättan 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 idyllic lock area with the old locks from the 19th century.

20.45 Arr. Vänersborg This is the last town before we head out into Lake Vänern. The Brinkebergskulle lock is just before Vänersborg. The oldest lock from 1752 can be seen beside the modern lock from 1916. 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 Läckö Castle 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 Sjötorp 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 Godhögen-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 Vadstena 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 Borensnult, app. 4 km.

09.00-09.40 Borensnult The lock staircase at Borensnult 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 lowers 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 The lock in Norsholm regulates the water level of Lake Roxen. 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-Mariehov-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 Slätbaken, an inlet of the Baltic, we leave the canal. On 26th 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 Slätbaken. 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 The present lock in Södertälje was inaugurated in 1924 by His Majesty King Gustav V. The lock is 135 metres long, which makes it Scandinavia's largest lock.

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. 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 Influenced by French prototype, the Drottningholm Palace was built by architect Nicodemus Tessin the Elder. It is the most well-preserved royal castle built in the 1600s in Sweden. Since 1981 the Palace is Their Majesties the King and Queen's residence. We pass the castle if time admits.

15.15-15.30 Hammarby lock The lock, inaugurated in 1930, is the final lock on our journey and delivers us from Lake Mälaren into Saltsjön.

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

GRAND SWEDEN CRUISE

STOCKHOLM – GOTHENBURG 2018

Day 1

- 10.00 Dep. Stockholm** Our cruise begins at Skeppsbrokajen 103 in the Old Town of Stockholm.
- 10.30-10.45 Hammarby lock** The lock, inaugurated in 1930, is the first lock on our journey and delivers us from Saltsjön into Lake Mälaren.
- 10.45-13.30 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.
- 11.30 Drottningholm Palace** Influenced by French prototype, the Drottningholm Palace was built by architect Nicodemus Tessin the Elder. It is the most well-preserved royal castle built in the 1600s in Sweden. Since 1981 the Palace is Their Majesties the King and Queen's residence. We pass the castle if time admits.
- 13.40-13.50 Södertälje** The present lock in Södertälje was inaugurated in 1924 by His Majesty King Gustav V. The lock is 135 metres long, which makes it Scandinavia's largest lock.
- 13.50- The Baltic Sea** We pass through the archipelago of Södermanland and St Anna.
- 17.00-18.30 Trosa** The small town of Trosa dates all the way back to the 14th century. It was then known as a fishermen's village. Regular steamer traffic from Stockholm and Nyköping began in 1860, bringing large numbers of summer visitors. Enjoy a walk around the canals and alleys of Trosa (app. 2.5 km).

Day 2

- 01.15 Arr. Stegeborg** Overnight stop.
- 09.00-10.00 Stegeborg** The ruins of the Stegeborg Fortress are beautifully situated on a small island overlooking the bay of Slätbaken. The fort dates from 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.
- 11.00-11.10 Mem** On 26th 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. We enter the Göta Canal through the first of the 58 narrow locks.
- 13.00-14.45 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 very interesting history as a spa. Today, it is also known for its ice cream parlours. Söderköping is yours to explore on your own.
- 15.15-16.30 Duvkullen-Mariehov-Carlsborg** There are eight locks in the short distance of around two kilometres. Take the opportunity to stretch your legs between the locks.
- 18.00-18.40 Lake Asplången** 27 metres above sea level.
- 20.10-20.20 Norsholm lock** The lock in Norsholm regulates the water level of Lake Roxen. Here the canal crosses the main railway line Stockholm – Malmö.
- 20.20-22.20 Lake Roxen** 33 metres above sea level.
- 22.20 Arr. Berg (Carl Johan)** The Carl Johan lock staircase is the longest in the canal with seven connected locks. The lock staircase raises the boat 18.8 metres from Lake Roxen to the Berg guest harbour. We dock for the night at the bottom lock.

Day 3

- 09.00 Dep. Berg (Carl Johan)** 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.

- 11.40 Berg (Heda)** The ship has passed all 15 locks in the Berg lock system. It is time to board for departure.
- 12.00 Ljungsbro, aqueduct** We pass the first of two aqueducts in the canal. The Ljungsbro aqueduct was built in 1970.
- 15.10 Kungs Norrby, aqueduct** The aqueduct at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 as part of the national route 36.
- 15.30-15.40 Borensberg** In the idyllic village Borensberg there is a hand-operated lock. Shortly before the lock we pass a small gazebo leaning out over the canal in a sharp bend known as the "Helmsman's Horror", and after that we see the well-known Göta Hotel, built in 1908.

- 15.40-16.40 Lake Boren** Our boat slowly traverses Lake Boren, 73 metres above sea level.
- 16.40-17.20 Borenhult** The lock staircase at Borenhult 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.
- 18.20 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

- 07.30 Dep. Motala** We leave Motala and head out into Lake Vättern.
- 09.00-12.00 Vadstena** 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 here and take us with the sightseeing train to see the Abbey and the castle. You will also have time to walk around the town on your own, or go for a swim in the lake.
- 07.30-13.45 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.
- 13.45 Karlsborg** We pass Karlsborg and will be able to see the roof of the fortress, which was built in 1819-1909.
- 14.40-14.55 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.
- 14.55-16.05 Billströmmen/the Spetsnäs Canal** Through two narrow, wood-lined passages and small lakes full of water lilies, we steer out into Lake Viken.

14.55-17.00 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.

- 17.00-17.10 Tåtörp** At Tåtörp there is another hand-operated lock. From here on we will be going downwards!
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- The Obelisk** An obelisk marks the highest point (91.5 metres above sea level) of the Göta Canal.
- 20.10 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.
- 21.30 Arr. Hajstorp** At Hajstorp there is a lock system consisting of four locks in beautiful surroundings. In 1822 the western section of the Göta Canal was inaugurated here. The ship berths for the night, close to what used to be the home of the Canal Engineer.

Day 5

- 06.00 Dep. Hajstorp** If you are an "early bird" you can take a wonderful morning walk from Hajstorp to Godhøgen, app. 1.5 km.
- 09.30-11.40 Sjötorp** At Sjötorp there is 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.
- 11.40- 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.
- 15.30-17.30 Läckö Castle** 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.
- 22.20 Arr. Vänersborg** Overnight stop.

Day 6

- 06.45 Dep. Vänersborg**
- 07.30-07.40 Brinkebergskulle** Brinkebergskulle lock is just past the town of Vänersborg. The oldest lock from 1752 can be seen beside the modern lock from 1916.
- 08.45-10.15 Trollhättan** 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 idyllic lock area with the old locks from the 19th century.
- 10.15-11.15 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.
- 12.25-12.40 Lilla Edet** Ströms lock at Lilla Edet was built in 1916 and is the last lock on our journey. The original lock was opened in 1607 and was the first lock in Sweden.
- 16.00 Arr. Gothenburg** Our cruise ends at Packhuskajen 10, near the spectacular Opera House and the Maritime Centre in Gothenburg.