

CLASSIC CANAL CRUISE

GOTHENBURG – STOCKHOLM 2018

Day 1

09.00 Dep. Gothenburg

Our cruise begins at Packhuskajen 10 in Gothenburg.

13.15-13.30 Lilla Edet

Ströms lock at Lilla Edet was built in 1916 and is the first lock on our journey. The original lock was opened in 1607 and was the first lock in Sweden.

14.45-15.45 Trollhättan locks

The impressive lock staircase at Trollhättan consists of four locks, and has a total drop of 32 metres. Of the three parallel lock systems here, only the biggest one (from 1916) is still in use.

15.45-17.15 Trollhättan

The Trollhättan Canal Museum is located in a storehouse from 1893. Learn more about the fascinating history of the Trollhätte Canal through the interesting exhibition and film shown here. You can also take a walk through the idyllic lock area with the old locks from the 19th century.

18.30-18.40 Brinkebergskulle

The Brinkebergskulle lock is just before Vänersborg, which is the last town before we head out into Lake Vänern. The oldest lock from 1752 can be seen beside the modern lock from 1916.

19.15-03.10 Lake Vänern

44 metres above sea level. Lake Vänern is Sweden's largest lake and the third largest lake in Europe, after the Ladoga and Onega lakes in Russia.

23.30 Läckö Castle

Our ship passes Läckö Castle, which is situated on a promontory in Lake Vänern. It was built as a fortified bishop's castle in 1298 and during the mid-17th century, the castle was transformed into Baroque style.

Day 2

03.10-05.20 Sjötorp

Here we enter the first of the 58 narrow locks on the Göta Canal. At Sjötorp we have a set of eight locks and also the remains of some old shipyards.

07.40-09.20 Godhögen–Hajstorp övre

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.

07.40-08.00 Godhögen–Riksberg

For "early birds" walking is possible from Godhögen to Riksberg, app. 1 km.

10.20 Töreboda

The railway line between Stockholm and Gothenburg crosses the canal here. Töreboda also proudly presents Sweden's smallest ferry, "Lina", which travels back and forth across the Göta Canal.

12.20 The Berg Canal

This part of the canal is called the Berg Canal and originally had a sharp bend which was straightened in 1930-33.

12.50 The Obelisk

An obelisk marks the highest point (91.5 metres above sea level) of the Göta Canal.

13.20-13.30 Tåtorp

One of the canal's two hand-operated locks is found at Tåtorp.

13.30-15.35 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.

14.35-15.35 The Spetsnäs Canal/Billströmmen

We steer through two narrow, wood-lined passages and small lakes full of water lilies.

15.35-15.50 Forsvik

Forsvik has a very interesting industrial history. The lock, 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!

16.35-18.45 Karlsborg Fortress

We visit Karlsborg Fortress, initiated by Baltzar von Platen and built 1819-1909. The fortress was intended to be used as the reserve capital of Sweden and house the royal family, the government, the gold reserves and the crown jewels in the event of war. Here you can enjoy an interesting guided tour of the fortress and the beautiful Garrison Church.

18.45-21.00 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.

21.00 Arr. Motala

It was Baltzar von Platen who drew up the plans for Motala, and today it is called "the Capital of the Göta Canal". In 1822 an engineering works, Motala Werkstad, 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 operation and maintenance. You can walk to see Baltzar von Platen's grave, about 1 km along the left side of the canal. Overnight stop.

Day 3

04.00 Dep. Motala

05.00-05.40 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. Here you might hear the nightingale sing.

05.40-06.40 Lake Boren

Our boat slowly traverses Lake Boren, 73 metres above sea level.

06.40-06.50 Borensberg

In the idyllic village Borensberg there is a hand-operated lock, after which we see the well-known Göta Hotel from 1908. Just past the hotel there is a small gazebo leaning out over a sharp bend in the canal, known as the "Helmsman's Horror".

07.10 Kungs Norrby, aqueduct

The aqueduct at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 and leads over the national route 36.

10.20 Ljungsbro, aqueduct

We pass the second aqueduct on our journey. This one was built in 1970.

10.40 Berg (Heda)

We start our descent in the lock system of Berg (15 locks) towards Lake Roxen. The tour guide takes us on a walk (app. 3 km) to see the church and the remains of the convent. As an alternative you can walk along the canal or take a refreshing swim 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. Today, it is used as a parish church and is therefore not always open to visitors.

12.00-13.00 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. Here we board the ship again before steering out on the lake.

13.00-15.00 Lake Roxen 33 metres above sea level.

15.00-15.10 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.

16.40-17.20 Lake Asplängen

27 metres above sea level.

18.45-20.00 Carlsborg–Mariehov–Duvkullen

At the lock Carlsborg Övre we have the first of the eight locks taking us down to Söderköping.

20.30-21.30 Söderköping

The idyllic town Söderköping was founded in the early 1200s and was very important during the Hanseatic period. The town also has a long and interesting history as a spa. Söderköping is yours to explore on your own.

22.50-23.00 Mem

Passing through the last narrow lock before Slätbaken, an inlet of the Baltic, we leave the canal. On 26th Sept. 1832, the Göta Canal was inaugurated at Mem amid great pomp and circumstance in the presence of King Karl XIV Johan and his family.

23.00-08.40 The Baltic Sea

We cross open water for a short bit and then weave through the archipelago in the early morning light.

Day 4

08.40-08.50 Södertälje

The present lock in Södertälje was inaugurated in 1924 by His Majesty King Gustav V. The lock is 135 metres long, which makes it Scandinavia's largest lock.

08.50-15.15 Lake Mälaren

0.3 metres above sea level. In the Viking Age, Sweden's third largest lake was not a lake, it was a part of the Baltic Sea. There are two UNESCO World Heritage Sites by Lake Mälaren – Drottningholm Palace and Birka, the Viking City.

10.15-12.15 Birka

The Viking community of Birka on the island of Björkö is often regarded as Sweden's first town. The town was then an important harbour for international shipping and trade. It was in use for about 250 years and was abandoned before the year 1000. There will be a guided tour around on the island (app. 3 km, uneven terrain), and we also visit the Viking museum.

14.15 Drottningholm Palace

Influenced by French prototype, the Drottningholm Palace was built by architect Nicodemus Tessin the Elder. It is the most well-preserved royal castle built in the 1600s in Sweden. Since 1981 the Palace is Their Majesties the King and Queen's residence. We pass the castle if time admits.

15.15-15.30 Hammarby lock

The lock, inaugurated in 1930, is the final lock on our journey and delivers us from Lake Mälaren into Saltsjön.

16.00 Arr. Stockholm

Our cruise ends at Skeppsbrogajen 103 in the Old Town of Stockholm.

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12.50- The Baltic Sea

We pass through the archipelago of Södermanland and St Anna.

16.00-18.00 Trosa

The small town of Trosa dates all the way back to the 14th century. It was then known as a fishermen's village. Regular steamer traffic from Stockholm and Nyköping began in 1860, bringing large numbers of summer visitors. Enjoy a walk around the canals and alleys of Trosa (app. 2.5 km).

Day 2

00.15 Stegeborg

The ruins of the Stegeborg Castle are beautifully situated on a small island overlooking the bay of Slätbaken. The fort dates from the early Middle Ages and was built to guard the inlet to Söderköping.

01.30-03.15 Mem

On 26th Sept. 1832, the Göta Canal was inaugurated at Mem amid great pomp and circumstance in the presence of King Karl XIV Johan and his family. We now go through the first of the 58 narrow locks on the canal.

04.55-05.05 Söderköping lock

The idyllic town Söderköping was founded in the early 1200s and was very important during the Hanseatic period. The town also has a long and very interesting history as a spa.

05.50-07.05 Duvkullen-Mariehov-Carlsborg

There are eight locks in the short distance of around two kilometres. Take the opportunity to stretch your legs between the locks.

08.35-09.15 Lake Asplängen

27 metres above sea level.

10.45-10.55 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.

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15.35 Berg (Heda)

The ship has passed all 15 locks in the Berg lock system. It is time to board for departure.

15.55 Ljungsbro, aqueduct

We pass the first of two aqueducts in the canal. The Ljungsbro aqueduct was built in 1970.

19.05 Kungs Norrby, aqueduct

The aqueduct at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 as part of the national route 36.

19.25-19.35 Borensberg

In the idyllic village Borensberg there is a hand-operated lock. Shortly before the lock we pass a small gazebo leaning over the canal in a sharp bend known as the "Helmsman's Horror", and after that we see the well-known Göta Hotel, built in 1908.

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11.10-12.20 Billströmmen/the Spetsnäs Canal

Through two narrow, wood-lined passages and small lakes full of water lilies, we steer out into Lake Viken.

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The Obelisk An obelisk marks the highest point (91.5 metres above sea level) of the Göta Canal.

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17.25-17.50 Hajstorp

At Hajstorp there is a lock system consisting of four locks in beautiful surroundings. In 1822 the western section of the Göta Canal was inaugurated at Hajstorp. Here you can see the old home of the Canal Engineer. If you want to stretch your legs this is a good place, Hajstorp to Godhögen lock is app. 1.5 km.

21.25-23.30 Sjötorp

At Sjötorp there is a set of eight locks, and also the remains of some old shipyards. We visit the old warehouse, where you can find a shop selling, among other things, clothes and home décor; a café and the Sjötorp Canal Museum. In the museum you can see old pictures of Sjötorp, the interiors of several old ships, and also learn more about the building of the canal. There is also a map of all the sunken ships in the Lake Vänern. Enjoy a lovely walk along the locks.

23.30-06.40 Lake Vänern

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Day 4

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16.00 Arr. Gothenburg

Our cruise ends at Packhuskajen 10, near the spectacular Opera House and the Maritime Centre in Gothenburg.