



Eight-day cruise Gothenburg to Stockholm 2010

Two seas, one river, three canals, eight lakes and 66 locks!

Day 1

Individual arrival in Gothenburg and check in to your hotel. Perhaps some time to explore Gothenburg.

Day 2

10.00

Self transfer & departure from Gothenburg, Packhuskajen 10

14.15-
14.30

Lilla Edet

The lock at Lilla Edet, built in 1916, is the first on our journey. The original lock was opened in 1607 and was the first lock in Sweden.

15.45-
16.30

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.

16.30-
17.50

Trollhättan

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 beautiful old lock area.

19.30

Arr. Vänersborg

This is the last town before you head out into Lake Vänern. The "Brinkebergskulle" lock is just before Vänersborg. *Overnight stop.*

Day 3

04.45

Dep.
Vänersborg

04.45-
16.00

Lake Vänern

44 metres above sea level. Sweden's largest lake and the third largest lake in Europe, after the Ladoga and Onega lakes in Russia.

09.30-
12.00

Läckö Castle

The Castle was built in 1298 as a bishop's residence. Its golden age was during the reign of Magnus Gabriel de la Gardie, who transformed it into a baroque castle in 1652. You are given a guided tour of the castle and the exhibitions (lots of stairs). App. 1 km walk.

15.30-
17.25

Sjötorp

You now 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. Here

you can take a walk alongside the canal while our ship slowly travels up the locks.

19.10-20.45	Godhögen-Hajstorp övre	You pass a lock system consisting of four locks in very beautiful surroundings. In 1822 the western section of the Göta Canal was inaugurated at Hajstorp. After dinner you will be entertained by a music group.
20.45	Arr. Hajstorp	At Hajstorp our ship berths for the night, close to what used to be the Canal Engineer's home, now privately owned. <i>Overnight stop.</i>
Day 4		
06.00	Dep. Hajstorp	
07.00	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.
09.00	The Berg Canal/ the Obelisk	An obelisk marks the highest point (91.5 metres above sea level) of the canal. This part of the canal is called the Berg Canal and originally had a sharp bend which was straightened in 1930-33.
10.00	Tåtorp	One of the canal's two hand-operated locks is found at Tåtorp.
10.00-12.15	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.
11.10-12.15	The Spetsnäs Canal/ Billströmmen	The boat is guided through two narrow, wood-lined passages and small lakes full of water lilies.
12.15-12.35	Forsvik	Forsvik has a very interesting industrial history. The lock, built in 1813, is the oldest one in the canal. The impressive iron bridge dates from the same year. In the lock you will be greeted with songs and flowers by the Kindbom family, a religious group. From here on you will be going downwards!
13.15	Karlsborg	Before our ship enters Lake Vättern, you pass Karlsborg and will be able to see the roof of the fortress, which was built in 1819-1909.
13.15-15.00	Lake Vättern	89 metres above sea level. Sweden's second largest lake.
15.00-18.00	Vadstena	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 will meet us and take us with the sightseeing train to see the Abbey and the castle. You will also have time here to walk around the town on your own, or go for a swim in the lake.
19.15	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 Werkstad, 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. You will visit the 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. <i>Overnight stop.</i>

Day 5

08.00	Dep. Motala	Possibility to take a beautiful morning walk from Motala to Borensult, app. 4 km.
09.00-09.40	Borensult	Lock staircase of five locks where you might hear the nightingale sing.
09.40-10.40	Lake Boren	73 metres above sea level.
10.40-11.40	Borensberg	At Borensberg there is another hand-operated lock. You will walk the short distance to the well-known Göta Hotel, from 1908, where coffee and traditional waffles are served.
12.00	Kungs Norrby, aqueduct	The aqueduct at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 and leads over the national route 36.
14.40	Ljungsbro, aqueduct	You pass the second aqueduct on your journey. This one was built in 1970.
15.00	Berg (Heda)	At Berg you pass through a system with a total of 15 locks. 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. The tour guide will take you on a walk (app. 3 km, partly uneven) to see the church and the remains of the convent. As an alternative you can walk along the canal or take a swim in the warm water of Lake Roxen.
16.30-17.30	Berg (Carl-Johan)	The Carl-Johan lock staircase is the longest in the canal with seven connected locks. Here you board the ship again before steering out on the lake.
17.30-19.30	Lake Roxen	33 metres above sea level.
19.30	Norsholm lock	Here the canal crosses the main railway line Stockholm - Malmö.
	Lake Asplången	27 metres above sea level.
22.00	Arr. Klämman	Stop for the night at the idyllic lock Klämman, a water regulating lock. Take the opportunity to enjoy the total stillness. <i>Overnight stop.</i>

Day 6

07.30	Dep. Klämman	
08.20-09.30	Carlsborg-Mariehov - Duvkullen	At the lock Carlsborg Övre there are the first of the eight locks taking us down to Söderköping. Here you can stretch your legs between the locks, or, if you want more exercise, walk all the way down to Söderköping, app. 4 km.
10.00-12.30	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. Don't forget to try the famous ice cream!
14.00	Mem	Passing through the last narrow lock before Slätbaken, an inlet of the Baltic, you leave the Göta Canal. On 26 th 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.

14.00-	The Baltic	A short trip across open water and then weave through the archipelago.
15.00- 16.00	Stegeborg	The ruins of the Stegeborg Fortress are beautifully situated on a small island overlooking the bay of Slätbaken. The fort was constructed during the early Middle Ages and was built to guard the inlet to Söderköping. There is a guided tour through the interesting history of Stegeborg. The walk is short, but somewhat uneven.
20.30	Arr. Sävsundet	<i>Await dawn at the old pilot station.</i> Overnight stop.
<u>Day 7</u>		
04.40	Dep Sävsundet	
08.10- 08.20	Södertälje	Södertälje lock, 135 metres long, is the largest lock in Scandinavia.
08.20- 14.50	Lake Mälaren	0.3 metres above sea level. Sweden's third largest lake.
09.45- 11.45	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. Birka features on UNESCO'S World Heritage list. The archaeologists on the island show us around (app. 3 km, uneven terrain). Visit the museum.
13.45	Drottningholm Castle	Drottningholm Castle, home of the Royal family since 1981, is also found on the World Heritage list. You will pass the castle if time admits.
15.00	Hammarby lock	The final lock on our journey delivers us from Lake Mälaren into Saltsjön.
15.30	Arr. Stockholm, Skeppsbrokajen	Our cruise ends at Skeppsbrokajen 103, in the Old Town of Stockholm. Self transfer to your hotel in Stockholm.

Day 8

Perhaps some time to explore Stockholm before your departure

This schedule is subject to change