



# GRAND SWEDEN CRUISE, 6 DAYS

## Gothenburg – Stockholm 2023

### Day 1

10.00	Dep. Gothenburg	Our cruise begins at Packhuskajen 10, where the old Customs House (Stora Tullhuset) from 1867 is located. Nowadays the Casino Cosmopol is found in this building.
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. It was destroyed during the wars with the Danes, but was rebuilt in 1784.
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>	We visit the Trollhättan Canal Museum, which is located in a storehouse from 1893. Learn more about the fascinating history of the Trollhätte Canal through the exhibition and film shown here. You can also join the tour guide on a walk through the idyllic and scenic park with the lock staircases from 1800 and 1844.
20.45	Arr. Vänersborg	Brinkebergskulle lock is just before the town of 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	Lake Vänern is Sweden's largest lake, and it is located 44 metres above sea level. This is 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). Approx. 1 km walk.
15.10 - 17.30	<u>Sjötorp</u>	Here we enter the first of the 58 narrow locks in the Göta Canal. 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.
19.50 - 21.30	Godhøgen-Hajstorp övre	We pass a lock system consisting of four locks in beautiful surroundings. In 1822 the western section of the Göta Canal was inaugurated at Hajstorp by King Karl XIV Johan.
21.30	Arr. Hajstorp	Our ship docks for the night at Hajstorp, close to what used to be the Canal Engineer's home, now privately owned. The old smithy is also found here.

### Day 3

06.00	Dep. Hajstorp	
07.00	Töreboda	The railway line between Gothenburg and Stockholm crosses the canal here. Töreboda proudly presents Sweden's smallest ferry, "Lina", which travels back and forth across the Göta Canal.
09.00	Berg Canal	The Berg Canal was excavated in 1931-33 to straighten a sharp bend in the canal and was partly blasted into the living rock.
09.30	The Obelisk	At Lanthöjden 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. The lock was built in 1814 and has a change in level of 0.2 metres.
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	Spetsnäs Canal/ Billströmmen	We steer through two narrow, wood-lined passages and small lakes full of water lilies. The Spetsnäs Canal is a blasted shortcut in Lake Viken and was inaugurated in 1824.
12.15 - 12.30	Forsvik	Forsvik is one of Sweden's most interesting industrial communities. For six hundred years, iron was worked, boards were sawn and flour was milled here. 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 on the initiative of Baltzar von Platen.
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 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. <u>Motala</u>	It was Baltzar von Platen who drew up the plans for Motala, and it is called “the Capital of the Göta Canal”. In 1822 an engineering works, Motala Verkstad, 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 its 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.
<b>Day 4</b>		
08.00	Dep. Motala	Here you can enjoy a beautiful morning walk from Motala to Borensult, approx. 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. It took three years to build the locks, which were completed in 1825. Here you might hear the nightingale sing.
09.40 - 10.40	Lake Boren	Our boat slowly traverses Lake Boren, 73 metres above sea level. The lake unites Borensult and Borensberg.
10.40 - 10.50	Borensberg	In the idyllic village Borensberg there is a hand-operated lock with a change in level of 0.2 metres. Shortly after the lock we see the well-known Göta Hotel, built in 1908. Just past the hotel there is a lovely octagonal gazebo leaning out over a sharp bend in the canal, known as the “Helmsman’s Horror”.
11.10	Kungs Norrby, aqueduct	Two aqueducts have been built in the Göta Canal. The aqueduct at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 to facilitate the accessibility of the national route 34, which we pass over.
14.20	Ljungsbro, aqueduct	The second aqueduct on our journey is found at Ljungsbro. This one was built in 1970.
14.40	<u>Berg</u> (Heda)	We start our descent down 40 metres in the lock system of Berg (15 locks) towards Lake Roxen. The tour guide takes us on a walk (approx. 3 km) to see the Vreta Kloster 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	Lake Roxen is located 33 metres above sea level, and has a rich fish and birdlife.
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 between Stockholm and 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. The lock gets its name from the fact that the canal is sandwiched between high hills. Take the opportunity to enjoy the total stillness.
<b>Day 5</b>		
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 walk all the way to Söderköping, approx. 4 km.
10.35 - 12.45	<u>Söderköping</u>	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	The lock at Mem was built in 1831-1832 and was the last lock to be built in the canal. On 26 <sup>th</sup> September 1832, the Göta Canal was inaugurated here amid great pomp and circumstance in the presence of King Karl XIV Johan and his family. Passing through the last narrow lock before Slåtbaken, an inlet of the Baltic, we leave the Göta Canal.
14.15 -	The Baltic Sea	We cross open water for a short bit and then weave through the archipelago.
15.10 - 16.10	<u>Stegeborg</u>	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.
<b>Day 6</b>		
04.40	Dep. Sävsundet	
08.40 - 08.50	Södertälje	The present lock in Södertälje was inaugurated in 1924 by King Gustav V. The lock is 135 metres long and 19.6 metres wide, which makes it Scandinavia’s largest lock.
08.50 - 15.15	Lake Mälaren	Lake Mälaren is located 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	<u>Birka</u>	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 (approx. 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 by commission of Queen Hedvig Eleonora. 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 Palace 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 historic Old Town of Stockholm.