



GÖTA CANAL HIGHLIGHTS, 3 DAYS

A cruise along the most beautiful parts of the Göta Canal

Mariestad – Norsholm 2024

Day 1

09.00		The bus departs from Gothenburg by the Clarion Hotel Post (Drottningtorget Square, across the street from the Central Station). Please note that the bus transfer from Gothenburg to Mariestad must be booked in advance.
11.30	Dep. Mariestad	Our cruise begins on the shore of Lake Vänern, in the town of Mariestad. The old part of Mariestad is one of Sweden's most well-preserved wooden towns. The church tower is an impressive sight from the lake and on land.
11.30 - 13.00	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. Here, there are more than 22 000 islands, islets and skerries.
13.00 - 15.20	Sjötorp	Now 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.
17.40 - 19.20	<u>Godhögen– Hajstorp övre</u>	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. The Canal Engineer's home, now privately owned and the old smithy are found here. Take the opportunity to join the tour guide on a guided walk along the locks.
20.20	Töreboda	The railway line between Gothenburg and Stockholm crosses the canal here. Lina, Sweden's smallest regular ferry, operates across the Göta Canal in Töreboda. The short journey takes 20-25 seconds.
22.15	Arr. Vassbacken	We dock for the night at Vassbacken. When the western section of the Göta Canal was inaugurated, Vassbacken became a junction where the canal met the old country road. During 1830–1864 there was a postal station with the name of Vassbacken, and today this is a small museum.

Day 2

06.45	Dep. Vassbacken	
07.00	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.
07.15	The Obelisk	At Lanthöjden an obelisk marks the highest point (91.5 metres above sea level) of the Göta Canal.
07.40 - 07.50	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.
07.50 - 09.55	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.
08.55 - 09.55	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.
09.55 - 10.15	Forsvik lock	The lock at Forsvik, 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!
10.15 - 12.15	<u>Forsviks Bruk</u>	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. Historical buildings

		used for fine metalwork, a foundry and a wood pulp mill are found in this beautiful and unique environment. Informative displays tell about metalworking, engineering and life in this industrial community. Here we get to enjoy an interesting guided tour.
13.00	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.
13.00 - 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.
15.15 - 17.15	<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.
18.15 - 18.55	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. It took three years to build the locks, which were completed in 1825. Here you might hear the nightingale sing.
18.55 - 19.55	Lake Boren	Our boat slowly traverses Lake Boren, 73 metres above sea level. The lake unites Borensnult and Borensberg.
20.00	Arr. Borensberg	We dock for the night in the idyllic village Borensberg, where there is a hand-operated lock with a change in level of 0.2 metres.
Day 3		
05.00 - 05.10	Dep. Borensberg	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".
05.30	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.
08.40	Ljungsbro, aqueduct	The second aqueduct on our journey is found at Ljungsbro. This one was built in 1970.
09.00	<u>Berg</u> (Heda)	We start our descent down 40 metres in the lock system of Berg (15 locks) towards Lake Roxen. Join the tour guide for a guided tour of the ruins of the Vreta convent and the church (approx. 3 km). You can also walk along the canal on your own, or take a refreshing dip 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. In the Middle Ages it was a parish and convent church, and it is still an active parish church. It is therefore not always open to visitors.
10.20 - 11.20	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. We board the ship again before steering out on the lake.
11.20 - 13.20	Lake Roxen	Lake Roxen is located 33 metres above sea level, and has a rich fish and birdlife.
13.30	Arr. 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. This is the end of our cruise.
16.00	Arr. Stockholm	The bus arrives in Stockholm by the Radisson Blu Royal Viking Hotel (Vasagatan 1, next to the Central Station and the City Terminal). Please note that the bus transfer from Norsholm to Stockholm must be booked in advance.

For information on other train and bus connections to Mariestad or from Norsholm, please visit www.sj.se/en/