



GRAND SWEDEN CRUISE, 6 DAYS

Stockholm – Gothenburg 2026

Day 1

10.00	Dep. Stockholm	Our cruise begins at Skeppsbrokajen 103, which is located in the historic Old Town of Stockholm.
10.30 - 10.45	Hammarby lock	The lock in Hammarby, inaugurated in 1930, is the first lock on our journey and delivers us from Saltsjön into Lake Mälaren.
10.45 - 17.10	Lake Mälaren	Lake Mälaren is located 0.3 metres above sea level. During the Viking Age, the third largest lake in Sweden was actually part of the Baltic Sea. There are two UNESCO World Heritage Sites by Lake Mälaren: Drottningholm Palace and Birka, the Viking City.
11.30	Drottningholm Palace	Drottningholm Palace was designed by Nicodemus Tessin the Elder based on French models and built for Queen Hedvig Eleonora. It is Sweden's best-preserved 17 th century royal palace. Since 1981, it has been the official residence of Their Majesties the King and Queen. We will pass the Palace if time permits.
13.45 - 15.45	<u>Birka</u>	Birka, a Viking town on the island of Björkö, is often regarded as Sweden's first town. Merchants and craftsmen travelled there with goods from Europe and beyond. Birka was in use for around 200 years and was abandoned before the year 1000. There will be a guided tour (approx. 3 km, uneven terrain) and a visit to the Viking Museum.
17.10 - 17.20	Södertälje	The lock in Södertälje is 135 metres long and 19.6 metres wide. This makes it the largest lock in Scandinavia. It was inaugurated in 1924 by King Gustav V.
17.20 -	The Baltic Sea	We pass through the archipelago of Södermanland and St Anna.

Day 2

01.30	Arr. Stegeborg	Overnight stop.
09.00 - 10.00	<u>Stegeborg</u>	The ruins of Stegeborg Castle are beautifully situated on a small island, overlooking Slätbaken Bay. Built in the early Middle Ages, Stegeborg was the "lock and key" to the Östergötland region for several hundred years. It remained a royal castle until the end of the 17 th century. We will get an interesting guided tour of the castle ruins and herb garden, where the terrain is somewhat uneven.
11.00 - 11.10	Mem	The lock at Mem was built between 1831 and 1832, making it the last lock to be constructed in the canal. The Göta Canal was inaugurated here on 26 th September 1832 amid great pomp and circumstance, in the presence of King Karl XIV Johan. We enter the Göta Canal via the first of its 58 narrow locks.
13.00 - 14.45	<u>Söderköping</u>	The picturesque town of Söderköping was founded in the early 13 th century. It was one of the most important harbour towns in Sweden during the Middle Ages. Kings and queens were crowned here and national meetings were held. Söderköping also has a long history as a spa and is now also renowned for its ice cream parlours. Söderköping is yours to explore on your own.
15.15 - 16.30	Duvkullen– Mariehov–Carls- borg	There are eight locks within a distance of around two kilometres. Make the most of the opportunity to stretch your legs between the locks.
18.00 - 18.40	Lake Asplången	Asplången is a long and narrow lake, which is located 27 metres above sea level.
20.10 - 20.20	Norsholm lock	The lock in Norsholm regulates the water level of Lake Roxen. The main railway line between Stockholm and Malmö crosses the canal here.
20.20 - 22.20	Lake Roxen	Lake Roxen, which is located 33 metres above sea level, is home to a rich variety of fish and birdlife.
22.20	Arr. Berg (Carl Johan)	The Carl Johan lock staircase is the longest in the canal, consisting of seven connected locks. It raises the boat 18.8 metres from Lake Roxen to the Berg guest harbour. We dock for the night at the bottom lock.

Day 3

09.00	Dep. <u>Berg</u> (Carl Johan)	Join the tour guide for a tour of the Vreta convent ruins and church (approximately 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 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.
11.40	Berg (Heda)	The ship has passed through all 15 locks in the Berg lock system. It is now time to board for departure.
12.00	Ljungsbro, aqueduct	Two aqueducts have been built in the Göta Canal. The aqueduct in Ljungsbro was built in 1970.
15.10	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.
15.30 - 15.40	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.

15.40 - 16.40	Lake Boren	Our ship slowly crosses Lake Boren, 73 metres above sea level. The lake connects Borensberg and Borenschult.
16.40 - 17.20	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!
18.20	Arr. <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, located about 1 km along the left side of the canal. Overnight stop.

Day 4

07.30	Dep. Motala	We leave Motala and head out onto Lake Vättern.
07.30 - 13.45	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.
09.00 - 12.00	<u>Vadstena</u>	Today, Vadstena is an idyllic little town. It evolved around the 14th century convent of St. Bridget (St. Birgitta), becoming a spiritual, cultural and commercial centre. The abbey was built according to St. Bridget's designs and consecrated in 1430. The castle was built in the 1540s by King Gustav Vasa. Local guides will meet us and take us on a sightseeing train to visit the abbey and the castle. You will also have time to explore the town at your own pace or go for a swim in the lake.
13.45	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.
14.40 - 14.55	Forsvik	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. 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.
14.55 - 16.05	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.
14.55 - 17.00	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.
17.00 - 17.10	Tätorp	There is a hand-operated lock at Tätorp. Built in 1814, the lock has a level difference of 0.2 metres.
17.30	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.
	The Obelisk	An obelisk at Lanthöjden marks the highest point of the Göta Canal, 91.5 metres above sea level.
20.10	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.
21.30	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 ship berths for the night, close to what used to be the Canal Engineer's home, now privately owned. The old smithy can also be found here.

Day 5

06.00	Dep. Hajstorp	If you're an early riser, you can enjoy a wonderful 1.5 km walk from Hajstorp to Godhøgen.
09.30 - 11.40	<u>Sjötorp</u>	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 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 décor, clothes and other items, as well as a café. Make the most of the opportunity to enjoy a lovely walk along the canal.
11.40 -	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.
15.30 - 17.30	<u>Läckö Castle</u>	Läckö Castle is situated on a promontory in Lake Vänern. Originally built as a fortified bishop's castle in 1298, it was transformed into a Baroque castle in the mid-17 th century. We are given a guided tour of the castle and its exhibitions, which involves climbing lots of stairs. The walk is about 1 km long.
22.20	Arr. Vänersborg	Overnight stop.

Day 6

06.30	Dep. Vänersborg	
07.15 - 07.25	Brinkebergskulle	The Brinkebergskulle lock is located just before the town of Vänersborg. The oldest lock, dating back to 1752, can be seen beside the newer lock, which was built in 1916.
08.30 - 10.00	<u>Trollhättan</u>	We visit the Trollhättan Canal Museum, housed in a 1893 storehouse. Learn about the fascinating history of the Trollhätte Canal through the exhibition and film shown here. You can also join the tour guide for a walk through the idyllic and scenic park with the lock staircases from 1800 and 1844.
10.00 - 11.00	Trollhättan, locks	The impressive lock staircase at Trollhättan has four locks and a total drop of 32 metres. Only the largest of the three parallel lock systems, built in 1916, is still in use.
12.25 - 12.40	Lilla Edet	Ströms lock at Lilla Edet, built in 1916, is the first lock on our journey. The original lock, which was the first in Sweden, was opened in 1607. It was destroyed during the wars with Denmark, but was rebuilt in 1784.
16.00	Arr. Gothenburg	Our cruise ends at Packhuskajen 10, where the Old Customs House (Stora Tullhuset) from 1867 is located.