



GÖTA CANAL HIGHLIGHTS, 3 DAYS

A cruise along the most beautiful parts of the Göta Canal

Norsholm – Mariestad 2020

Day 1

09.00		Departure by bus from Stockholm, Vasagatan 1 (by the Radisson Blu Royal Viking Hotel, next to the Stockholm Central Station and the City Terminal). Please note that the bus transfer from Stockholm to Norsholm must be booked in advance.
11.30	Dep. Norsholm	Our cruise with the M/S Wilhelm Tham begins in Norsholm. Here the canal crosses the main railway line between Stockholm and Malmö. The lock in Norsholm regulates the water level of Lake Roxen.
11.30 - 13.30	Lake Roxen	33 metres above sea level.
13.30 - 14.30	<u>Berg</u> (Carl Johan)	The Carl Johan lock staircase is the longest in the canal with seven connected locks. This 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 Vreta Kloster 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 Its importance was later superseded by the convent founded by Saint Bridget (St. Birgitta) at Vadstena.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.
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	Here we pass the first of two aqueducts in the canal. The Ljungsbro aqueduct was built in 1970.
19.40	Kungs Norrby, aqueduct	The aqueduct at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 as part of the national route 36.
20.00 - 20.10	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.
20.20	Arr. Borensberg	We dock for the night in the idyllic village Borensberg.

Day 2

06.20	Dep. Borensberg	
06.20 - 07.20	Lake Boren	Our boat slowly traverses Lake Boren, 73 metres above sea level.
07.20 - 08.00	Borensbult	The lock staircase at Borensbult 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.
09.00 - 10.30	<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 Verkstad, 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. 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.

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.
13.40 - 15.30	<u>Forsviks Bruk</u>	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. Historical buildings used for fine metalwork, a foundry and a wood pulp mill are found in this beautiful and unique environment. Exciting and 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/ the Spetsnäs Canal	Through two narrow, wood-lined passages and small lakes full of water lilies, we steer out into Lake Viken.
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	At Tåtorp there is another hand-operated lock. From here on we will be going downwards!
18.30	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.
21.00	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.
22.00	Arr. 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 is the Canal Engineer's home, now privately owned and the old smithy. Overnight stop.
Day3		
06.00	Dep. Hajstorp	
06.00 - 07.30	Hajstorp - Godhögen	If you want to stretch your legs this is a good place, Hajstorp to Godhögen lock is approx. 1.5 km.
09.50 - 12.00	<u>Sjötorp</u>	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.
12.00 - 13.30	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.
13.30	Arr. Mariestad	Our cruise ends on the shore of Lake Vänern, in the city of Mariestad. The old part of Mariestad is one of Sweden's most well-preserved wooden cities. 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, at approx. 16.00. Optional bus transfer to Gothenburg (to be booked in advance).

For information on other train and bus connections to Norsholm or from Mariestad, please visit www.sj.se