

"IDYLLIC SWEDEN" ~ featuring the GÖTA CANAL

August 10 - August 28, 2018

**B** = Breakfast **L** = Lunch **Fika** = Coffee/Treats **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"!*

Friday, August 10 Depart USA

Saturday, Aug. 11 Arriving in Sweden...we'll meet you at Landvetter Airport Göteborg (Gothenburg). After collecting your luggage and exchanging money for Swedish kronor, we'll take the Flygbussarna (airport bus) into Göteborg. Stay at Hotel Eggers, the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest hotel in Sweden still in operation. Dinner at the hotel.

Sunday, Aug. 12 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.

*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.*

Monday, August 13

**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.

15.15-17:20 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. 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, 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.

19.40-21.25	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.
21.25	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>
Tuesday, August 14		
<b>B, L, D</b>		
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 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 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.

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. *Overnight stop.*

Wednesday, August 15

**B, L, D**

08.00	Dep. Motala	Possibility to take a beautiful morning walk from Motala to Borensult, approx. 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 meters above sea level.
10.40-10.50	Borensberg	Borensberg has another of the canal's hand-operated locks, 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".
11.10	Kungs Norrby, aqueduct	The aqueduct at Kungs Norrby was built in 1993 and leads over the national route 36.
13.50	Ljungsbro, aqueduct	We pass the second aqueduct on our journey. This one was built in 1970.
14.10	Berg (Heda)	We start our descent in the lock system of Berg (15 locks) towards 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. 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.

15.40-16.40	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.
16.40-18.40	Lake Roxen	33 meters above sea level.
18.40-18.50	Norsholm lock	Here the canal crosses the main railway line Stockholm – Malmö.
20.20-21,00	Lake Asplången	27 meters above sea level.
21.20	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>

Thursday, August 16

**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 26 <sup>th</sup> 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.
14.15-	The Baltic Sea	We cross open water for a short bit and then weave through the archipelago.
15.10-16.10	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.
22.00	Arr. Sävsundet	We await dawn at the old pilot station. Overnight stop.

Friday, August 17

**B, L**

04.40 Dep. Sävsundet

08.40-08.50	Södertälje	Södertälje lock, 135 meters long, is the largest lock in Scandinavia.
08.50-15.20	Lake Mälaren	0.3 meters above sea level. Sweden's third largest lake.

10.15-12.15	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.
14.15	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.
15.30	Hammarby lock	The final lock on our journey delivers us from Lake Mälaren into Saltsjön.
16.00	Arr. Stockholm/ Skeppsbrokajen	Our cruise ends at Skeppsbrokajen 103, in the Old Town of Stockholm. <i>Subject to changes. Please note! All times stated are approximate.</i>
		Stay at Birger Jarl Hotel for 3 nights. We will have dinner together at Michelangelo's in Gamla Stan (Old Town). Michelangelo's has become a tradition for us, and also for all our tours (Svenskarnas Dag Girls Choir and adult). The restaurant is housed in a building from 1629. (Dinner on our own).
Saturday, Aug. 18 <b>B, D</b>		Stockholm...today and tomorrow morning we'll tour several of Stockholm's museums with our guide Håkan Franden. Håkan is one of Rick Steve's guides, but we "discovered" him first. ☺ Free time in the afternoon...explore more of Stockholm...have coffee in a historic konditori...do some shopping in Gamla Stan, etc. Dinner at Den Gyldene Freden in Gamla Stan...oldest restaurant in the world to have the same surroundings, more or less unchanged since it's beginning in 1722. It gained its reputation and fame through troubadours Carl Michael Bellman and Evert Taube...and Anders Zorn, who purchased Freden to keep it from being shut down in 1919. Every Thursday, The Swedish Academy (who nominate the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature) convene there for their weekly dinner.
Sunday, Aug. 19 <b>B, D</b>		Stockholm...visit more sights with Håkan. Afternoon free. Tonight we have a legendary Swedish specialty at Villa Godthem on Djurgården. Built as a private residence in 1874, it has been a restaurant since 1897.
Monday August 20 <b>B, D</b>		Drive to Växjö-Glass District area. Stay at Teleborgs Slott (castle) for 2 nights. Dinner at the hotel.
Tuesday, August 21 <b>B, D</b>		Småland's Glass District...we'll visit several of Sweden's glassworks and this evening we'll experience a traditional hyttsill dinner.
Wed, August 22 <b>B, D</b>		Drive part-way to Tällberg, Dalarna...possibly Örebro and stay at Elite Stora Hotellet (1858). Dinner at the hotel.
Thurs, August 23 <b>B, våfflor fika, D</b>		Drive to Tällberg, Dalarna—Lake Siljan Area. Stop in Avesta to see the worlds largest Dalahäst (horse). Stay at Tällbergsgården 4 nights...an old hotel rich in tradition and folklore in an idyllic town with marvelous views and a lovely setting by Lake Siljan. Dinner at the hotel. After we arrive in Tallberg, we'll have a special "Swedish" treat...a "våfflor med

grädde och hjortronsylt” (waffles with whipped cream and cloudberries) at Dalmål Kafe, upstairs of the Tällberg Hemslojd.

Take some time to enjoy and explore this beautiful hamlet ...experience the “heart of Sweden”... take a walk down to Lake Siljan. There are several “hemslojd” shops (handwork) in the area...walk to the courtyard of Klockargården where you can see several “handcraft artisans”. After our dinners at the hotel, relax in the “milieu” (ambience) of drinking coffee in one of the sitting areas at the hotel or outside on the balcony ...enjoy the beautiful sunset over Lake Siljan.

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

- Friday, August 24  
**B, L, D** Tällberg, Dalarna—Lake Siljan area. Today we drive to Sundborn for a tour of Carl Larsson-garden (Carl Larsson’s home). Visit Sundborn Kyrka (from 1755 and painted inside by Carl Larsson), followed by a buffet lunch (including salmon ☺) at Restaurang Hyttstugan. We’ll have time to visit gift shops in the area, including Carl Larsson’s, to buy prints, etc. The small red stuga that says “keramik”, Karlsbyhedens Krukmakeri, has beautiful pottery made in Sundborn by Monica and Bjorn and should not be missed! Dinner at the hotel.
- Saturday, August 25  
**B, L, D** Tällberg, Dalarna—Lake Siljan area. Today we’ll go to Nusnäs to visit Nils Olsson Hemslojd—guided tour to see how the Dalahäst (horse) is made. Have your name and the year painted on a horse, making a special remembrance! Next, we hope to visit Karl Tövåsens Fäbod (summer farm) for a fäbod lunch, making “kolbulle” (special ‘pancake’) over a wood fire, and a tour of the fäbod. Then on to Mora and a tour of Anders Zorn’s home...Zorngarden. Dinner at the hotel.
- Sunday, August 26  
**B, Fika, D** Tällberg, Dalarna—More sightseeing in the Lake Siljan area. Dinner at the hotel.
- Monday, August 27  
**B, D** Leave for last night near Stockholm/Arlanda airport for one night. We hope to have dinner with our friends, Marita and Lasse Haglund, in their home on Lake Mälaren near Sigtuna.
- Tuesday, August 28  
**B** Leave for Arlanda Airport for flights home.

**TOUR COST: \$5,796 per person in double accommodations**  
**Contact for Single Supplement cost**

**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—Stockholm bus/tunnelbana pass—most or all sightseeing entrances in Sweden—and meals as indicated: 17 breakfasts...8 lunches ... 16 dinners...1 Fika (coffee and “goodies”)...1 Våfflor Fika

**Tour cost does NOT include**—Transatlantic air flight, flight taxes/fuel surcharges—museum entrances not part of guiding in Stockholm (during “free time”)—tips—personal expenditures—lunch/coffee times not indicated as included—some beverages at meals (you will be informed at each meal).