



GÖTA CANAL HIGHLIGHTS, 3 DAYS

A cruise along the most beautiful parts of the Göta Canal

Norsholm – Mariestad 2026

Day 1

09.00		The bus departs from Stockholm by the Radisson Blu Royal Viking Hotel (Vasagatan 1, next to the Stockholm Central Station and the City Terminal). Please note that advance booking is required for the bus transfer from Stockholm to Norsholm.
11.30	Dep. Norsholm	Our cruise begins in Norsholm. The lock in Norsholm regulates the water level of Lake Roxen. The main railway line between Stockholm and Malmö crosses the Göta Canal here.
11.30 - 14.00	Lake Roxen	Lake Roxen, which is located 33 metres above sea level, is home to a rich variety of fish and birdlife.
14.00 - 15.00	<u>Berg</u> (Carl Johan)	The Carl Johan lock staircase is the longest in the canal, consisting of seven connected locks. It raises the ship 18.8 metres from Lake Roxen to the Berg guest harbour. 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 Its importance was later superseded by the convent founded by Saint Bridget (St. Birgitta) in Vadstena.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.
16.40	Berg (Heda)	The ship has passed through all 15 locks in the Berg lock system. It is now time to board for departure.
17.00	Ljungsbro, aqueduct	Two aqueducts have been built in the Göta Canal. The aqueduct at Ljungsbro was built in 1970.
20.10	Kungs Norrby, aqueduct	The second aqueduct on our journey is located at Kungs Norrby. It was built in 1993 to improve access to the national route 34, which we pass over.
20.30 - 20.40	Borensberg	The idyllic village of Borensberg is home to a hand-operated lock with a level change of 0.2 metres. Shortly before the lock we pass an octagonal gazebo jutting out over the canal in a sharp bend, known as the "Helmsman's Horror". After that we see the well-known Göta Hotel, which was built in 1908.
20.50	Arr. Borensberg	We dock in Borensberg for the night.

Day 2

06.20	Dep. Borensberg	
06.20 - 07.20	Lake Boren	Our ship slowly crosses Lake Boren, which is 73 metres above sea level. The lake connects Borensberg and Borenschult.
07.20 - 08.00	Borenschult	The lock staircase at Borenschult 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!
09.00 - 10.30	<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.

10.30 - 12.40	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.
12.40	Karlsborg	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.
13.40 - 15.30	<u>Forsviks Bruk</u>	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.
15.30 - 15.50	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.
15.50 - 16.50	Billströmmen/ Spetsnäs Canal	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.
15.50 - 18.00	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.
18.00 - 18.10	Tåtorp	There is a hand-operated lock at Tåtorp. Built in 1814, the lock has a level difference of 0.2 metres.
18.30	Berg Canal The Obelisk	The Berg Canal was excavated between 1931 and 1933 to straighten a sharp bend in the canal. Part of it was partly blasted into the living rock. An obelisk at Lanthöjden marks the highest point of the Göta Canal, which is 91.5 metres above sea level.
21.00	Töreboda	The railway line between Stockholm and Gothenburg 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.
22.00	Arr. Hajstorp	There is a lock system consisting of four locks in beautiful surroundings at Hajstorp. 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. We dock in Hajstorp for the night.
Day3		
06.00	Dep. Hajstorp	
06.00 - 07.30	Hajstorp - Godhøgen	If you are an early riser, you can enjoy a wonderful morning walk from Hajstorp to Godhøgen, which is approx. 1.5 km long.
09.50 - 12.00	<u>Sjötorp</u>	At Sjötorp, there is a series of eight locks, as well as the remains of some old shipyards. We visit the Canal Museum in the old harbour warehouse. Here, you can learn about the exciting history of the Göta Canal and the bygone era of ships on the canal, Lake Vänern and Lake Vättern. The same building also houses a shop selling home decor, clothes and other items, as well as a café. Make the most of the opportunity to enjoy a lovely walk along the canal.
12.00 - 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	Arr. Mariestad	Our cruise ends 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.
16.00	Arr. Gothenburg	The bus arrives in 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 Mariestad to Gothenburg.

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