

## GENEVA

**Geneva** is the second-most-populous city in Switzerland (after Zürich) and is the most populous city of Romandie (the French-speaking part of Switzerland). Situated where the **Rhône River** exits Lake Geneva (in French known as **Lac Léman**), it is the capital of the Republic and Canton of Geneva.

Geneva is a worldwide centre for diplomacy and international cooperation, and is widely regarded as a global city, mainly because of the presence of numerous international organisations, including the headquarters of many of the agencies of **the United Nations** and **the Red Cross**. It is also the place where **the Geneva Conventions** were signed, which chiefly concern the treatment of wartime non-combatants and prisoners of war.

Geneva has been described as the world's sixth most important financial centre by the Global Financial Centres Index, ahead of Tokyo, Chicago, Frankfurt and Sydney, and a 2009 survey by Mercer found Geneva to have the third-highest quality of life in the world.



- **Jet d'Eau**, the Rade (visible from most of the Lac Léman waterfront). daily 10AM-11PM. One of the crowning symbols of **Geneva** is the monumental Jet d'Eau, a **fountain of water** pumped 140m into the air. The spectacular plume was once an occasional pressure release for hydro-power generation on the **Rhône River**, but people liked it so much that in 1891 the city created a permanent pumped fountain. It's beautifully lit at night. Best viewed from a distance — the surrounding half kilometer is soaked with water.
- **Cathédrale St-Pierre**, Place St. Pierre (At the highest point in the Old Town),, Jun-Sep, M-Sa 9AM-7PM, Su 11AM-7PM; Oct-May, M-Sa 10AM-noon and 2PM-5PM, Su 11AM-12:30PM and 1:30PM-5PM. The new Espace Saint Pierre pass includes entrance to all three sites of Cour Saint-Pierre, a noteworthy space of unique spiritual and cultural importance. The Cathedral and its towers, which both embody the high point of the **Reformed tradition** and explore the origins of Christianity with an extensive archaeological site are now complemented by the International Museum of the Reformation on the ground floor of the Maison Mallet. An underground passage, reopened when the Museum was created, connects the two buildings. Nearby, **the Auditoire**, where Calvin taught, completes a complex that is both representative of the past and open to current questions. The new Espace Saint-Pierre thus aims to contribute to our understanding of today's world — between tradition and modernity, cultural experimentation and spiritual practice. These three buildings invite the visitor to explore the city's history. Religious denominations aside, Espace Saint Pierre represents a spirit that continues to guide the city and citizens of Geneva today.

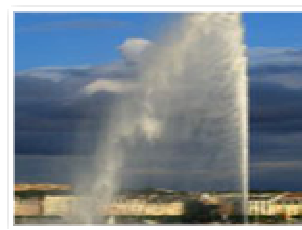
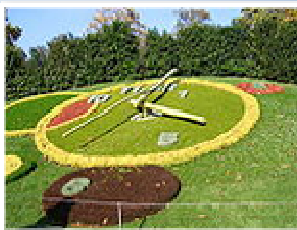
- **Palais des Nations**, 14, Avenue de la Paix (Number 8 bus, stop at Appia), Open daily Apr-Oct 10AM-noon and 2PM-4PM; Jul-Aug 10AM-5PM; the rest of the year M-F 10AM-noon and 2PM-4PM (except over the Christmas period). Originally built to house the **League of Nations**, the Palais is worth visiting just to take in the magnificent Assembly Hall, in addition to the large collection of public art, the library, and the landscaped grounds.

### Museums and Galleries

- **International Museum of the Reformation**, 4, rue du Cloître (Bus n° 36 to Cathédrale/ Bus n° 2, 7, 20, stop Molard/ Tram 12, 16, stop Molard). Open daily, except Monday, from 10AM-5PM. Closed on 24, 25 and 31 December and on 1 January. Open Easter, Pentecost, and Jeune Federal Mondays. Access for disabled visitors.. Installed on the ground floor of the magnificent Maison Mallet (next to **Saint-Pierre Cathedral**), this new Museum presents the main spiritual and cultural elements of the Reformation. Unique objects, manuscripts, rare books, engravings, and paintings illustrate the close ties between **Geneva** and the Reformation. State-of-the-art technology welcomes a modern audience: films, a music room, and demonstrations, including many for children, invite visitors to both rediscover the past and imagine the future.
- **Museum of the International Committee of the Red Cross**, 17, Avenue de la Paix (8, F, V, or Z bus to Appia from the central station). Open Daily, except Tuesday, from 10AM-5PM. Closed on 24, 25 and 31 December and on 1 January. Access for disabled visitors.. The Museum of the I.C.R.C. is one of the best in Europe, providing detailed photographic and other physical evidence of the **I.C.R.C.'s service** to humanity during countless wars and natural disasters. The displays are striking and affecting, but somehow manage to avoid taking sides.
- **Musée ARIANA**, Avenue de la Paix 10 (About midway between Place des Nations and the entrances to the Palais and the I.C.R.C). Open daily (except Tuesdays) 11AM-5PM. Occupying a big chunk of what would otherwise be the UN campus, the Ariana Museum offers a huge **collection (16,000 pieces) of ceramics** from around Europe and the far East.
- **Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain**, Rue des Vieux-Grenadiers 10 (Number 1 bus to Ecole des Medécins). Tu-F Noon-6PM. Sa-Su 11AM-6PM. Late modern, post-modern, and contemporary works by internationally known artists, as well as a special collection of Swiss conceptual work.
- **Musée d'Histoire Naturelle**, Route de Malagnou 1 (Bus 1-8 (arrêts Tranchées & Muséum) 20-27 (arrêt Muséum), trams 12-16 (arrêt Villereuse). Tu-Su 9:30AM-5PM. Geneva has a nice museum which is worth a visit, especially if you have youth and children. it
- **Musée d'Art et d'Histoire**, Rue Charles-Galland 2. Tu-Su 10AM-5PM. Extensive art and archaeological-historical collections. Painting gallery extends back to the early Renaissance, but is most extensive in Swiss-French and Impressionist works.

## Parks

- **Parc des Bastions**, entrance at **Place Neuve** or just down rue St. Léger from Place Bourg de Four. This lovely tree lined park, which is home to the liberal arts campus of the **University of Geneva** features giant chessboards and even larger **statues of Geneva's Calvinist** founding fathers, and it's directly between the old town and Plain de Plainpalais, so it makes a good transitional area for exploring.
- **Parc des Eaux Vives**, entrance at the far end of Rue des Eaux Vives and the number 2 bus line. There's also a boat dock, with service from the Pâquis. This park offers promenades and views over **the lake of the U.N.** campus and **the Palais des Nations**. Geneva beach is at the end furthest from the city, on the lakefront.
- **Bois de la Bâtie** — Just over the **river Arve** from Jonction. Most of this woody bluff has been left in a more-or-less natural state, though there are walking trails around the edges. The trails connect eventually with a sidewalk which crosses a railroad bridge to the St. Jean neighborhood. There is also a small zoo at the western edge of the woods.



## TO DO

### March **Motor Show**.

May **Caves Ouvertes** — Free annual event. Sample wine at Geneva's wineries while exploring the canton's rural side.

June **Bol D'Or Yacht Race** (biggest in Europe).

June **Fête de la Musique**. For three days in June, the whole City of Geneva is a stage. Actually, there are on the order of 40 of them. The musical offerings include children's choirs, punk rock, chamber orchestras, jam bands, avant-guard jazz, klezmer, and drum and bass DJs. The venues are as diverse as the music, with stages inside and out of l'Usine, Parc des Bastions, and even Cathedral St. Pierre. There is also a wide assortment of international food and drink for sale, which can be a bit pricey, but highly worth it. The easiest way to get information is to just head to one of the parks listed above and find one of the free newspaper-style festival guides. It includes time-tables and maps.

Additionally, be sure to wander around, as the festival is full of many excellent unofficial performances, including drums, juggling, and dance.

August **Fête de Geneve** — Week long party, including best fireworks display in Europe.

December **L'Escalade**.

## INFORMATION

### **Tourism Office of Geneva**

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