



# CLASSIC CANAL CRUISE, 4 DAYS

## Stockholm – Gothenburg 2022

### Day 1

09.00	Dep. Stockholm	Our cruise begins at Skeppsbrokajen 103 in the Old Town of Stockholm.
09.30 - 09.45	Hammarby lock	The lock, inaugurated in 1930, is the first lock on our journey and delivers us from Saltsjön into Lake Mälaren.
09.45 - 12.30	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.
10.30	Drottningholm Palace	Influenced by French prototype, the Drottningholm Palace was built by architect Nicodemus Tessin the Elder and 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.
12.40 - 12.50	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.
12.50 -	The Baltic Sea	We pass through the archipelago of Södermanland and St Anna.
16.00 - 18.00	<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. 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 Slåtbaken. The fort dates from the early Middle Ages and was built to guard the inlet to Söderköping.
01.30 - 03.15	Mem	On 26 <sup>th</sup> 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 Asplången	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.
10.55 - 12.55	Lake Roxen	33 metres above sea level.
12.55 - 13.55	<u>Berg</u> (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. 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.
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	Here we pass the first of two aqueducts in the canal. This one was built in 1970.
19.05	Kungs Norrby, aqueduct	The aqueduct at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 as part of the national route 34.
19.25 - 19.35	Borensberg	In the idyllic village Borensberg there is a hand-operated lock with a change in level of only

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.

19.35 - 20.35	Lake Boren	Our boat slowly traverses Lake Boren, 73 metres above sea level.
20.35 - 21.15	Borensult	The lock staircase at Borensult 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.
22.15	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 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 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

05.45	Dep. Motala	We leave Motala and head out into Lake Vättern.
05.45 - 08.00	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.
08.00 - 10.00	<b><u>Karlsborg Fortress</u></b>	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.
10.55 - 11.10	Forsvik	Forsvik is one of Sweden’s most interesting industrial communities. For six hundred years, iron has been worked, boards have been sawn and flour has been 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.
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.
11.10 - 13.20	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.
13.20 - 13.30	Tåtorp	There is another another hand-operated lock at Tåtorp. From here on we will be going downwards!
13.50	The Berg Canal 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. At Lanthöjden an obelisk marks the highest point (91.5 metres above sea level) of the Göta Canal.
16.25	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.
17.25 - 17.50	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. Here you can see the Canal Engineer’s home, now privately owned and the old smithy. 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	<b><u>Sjötorp</u></b>	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	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.

### Day 4

07.30 - 07.40	Brinkebergskulle	The Brinkebergskulle lock is just past the town of Vänersborg. The oldest lock from 1752 can be seen beside the modern lock from 1916.
08.40 - 10.15	<b><u>Trollhättan</u></b>	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.
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	Our cruise ends at Packhuskajen 10, where the old Customs House (Stora Tullhuset) from 1867 is located. Nowadays the Casino Cosmopol is found in this building.



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## Gothenburg – Stockholm 2022

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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 there is a set of eight locks and also the remains of some old shipyards.
07.40 - 09.20	Godhøgen-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. Here is the Canal Engineer's home, now privately owned and the old smithy.
07.40 - 08.00	Godhøgen-Riksberg	For "early birds" walking is possible from Godhøgen 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	The Berg Canal was excavated in 1931-33 to straighten a sharp bend in the canal and was partly blasted into the living rock.
12.50	The Obelisk	At Lanthøjden 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 is one of Sweden's most interesting industrial communities. For six hundred years, iron has been worked, boards have been sawn and flour has been 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. From here on we will be going downwards!
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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 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 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 Borenskult The lock staircase at Borenskult 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 with a change in level of only 0.2 metres. Shortly after the lock we see the well-known Göta Hotel from 1908. Just past the hotel there is a lovely octagonal 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 as part of the national route 34.

10.20 Ljungsbro, aqueduct Here we pass the second aqueduct on our journey. This one was built in 1970.

10.40 Berg (Heda) We start our descent down 40 metres 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 Asplången 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 On 26<sup>th</sup> 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. Passing through the last narrow lock before Slåtbaken, an inlet of the Baltic, we leave the canal.

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 Skeppsbrokajen 103 in the Old Town of Stockholm.