

“HISTORIC AND IDYLIC” SWEDEN...FEATURING SWEDEN’S GÖTA CANAL

July 28 - August 14, 2013

B = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **D** = Dinner...meals provided in cost of tour
(Times stated are in the 24 hour clock)

“Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take...but by the moments that take our breath away”!

- Sunday, July 28 Depart USA
- Monday, July 29 Arrive at Landvetter Airport Göteborg (Gothenburg), Sweden. After collecting our luggage and exchanging money for Swedish kronor, we’ll take the Flygbussarna (airport bus) into Goteborg. Stay at Hotel Eggers, the 3rd oldest hotel in Sweden still in operation. Dinner at the hotel.
D
- Tuesday, July 30 Depart from Göteborg, Packhuskajen 10, at 10:00 on M/S Diana (1931) on the Göta Canal from Göteborg to Stockholm as we idyllically cruise Sweden’s “Blue Ribbon” for 6 days/5 nights. Sleep on the boat 5 nights.
B, L, D

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

- 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 meters. Of the three parallel lock systems here, only the biggest one (from 1916) is still in use.
- 16.30-18.30 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.
- 20.10 Arr. Vänersborg This is the last town before we head out into Lake Vänern. The Brinkebergskulle lock is just before Vänersborg

Overnight stop.

Wednesday, July 31

B, L, D

- 04.45 Dep. Vänersborg
- 04.45-15.15 Lake Vänern 44 meters above sea level. Sweden’s largest lake and the third largest lake in Europe, after the Ladoga and Onega lakes in Russia.
- 09.30-11.45 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. We are given a guided tour of the castle and the exhibitions (lots of stairs). Approx. 1 km walk.
- 15.15-16.45 Sjötorp We now enter the first of the 58 narrow locks on the Göta

Canal. At Sjötorp we have 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.

17.45-18.35	Lyrestad	The old harbour warehouse in Lyrestad is situated right next to the canal. Today it houses the local homestead museum. On three floors you can see everything from collections of old telephones and farming equipment to interiors of old homes.
19.55-21.40	Godhögen-Hajstorp övre	We 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 we will be entertained by a music group.
21.40	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>

Thursday, August 1

B, L, D

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 meters 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 meters above sea level) serves as a water reservoir for the western section of the Göta Canal.
11.10-12.15	The Spetsnäs Canal/ Billströmmen	We steer through two narrow, wood-lined passages and small lakes full of water lilies.
12.15-12.30	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 we are sometimes greeted with songs and flowers by the Kindbom family, a religious group. From here on we will be going downwards!
13.15	Karlsborg	Before our ship enters Lake Vättern, we 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 meters above sea level. Sweden's second largest and also deepest lake (128 meters deep).

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 center. 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.
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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. We 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>
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Friday, August 2
B, L, D

08.00	Dep. Motala	Possibility to take a beautiful morning walk from Motala to Borensult, app. 4 km.
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09.00-09.40	Borensult	Lock staircase of five locks where you might hear the nightingale sing.
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09.40-10.40	Lake Boren	73 meters above sea level.
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10.40-11.40	Borensberg	At Borensberg there is another hand-operated lock. We walk the short distance to the well-known Göta Hotel, from 1908, where we are served coffee and waffles. Just past the hotel there is a small gazebo leaning out over a sharp bend in the canal, known as the "Helmsman's Horror".
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12.00	Kungs Norrby, aqueduct	The aqueduct at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 and leads over the national route 36.
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14.40	Ljungsbro, aqueduct	We pass the second aqueduct on our journey. This one was built in 1970.
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15.00	Berg (Heda)	We start our descent in the lock system of Berg (15 locks) towards Lake Roxen.
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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 (approx. 3 km) 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 we board the ship again before steering out on the lake.
17.30-19.30	Lake Roxen	33 meters above sea level.
19.30-19.40	Norsholm lock	Here the canal crosses the main railway line Stockholm – Malmö.
21.10-21.50	Lake Asplången	27 meters above sea level.
22.10	Arr. Klämman	We 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>

Saturday, August 3

B, L, D

07.45	Dep. Klämman	
08.35-09.50	Carlsborg– Mariehov – Duvkullen	At the lock Carlsborg Övre we have the first of the nine 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, approx. 4 km.
10.15-12.45	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 interesting history as a spa. Söderköping is yours to explore on your own. Don't forget to try the famous ice cream!
14.15	Mem	Passing through the last narrow lock before Slätbaken, an inlet of the Baltic, we leave the Göta Canal. On September 26, 1832, the Göta Canal was inaugurated at Mem amid great pomp and circumstance in the presence of King Karl XIV Johan and his family.
14.15-	The Baltic Sea	We cross open water for a short bit and then weave through the archipelago.
15.15-16.15	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. We are given a guided tour through the interesting history of Stegeborg. The walk is short, but somewhat uneven.
20.45	Arr. Sävsundet	We await dawn at the old pilot station. <i>Overnight stop.</i>

Sunday, August 4

B, L

04.40 Dep Sävsundet

08.10-08.20	Södertälje	Södertälje lock, 135 meters long, is the largest lock in Scandinavia.
08.20-14.50	Lake Mälaren	0.3 meters 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 harbor 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 tour guide will show us around on the island (approx. 3 km, uneven terrain). We also visit the museum.
13.45	Drottningholm Castle	Drottningholm Castle, home of the Royal family since 1981, is also found on the World Heritage list. We pass the castle if time allows.
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. Stay at Birger Jarl Hotel for 2 nights. We will have dinner together at Michelangelo's in Gamla Stan (Old Town). The restaurant is housed in a building from 1629. (Dinner on our own).
Monday, August 5	B	This morning we will be guided by Håkan Franden to some of the "highlights" of Stockholm...Royal Palace...Medieval Museum... Stadshuset (City Hall)...Gamla Stan. Afternoon free for sightseeing on your own (Wasa Museum...Changing of the Guard...Skansen,), or shopping. Dinner at Claes på Hornet (on our own)
Tuesday, August 6	B, D	Leave for Uppsala, Uppland. Stay at Eklundshof for 2 nights. Dinner at Domtrappkällaren. Possibly tour Skokloster Slott near Uppsala.
Wed, August 7	B	Uppsala—Sightseeing...Uppsala Domkyrka (Cathedral) and Treasury ...Gamla Uppsala...Museum Gustavianum. Dinner at ? (on our own)
Thursday, August 8	B, D	Leave for Järvsö, Hälsingland. Stay at Järvsöbaden for 2 nights. Dinner at the hotel.
Friday, August 9	B, D	Järvsö/Bollnäs area—sightseeing...tour a "Hälsingegård (historical farm)...visit Växbö Lin, a traditional flax spinning and linen weaving mill. For hundreds of years, Hälsingland has been known for its tall and beautiful flax...it's landskap flower is the flax. Dinner at the hotel.
Saturday, August 10	B, D	Drive to Tällberg, Dalarna—Lake Siljan Area. On our way to Tällberg, we'll stop at Nils Olsson, to see how the Dalahäst (horse) is made (you can have names/years painted on them to make a "special remembrance"). Take time to relax and enjoy the beautiful hamlet of Tällberg. There are several "craftshops" in the area—walk to Klockargården's courtyard where you can see "handcraft artisans"...and Swedish gifts in the Hemslöjd across the street. Stay at Tällbergsgården 3 nights. Dinner at the hotel.

After our dinners at the hotel, we can sit and have coffee in the hotel's beautiful sitting areas or outside...enjoy the beautiful sunset over Lake Siljan...maybe take a walk down to the lake.

“Being in Dalarna and not seeing Tällberg, is like being at a wedding and not seeing the bride!” author unknown

- Sunday, August 11 **B, L, D** Tällberg, Dalarna—Lake Siljan area. Today we drive to Sundborn for a tour of Carl Larsson's home. We will also have lunch next door at Restaurang Hyttstugan. Possibly go to the worship service in the Sundbornkyrka (from 1755 and painted inside by Carl Larsson). Then to Falun for a tour of the Copper Mine. Dinner at the hotel.
- Monday, August 12 **B, D** Tällberg, Dalarna—Lake Siljan area. We will visit several places in the Leksand area...possibly Sätergläntan Hemslöjd (a Swedish folk school for handcraft)...Käck och Hedbys Blacksmith...Jobs Linens...etc, and as time allows. Dinner at the hotel.
- Tuesday, August 13 **B, D** Drive to Mariefed. Stay at Gripsholms Vårdshus. “Last night dinner and party” at the hotel.
- Wed, August 14 **B** Depart for home from Arlanda Airport.

TOUR COST = \$5,519 per person in double occupancy
(Tour price based on exchange rate at time of pricing)

Tour cost includes—Airport transfer from Landvetter to Göteborg—Göta Canal cruise on the M/S Diana including all meals and excursions—land travel in Sweden—all lodging accommodations as planned---most or all sightseeing entrances in Sweden including the Stockholm Card for 1 day---and meals as indicated: 16 breakfasts...7 lunches...13 dinners. (If you fly SAS, meals are provided on the flights).

Tour cost does NOT include—Transatlantic air flight, flight taxes/fuel surcharges—tips—personal expenditures—lunch/coffee times not indicated or as included—some beverages at meals (you will be informed at each meal).

If you need assistance in booking your flight, we recommend you contact Elaine at Borton Overseas 612-822-4640 1-800-843-0602 elaine@bortonoverseas.com