



# MINI CANAL CRUISE, 2 DAYS

## Motala – Söderköping 2020

### Day 1

11.00	Dep. Motala	Our cruise with the M/S Wilhelm Tham begins in 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, as well as a number of interesting museums, including the well-known Motala Motor Museum. We pass Baltzar von Platen’s grave along the canal.
12.00 - 12.45	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.
12.45 - 13.45	Lake Boren	Our boat slowly traverses Lake Boren, 73 metres above sea level.
13.45 - 13.55	Borensberg	In the idyllic village Borensberg there is a hand-operated lock, after which we see the well-known Göta Hotel from 1908. Just past the hotel there is a small gazebo leaning out over a sharp bend in the canal, known as the “Helmsman’s Horror”.
13.55 - 17.25	Långkanalen	We travel 20 kms without passing any locks through the astonishing Östgöta scenery. We pass two aqueducts, eight bridges, Ljung castle and Brunneby manor.
14.15	Kungs Norrby, aqueduct	Two more recent aqueducts have been built to carry the canal, this one at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 as part of the national route 36.
17.05	Ljungsbro, aqueduct	We pass the second aqueduct on our journey. This one was built in 1970 over the new road into the community.
17.25	Berg (Heda)	We start our descent down 40 metres in the lock system of Berg (15 locks) towards Lake Roxen. Here you can stretch your legs between the locks, or walk along the canal to Vreta convent ruins and church.  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 Its importance was later superseded by the convent founded by Saint Bridget (St. Birgitta) at Vadstena.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 serves as a parish church and is therefore not always open to visitors.
19.00	Arr. Berg (the basin)	We dock for the night in the harbour basin between the locks of Oscar and Carl Johan. The evening offers the possibility to take a walk along the canal, or to go for an evening swim in Lake Roxen below the Carl Johan lock staircase.

### Day 2

06.20	Dep. Berg (the basin)	We leave the harbour basin and continue our journey. Take the opportunity to go for a morning swim in Lake Roxen or walk along the canal while the ship goes down the locks.
06.20 - 07.20	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.
07.20 - 10.40	Lake Roxen	33 metres above sea level.
08.50 - 10.20	<u>Runstorp</u>	Runstorp is a manor house dating from Sweden’s period of greatness. The owners Louise and Eddie Ugglå take us on a tour of their house with its Gustavian drawing room and interesting library, all while relating anecdotes from its history. Runstorp is not open to the public, which makes this an exclusive visit.
10.40 - 10.50	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.
12.30 - 13.00	Lake Asplången	27 metres above sea level.
14.15 - 15.30	Carlsborg–Mariehov–Duvkullen	There are eight locks in the short distance of around two kilometres. Take the opportunity to stretch your legs between the locks.
16.00	Arr. Söderköping	Our cruise ends in the idyllic town Söderköping, which 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. Today, it is also known for its ice cream parlours.