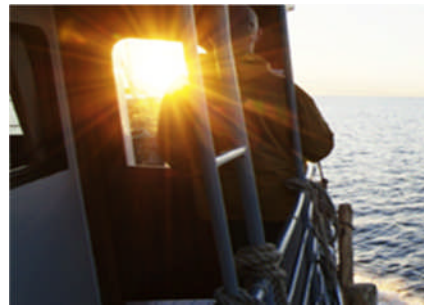


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Eight-day cruise Stockholm to Gothenburg 2012

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

Day 1

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

Day 2

10.00	Self transfer & departure from Stockholm, Skeppsbrokajen 103	
10.30	Hammarby lock	The first lock on our journey divides Saltsjön from Lake Mälaren.
10.40-13.30	Lake Mälaren	0.3 metres above sea level. Sweden's third largest lake.
11.25	Drottningholm Castle	Drottningholm Castle, the home of the Royal family since 1981, is on UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites.
13.30-13.40	Södertälje	Södertälje lock, 135 metres long, is the largest lock in Scandinavia.
13.40-	The Baltic	The archipelago of St Anna and Södermanland.
17.00-18.30	Trosa	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. You are taken on a guided walk around the canals and alleys (app. 2,5 km).
20.00	Arr. Sävsundet	Stop for the night at the old pilot station. If the weather is nice, you may continue down to Stegeborg. Overnight stop.

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Day 3		
04.00	Dep. Sävsundet	
09.00-10.00	Stegeborg	The ruins of the Stegeborg Fortress are beautifully situated on a small island overlooking the bay of Slätbaken. The fort dates from the early Middle Ages and was built to guard the inlet to Söderköping. You are given a guided tour through the interesting history of Stegeborg. The walk is short, but somewhat uneven.
10.50	Mem	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. You enter the Göta Canal through the first of the 58 narrow locks.
12.15-14.45	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 very interesting history as a spa. Söderköping is yours to explore on your own. Don't forget to try the famous ice cream!
17.45-18.15	Lake Asplången	27 metres above sea level.
19.45	Norsholm lock	Here the canal crosses the main railway line Stockholm - Malmö.
19.45-21.45	Lake Roxen	33 metres above sea level.
21.45	Berg (Carl-Johan)	The Carl-Johan lock staircase is the longest in the canal with seven connected locks. The boat moors for the night at the bottom lock. Overnight stop.
Day 4		
09.00	Dep. Berg (Carl-Johan)	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 us 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.
11.30	Berg (Heda)	The ship has passed all 15 locks in the Berg lock system. It is time to board for departure.
11.50	Ljungsbro, aqueduct	You pass the first of two aqueducts in the canal. The Ljungsbro aqueduct was built in 1970.

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14.30	Kungs Norrby, aqueduct	The aqueduct at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 as part of the national route 36.
15.00-16.00	Borensberg	At Borensberg you will see one of the hand-operated locks still in use in the canal. You walk the short distance to the well-known Göta Hotel, from 1908, where you are served coffee and traditional waffles.
16.00-17.00	Lake Boren	73 metres above sea level.
17.00-17.40	Borenhult	Lock staircase of five locks where you might hear the nightingale sing.
18.45	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 Gota Canal Company, responsible for operation and maintenance. 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. Overnight stop.
Day 5		
07.30	Dep. Motala	Leave Motala and head out into Lake Vättern.
09.00-12.30	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 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.
07.15-14.45	Lake Vättern	89 metres above sea level. Sweden's second largest lake.
14.45	Karlsborg Fortress	Pass Karlsborg and you will be able to see the roof of the fortress, which was built in 1819-1909.
15.40-15.50	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.

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15.50- 16.35	Billströmmen/ The Spetsnäs Canal	Through two narrow, wood-lined passages and small lakes full of water lilies, the boat is guided out into Lake Viken.
16.35- 18.05	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.
18.05	Tåtorp	At Tåtorp there is another hand-operated lock. From here on you will be going downwards!
18.35	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. After dinner you will be entertained by a music group.
20.50	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.
21.50	Arr. Hajstorp	A lock system consisting of four locks. In 1822 the western section of the Göta Canal was inaugurated at Hajstorp. The ship berths for the night, close to what used to be the home of the Canal Engineer. Overnight stop.
Day 6		
06.00	Dep. Hajstorp	If you are an "early bird" you can take a wonderful morning walk from Hajstorp to Godhögen, app. 1,5 km.
09.30- 11.45	Sjötorp	At Sjötorp there is a set of eight locks, and also the remains of some old shipyards. You will visit the old warehouse, where the Visitors' Centre and the Sjötorp Canal Museum are located. Here you can see old pictures of Sjötorp, the interiors of several old ships, a large collection of ships' engines, etc. There is also a map of all the sunken ships in the Lake Vänern. It is also possible to take a walk along the locks.
11.45-	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.
15.30- 17.45	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.
23.45	Arr. Trollhättan	Rysskajen. Overnight stop.

Day 7

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08.30- 10.00	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.
10.10- 11.00	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.
12.00- 12.15	Lilla Edet	The lock at Lilla Edet, built in 1916, is the last on our journey. The original lock was opened in 1607 and was the first lock in Sweden.
15.30	Arr. Gothenburg, Packhuskajen 10	Our cruise ends at Packhuskajen 10, near the spectacular Opera House and the Maritime Centre in Gothenburg. Self transfer to your hotel in Gothenburg.

Day 8

Perhaps some time to explore Gothenburg before your departure

This schedule is subject to change