



Geneva

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Welcome to



Whether you're coming from near or far, this brochure has been designed to help you discover and make the most of your visit to Geneva, the "smallest big city in Europe."

As you wander about, you will get to know Geneva, a free city at the end of the 13th century, then an independent republic before joining the Swiss Confederation in 1815. You will also learn about how Geneva subsequently became a renowned international city.

Geneva, the city of Protestantism, world capital of watch-making, a city of graceful lakeside parks, a world-class cultural centre, a place renowned for its gastronomy and an excellent point of departure for numerous excursions, wishes you many enjoyable moments as you discover all of its treasures, which we hope will leave you with innumerable memories.

The heart of Geneva: the Old Town and vicinity

The Cathedral of Saint Pierre and its archaeological site

The Cathedral of Saint Pierre was constructed between 1160 and 1232. Originally built in the Romanesque style, its arches were later extended into a Gothic style. In the 18th century, with the revival at the time of architecture of antiquity, a facade with Greco-Roman columns and a cupola inspired by Rome's Pantheon was added. Since the Reformation, this majestic building has been used for Protestant religious services. You will see "Calvin's chair", the sculpted stalls of the chancel and a monument and statue honouring the Duke of Rohan, who acted as leader of the French protestants under Henri IV and Louis XIII, and whose remains rest in the cathedral. The panoramic view from the top of the north tower is impregnable, however, you will have to climb 157 steps of a spiral staircase to discover it. The carillon change their tune every month of the year.

Under the cathedral, you can visit one of Europe's largest subterranean archaeological sites. Here you will discover the foundations of former religious buildings.

The Chapel of the Maccabeans

Built in 1405, this edifice was both a burial and collegial chapel, but transformed into a warehouse during the Reformation. Toward the end of the 17th century, it became an auditorium of the Academy, at which time three interior floors were added, necessary for its new function. At the end of the 19th century, religious services were held there, and beginning in 1878, the chapel, together with the rest of the cathedral, underwent restoration. Its present-day look is Neo-Gothic.

The Auditoire

The Auditoire was first a chapel in the 5th century, and then a parish seat. A place to hear the sermons of Calvin and de Bèze, this sombre building also lodged John Knox in 1555. Knox, along with Bodley (future founder of the library of Oxford) and Coverdale, collaborated on the first English Bible for household use, which came to be known as the "Geneva Bible". Today, the Consistory and the Company of Pastors use the Auditoire for their meetings.



The “Place Bourg-de-Four”

This public square, the oldest in Geneva, is in the heart of the Old Town. The atmosphere of the Place Bourg-de-Four is particularly welcoming, enhanced by tiny antique shops, bistros and outdoor cafes that surround a charming 18th century fountain. To the east is the Palais de Justice, which was first a convent and then a general hospice. It has housed Geneva's judiciary power since the middle of the 19th century.

The Town Hall (Hôtel de Ville)

Geneva's Parliament is housed in this 15th century building. In the adjoining Baudet Tower are the offices of the Council of State. Don't miss the cobbled ramp which at the end of the 16th century facilitated the arrival of dignitaries on horseback. It follows a spiral course, but rather than curved, it is square-shaped. On the ground floor, in the south wing added in the beginning of the 1700s, you will find the Alabama Room (named after the so-called Alabama dispute between the United States and England and its international arbitration held here in 1872) where, in 1864, the First Geneva Convention was signed, marking the birth of the Red Cross. Every summer, the Town

Hall's inner courtyard comes to life with a series of outdoor concerts.

The Old Arsenal

Built in the 15th century as a granary, it became an arms depot in 1720, and today houses Geneva's state archives on the second floor. In the covered outdoor area, you'll see five original canons from Geneva's artillery, dating from the 17th and 18th centuries, at the time of military engagements such as the Restoration. The three mosaics on the back wall by the Geneva artist Alexandre Cingria represent the arrival of Julius Caesar in Geneva, fairs at the Bourg-de-Four during the Middle Ages and the welcoming of the Huguenot refugees.

Maison Tavel

This is the oldest private house in Geneva, dating from the 12th century. Its current façade, however, resembles the way it looked in the 17th century. Since 1986, the Maison Tavel has housed the Museum of Old Geneva, retracing the history and daily life of the “Genevois” from the 14th to the 19th centuries. Don't miss, on the top



floor, Switzerland's largest relief map, which depicts Geneva when it was a walled city around 1850.

The International Museum of the Reformation

This museum is located in the Maison Mallet, in the heart of the Old Town, next to Saint Pierre Cathedral. It is a highly symbolic location since it is the former site of the cloisters of the cathedral where the citizens of Geneva adopted the Reformation on May 21, 1536. The Reformation is presented from its earliest days to the present, with a lively commentary thanks to the latest techniques of museum design. The museum retraces the history of the Reformation, not only from the religious point of view, but also as a cultural and social phenomenon, whose impact is still very much in evidence today. The museum is intended for all people of whatever faith who are interested in the Reformation, of which Geneva was one of the founding cities. Various themes are presented in the museum's rooms, such as those devoted to the Bible, polemics, Calvin and Geneva, the theological banquet, the revocation of the

Edict of Nantes and the Huguenots refuge, as well as paintings of the 19th century. The 20th century is presented in the vaulted basement, which links the museum to the archaeological site of Saint Pierre Cathedral.

www.musee-reforme.ch

Espace Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Jean-Jacques Rousseau was born on June 28, 1712, at 40 Grand Rue in the Old Town of Geneva. This is where the Espace Rousseau is now located. Its purpose is to keep alive and make more widely known today the thought and work of one of the most enduring thinkers of all time. Through a 25-minute audiovisual journey, in a contemporary setting, visitors are able to trace the life of this famous citizen of Geneva-writer, musician and philosopher of the Enlightenment. A subtle synchronisation of image and sound, evocative iconography and extracts from his literary and musical work, bring to life the multiple facets of the author of the Social Contract. Audiovisual tour in French, German, Italian, English and Japanese.

www.espace-rousseau.ch



Place Neuve

This square is the artistic centre of Geneva. In the middle of the square, you will see an equestrian statue of General Guillaume-Henri Dufour (1787-1875). The general was not only an engineer, but also a professor at the university, editor of the most complete map of the mountains in Switzerland, Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the Confederation in 1847, and then, at the age of 76, a member of the famous “Committee of Five”, the group that authored the first concept of the Red Cross.

The Rath Museum

The sisters of Simon Rath, a lieutenant-general in the army of the tsar and an art connoisseur, who died at the age of 40, built this gallery to house the collection of rare works of their brother. The Rath Museum, opened in 1825, was Switzerland’s first building dedicated to exhibiting fine arts. Today, its galleries are used for temporary exhibitions.

The Grand Théâtre

Built in 1879, and heavily inspired by the Paris Opera house in terms of construction, Geneva’s opera house has a classical influence

and is embellished with allegorical sculptures and busts of famous composers. Destroyed by a fire in 1951, it reopened in 1962. The Geneva opera prides itself on its own corps de ballet; renowned International opera stars perform here regularly as guests.

www.geneveopera.ch

Geneva Music Conservatory

Constructed in 1856, this Florentine-style building resembles the façade of the villa of the Perle du Lac, which was the property of Francois Bartholoni, who financed the construction of this reputed school of music. Every summer, an international competition for musical performers takes place here.

www.cmusge.ch

Victoria-Hall

Financed in 1893 by the Counsel of England, Daniel Fitzgerald Barton, and dedicated to Queen Victoria, this concert hall is Geneva’s “temple” of classical music concerts. Following a fire in 1984, it was entirely rebuilt. The new ceiling pays special homage to Ernest Ansermet (1883-1969), the great conductor who founded the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande in 1918.



Parc des Bastions

Formerly a botanical garden, it is now a pleasant promenade in the centre of Geneva, embellished with monuments, fountains and statues along shady walkways. You will notice the **Reformation Wall**, erected in 1909, celebrating the great figures of Protestantism; the **Palais Eynard**, a 19th century building, once the private residence of a banker, now houses the “Mairie de la Ville de Genève”. The Academy, founded by Jean Calvin in the 16th century, is today the **university**, an imposing pink building embellished with cut stone.

The City Centre

Geneva, a paradise for shopping, offers in its innumerable boutiques and many department stores an incomparable choice of articles of all types and from all parts of the world. You will find in Geneva, the capital of watchmaking and exquisite jewellery, a unique choice for all pocket-books. Before you leave the city, don't forget to purchase some chocolate from one of Geneva's master chocolate-makers. And, needless to say, why not put some Swiss army knives on your shopping list? They are an ideal gift for your friends – or for yourself.

Place du Molard

In the heart of the left bank shopping district, halfway between the lake and the Old Town, the Place du Molard's outdoor cafe tables invite you to relax next to a fountain and a flower market. Take note of its 16th century tower that once protected one of the entrances to the formerly walled city, while the surrounding arcades bring to mind the old covered markets.

Geneva's Lakefront

If the Rhone is the backbone of Geneva, the lakefront is certainly the city's best-known face, with its famous **jet d'eau** spouting a column of lake water as high as 450 feet in the air. Geneva's lakeside quays are lined with beautiful flowerbeds of roses and exotic flora, as well as a series of parks of rare botanic essence, where you will discover elegant old residences. You'll also delight in seeing a wide variety of aquatic birds, such as swans, ducks and diving birds, in addition to a myriad of multi-coloured sails during highly popular regattas. Such is the enchantment that invites you to Geneva's lakefront.



Two interesting attractions await you in the **English Garden** (Jardin anglais): the famous **flower clock**, a reflection of Geneva's heritage and undisputed leadership in watchmaking, and the **National Monument** which commemorates Geneva's union with Switzerland in 1815.

Parallel to the pont du Mont-Blanc, and accessible from the pont des Bergues, you will find the **Rousseau Island**, established in 1583, which formerly served to defend the port. It later became a park called the "Île des Barques." In the centre of this island is the **statue of the philosopher/writer Jean-Jacques Rousseau**, probably Geneva's most famous son.

On the right bank of the lakeshore, you can admire the **Brunswick Monument**, which contains the tomb of Charles II, Duke of Brunswick. The duke left his fortune to the city of Geneva, with the condition that the city place him in a replica of Verona's Scaligeri Mausoleum. Further along the quay is the Pâquis jetty, with its lighthouse and public baths.

The Parks

If you continue your stroll on the right bank along quay Mont-Blanc and quay Wilson, you will arrive at a park called **Perle du Lac**. Slightly dominating it, on the other side of rue de Lausanne, is the **Conservatory and Botanical**

Garden, with its extraordinary exotic plants and trees from around the world that you will discover among waterfalls and ponds. The botanical gardens also contain an enchanting rock garden, a small animal park with deer and peacocks, an aviary and a greenhouse where tropical and Mediterranean plants bloom.

Returning to the lakeshore, why not take one of the "Mouettes Genevoises" boats, which cross over to the left bank to the quai Gustave-Ador (on foot, it is about three miles). Opposite the pier, you will discover the **Eaux-Vives** and **La Grange parks**. The latter contains the remains of a Roman villa, a charming old farm building and "the Orangerie", where cultural events are held every summer. An 18th century mansion sits atop a gently sloping lawn and "La Roseraie" features every June the most beautiful roses in the world during the international contest of new roses.

The International Organizations

Geneva is the headquarters of some 200 international organizations, most of which are located around the Place des Nations. Facing this square is the imposing **Palais des Nations**, European headquarters of the United Nations. Built in the 1930s, the Palais is situated in a park offering magnificent

We recommend our audio-guided 'star' tour of the Old Town that you can do on your own by renting for a nominal fee a special cassette player and tape from our information offices. Also discover Geneva and its surroundings with the Geneva Tourism licensed guides: visits for individuals or groups and cultural walks. More information can be obtained from our information offices.





panoramic views of the city, the lake and the Alps. April to October – Daily: 10am-noon and 2-4pm. July & August – Daily: 10am-5pm. November to March – Monday to Friday: 10am-noon and 2-4pm. Closed the last two weeks of December. www.unog.ch

Leaving the Palais des Nations by the Pregny gate, you will find yourself in front of the **International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum**, which retraces over a century of history of this organization. The most advanced techniques of museum displays bring back to life the activities of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in our daily life as well as through all the tragedies of modern history. Daily: 10am-5pm. Closed on Tuesday.

www.micr.org

Close to the United Nations, you will find the **Ariana Museum** (Swiss Museum of Ceramics and Glass). A superb collection of some 20,000 items from seven centuries. Daily: 10am-5pm. Closed on Tuesday.

<http://mah.ville-ge.ch>

A few steps from the French border, you can visit the **European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN)**, one of the largest centres of particle research in the world. Daily: 9am-5.30pm. Closed on Sunday.

www.cern.ch/visits

Carouge

This small, charming city, separated geographically from Geneva by the Arve River, is a unique example in Europe of post-medieval urbanism. Most of Carouge was built in the 18th century, when the king of Sardinia commissioned architects from Turin to build in the Piedmontese style, which today offers you a surprising change of surroundings. Carouge, with its Mediterranean allure, is classified as a “city of national importance”.

www.carouge.ch

The Geneva countryside

Geneva, one of Switzerland's smallest cantons, has succeeded in preserving its rural character with its vineyards, rolling fields, forests, small streams and large river.

Its quaint villages, untouched by the passage of time and only a few kilometres from the centre of the city, have an especially appealing atmosphere. Easily reached by car, bus or train (take the “La Plaine” line), the Genevese countryside is also included in guided tours operating from the beginning of May to the end of October.

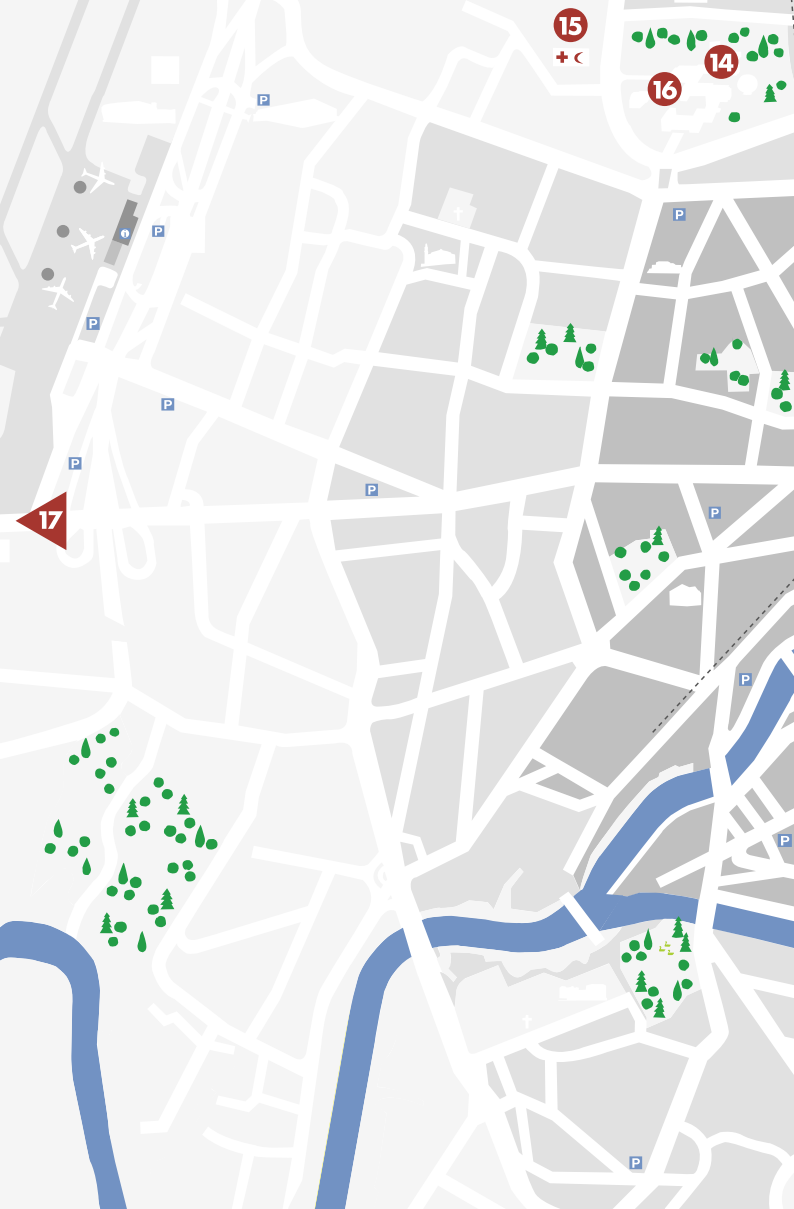
www.keytours.ch

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- 2 Place du Bourg-de-Four
- 3 Maison Tavel
- 4 Musée international de la Réforme
- 5 Espace Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- 6 Place Neuve

- 7 Parc des Bastions
- 8 Place du Molard
- 9 Jardin Anglais
- 10 Ile Rousseau
- 11 Monument Brunswick
- 12 Parc de la Perle du Lac
- 13 Parc des Eaux-Vives



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- 15** Musée international de la Croix
Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
- 16** Musée Ariana
- 17** CERN
- 18** Carouge

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