



# GÖTA CANAL HIGHLIGHTS, 3 DAYS

## A cruise along the most beautiful parts of the Göta Canal

### Norsholm – Mariestad 2024

#### Day 1

|               |                          |  |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| 09.00         |                          | <p>The bus departs from Stockholm by the Radisson Blu Royal Viking Hotel (Vasagatan 1, next to the Stockholm Central Station and the City Terminal).</p> <p>Please note that the bus transfer from Stockholm to Norsholm must be booked in advance.</p>  |
| 11.30         | Dep. Norsholm            | Our cruise begins in Norsholm. The lock in Norsholm regulates the water level of Lake Roxen. Here the canal crosses the main railway line between Stockholm and Malmö.   |
| 11.30 - 13.30 | Lake Roxen               | Lake Roxen is located 33 metres above sea level, and has a rich fish and birdlife.   |
| 13.30 - 14.30 | <u>Berg</u> (Carl Johan) | <p>The Carl Johan lock staircase is the longest in the canal with seven connected locks. The lock staircase raises the boat 18.8 metres from Lake Roxen to the Berg guest harbour.</p> <p>Join the tour guide for a guided tour of the ruins of the Vreta convent and the church (approx. 3 km). You can also walk along the canal on your own, or take a refreshing dip in Lake Roxen.</p> <p>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 Its importance was later superseded by the convent founded by Saint Bridget (St. Birgitta) at Vadstena.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. In the Middle Ages it was a parish and convent church, and it is still an active parish church. It is therefore not always open to visitors.</p> |
| 16.10         | Berg (Heda)              | The ship has passed all 15 locks in the Berg lock system. It is time to board for departure.   |
| 16.30         | Ljungsbro, aqueduct      | Two aqueducts have been built in the Göta Canal. The aqueduct at Ljungsbro was built in 1970.  |
| 19.40         | Kungs Norrby, aqueduct   | The second aqueduct on our journey is found at Kungs Norrby. This one was built in 1993 to facilitate the accessibility of the national route 34, which we pass over.  |
| 20.00 - 20.10 | Borensberg               | In the idyllic village Borensberg there is a hand-operated lock with a change in level of 0.2 metres. Shortly before the lock we pass a lovely octagonal 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.  |
| 20.20         | Arr. Borensberg          | We dock for the night in Borensberg.   |

#### Day 2

|               |                 |   |
|---------------|-----------------|---|
| 06.20         | Dep. Borensberg |   |
| 06.20 - 07.20 | Lake Boren      | Our boat slowly traverses Lake Boren, 73 metres above sea level. The lake unites Borensberg and Borenschult.  |
| 07.20 - 08.00 | Borenschult     | The lock staircase at Borenschult is the second longest in the canal, with five locks connected and a total rise of 15.3 metres. It took three years to build the locks, which were completed in 1825. Here you might hear the nightingale sing.  |
| 09.00 - 10.30 | <u>Motala</u>   | It was Baltzar von Platen who drew up the plans for Motala, and it is called "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. Here you also find the head office of the Göta Canal Company, responsible for its operation and maintenance. We visit the Motala Motor Museum, with its large exhibition of antique cars and motorcycles in authentic surroundings, collection of radios, toys, household |

appliances and more. You can also walk to see Baltzar von Platen's grave, about 1 km along the left side of the canal.

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|---------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 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. The lake is unusually deep, and its water is very clear.   |
| 12.40         | Karlsborg                       | We pass Karlsborg and will be able to see the roof of the fortress, which was built in 1819-1909 on the initiative of Baltzar von Platen.   |
| 13.40 - 15.30 | <b><u>Forsviks Bruk</u></b>     | Forsvik is one of Sweden's most interesting industrial communities. For six hundred years, iron was worked, boards were sawn and flour was milled here. Historical buildings used for fine metalwork, a foundry and a wood pulp mill are found in this beautiful and unique environment. Informative displays tell about metalworking, engineering and life in this industrial community. Here we get to enjoy an interesting guided tour.                                      |
| 15.30 - 15.50 | Forsvik lock                    | The lock at Forsvik, 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.  |
| 15.50 - 16.50 | Billströmmen/<br>Spetsnäs Canal | Through two narrow, wood-lined passages and small lakes full of water lilies, we steer out into Lake Viken. The Spetsnäs Canal is a blasted shortcut in Lake Viken and was inaugurated in 1824.   |
| 15.50 - 18.00 | 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.   |
| 18.00 - 18.10 | Tåtorp                          | There is a hand-operated lock at Tåtorp. The lock was built in 1814 and has a change in level of 0.2 metres.  |
| 18.30         | Berg Canal<br>The Obelisk       | The Berg Canal was excavated in 1931-33 to straighten a sharp bend in the canal and was partly blasted into the living rock.<br>At Lanthöjden an obelisk marks the highest point (91.5 metres above sea level) of the Göta Canal.   |
| 21.00         | Töreboda                        | The railway line between Stockholm and Gothenburg crosses the canal here. Lina, Sweden's smallest regular ferry, operates across the Göta Canal in Töreboda. The short journey takes 20-25 seconds.   |
| 22.00         | Arr. Hajstorp                   | There is a lock system consisting of four locks in beautiful surroundings at Hajstorp. In 1822 the western section of the Göta Canal was inaugurated at Hajstorp by King Karl XIV Johan. The Canal Engineer's home, now privately owned and the old smithy are found here. Overnight stop.  |
| <b>Day3</b>   |                                 |   |
| 06.00         | Dep. Hajstorp                   |   |
| 06.00 - 07.30 | Hajstorp -<br>Godhögen          | If you are an "early bird" you can enjoy a wonderful morning walk from Hajstorp to Godhögen, approx. 1.5 km.  |
| 09.50 - 12.00 | <b><u>Sjötorp</u></b>           | At Sjötorp there is a set of eight locks and also the remains of some old shipyards. In the old harbour warehouse there is a Canal Museum, which we visit. Here, you can learn about the exciting history of the Göta Canal and bygone days of ships on the canal, Lake Vänern and Lake Vättern. In the same building there is also a shop selling, among other things, home décor and clothes, as well as a café. Take the opportunity to enjoy a lovely walk along the canal. |
| 12.00 - 13.30 | Lake Vänern                     | Lake Vänern is Sweden's largest lake, and it is located 44 metres above sea level. This is the third largest lake in Europe, after the Ladoga and Onega lakes in Russia. Here, there are more than 22 000 islands, islets and skerries.   |
| 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 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).<br><br>Please note that the bus transfer from Mariestad to Gothenburg must be booked in advance.  |

For information on other train and bus connections to Norsholm or from Mariestad, please visit [www.sj.se/en](http://www.sj.se/en)