

# General terms for travelling with a pleasure boat on the Göta Canal

Valid as of 15 December 2020

***These terms apply only to travel on the Göta Canal. For the Trollhätte Canal, the National Administration of Shipping and Navigation regulations apply. The Göta Canal Company is only a sales agent for their tickets.***

## Hours of the Canal

The Göta Canal is open for two seasons: the pre-order season and the peak season. For current daily and seasonal opening hours and prices, please visit [gotakanal.se](http://gotakanal.se).

During the pre-order season, only pre-booked trips are allowed, and they must be booked at least five days before departure.

During the peak season, the canal is open every day. The stated daily closing time of the canal is not the same as the last lockage time. The basic rule is that lockage is not initiated if there is not enough time to finish before closing time, or if no suitable mooring can be reached before closing time.

## Tickets

### Validity

All tickets are personal and apply to the same skipper and boat. We do, however, allow for one skipper to sail the vessel in one direction and a different skipper to take it back on a round trip. All ticket types are valid for the current year. Tickets for the pre-order season are not valid during the peak season.

### Season ticket

If you buy a Round Trip ticket (Leg of the Journey or Entire Göta Canal), it serves as a season ticket for an unlimited number of canal trips.

### How to purchase your canal trip

You can buy your canal ticket online at [gotakanal.se](http://gotakanal.se). Once the ticket has been booked and paid for online, the skipper must bring a printed or digital confirmation/receipt to one of the canal offices, found at our entrances to the Göta Canal and at the Trollhätte Canal, if the ticket is valid for the latter as well. During the high season, you can also purchase a ticket at our entrances. However, you can only pay by card, Visa/MasterCard.

Throughout the canal journey, the ticket – which you receive on your arrival at the canal – must be placed in a visible location on the boat, according to instructions.

### Required information when buying/booking a canal trip

Because a ticket is linked to a specific skipper and vessel, you must provide personal data about the skipper on booking/payment. By providing this information, you are agreeing to receive information from AB Göta Kanalbolag. You must also provide information about the boat: its name, total length including features such as a dive platform, dinghy, bowsprit etc. As valid boat liability insurance is mandatory for all vessels on the canal, you must provide the insurer's name.

### Travelling during the pre-order season

During the pre-order season, lockage for pleasure boats is consolidated and scheduled. Please note that the travel plan is preliminary and that changes may occur. You must buy your tickets and pre-set the dates at least five days before departure. This also applies for changing a reservation date, for breaks in the convoy transit and for booking a return trip. Convoy stops can be made in accordance with the different legs of the journey, i.e., additional stops can be booked at the night harbours listed in the itinerary. If a scheduled boat fails to arrive or inform the Canal Company that it will not be there, a fee of SEK 500 will be charged.

### Prices

The price of your ticket depends on the ticket type, distance and the length of the boat, including features such as a dive platform, dinghy, bowsprit etc. You can upgrade your purchased ticket during the course of the trip by paying the price difference.

### Ticket refund

Tickets may be refunded before the start of the journey. An administrative fee of 250 SEK will be deducted from the refunded amount. If the journey has already begun, or the canal has closed for the season, no ticket refund will be given.

### Guest harbours/piers

In the 21 guest harbours along the Göta Canal, boats with a valid canal ticket – not a Per Lock ticket or special offer – can spend at most 5 nights per guest harbour/quay/pier. After that, a daily fee is charged.

If a ship or shipwreck is in such position that it hinders the operation of canal facilities, hinders other canal traffic or poses a threat to the environment, Göta kanalbolag reserves the right to move the ship or shipwreck away from the canal system/its harbours/inlets, at the expense and risk of the ticket holder. The same shall apply if a ship or shipwreck unlawfully remains after seasonal closure.

### Traffic regulations

The Swedish Maritime Code as well as The National Administration of Shipping and Navigation's Traffic Regulations for the Göta Canal, TSFS 2019:140, apply for all travel on the Canal. You can download them from [gotakanal.se](http://gotakanal.se) or pick up a copy at the Canal Company's sales offices.

Skippers are required to ensure that these regulations are followed during the journey on the Canal. In addition, the following regulations apply:

### Waiting times

No compensation is paid for waiting times. *Examples* of reasons for waiting times:

- Passenger boats, which have priority at locks and bridges.
- In the event of lightning, all lockage and bridge openings are cancelled or postponed for safety reasons.
- At remote-controlled bridges. When multiple bridges are controlled from the same place, the bridgekeeper can only open one bridge at a time, for safety reasons.
- Bridges with special opening times.
- Rail traffic has the right of way, which can lead to some waits at railway bridges crossing the canal.
- In heavy winds boats may drift during lockage. It is the boat owner's own responsibility to decide whether or not to lock in such conditions.
- Other circumstances beyond the Canal Company's control.
- Staffing during parts of the season, when the same lock-keeper manages several locks and bridges on a stretch of the canal.
- Regulation of water and emptying and refilling the lock chambers in a flight of locks before lockage the other way.

### Insurance

All vessels on the Göta Canal must have valid liability insurance. This is the responsibility of the skipper. You must specify your insurance company when purchasing your ticket.

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## **Liability in the event of damage**

Travel on the Göta Canal is at the boat owner's own risk. AB Göta Kanalbolag will be responsible for damage only if the Canal Company is liable under the law. General Swedish tort law applies, which means that the Canal Company is liable for damages if the Company or its staff can be shown to have caused a loss by negligence. The Company is not liable in any way for indirect losses.

The skipper or the insurer providing liability insurance for the boat will be held financially responsible for damage to AB Göta Kanalbolag's property caused by negligence.

Responsibility for damage arising from a collision with another vessel must be resolved between the involved parties. Staff from AB Göta Kanalbolag will make no assessment of who is at fault. If it is unclear who is at fault, we recommend that the parties report the damage to their insurance companies, which will determine the matter.

Loss found to have been caused by negligence on the part of AB Göta Kanalbolag which leads to a claim for damages against AB Göta Kanalbolag, must be immediately reported to the AB Göta Kanalbolag staff on the scene. The nearest lock/bridgekeeper must contact the management, which will ensure that an accident report is filled out. The damaged vessel must remain at the scene and the responsible person must provide a written account of the event. The accident report must be signed by both parties. AB Göta Kanalbolag does not determine liability on its own, but submits the matter to its insurance company.

No-fault casualty/property insurance is considered primary over liability insurance. For this reason, damage to a vessel must always be reported to the company that insures the vessel, and requests for compensation should be claimed primarily from this company. The insurance companies involved will then determine whether the final cost of the damage (and the excess/deductible) will be borne by the boat's insurance or by another liable party.

To avoid damage, travellers on the Canal are responsible for following the rules for travel and lockage, including but not limited to:

- Always pay full attention to what is happening during lockage. Lockage is a risky activity with fast-moving water and closely positioned boats,

which means that damage can easily be incurred due to negligence.

- Moor the boat immediately after entering the lock and immediately call the attention of the staff if a problem occurs.
- It is the responsibility of the skipper to ensure that lines are whole, of suitable length and the boat is moored in the lock. If assistance is given with mooring, it remains the responsibility of the skipper to ensure that the mooring lines are properly in place.
- Engines must be turned off during lockage. If an exception is given, the propeller must be zeroed.
- When entering a lock for downward lockage, take note of the yellow line marking the threshold of the lock, and ensure that your vessel does not cross the line.
- Use fenders on both sides of the boat and at different heights during lockage.
- Be aware that the depth of the canal varies. The canal is V-shaped, with the specified maximum depth in the middle of the canal. The depth of the canal is not guaranteed.
- The maximum sail height refers to the middle of the canal or on a buoyed fairway.
- Pay attention to overhanging trees.

Beyond this, we refer you to the instructions and regulations in the Göta Canal Company's Skipper's Guide.

If your vessel may have been damaged, the AB Göta Kanalbolag staff can help you contact an external party (such as a diver) to investigate whether the boat is damaged. The skipper is responsible for the associated costs unless AB Göta Kanalbolag is found liable for the damage.

## **Order and safety**

For the safety of all travellers on the canal, AB Göta Kanalbolag reserves the right to turn away a person who repeatedly:

- Acts recklessly and does not follow instructions from AB Göta Kanalbolag's staff.
- Acts intoxicated or in any way threatening.

## **Complaints**

Any complaints or claims for damages must be submitted as soon as possible to:

AB Göta Kanalbolag, Box 3, SE-591 21 Motala, Sweden.

However, claims for damages incurred during a trip on the canal

must be reported immediately to AB Göta Kanalbolag's staff along the canal as described above.