

## practical information

**How to get there:**

From the international airport Geneva "Cointrin", the city is reached within 6 minutes. There is direct-train service every 10–15 min. from the early morning until late night. Geneva has good connections to all major cities in Switzerland (33 min. to Lausanne; 1 h 41 min. to Bern; 2 h 40 min. to Zurich and Basel).

1 **At the railway station (Cornavin)** you'll find public phones, Internet, shopping, fast food, travel agency, pharmacy, bike rental, rest rooms/showers; Migros supermarket just opposite the main station.  
 2 Post office at rue de Mont-Blanc 18.  
 3 **Tourist office** at rue de Mont-Blanc 18 (022 909 70 70), currency exchange at Rue Mont Blanc 21. Along place Mont Blanc you'll find many souvenir shops and fast-food restaurants. @ Internet at Open Vidéo, Route de Meyrin 8, Charly's Multimedia Check Point, rue de Fribourg 7 and at hostels (guests only). Bus terminal at Place Dorcière.

www.geneva-tourism.ch  
 www.ville-ge.ch  
 www.backpacker.ch

**save money**

All visitors staying at a hotel/hostel/campground in Geneva can benefit from the **Geneva Transport Card, with no additional cost** (enables you the use of the entire public transportation network without restriction, with validity for the entire duration of your stay including the departure day!)

## budget accommodation

3 City Hostel Geneva, Rue Ferrier 2 (022 901 15 00) »www.cityhostel.ch; 4 Youth Hostel Geneva, Rue Rothschild 30 (022 732 62 60) »www.genevahostel.ch; 5 Home St-Pierre, Cour St-Pierre 5 (022 310 37 07) »www.homestpierre.ch; 6 Cité Universitaire, Av. Miremont 46 (022 839 22 22) »www.unige.ch/cite-uni; Etap Hotel Genève, 26 Av. Louis Casai (022 710 46 36) »www.etaphotel.com; Etap Hotel Genève Petit-Lancy, Ch. des Olliquettes 6 (022 709 02 20) »www.etaphotel.com

**TIP!**

The City Hostel is also an issuing office for **Swiss train passes** i.e. the Swiss Pass/Swiss Youth Pass. For details about the Swiss train passes see **page 5**.



View from the cathedral onto the town and the lake basin with the famous water jet

Geneva is truly an international city that belongs not so much to Switzerland as to the whole world! Dozens of international organisations are based here, two of which are the United Nations' European headquarters and the International Committee of the Red Cross. It's a progressive crossroads of people and civilizations, enjoying a privileged situation in the heart of Europe. No wonder, then, that this central position has made Geneva a cosmopolitan city where organisations, firms, businesses and banks from all over the world rub shoulders. Geneva stretches along both banks of Lake Geneva in a magnificent harbor. And it is also a city of parks and promenades, offering a bit of rural rescue in the otherwise urban environment.

## highlights

16 **Genev'roule** is a bike-rental organisation, from which you can rent bicycles all year long and **borrow for free** in summer (from May to end of October). It's free for a period of up to 4 hours, from the 5th hour on, the bikes cost CHF 2.– an hour. The stations at Place de Montbrillant 17 (just behind the train station) and Ruelle des Templiers 4 are open daily from 8 am–9 pm. The stations at Place du Rhône (next to the river), Bains des Pâquis (lake shore) and at Plaine de Plainpalais (near the skatepark) are open daily 9 am–7 pm. Deposit required: CHF 20.– plus you must show your passport or ID card.

7 **Saint Peter's Cathedral**. The central point of Geneva's old town. One-hundred-and-fifty-seven steps lead to the summit of the cathedral's north tower and to a **fabulous panorama** overlooking the city and the lake. And underneath the cathedral there

is one of Europe's largest subterranean **archaeological sites**. Open Mon–Sat 9.30 am–6.30 pm, Sun noon–6.30 pm (June–September); Mon–Sat 10 am–5.30 pm, Sun noon–5.30 pm (Oct–May). Entrance to the towers CHF 4.–.

An underground passageway connects the cathedral to its archaeological site and to the **International Museum of the Reformation** (at Rue du Cloître 4). Located in a beautiful 18th century historic building, the Maison Mallet, this museum retraces the history of the Reformation Movement initiated by John Calvin. The museum is open Tue–Sun 10 am–5 pm, entry costs CHF 10.– (students 7.–); combined ticket (cathedral with towers, archaeological site and the museum) costs CHF 16.–.

8 **Institute and Museum Voltaire**, rue des Délices 25. The life and work of Voltaire in the 18th century. Located in the man-

sion owned by the philosopher from 1755–1765. **Free entrance**, open Mon–Sat 2–5 pm, Sun closed.

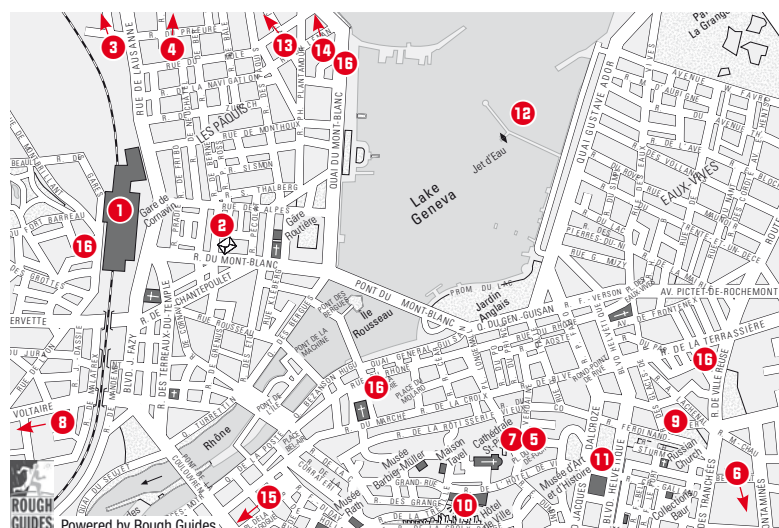
9 **Russian Church**. A jewel of Byzantine art, with an interior richly decorated with icons. Rue Rodolphe-Toeppfer 3. Open for visitors only sporadically, but it's even worth seeing from outside.

10 **Espace Jean-Jacques Rousseau**, with Public and University Library at Grand-Rue 40. One part of this museum recalls the Reformation Movement and its leaders in Geneva. The second part is dedicated to the city's most famous son, Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Open daily (except Mon) 11 am–5.30 pm. Entrance CHF 5.–/students CHF 3.–.

11 **Museum of Art & History**. Rue Charles-Galland 2. This is one of the most important museums. The collection comprises paintings, sculptures, weapons, room interiors and archeology. Open Tue–Sun (closed on Monday) 10 am–6 pm. **Entrance free** (paying entrance for temporary exhibitions: CHF 5.–, free admission to permanent collections and temporary exhibitions every first Sunday of the month).

12 **Water Fountain (Jet d'eau)**. The famous Geneva fountain is known around the world as a symbol of Geneva (Quai Gustav-Ador). The fountain shoots 500 liters (132 gallons) of water per second, as high as 450 feet in the air. A good place from which to take a picture of Geneva (the fountain is not activated in case of strong winds).

13 **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum Geneva**. Geneva is the birthplace of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Close to the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC), on 17 Avenue de la Paix, there is a very impressive museum. Its collection entreats its visitors to weigh their own contribution to mankind's efforts to relieve suffering; to keep alive the flame of hope and take to heart the maxim: "Each of us is responsible to others for everything". Allow around 2 hours to see this museum. There's a nice restaurant inside, along with a museum-shop and multimedia area (Café Dunant).

**Cité Universitaire de Genève**

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Open daily (except Tuesday) 10 am–5 pm, admission CHF 10.–, students 5.–. **Note:** the museum is closing on June 30th 2011 for transformation work (reopening not before summer 2013). »www.micr.org

**How to get there:** From Cornavin railway station take bus no. 8, F, Z or V and get off when you see the Red Cross flag (opposite the visitors' entrance of the United Nations building).

**10 The United Nations Geneva.** The United Nations Office Geneva (UNOG) is the largest and most active center for conference diplomacy in the world and the site of many historic negotiations. It is also the second largest United Nations office after the New York headquarters. The UN office in Geneva is based at the Palais des Nations, which was built in 1936 as the headquarters for the League of Nations. The United Nations offer tours on which you can familiarise yourself with the only truly universal organisation ever formed. One-hour guided tours trace the history of the United Nations, covering current activities and future projects. Daily tours from April–October 10 am–noon and 2–4 pm; July and August 10 am–5 pm. Admission CHF 10.–/students CHF 8.–.

**How to get there:** Buses 5, 11, 14 to Place des Nations; or V, Z to Ariana; or 8, 18, F to Appia. (It is not possible to enter the United Nations building by the main entrance in place des Nations. The **visitors' entrance** is at Pregny Gate 14, av. de la Paix, opposite the Red Cross headquarters).

**15 Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, MAMCO** (Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, MAMCO), 10 rue des Vieux

Grenadiers. This extraordinary museum was built in an old factory. Opened in 1994, it is a prestigious museum which exposes on its surface of 4,000m<sup>2</sup> a vast collection of European and American art covering the last four decades. 1000 works of art are owned by the museum, 300 are permanently on display. In addition, three times a year temporary exhibitions are organised. Open Tue–Fri from noon to 6 pm (every first Wed of the month till 9 pm), Sat & Sun 11 am–6 pm, closed on Monday. Admission CHF 8.–, students 6.–. **Free admission every first Sunday of the month!** »www.mamco.ch.

**How to get there:** Buses no 1, 4, 44 stop at école de Médecine, trams 12 and 16 stop at Rond-Point de Plainpalais, or tram 13 stops at Cirque.

**Excursion by mini-train électro-solaire.** The unique mini-train functions with solar energy and starts daily from 10.15 am every 45 minutes to sunset at Jardin Anglais (English Garden), a quiet ride along the quays and parks (duration 30 minutes); it's possible to stop and visit the parks and the rose garden and then to continue with the following train. Costs CHF 8.–.

**Self-guided walking tour.** The tourist office (at Rue du Mont-Blanc 18) proposes you to stroll through 2,000 years of Geneva's history independently and at your own pace. The tour includes 25 points of interest and lasts approximately two and a half hours. You may buy the audio guide MP3 style, which costs CHF 15.– and is available in English, French and German language. If

you speak Italian, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or Arabic you can hire a discman, which costs CHF 10.– plus a deposit of CHF 50.–, to be refunded when returning the player. Both the audio guide MP3 style and discman are available at the tourist office on Mon 10 am–6 pm; Tue–Sun 9 am–6 pm.

**Discover Geneva on foot or by boat.** Geneva has many wonderful parks and gardens that invite you to spend a nice day strolling through peaceful nature. There are approx. 75,000 trees and 40,000 rose bushes, which make Geneva Switzerland's rose capital. The **Botanical Garden**, a large wooded area with comfortable footpath, is a haven of peace near the right bank of the lake, with gorgeous seasonal flower arrangements. It contains several tropical greenhouses, one of which is in the shape of a dome, a park with deer, flamingoes, aviaries and ponds; close to the UN-building. Bus no. 4, 44 or 18. **Parc de la Bâtie.** With the Parc de la Bâtie as a starting point, you can hike along the beautiful Rhône Valley – a wildlife preservation area. Bus 4 to Bel-Air and then walk along the river Rhône (west).

**Geneva's boat companies** do a wide range of cruises, i.e. cruises for one hour, for one day, or evening and lunch cruises; the choice is yours. Board one of its sixteen ships (8 paddle wheelers including 5 steamers and 8 propeller vessels) and discover countless beautiful sights in a congenial atmosphere. The different cruises start from Quai du Mont-Blanc and/or Jardin Anglais. **Or be**

**your own captain.** At Quai Gustave-Ador electric boats and pedal boats can be rented.

**Rhône River Cruise.** The Rhône may not be the Amazon but once past its junction with the Arve River, a lush and seemingly untouched landscape unfolds. If you are in Geneva between April and October, note the point of departure: Pont de l'Île, quai des Moulins. There, a Geneva "Mouette" will take you on a picturesque cruise of two and a half hours to the Verbois dam and back. Keep your camera and binoculars within easy reach for the sights are really worth it! Not only are the landscapes stunning, the high cliffs which give way to vast stretches of fields when approaching the dam offering fine views of the Alps and the Jura mountains, but an incredible variety of fauna can be observed during the entire cruise. Costs CHF 25.–, duration 2h 45.

**Mont Salève.** The Salève (which peaks at 1,380 meters), located in **nearby France**, offers a unique view. It's a kingdom for lovers of nature and a favorite venue for climbers, mountain bikers, paragliders and delta wingers. Bear in mind that Salève is across the French border, so if you don't have a visa (either to get into France or to get back to Switzerland), you should give it a miss! Bus no 8 brings you to Veyrier, from where it's a short walk to the Salève cable-car. There's a panoramic restaurant on top. You can do the trip to the summit and back in a couple of easy hours.

For information about the beautiful **Lake Geneva Region** see **pages 18–22.**

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events

<b>May 14th &amp; 15th</b>	Geneva Marathon (under the patronage of the United Nations)
<b>May 21st</b>	Fête de l'Espoir (Hope Festival). Free-of-charge festival where all artists perform on a voluntary basis (at Stade du Bout-du-Monde)
<b>June 14th</b>	Zucchero, Arena, Geneva
<b>June 17th – 19th</b>	"Bol d'Or" – Europe's biggest lake sailing race
<b>July &amp; Aug</b>	Open-air cinema by the lakeside
<b>July 11th</b>	Lake Parade. The not-to-be-missed rendez-vous for enthusiasts of techno and house music
<b>Aug 1st</b>	Swiss National Day. Speeches, paper lantern parade, patriotic show, bonfire and fireworks
<b>Aug 4th – 14th</b>	Geneva Festival. The immensely popular festival takes place around the lake but also within different districts in Geneva. It is the highlight of the summer season, with fun fair, entertainment, concerts and fireworks »www.fetesdegeneve.ch
<b>Aug 25th – Sep 15th</b>	Circus "Knie" at Plaine de Plainpalais

Markets

<b>Tue / Fri / Sun</b>	Fruit, vegetable and craftsmen's market at Plainpalais
<b>Wed / Sat</b>	Flea market at Plainpalais
<b>Wed / Sat</b>	Fruit/vegetable market at place de la Fusterie
<b>Thursday</b>	Handicraft market at place de la Fusterie
<b>Friday</b>	Book market at palace de la Fusterie

entertainment, fun & parties

For listings of cinemas / theaters / concerts, get a free copy of "Geneva by night" and/or "Geneva at hand".

In Geneva almost every corner has its café. **Place du Bourgh-de-Four** (in the old town), for instance, is lined with busy terrace cafés offering coffees, aperitif and snacks to fuel hours of reading and people-watching.

- **Quartier des Pâquis** (between the main station and the lake) is, for many, "the" place for a good night out: restaurants/pubs/bars and a lot of fun.
- **Bains des Pâquis**, about 5 minutes from the fountain. A good place to listen to live music, to stroll through food stalls, or for a dip in the lake.
- **Mr. Pickwick** (at rue de Lausanne 80) is, of course, a real English pub. Cheers...!
- **Mulligans Irish Pub** (at rue de Grenus 14) is a place to enjoy a Guinness in Irish ambience.
- **Les Brasseurs**, at Place de Cornavin 20 (just across the train station), offers a cosy and friendly atmosphere, home-made beers and culinary specialties.
- **Palais Mascotte** (Rue de Berne 43) has a restaurant, a bar and a disco (all in the same building).
- **L'Usine**, at place des Volontaires 4, is an alternative multicultural center that offers a rich programme of concerts, theatre, dance, film projects, as well as several bars and more.
- **Post Café**, at rue de Berne 7, is a friendly and congenial place.
- **Auberge de Savièse** (rue des Pâquis 20), **Edelweiss** (Place de la Navigation 2) and **Hôtel de Ville** (Grand Rue 39 in the old town) are good for fondue!
- **Discothèque-Cabaret Garçonnière**, at Rue de la Rôtisserie, is a gay club with daily shows (open until 5 am).
- **Tcherga Bar**, at Rue de la Navigation 40 (open Wed – Sun), has live music.

For more suggestions ask at your hostel.





# Youth Hostel Geneva

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Guestbook quote

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