

## 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; “Bookworm” English bookshop as well as second-hand books bought and sold at rue Sismondi 5. @ Internet at Open Vidéo, Rue des Alpes 19, Charly's Multimedia Check Point, rue de Fribourg 7 and at hostels (guests only). Bus terminal at Place Dorcière.



## save money

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

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

## 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; 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



Water Fountain (Jet d'eau)

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.

## highlights

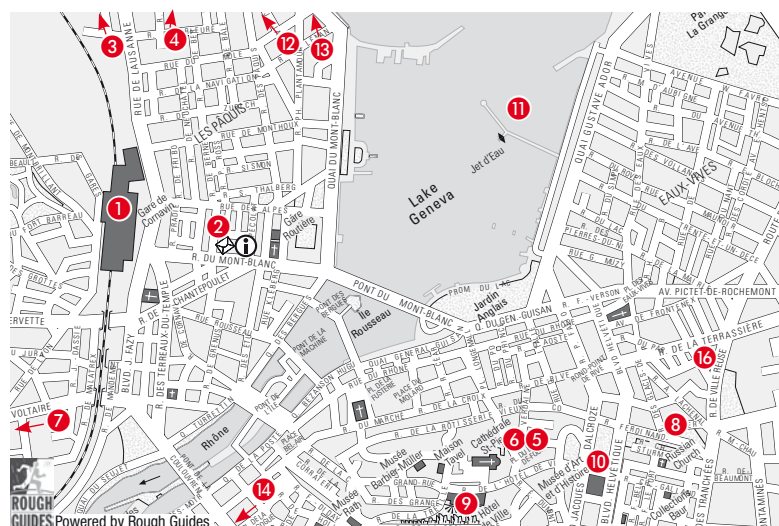
6 **Saint Peter's Cathedral.** The central point of Geneva's old town. One-hundred-and-fifty-seven steps lead to the summit of the cathedral's north tower and to a **fabulous panorama** overlooking the city and the lake. Underneath the cathedral there is one of Europe's largest subterranean archeological sites. Open Mon–Sat 10 am–5.30 pm, Sun noon–5.30 pm, entrance to the towers CHF 4.–.

7 **Institute and Museum Voltaire**, rue des Délices 25. The life and work of Voltaire in the 18th century. Located in the mansion owned by the philosopher from 1755–1765.

**Free entrance**, open Mon–Sat 2–5 pm, Sun closed.

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

9 **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.–.

10 **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).

11 **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, when the temperature is lower than 2 degrees, and for 3 weeks of maintenance in November).

12 **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”. In 1999, a new area was opened presenting the movement's contemporary activities. Allow around 2 hours to see this museum. There's a nice restaurant inside, along with a museum-shop and multimedia area (Café Dunant). Open daily (except Tuesday) 10 am–5 pm, admission CHF 10.–. »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).

13 **The United Nations Geneva.** The United Nations Office Geneva (UNOG) is the largest and most active centre 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. Tours Mon–Fri 10 am–noon and 2–4 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).

**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 4,000 m<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.

**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.

**TIP!**



The City Hostel is also an issuing office for **Swiss train passes** i.e. the Swiss Pass / Swiss Youth Pass. The passes are valid on the legendary scenic routes and also good on the public transportation systems of 37 Swiss cities (for details about the Swiss train passes see **page 5**).

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.



**Cruises on Lake Geneva.** Take a boat and enjoy a relaxing time on Lake Geneva. Geneva's boat companies do a wide range of cruises, some of them also in winter. The cruises start from Quai du Mont-Blanc and/or Jardin Anglais.

**Mont Salève.** The Salève (which peaks at 1,380 meters), located in nearby France, offers a unique view of Geneva, the lake, the Alps and Mont Blanc, and in winter it's a kingdom for cross-country skiers. Bear in mind that Salève is across the French border, so if you need 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 (operates on weekends only!). There's a panoramic restaurant on top. You can do the trip to the summit and back in a couple of easy hours.

**Winter sports.** As a winter sports enthusiast you should note that Geneva is situated near the best **skiing areas** of the Alps. In 1 or 2 hours, famous Swiss mountain resorts like Gstaad, Crans-Montana, Zermatt (the village of the Matterhorn), or the French towns of Chamonix and Val d'Isère, can easily be reached from here.

At Promenade de l'Europe 11 you'll find a synthetic **ice-skating rink** (outdoor). Open daily from Nov–Mar, entrance is free of charge, skate hire is possible (costs CHF 5.–).

For more about the **Lake Geneva Region** (i.e. Lausanne, Vevey and Montreux) see **pages 24–28**.

**events**

<b>Nov 10th</b>	Katie Melua at the Arena*
<b>Nov 25th–Dec 24th</b>	Christmas Market. Stands selling Christmas decorations, crafts and gift ideas (city centre)
<b>Nov 26th–Jan 2nd</b>	Trees & Lights Festival. Some hundred trees in the city centre are decorated by artists
<b>Nov 29th</b>	Shakira at the Arena*
<b>Dec 4th</b>	The "Escalade" run. Popular foot-race for all ages, professional or amateurs, including a humorous category (old town)
<b>Dec 4th–Jan 9th</b>	Christmas Circus at Place Colonel Audéoud
<b>Dec 10th</b>	Lord of the Dance at the Arena*
<b>Dec 10th–12th</b>	The "Escalade" celebrations. Historical parade in 17th century costumes
<b>Dec 19th</b>	Coupe de Noel. Annual Christmas swimming competition in the lake's icy waters (at Jardin Anglais)
<b>Dec 19th</b>	Elton John & Ray Cooper at the Arena*
<b>Dec 31st</b>	New Year's Eve, something is going on everywhere
<b>Jan 14th–29th</b>	Massive sale of army stock and camping materials at Palexpo
<b>Feb 18th</b>	Michel Sardou at the Arena*
<b>Mar 3rd–13th</b>	81st International Motor Show at Palexpo

\* For reservations call Ticket Corner 0848 800 800. »www.ticketcorner.com

**entertainment, fun & parties**

For listings of cinemas / theaters / concerts, get a free copy of **"Genève 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 and to stroll through food stalls.
- **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 specialities.
- **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** (Pâquis) and **Hôtel de Ville** (Grand Rue 39 in the old town) are good for fondue!
- **Palais Mascotte** (Rue de Berne 43) has a restaurant, a bar and a disco (all in the same building).
- **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.
- **Au Chat Noir**, at Rue Vautier 13, is a legendary bar and concert hall located in Carouge. They regularly invite jazz bands, solo artists, rock and world music groups.

For more suggestions ask at your hostel



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# Youth Hostel Geneva

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