



GRAND SWEDEN CRUISE, 6 DAYS

Stockholm – Gothenburg 2024

Day 1

10.00	Dep. Stockholm	Our cruise begins at Skeppsbrokanalen 103 in the historic Old Town of Stockholm.
10.30 - 10.45	Hammarby lock	The lock, inaugurated in 1930, is the first lock on our journey and delivers us from Saltsjön into Lake Mälaren.
10.45 - 13.30	Lake Mälaren	Lake Mälaren is located 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.
11.30	Drottningholm Palace	Drottningholm Palace was designed after French prototypes by the architect Nicodemus Tessin the Elder on commission by Queen Hedvig Eleonora. 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 Palace if time admits.
13.40 - 13.50	Södertälje	The present lock in Södertälje was inaugurated in 1924 by King Gustav V. The lock is 135 metres long and 19.6 metres wide, which makes it Scandinavia's largest lock.
13.50 -	The Baltic Sea	We pass through the archipelago of Södermanland and St Anna.
17.00 - 18.30	<u>Trosa</u>	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. Today, Trosa is still a popular summer resort. Enjoy a stroll along the River of Trosa, experience beautiful wooden houses and historic quarters (approx. 2.5 km).

Day 2

01.15	Arr. Stegeborg	Overnight stop.
09.00 - 10.00	<u>Stegeborg</u>	The ruins of Stegeborg are beautifully situated on a small island overlooking the bay of Slåtbaken. Stegeborg was built in the early Middle Ages and was for several hundred years the "lock and key" to the region of Östergötland. It was a royal castle until the end of the 17th century. We get an interesting guided tour of the castle ruins and herb garden - here the terrain is somewhat uneven.
11.00 - 11.10	Mem	The lock at Mem was built in 1831-1832 and was the last lock to be built in the canal. On 26th September 1832, the Göta Canal was inaugurated here amid great pomp and circumstance in the presence of King Karl XIV Johan and his family. We enter the Göta Canal through the first of the 58 narrow locks.
13.00 - 14.45	<u>Söderköping</u>	Founded in the early 13th century, the idyllic town of Söderköping was one of Sweden's most important harbour towns in the Middle Ages. Kings and queens were crowned here and national meetings were held. Söderköping also has a long history as a spa, but is now also known for its ice cream parlours. Söderköping is yours to explore on your own.
15.15 - 16.30	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.
18.00 - 18.40	Lake Asplången	Asplången is a long and narrow lake, located 27 metres above sea level.
20.10 - 20.20	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.
20.20 - 22.20	Lake Roxen	Lake Roxen is located 33 metres above sea level, and has a rich fish and birdlife.
22.20	Arr. Berg (Carl Johan)	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. 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 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. 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.
11.40	Berg (Heda)	The ship has passed all 15 locks in the Berg lock system. It is 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 found at Kungs Norrby. This one was built in 1993 to facilitate the accessibility of the national route 34, which we pass over.
15.30 - 15.40	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.
15.40 - 16.40	Lake Boren	Our boat slowly traverses Lake Boren, 73 metres above sea level. The lake unites Borensberg and Borensult.

16.40 - 17.20	Borensnult	The lock staircase at Borensnult 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.
18.20	Arr. <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. Overnight stop.
Day 4		
07.30	Dep. Motala	We leave Motala and head out into 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 the Saint Bridget (St. Birgitta), becoming a spiritual, cultural and commercial centre. The Abbey was built according to St. Bridget's plans, and was consecrated in 1430. The Castle was built in the 1540s by King Gustav Vasa. Local guides meet us here and take us with the sightseeing train to see the Abbey and the castle. You will also have time to walk around the town on your own, or go for a swim in the lake.
13.45	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.
14.40 - 14.55	Forsvik	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. 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.
14.55 - 16.05	Billströmmen/ 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.
14.55 - 17.00	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.
17.00 - 17.10	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.
17.30	Berg Canal	The Berg Canal was excavated in 1931-33 to straighten a sharp bend in the canal and was partly blasted into the living rock.
	The Obelisk	At Lanthöjden an obelisk marks the highest point (91.5 metres above sea level) of the Göta Canal.
20.10	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.
21.30	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 ship berths for the night, close to what used to be the Canal Engineer's home, now privately owned. The old smithy is also found here.
Day 5		
06.00	Dep. Hajstorp	If you are an "early bird" you can enjoy a wonderful morning walk from Hajstorp to Godhøgen, approx. 1.5 km.
09.30 - 11.40	<u>Sjötorp</u>	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.
11.40 -	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.
15.30 - 17.30	<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). Approx. 1 km walk.
22.20	Arr. Vänersborg	Overnight stop.
Day 6		
06.45	Dep. Vänersborg	
07.30 - 07.40	Brinkebergskulle	Brinkebergskulle lock is just past the town of Vänersborg. The oldest lock from 1752 can be seen beside the modern lock from 1916.
08.45 - 10.15	<u>Trollhättan</u>	We visit the Trollhättan Canal Museum, which is located in a storehouse from 1893. Learn more about the fascinating history of the Trollhätte Canal through the exhibition and film shown here. You can also join the tour guide on a walk through the idyllic and scenic park with the lock staircases from 1800 and 1844.
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. It was destroyed during the wars with the Danes, 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.