



MINI CANAL CRUISE, 2 DAYS

Motala – Söderköping 2024

Day 1

11.30	Dep. Motala	Our cruise begins in Motala. 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 find the head office of the Göta Canal Company, responsible for its operation and maintenance. In Motala there is also a number of interesting museums, including the well-known Motala Motor Museum. We pass Baltzar von Platen's grave along the canal.
12.30 - 13.15	Borenshult	The lock staircase at Borenshult 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.
13.15 - 14.15	Lake Boren	Our boat slowly traverses Lake Boren, 73 metres above sea level. The lake unites Borenshult and Borensberg.
14.15 - 14.25	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".
14.25 - 17.55	Långkanalen ("Long Canal")	We travel 20 kms without passing any locks through the astonishing Östgöta scenery. We pass two aqueducts, eight bridges, Ljung Castle and Brunneby Manor.
14.45	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.
17.35	Ljungsbro, aqueduct	The second aqueduct on our journey is found at Ljungsbro. This one was built in 1970.
17.55	Berg (Heda)	We start our descent down 40 metres in the lock system of Berg (15 locks) towards Lake Roxen. Here you can stretch your legs between the locks, or walk along the canal to the Vreta Kloster church and the ruins of the convent. 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 Its importance was later superseded by the convent founded by Saint Bridget (St. Birgitta) at Vadstena.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.
19.30	Arr. Berg (the basin)	We dock for the night in the harbour basin between the locks of Oscar and Carl Johan. The evening offers the possibility to take a walk along the canal, or to go for an evening swim in Lake Roxen below the Carl Johan lock staircase.

Day 2

06.20	Dep. Berg (the basin)	We leave the harbour basin and continue our journey. Take the opportunity to go for a morning swim in Lake Roxen or walk along the canal while the ship goes down the locks. We board the ship again before steering out on the lake.
06.20 - 07.20	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.
07.20 - 10.40	Lake Roxen	Lake Roxen is located 33 metres above sea level, and has a rich fish and birdlife.
08.50 - 10.20	<u>Runstorp</u>	Runstorp is a manor house dating from Sweden's period of greatness. The owners Louise and Eddie Ugglå take us on a tour of their house with its Gustavian drawing room and interesting library, all while relating anecdotes from its history. Runstorp is not open to the public, which makes this an exclusive visit.
10.40 - 10.50	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.
12.30 - 13.00	Lake Asplången	Asplången is a long and narrow lake, located 27 metres above sea level.
14.15 - 15.30	Carlsborg-Mariehov-Duvkullen	There are eight locks in the short distance of around two kilometres. Take the opportunity to stretch your legs between the locks.
16.00	Arr. Söderköping	Our cruise ends in the idyllic town Söderköping. Founded in the early 13th century, Söderköping was one of Sweden's most important harbour towns in the Middle Ages. Kings and queens were crowned here and national meetings were held. Söderköping also has a long history as a spa, but is now also known for its ice cream parlours.