



GÖTA CANAL HIGHLIGHTS, 3 DAYS

A cruise along the most beautiful parts of the Göta Canal

Mariestad – Norsholm 2026

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 advance booking is required for the bus transfer from Gothenburg to Mariestad.
- 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 both from the lake and on land.
- 11.30 - 13.30 Lake Vänern Located 44 metres above sea level, Lake Vänern is Sweden's largest lake. It is the third largest lake in Europe, after the Ladoga and Onega lakes in Russia. There are more than 22 000 islands, islets and skerries here.
- 13.30 - 15.50 Sjötorp We are now entering the first of the Göta Canal's 58 narrow locks. At Sjötorp, there is a series of eight locks, as well as the remains of old shipyards.
- 18.10 - 19.50 Godhögen-
Hajstorp övre We pass through a lock system consisting of four locks in beautiful surroundings. The western section of the Göta Canal was inaugurated by King Karl XIV Johan at Hajstorp in 1822. The Canal Engineer's home, now privately owned, and the old smithy can be found here. Take this opportunity to join the tour guide on a walk along the locks.
- 20.50 Töreboda The railway line between Gothenburg and Stockholm crosses the canal here. Lina, Sweden's smallest regular ferry, operates on the Göta Canal in Töreboda. The short crossing takes just 20-25 seconds.
- 22.45 Arr. Vassbacken We dock for the night in Vassbacken. When the western section of the Göta Canal was inaugurated, Vassbacken became a junction where the canal met the old country road. Between 1830 and 1864, there was a postal station with the name Vassbacken, and today, it is a small museum.

Day 2

- 06.45 Dep. Vassbacken
- 07.00 Berg Canal The Berg Canal was excavated between 1931 and 1933 to straighten a sharp bend in the canal. Part of it was blasted into the living rock.
- 07.15 The Obelisk An obelisk at Lanthöjden marks the highest point of the Göta Canal, which is 91.5 metres above sea level.
- 07.40 - 07.50 Tåtorp One of the canal's two hand-operated locks is located at Tåtorp. Built in 1814, the lock has a level difference of 0.2 metres.
- 07.50 - 09.55 Lake Viken Beautiful Lake Viken, which sits 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 navigate two narrow, wood-lined passages and small lakes full of water lilies. The Spetsnäs Canal, a shortcut blasted through Lake Viken, was inaugurated in 1824.
- 09.55 - 10.15 Forsvik lock Built in 1813, the lock at Forsvik is the oldest in the canal. The impressive iron bridge dates from the same year. Sometimes, the Kindbom family, a religious group, welcome us with songs and flowers at the lock. From here on, we will be going downwards!
- 10.15 - 12.15 Forsviks Bruk Forsvik is one of Sweden's most interesting industrial communities. For six hundred years, iron has been worked here, boards have been sawn and flour has been milled. This beautiful and unique environment is home to historical buildings that were once used for fine metalwork, as well as a foundry and a wood pulp mill. Informative displays tell the

story of metalworking, engineering, and life in this industrial community. The option of an interesting guided tour or a stroll around on your own is available.

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| 13.00 | Karlsborg | Before heading out onto Lake Vättern, we pass the town of Karlsborg. From the ship, we can see the roof of the fortress, which was built between 1819 and 1909 on the initiative of Baltzar von Platen. In the event of war, the fortress was intended to serve as Sweden's reserve capital. |
| 13.00 - 15.15 | 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. It 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, known as 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. The Göta Canal Company, responsible for operating and maintaining the canal, has its head office here. We visit the Motala Motor Museum, which has a large exhibition of antique cars and motorcycles displayed in authentic settings, as well as a collection of radios, toys and household appliances. You can also walk to Baltzar von Platen's grave, which is located about 1 km along the left side of the canal. |
| 18.15 - 18.55 | Borenhult | The lock staircase at Borenhult is the second longest in the canal. It consists of five connected locks and has a total rise of 15.3 metres. Construction of the locks took three years and was completed in 1825. If you are lucky, you might hear a nightingale singing here! |
| 18.55 - 19.55 | Lake Boren | Our ship slowly crosses Lake Boren, which is 73 metres above sea level. The lake connects Borenhult and Borensberg. |
| 20.00 | Arr. Borensberg | We dock for the night in the idyllic village of Borensberg, where there is a hand-operated lock with a level change of 0.2 metres. |
| Day 3 | | |
| 05.00 - 05.10 | Dep. Borensberg | Shortly after the lock we see the well-known Göta Hotel, which was built in 1908. Just beyond the hotel there is an octagonal gazebo jutting 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 improve access to the national route 34, which we pass over. |
| 08.40 | Ljungsbro, aqueduct | The second aqueduct on our journey is located in Ljungsbro and was built in 1970. |
| 09.00 | <u>Berg</u> (Heda) | We begin our descent through the 15 locks of the Berg lock system, which takes us 40 metres down towards Lake Roxen. Join the tour guide for a tour of the Vreta convent ruins and church (approx. 3 km). Alternatively, you can walk along the canal at your own pace or take a refreshing dip in Lake Roxen. Dating from around 1100, the convent of Vreta was the first nunnery in Sweden. Its importance was later superseded by the convent founded by Saint Bridget (St. Birgitta) in Vadstena. The old convent church at Vreta is one of Sweden's most interesting, housing many medieval treasures. In the Middle Ages, it served as both a parish and a convent church, and it remains an active parish church to this day. For this reason, it is not always open to visitors. |
| 10.20 - 11.20 | Berg (Carl Johan) | The Carl Johan lock staircase is the longest in the canal, consisting of seven connected locks. It lowers the ship 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, which is located 33 metres above sea level, is home to a rich variety of fish and birdlife. |
| 13.30 | Arr. Norsholm lock | The lock in Norsholm regulates the water level of Lake Roxen. The main railway line between Stockholm and Malmö crosses the Göta Canal here. 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 advance booking is required for the bus transfer from Norsholm to Stockholm. |

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