



GREAT CANAL CRUISE, 4 DAYS

Stockholm/Söderköping – Gothenburg 2016

Day 1

Optional bus transfer from Stockholm to Söderköping (to be booked in advance).

09.00		The bus departs from Stockholm, Radisson Blu Royal Viking Hotel, Vasagatan 1 (next to the Central Station and the City Terminal) at 09.00.
11.30	Dep. Söderköping	Departure from Söderköping (next to the 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.
12.00 - 13.15	Duvkullen–Mariehov–Carlsborg	From Söderköping to the lock Carlsborg Övre there are eight locks on a stretch of app. 4 km.
14.45 - 15.25	Lake Asplängen	27 metres above sea level.
16.55 - 17.05	Norsholm lock	Here the canal crosses the main railway line between Stockholm and Malmö.
17.05 - 19.05	Lake Roxen	33 metres above sea level.
19.05 - 20.05	Berg (Carl-Johan)	The Carl-Johan lock staircase is the longest in the canal with seven connected locks.
21.45	Berg (Heda)	The ship has passed all 15 locks in the Berg lock system.
22.05	Ljungsbro, aqueduct	We pass the first of two aqueducts in the canal. The Ljungsbro aqueduct was built in 1970.
22.25	Ljungsbro	Overnight stop.

Day 2

06.00	Dep. Ljungsbro	
09.00	Kungs Norrby, aqueduct	The aqueduct at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 as part of the national route 36.
09.20 - 09.30	Borensberg	At Borensberg there is a hand-operated lock. Shortly before the lock we pass a small gazebo leaning out 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.
09.30 - 10.30	Lake Boren	73 metres above sea level.
10.30 - 11.10	Borenhult	Lock staircase of five locks where you might hear the nightingale sing.
12.10 - 13.15	<u>Motala</u>	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 Göta 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. Motala is yours to explore on your own.
13.15 - 15.15	Lake Vättern	89 metres above sea level. Lake Vättern is Sweden’s second largest lake.
15.15	Karlsborg Fortress	We pass Karlsborg and will be able to see the roof of the fortress, which was built in 1819-1909.
16.10 - 16.25	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.
16.25 - 17.35	Billströmmen/ the Spetsnäs Canal	Through two narrow, wood-lined passages and small lakes full of water lilies, we steer out into Lake Viken.

16.25 - 18.35	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.
18.35 - 18.45	Tåtorp	At Tåtorp there is another hand-operated lock. From here on we will be going downwards!
19.05	The Berg Canal The Obelisk	This part of the canal is called the Berg Canal and originally had a sharp bend which was straightened in 1930-33. An obelisk marks the highest point (91.5 metres above sea level) of the Göta Canal.
21.45	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.
23.05	Arr. Hajstorp	A lock system consisting of four locks. In 1822 the western section of the Göta Canal was inaugurated at Hajstorp. The ship berths for the night, close to what used to be the home of the Canal Engineer. Overnight stop.
Day 3		
06.00	Dep. Hajstorp	If you are an "early bird" you can take a wonderful morning walk from Hajstorp to Godhögen (app. 1.5 km) or to Norrkvarn (app. 5 km).
07.40	Norrkvarn	All onboard!
09.30 - 11.30	Sjötorp	At Sjötorp there is a set of eight locks, and also the remains of some old shipyards. Here it is also possible to take a pleasant walk along the locks.
11.30 - 21.40	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.
15.10 - 17.10	<u>Läckö Castle</u>	Läckö Castle 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. We are given a guided tour of the castle and the exhibitions (lots of stairs). App. 1 km walk.
21.40	Arr. Vänersborg	Overnight stop.
Day 4		
06.45	Dep. Vänersborg	
08.45 - 10.15	<u>Trollhättan</u>	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 beautiful old lock area.
10.15 - 11.15	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.
12.25 - 12.40	Lilla Edet	Ströms lock at Lilla Edet was built in 1916 and is the last lock on our journey. The original lock was opened in 1607 and was the first lock in Sweden.
16.00	Arr. Gothenburg, Packhuskajen 10	Our cruise ends at Packhuskajen 10, near the spectacular Opera House and the Maritime Centre in Gothenburg.