



THE GÖTA CANAL

Skipper's Guide

Handy information for those of you travelling
on the Göta Canal with your own boat.

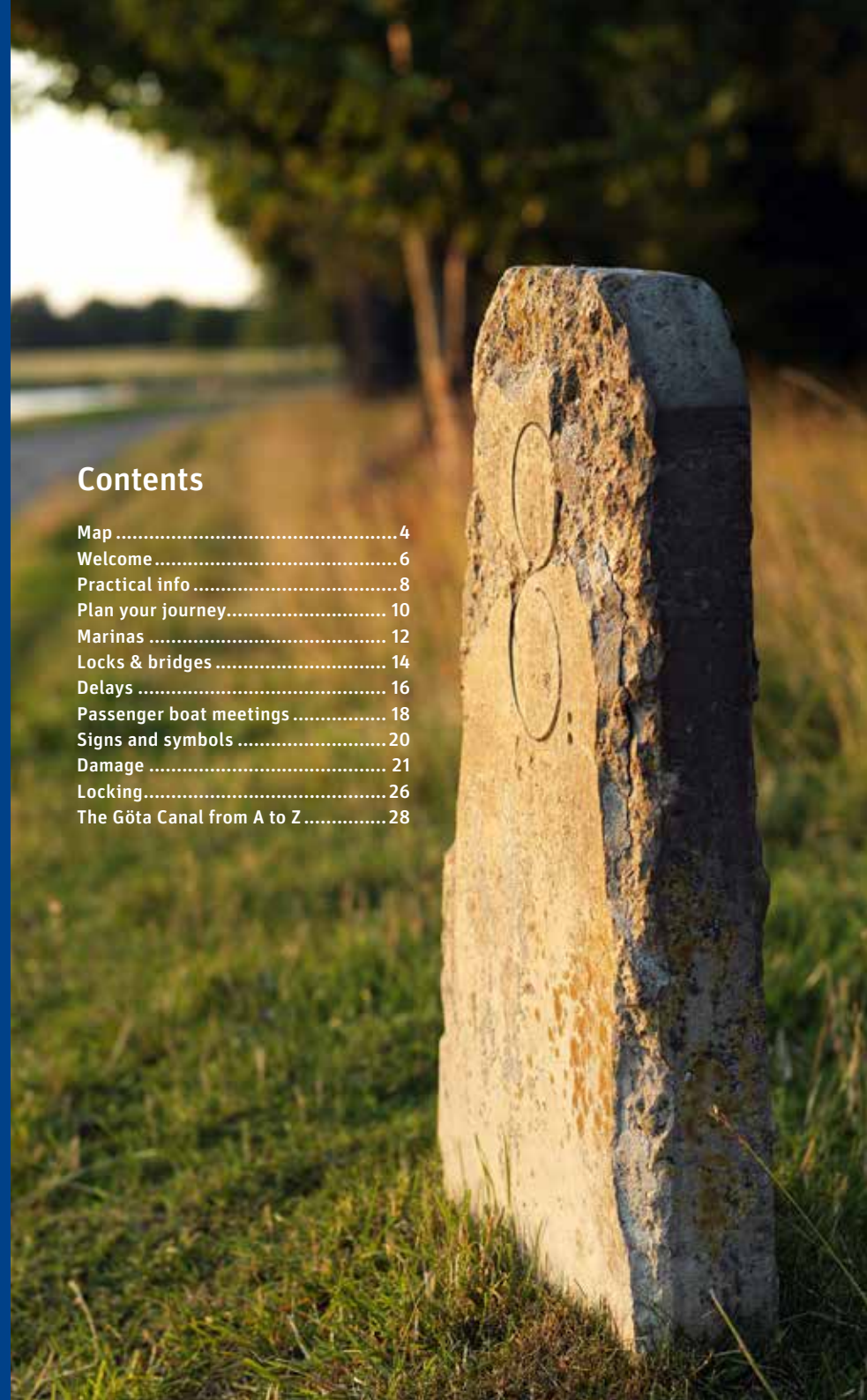
2019–2020

Welcome to the Göta Canal!

Here you will find the service cards for your Göta Canal journey. They give you access to marina services in all of the 21 marinas along the Göta Canal. Return them to the lock keeper, along with your ticket flag, when you check out after your journey.

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Welcome to the Göta Canal

– Sweden’s largest construction of cultural-historical significance!

The Göta Canal is one of Sweden’s best known and most popular tourist attractions. In the year 2000, it was named the Swedish Construction of the Millennium by the people of Sweden. It runs between Mem next to the Baltic Sea and Sjötorp at Lake Vänern. A distance of 190 km, out of which 87 km were dug by hand by approximately 58,000 Swedish soldiers. Along with the Trollhätte Canal, the Göta Canal creates a waterway between Stockholm and Gothenburg.

Quick facts

Number of locks	58
Length of the canal	190 km
Highest elevation above sea level	91.8 m
Number of marinas	21
Year of construction	1810–1832

The Trollhätte Canal

The Trollhätte Canal and the Göta River connect Lake Vänern and the Kattegatt. The canal is operated by the Swedish Maritime Administration and you can find more information on their website www.sjofartsverket.se.



190 km – hundreds of experiences

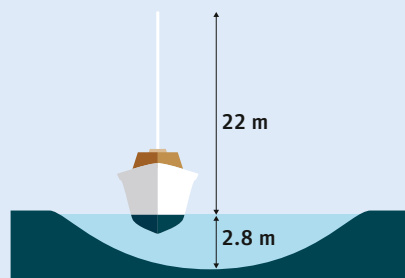
Travelling on the Göta Canal aboard your own boat is one of the most relaxing things you can do. The landscape varies, from urban environments to cultural landscapes and even old growth forest. All this whilst you sit at the helm, just breathing in the beautiful surroundings, with your boat gliding peacefully ahead at five knots.

When you reach one of the 58 locks, one of the greatest experiences of the entire journey awaits you, the locking. It is fas-

cinating to be lifted up or lowered by water. Lockage is easy, fun and a challenge you will be proud to have completed.

The Göta Canal can serve as a shortcut for those who do not want to sail around Sweden, but to most it is in itself an unforgettable experience of Sweden in summer. Here, the journey is the goal. In order to make the most of your journey, we recommend that you take your time. The Göta Canal will reward you with lifelong memories.

Maximum boat dimensions



Length 30 m
Width 7 m
Draught 2.82 m
Height 22 m
Maximum speed 5 knots

Maximum boat length. The entire length of the boat counts, including any bathing platform, bowsprit, dinghy or similar.

Canal depth. Maximum draught for boats is 2.82 m but please note that this applies to the centre of the canal and that the depth decreases drastically towards the banks at an angle of 30 degrees. The canal does not reach this maximum depth at jetties or close to locks and bridges.

Maximum sail height. Please note that there may be overhanging branches of canalside trees in some places. The maximum sail height applies to the centre of the canal.

Checking in and checking out of your journey

When you arrive at the Göta Canal, you check in to your journey at one of our canal offices. If you have booked and paid for your journey in advance, you only need to bring your booking reference or a printout of your booking confirmation. During the high season, you can also purchase a ticket on location, using a credit or debit card or Swish for mobile payment.

At the check-in desk you will receive an information kit containing everything you need for your journey. You will also receive your service cards and a ticket flag to attach to your boat. The flag helps the lock keepers identify your boat in order to know that you have a ticket valid for the particular section. If you are travelling during the booking season, you will also receive your itinerary upon check-in.

Before leaving the Göta Canal, you must check out by returning the ticket flags and your service cards.

Locking Up – the Göta Canal loyalty club

The loyalty club Locking Up is for those of you who travel the Göta Canal aboard your own pleasure boat. As a member, you will receive news and offers as well as discounts as soon as you reach your second year of travel. Naturally, membership is free and you can find out more at

www.gotakanal.se/bonusclub

Gold
30% discount
Journey 4 →

Silver
20% discount
Journey 3

Bronze
10% discount
Journey 2





Plan your journey

Take your time

An important part of planning your journey on the Göta Canal is to not plan in too much detail. You will have the best possible experience if you allow for plenty of time to enjoy the various experiences along the way. Normally, the journey from Mem to Sjötorp, or vice versa, takes 6–8 days during the high season. However, your ticket includes 5 nights

at every marina, so there is no reason to rush. If you travel during the booking season, you will be following an itinerary provided in advance.

From coast to coast

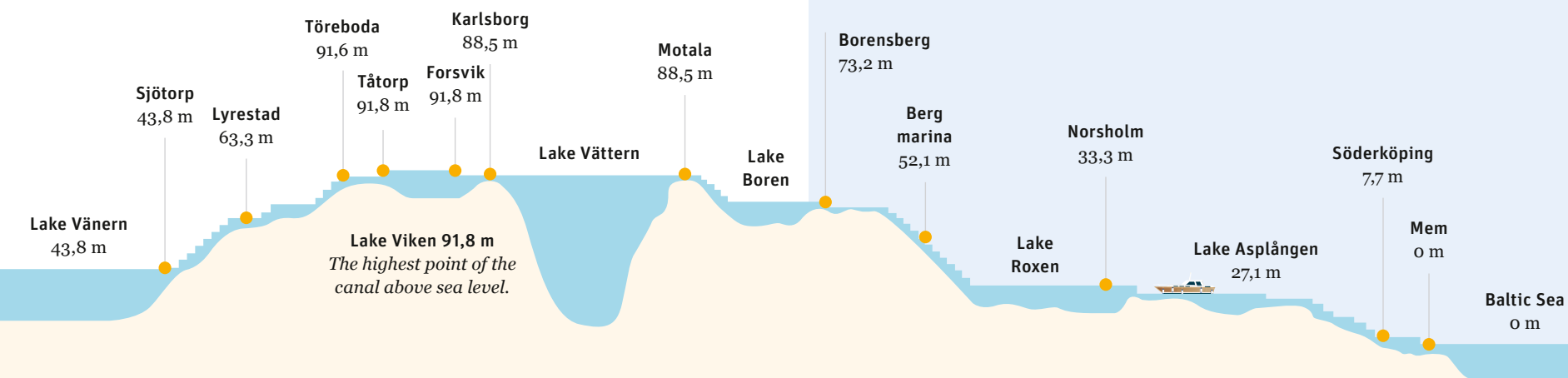
Are you planning to continue through Sweden, to Göteborg and the west coast? If so, you need to plan another 3–4 days for Lake Vänern and the Trollhätte Canal.

Distances and time for passage

Segment	Nautical miles	Km	No. Of locks	Time for passage*
Stockholm–Mem (via Södertälje Canal)	108	201	1	
Mem–Motala (Baltic Sea–Lake Vättern)	49,8	92,2	37	
Mem–Söderköping	3,1	5,7	3	1,5 hrs
Söderköping–Norsholm	11,9	22,1	12	6 hrs
Lake Roxen	14,6	27		
Berg–Borensberg	11,4	21	16	6 hrs
Lake Boren	6,9	12,9		
Borensbult–Motala	1,9	3,5	6	1,5 hrs
Lake Vättern	17,5	32,5		
Karlsborg–Sjötorp (Lake Vättern–Lake Vänern)	35,3	65,3	21	
Karlsborg–Forsvik	4,0	7,4	1	
Lake Viken	12,3	22,8		
Tåtorp–Töreboda	8,6	16	1	2,5 hrs
Töreboda–Norrvärn	5,1	9,5	9	3 hrs
Norrvärn–Sjötorp	5,3	9,7	10	3 hrs
Mem–Sjötorp (entire Göta Canal)	102,6	190	58	
Lake Vänern	64	118,5		
Vänersborg–Göteborg (Trollhätte Canal)	43	80	6	9 hrs



* Navigation times depend on the current traffic situation; you may have to wait during your canal journey. Read about some of the most common reasons for waits on page 16.



Marinas along the Göta Canal

When you check in to your canal journey, you will be given two service cards and a ticket flag to attach to your vessel. The service cards serve as access cards to the Göta Canal marina services, including toilets, showers, laundry rooms, sewage disposal and latrine cleaning according to the table. The high season ticket includes five nights at each marina along the way. During the booking season, overnight stays at marinas are included as specified in the itinerary for that particular journey.



Marina	Number of berths		Electr. hook-ups (max 6A)	Mooring	Fuel	Drinking water	Toilet	Shower	Laundry room
Mem	18	22 6A + 1 16A	finger pontoon/ alongside		11 km*	•	•	•	•
Söderköping	50	18	buoy/finger pontoon/ alongside		500 m	•	•	•	•
Söderköping, Klevbrinken	12		alongside			•	•	•	•
Norsholm	20	10	alongside		Marine service. Diesel. Self-pay with card.	•	•	•	•
Berg, Lake Roxen	10	12	buoy			•	•	•	300m
Berg, upper	40	52	buoy/finger pontoon			•	•	•	•
Ljungsbro, Malfors	10	2	finger pontoon/ alongside		300 m	•	•	•	•
Borensberg	20	14	alongside		300 m	•	•	•	•
Borenhult, Lake Boren	10	6	alongside				•		
Motala Verkstad	3		alongside			100m	100m		
Motala	23	30	finger pontoon/ alongside			•	•	•	•
1) Karlsborg	15+15+20	16+20	buoy/alongside		Marine service. Diesel, petrol & alkylate petrol. Self-pay with card.	•	•	•	•
Forsvik	12	10	alongside			200m	•	•	•
Tåtorp	8		alongside				TC		
Vassbacken	25	12	alongside			•	•	•	•
Jonsboda	12	12	alongside				•	•	•
2) Töreboda	30	12	alongside		200 m	•	•	•	
Hajstorp	15	8	alongside			•	•	•	•
Norrkvarn	15	5	alongside			•	•	•	•
Lyrestad	15	12	alongside		200 m	•	•	•	•
3) Sjötorp	22+12	22+12	buoy/alongside		Marine service. Diesel. Self-pay with card.	•	•	•	•

Hazardous waste	Pump-out facility	Sewage disposal facility	Trailer ramp	Restaurant	Café	Grocery	Tourist information	Swimming area	Playground	Sauna, wood-burning	Wifi
•		12km	•	•							
•	•		•	•	500m	750m		•			
	•										
•		•	•	100m						•	
			300m	300m	600m	300m	•				•
•	•		•	•	300m	•	300m				•
				•	•	400m					
•	•	400m	200m	•	300m		200m				
		400m	•	•							
			•	•	600m						
•	•	•	2km	•	•	200m	•	3km	•		
•		•	•	•	•	300m	•	200m			
			•	•	•			500m			
			•		•						
	•		•	•	kiosk						
				•							
•	•		•	•	200m	100m	•				
		•		•						•	
			•	•						•	
	•		•	•	100m						
•	•		400m	•	•	•	•				

1) **Marinas in Karlsborg.**
The Göta Canal Company has 15 spaces (no electricity/water) east of the Lake Vättern canal bridge, 15 spots (with electricity/water) west of the canal bridge on the north side and 20 spots on the south side (with electricity/water), all included in the canal fee.

2) **Töreboda Marina.**
Marina spaces and amenities buildings are found on both sides of the canal. Electricity available on the western side. On the eastern side, the campsite amenities building can be used subject to a deposit, given at the reception desk.

3) **Marinas in Sjötorp.**
The Göta Canal Company has marina spaces in the shipyard basin as well as in the basin between locks 1 and 2–3. These are included in the canal fee. The Sjötorp marina on lake Vänern (40 spaces, limited electricity, water, toilets, showers, laundry room, sewage disposal) is not included in the canal fee. A harbour fee is charged for all boats.

*Boating guests are directed to Sjömacken by the Stegeborg marina.

Locks and bridges on the Göta Canal

Bridge openings on the Göta Canal
The bridges across the Göta Canal are opened by the lock keepers to allow boats to pass. To make your journey as smooth as possible, there are a couple of things to think about when you arrive at a bridge and would like it opened.

Clearly show that you want the bridge opened
In order to show the lock keeper that you wish to pass the bridge, it is important to wait in front of the bridge and show that you would like to pass. If you remain at a quay or jetty waiting for a bridge to open, it is difficult for the lock keeper to determine whether you would like to pass or if you have simply stopped to take a break.

Many of the bridges are remote controlled
The remote controlled bridges are monitored by CCTV and controlled from another location. One lock keeper will often be in charge of several bridges and for safety reasons, only one bridge may be opened at a time. The lock keeper can communicate with boats using the speakers and microphones that are installed at the bridges.

Trains have right of way
Delays may occur at the railroad bridges in Norsholm, Motala, Töreboda and Lyrestad. Railroad traffic has right of way and the Swedish Transport Authority will only authorise brief interruptions for bridge openings. It is therefore important that you are ready to pass quickly whenever a railroad bridge is opened.

The Göta Canal Destination Guide has more information about all locks and bridges. You can find it in the Apple AppStore or at Google Play.



Traffic signals

- Red – Stop
- Red/White – Bridge opening in progress
- Green – Proceed

Baltic Sea–Lake Roxen	
Mem	Single lock
Tegelbruket	Single lock
Söderköping	Single lock
Söderköping, E22	Remote-controlled bridge
Lower Duvkullen	Single lock
Upper Duvkullen	Single lock
Lower Mariehov	Single lock
Upper Mariehov	Single lock
Lower Carlsborg	Double lock
Upper Carlsborg	Double lock
Vänneberga	Remote-controlled bridge
Loddbys	Remote-controlled bridge
Klämman	Single lock
Snövelstorp	Bridge
Lake Asplången	
Hulta	Single lock
Brådtom	Single lock
Björnavad	Remote-controlled bridge
Norsholm, E4	High bridge, 22 m
Norsholm, väg 215	Remote-controlled bridge
Norsholm	Single lock + bridge
Norsholm, railway bridge	Remote-controlled bridge

Number of locks 15

Road bridges with fixed opening hours

Road bridges in Töreboda and Karlsborg
The bridges are opened on every hour and half hour during the canal high season, excluding. 12, 13 and 16 hours on weekdays. The last bridge opening of the day is at 18.00 hours.

The E22 bridge in Söderköping
The bridge is opened on every hour and half hour during the canal high season. On Fridays and Sundays, the bridge is only opened on the hour between 15.00-18.00. This also applies on the last Thursday before Midsummer. The last bridge opening of the day is at 18.00 hours.

During the booking season, bridges only open for pre-booked traffic following a designated itinerary.

*Note that bridge opening can take place both before and after the set time due to traffic on the canal.

Lake Roxen– Lake Vättern	
Carl Johan	Flight of locks (7)
Oscar	Double lock
Berg	Double lock + bridge
Brunnby	Double lock + bridge
Heda	Double lock
Ljungsbro	Aqueduct
Malfors	Remote-controlled bridge
Ljungs Västra	Remote-controlled bridge
Sjöbacka	Remote-controlled bridge
Ruda	Remote-controlled bridge
Sörby	Remote-controlled bridge
Kungs Norrby	Remote-controlled bridge
Kungs Norrby	Aqueduct
Näs	Remote-controlled bridge
Borensberg	Single lock + bridge
Lake Boren	
Borensbult	Flight of locks (5)
Motala, Treöresbron	Bridge
Motala, Charlottenborgsbron	Remote-controlled bridge
Motala, railway bridge	Remote-controlled bridge
Motala, Gamla R50-bron	Bridge
Motala	Single lock + bridge
Motalabron	High bridge, 22 m

Number of locks 22

Lake Vättern– Lake Vänern	
Karlsborg	Remote-controlled bridge
Forsvik	Single lock + bridge
Brosundet	Remote-controlled bridge
Lake Viken	
Tåtorp	Single lock + bridge
Vassbacken	Remote-controlled bridge
Stång	Bridge
Jonsboda	Remote-controlled bridge
Rotkilen	Remote-controlled bridge
Töreboda, railway bridge	Remote-controlled bridge
Töreboda	Bridge
Gastorp	Remote-controlled bridge
Levsång	Remote-controlled bridge
Upper Hajstorp	Double lock + bridge
Lower Hajstorp	Double lock
Riksberg	Flight of locks (3) + bridge
Godhögen	Double lock
Upper Norrkvarn	Single lock + bridge
Lower Norrkvarn	Single lock
Lyrestad, E20	Remote-controlled bridge
Lyrestad	Bridge
Lyrestad, railway bridge	Remote-controlled bridge
Rogstorp	Remote-controlled bridge
Sjötorp 7-8	Double lock
Sjörtorp 6	Single lock
Sjötorp 4-5	Double lock + bridge
Sjörtorp 2-3	Double lock + bridge
Sjötorp 1	Single lock

Number of locks 21



Delays

Sometimes, there are delays

During your canal journey, delays may occur for a variety of reasons. This is why we recommend those of you travelling during the high season not to plan in too much detail, instead scheduling plenty of time to pause and enjoy the experience. Below, you can read more about the most common reasons for delay.

Delays in flights of locks

At the locks Carl Johan in Berg, Borens-hult in Motala and Hajstorps-Riksberg, there is often a wait time of a few hours when there is a lot of traffic. This is due

to the fact that we perform lockage in one direction at a time, alternating the direction of the water.

Delays at locks and bridges

Occasionally, one lock keeper manages several locks and bridges and this may cause some delay. Many of the bridges across the Göta Canal are remote controlled and several are operated from one location. For safety reasons, the lock keeper may only operate one bridge at a time. This means that there may be some delay before the bridge you are currently waiting at can be opened.

At all railroad bridges across the Göta Canal, rail traffic has right of way. The lock keeper will contact a dispatcher at the Swedish Transport Administration who authorises the bridge opening and enables power to open the bridge. Unfortunately, this occasionally creates delays over which the lock keepers have no influence.

Delays due to commercial traffic

All commercial traffic on the Göta Canal has right of way at locks and bridges as they are on a fixed timetable. You may therefore have to wait until such boats have passed the lock or bridge you are at.

Delays due to water level adjustments

It is absolutely necessary to maintain the right water level in all parts of the canal. Occasionally, we need to add more water to a particular section to maintain the depth. In that event, lock keepers will inform you about how long it is estimated to take.

Delays due to bad weather

During thunderstorms, locking and bridge opening is always aborted or delayed for safety reasons. In difficult wind conditions, the boat may drift problematically when locking. It is the boat owner's responsibility to decide whether or not to lock in such conditions

Meeting with a passenger boat



The Göta Canal is serviced by a number of passenger boats, all servicing different sections of the canal. They are a stunning sight to see as they glide through the landscape and they catch visitors' eyes wherever they pass. If you are travelling with your own pleasure craft on the canal, there are a couple of important things to keep in mind when you meet or find yourself behind a passenger boat.

Do not come too close

Passenger boats normally stick to a speed of 3–4 knots. The limited depth of the canal prevents them from going faster. For safety reasons, you should not be too close behind. The boat may need to stop or reverse. Because of currents and undertow effects, overtaking a passenger boat is very risky.

Meetings

First and foremost, follow the directions of the boat's skipper. If the skipper does not instruct you on which side to pass, general navigation rules apply. Pass at a distance of 2–3 m from the passenger boat, at a speed of approximately 4 knots. This provides good steering ability and improved control. Try to keep your distance from the edge of the canal, as its depth is reduced the nearer you get to the bank.

If the meeting occurs on a bend, the passenger boat will normally want to be on the outer curve. This means that meetings will sometimes be starboard to starboard, with the passenger boat 'driving on the left'. The passenger boat may make this intention clear by using two short sound signals (turning to port).

Meetings in narrow passages

At Billströmmen, the Spetsnäs Canal and the Berg Canal, the canal has been blasted through the bedrock. Here, the canal is

narrow and at its maximum depth only at the very centre of the waterway. This means that you can not pass a passenger boat in this section.

Passenger boats will therefore give the following signals before entry:

- Billströmmen; two long blasts and one short blast — — • (going east), two long blasts — — (going west)
- The Spetsnäs Canal; one long blast (going east), three long blasts — — — (going west)
- The Berg Canal: one long blast — (going east), two long blasts — — (going west)

Between Lanthöjden and Tåtorp, vessels can only pass at the marked meeting places. Position yourself in the middle of the canal about 30 metres from the oncoming passenger boat, veer slightly starboard or port and pass the passenger boat at 0.5 metres apart at a speed of 1–2 knots. Pay attention to signals from the skipper of the passenger boat.

Secure your boat properly

Pleasure craft at a jetty or dock must be securely moored at bow and stern when a passenger boat passes by. As the larger vessel passes the water sinks and there is a strong undertow effect. Therefore, make sure your boat is securely moored, no one is strong enough to hold the lines by hand.

The Göta Canal Destination Guide app allows you to track passenger boats and see where they are on the canal, so that you are well prepared to meet them. **Download the Destination Guide from the Apple AppStore or Google Play.**

Signs and symbols on the Göta Canal



Turn the motor off
The motor of the boat must be turned off during locking.



Life vest
For your own safety, always use a life vest whilst locking.



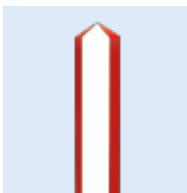
Sloped quay
The quay is sloped out towards the fairway beneath the surface.

Yellow marking on quay/jetty

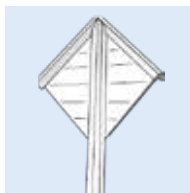
Temporary mooring only, to refuel, stock up on drinking water or dispose of sewage. Mooring otherwise prohibited.



Meeting place
Meeting place for boats on the narrow Berg Canal at Tåtorp–Lanthöjden.



Lock passage pole
You may not pass the red and white pole just before the lock until the lock keeper signals that you are free to enter. You may also not moor in the area.



300 m
300 m until the next lock or bridge.



Damage and accidents

Pleasure craft travelling on the Göta Canal are required to have liability insurance, at the very least. All journeys are undertaken at the boat owner's own risk.

- If you suffer damage in an incident with another skipper, you must deal with the matter between yourself, through your respective insurance companies.
- If you suffer damage for some reason which you believe to be related to the condition of the canal facilities, or to the actions of staff of the Göta Canal Company, you must immediately contact the nearest available lock keeper, who will further report to their supervisor and/or on-call staff.
- If no lock keeper is available, you can reach on-call staff via the head office of the Göta Canal Company, +46(0)141-20 20 50.
- You must remain at the site of the incident and provide a written account of the incident by filling in an incident report.
- You must send a copy of said report to your own insurance company and they will then handle the matter in correspondence with the Göta Canal Company's insurance company.

Traffic regulations and general terms

Complete traffic regulations for the Göta Canal, the Swedish Maritime Administration's statute 1998:2, as well as the General Terms and Conditions for pleasure craft travel on the Göta Canal can be found at gotakanal.se.

Be part of a creative history.
Welcome to Vadstena.



Vadstena Castle - marina and pitches

Here you will find yourself in the middle of history, next to the castle and a medieval city center. The view over lake Vättern and Vadstena's beautiful surroundings gives peace in mind.



Touristinformation
+46 143 315 70
www.vadstena.se/turism



Booking
+46 143 62 16 00
www.vadstenaslott.com

Save Sweden's longest allée of trees. And the construction of the millennium.

The 16,000 trees alongside the Göta Canal are not only beautiful, their roots help support the canal bank, and prevent it from collapsing into the canal. Sadly, many of the trees are dying and we need your help to plant new trees. Become a tree patron yourself or give the gift of tree patronage to someone; as a christening gift, as a wedding gift, or in honour of a passed loved one. The gift will be a lifelong one, a sign of something important, beautiful and enduring.

gotakanal.se/tree

Söderköping close to nature & culture



Ramunderberget

Close to the canal lock, you can take the 318 steps up to the top of the Ramunderberget and enjoy the view or walk on the beautiful exercise tracks in the nature reserve.

Drothemquarters

Walk in the medieval quarters of Söderköping and explore the historical houses from the past 600 years.

More info: visit.söderköping.se
+46121-18160



VISIT.SÖDERKÖPING.SE



Lunch tour to Mem

Experience the beautiful Göta Canal on a three hour lunch cruise to Mem and out onto Slätbaken. Lunch, with a dessert and coffee is included. The lunch is a quality archipelago platter with various herrings, prawns on toast à la Skagen, salmon, pâté, serrano ham, butter, bread and cheese. The dessert will be tiramisu with a berry compote and coffee. We will give you a guided tour on board, pass through two locks and take a short journey out on Slätbaken. Departing from Söderköping at 11 AM, returning to the harbour at 2.30 PM. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday June 18 - August 15 (excluding the Midsummer weekend).

Pricing

700 SEK per person (boat journey, guide, lunch)

300 SEK per child up to 12 years old (boat journey, guide, lunch)

Beverages not included. Our onboard restaurant is fully licensed. N.B: the tour is booked and paid for in advance. Call us on +46(0)121 109 00 or send an email to info@sbrunn.se.

Cruise on the Göta Canal and the S:ta Anna Archipelago

In 2019, we will be introducing a new cruise with the following itinerary: Departure from Söderköping at 8.30 AM, after passing through the lock at Tegelbruket, morning coffee with a sandwich and a pastry will be served. We then pass through the lock at Mem and continue along Slätbaken towards Västra Gärsholmen, Capella Ecumenica, where we will be arriving at approximately 10.30 AM. Here, we will be greeted by the hosts, guiding us through this unique place and their stone church. At 11.30 AM we head towards Lagnöströmmen and further out along Finnjärden. Lunch will be served around 12.30 PM, including a starter with three different types of herring, cured salmon served with mustard sauce, half an egg with prawns, as well as bread, butter and cheese. A hot main course followed by coffee and a tasty treat for dessert. We turn back towards Stegeborg, where we will be stopping at around 2 PM, for a highly enjoyable guided tour where we will learn all about the history of this unique place. Around 3 PM, we cast off and return back to Söderköping. Afternoon coffee will be served during the journey. We will be back in Söderköping around 5 PM.

Dates: Fridays July 5, July 19, July 26, August 2 and August 9.

Pricing:

1000 SEK per person (incl. boat journey, meals, guide)

500 SEK per child up to 12 years old (incl. boat journey, meals, guide)

Additional beverages not included. Our onboard restaurant is fully licensed.

N.B: the tour and any overnight accommodation is booked and paid for in advance. Call us on +46(0)121 109 00 or send an email to info@sbrunn.se.



Locking

Locking will definitely be one of the major experiences during your journey on the Göta Canal. The Göta Canal Company's lock keepers are always on site and will handle the locking for your safety. They can also give you tips and advice if you have any questions about the procedure. However, you are personally responsible for your boat and your ropes during the locking. It is therefore important that you are at least two people on board.

Equipment

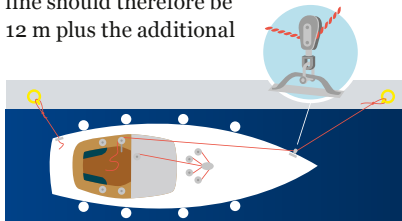


Fenders on both sides and at different heights

It is important to have proper fenders in place on both sides of the boat, to avoid the risk of it scratching the lock wall. Place some fenders low, touching the surface, and some higher up to protect against the lock wall.

Proper lines of suitable length

The stern line should be 8–10 m long and the bow line 12 m long. If you have a sailboat, you should pull the line through a pulley at the bow and in a sternward direction, so that you can use the boat's winch for the line. For sailboats, the bow line should therefore be 12 m plus the additional



length from the bow to the winch. Adjust the length in the first lock and you will usually have the right length for the following locks.

Life vest

For your safety, everyone onboard should use a life vest. If you fall in, you risk being pulled down by the currents created during locking.

General guidelines for locking on the Göta Canal

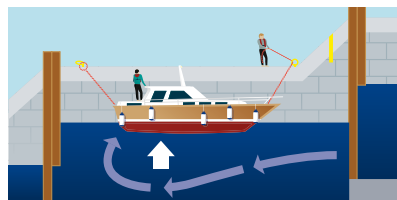
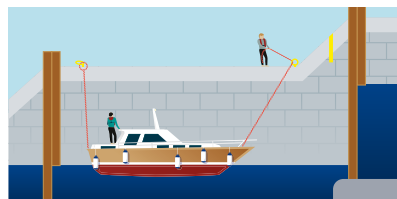
- Always let one person go ashore to receive and handle the lines, this is the skipper's responsibility.
- The engine must be turned off during locking.
- Boats heavier than 20 tons must be secured to a bollard rather than a ring.
- In order to make the best possible use of available space, the lock keeper always determines in which order boats should enter the lock. Boats then exit in the same order they entered.
- The locks are always operated by the lock keeper.
- For safety reasons, the Göta Canal Company reserves the right to remove persons who appear intoxicated, or who repeatedly act carelessly or refuse to comply with the lock keeper's orders.

Locking up

- Boats with winches should lie ahead of boats held by hand.
- Secure with a short stern line both ashore and on the boat.
- The stern of the boat must lie directly below the ring to which the stern line is secured.
- The bow line must be secured one or two rings in front of the bow of the boat.
- All lines must be taut throughout the entire lockage – haul the bow line in!
- Sailboats will preferably use their

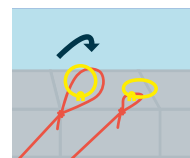
winch on the bow line.

- The boat must remain very close to the lock wall throughout the lockage.
- Never relax your attention, even if things seem quiet for the moment!

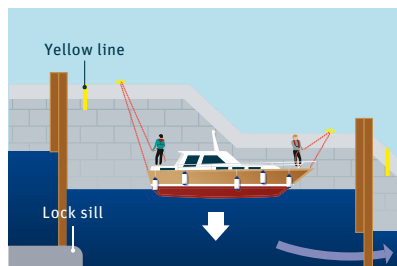


Tips when locking up

Make a loop at the end of the stern line, about half a meter in diameter. Place the loop around the ring on the edge of the lock and secure it to the boat with a short line. Sailboats with winches can make a loop also with the bow line, which is then pulled through a pulley at the bow, to the winch.



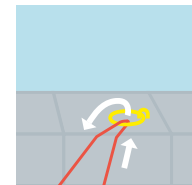
Locking down



Locking down

- Stay ahead of the yellow line to ensure that the boat is clear of the lock threshold when the water is released.
- Pull the bow and stern lines through suitable rings on the lock edge, but never secure the lines to both the quay and the boat!
- Release the lines continuously.
- In a double lock or flight of locks one person should remain ashore to move the lines. However, before lockage begins in the final lock chamber, everyone should be on board.

How to pull the line through the ring when locking down
Put the ring facing out towards the lock and pull the line up through the ring from below.



Some locks are a bit different

Lock 1 at Sjötorp, Sjöslussen

When you arrive at the first lock in Sjötorp, the lock keeper will help you with your lines. It is not possible to let anyone go ashore, because of the tall quays outside the lock. However, in all other locks, the lines are the skipper's responsibility.

The Norsholm lock

The Norsholm lock has mooring hooks built into the lock wall, as well as fixed lines to hold on to. Consequently, all passengers will remain onboard during lockage. The difference in height is no more than 0.8 metres.

The Göta Canal from A to Z

Allée of trees – The Göta Canal is lined with an allée of trees, forming the longest allée of trees in Sweden. The trees were planted to strengthen the canal bank and to prevent it from collapsing into the canal. Today, the allée of trees needs to be restored and you can become a tree sponsor at www.gotakanal.se/trad

Aqueducts – Göta Canal's two aqueducts run over the top of roads, with road traffic passing underneath.

Baltzar von Platen – The man who started this enormous construction, founding the Göta Canal. His final resting place is found in the family grave, close to the canal in Motala.

Boat service – If you need your boat serviced or repaired during the journey, there are a number of companies specialising in boats located along the canal. You can find their contact information at www.gotakanal.se/batservice

Boat spaces – For those who wish to moor their boat close to the Göta Canal more permanently, the Göta Canal company rents out moorings in Sjötorp and Tåtorp

Bollards – Used to secure larger vessels during lockage and are either made from stone or cast iron.

Booking season – At the beginning and the end of the canal season, all vessels travel in convoys which must be booked five days in advance. We call this our booking season.

Canal office – The canal office is the reception where you will meet a lock keeper before starting your journey.

Canoeing – Canoeing/kayaking is permitted on the Göta Canal, however, for safety reasons, locking is not permitted.

Checking in – When you arrive at the Göta Canal, you will check in at one of our canal offices. There, you will receive info materials, service cards and a ticket flag to attach to your boat.

Checking out – Before leaving the Göta Canal you must check out at one of our canal offices. There, you will return your ticket flag and your service cards.

Complaints – Any complaints or claims for compensation must be reported as soon as possible to AB Göta kanalbolag, Box 3, 591 21, Motala, Sweden.

Contact information – You can contact the Göta Canal Company by phone, +46(0)141-20 20 50 or by email info@gotakanal.se

Damages – On page 21 you can read more about procedure in the event of an incident causing damage.

Delays – Occasionally, delays will occur during your journey. You can find out more about common causes on page 16.

Ellstones – The numbered stones placed alongside the canal. They are 1000 ells, or 594 metres, apart. In the past, those who used to tow ships through the canal, charged per stone they passed.

Fenders – During lockage on the Göta Canal you need to have proper fenders in place, to avoid scratching the boat against the lock wall. Place fenders on both sides of the boat, some further down and some higher up.

Fishing – If you are travelling on the Göta Canal on your own boat, you are allowed to fish from the boat whilst on the canal, except on the Motala section of the canal where game fish have been introduced. Whilst on one of the lakes, a fishing licence is required.

Fuel – In the table of marinas on page 12 you can see where to fuel your boat during your journey on the Göta Canal.

General Terms and Conditions – The General Terms and Conditions for pleasure boat travel on the Göta Canal can be found at www.gotakanal.se

Grocery store – You can find the distance to the nearest grocery store in the table of marinas on page 12.

Göta Canal 2.0 – The most extensive renovation programme since the construction of the Göta Canal. Carried out over 5 years, at a cost of 500 million SEK, to preserve the Göta Canal for future generations.

Head office – The head office of the Göta Canal Company is located in Motala, close to the marina.

High season – Mid-June to mid-August is high season on the Göta Canal. During this time, you can travel at your own pace on the sections of the canal for which you have purchased a ticket. No advance booking is required.

History – The Göta Canal has a long and exciting history. Find out more at www.gotakanal.se/envackerhistoria

Holding tank disposal
In the table of marinas on page 12 you will find all locations on the Göta Canal where you can dispose of the contents of your holding tank.

Insurance – All boats travelling on the Göta Canal must, at a bare minimum, have liability insurance.

Itinerary – When travelling during the booking season, you will follow an itinerary provided in advance. This itinerary lists designated travel times, canal sections and overnight marinas for your journey.

Lines – For lockage, you will need lines that are sturdy and of suitable length. Your stern line should be 8–10 metres and your bow line at least 12 metres.

Locking Up – Locking Up is a loyalty club for those who travel the Göta Canal on their own boat. Members will receive special offers, information and canal ticket discounts.

Mini trip – For those of you looking to try the Göta Canal, the mini trip is an excellent ticket. It is available during the high season, for four different, shorter canal journeys and three overnight stays at marinas are included in the price.

More information – If you need more information you can always ask a lock keeper or read more in the Göta Canal Destination Guide as well as at www.gotakanal.se

Navigational charts – At the canal offices in Sjötorp and Mem you will find two different Small Craft Charts on sale, both covering the Göta Canal.

Official Partner Göta Canal – A number of companies along the Göta Canal work together to develop the canal area and to give you a memorable experience, characterised by service-mindedness and hospitality. They all display the Official Partner Göta Canal label at their locations.

Opening hours – During the high season, the Göta Canal is open daily from 9AM

to 6PM. Please note that the last locking must be completed by 6PM and that boaters must also be able to reach a marina or other overnight location before then. Because of this, the time of last locking at a particular lock may be significantly earlier.

Power outlets – Power outlets (max 6A) available in the marinas are listed in the table on page 12.

Refunds – Tickets can be refunded before the start of the journey. A 250 SEK fee is charged on all refunds to cover administrative costs.

Season ticket – A high season round-trip ticket is also valid as a season ticket for the section of the Göta Canal on which it is valid.

Service card – Your access card for marina services during your journey on the Göta Canal. The service card will also give you free entrance to the Göta Canal Exhibition at the old workshop in Motala and the Canal Museum in Sjötorp.

Swimming – You may go swimming in the canal, except within 50 metres of locks and bridges, where bathing is prohibited for safety reasons.

The Göta Canal Destination Guide – The Destination Guide has more information on all the locks, bridges and marinas along the Göta Canal. Here you can also see where the passenger boats are currently located and there are tips on activities, things to see, restaurants and other amenities along the canal.

The Göta Canal Express – A ticket for those who wish to pass through the canal more quickly during the booking season. The entire journey, from Sjötorp to Mem or the other way around, is done in 3 days.

The Trollhätte Canal – The Trollhätte Canal runs from Vänersborg to Gothenburg and is operated by the Swedish Maritime Administration. Separate tickets are required here, read more at www.sjofartsverket.se

Thunderstorms – In the event of a thunderstorm, both locking and bridge openings will be delayed for safety reasons.

Ticket flags – Every pleasure boat that checks in to the Göta Canal receives a ticket flag, indicating which sections a ticket has been purchased for, to make it easier for lock keepers to identify it.

Towpath – The gravel road alongside the canal is called the towpath. In the past, it was used by oxen and horses towing boats along the canal.

Trailer ramps – There are a number of trailer ramps along the Göta Canal where you can launch and/or retrieve your boat. You can find a list of them at www.gotakanal.se

Walkway – The small walkway atop the lock gates

VHF/Radio – The lock keepers along the Göta Canal use VHF for internal communication on a private frequency and thus cannot be called using a marine VHF radio

WiFi – At Berg, you will find free WiFi available to canal guests.



Hundreds of experiences. Find them on your phone.



The Göta Canal Destination Guide is an app which allows you to find all the hundreds of experiences lining the 190 km Göta Canal. You can search and filter using several different categories such as accommodation, events and activities. Another handy feature is that you can see where the popular passenger boats are currently located on the canal.

Once you are at the canal you can use the app to search for experiences based on your current location. Here, you can also filter by locations and categories, and also see where the passenger boats are located.

Download our
Guide!

The Göta Canal Destination Guide can be found in Apple's App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android). The guide is available in both Swedish and English and will be downloaded in the language your phone uses.



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