

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

DESTINATION GUIDE

Cheese, watches, chocolate, snow-capped mountains and a bustling international city with the look of a quaint village: these are just a few of the things that draw multitudes of visitors to Geneva each year. Switzerland's famous neutrality has made it a center for diplomacy and global affairs, making Geneva home to the Red Cross, Europe office of the United Nations and the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN). But Geneva is more than just work. The nearby Alps serve as the perfect backdrop for outdoor adventure and cozy evenings by the fireplace. And central Geneva is studded with luxury boutiques, inviting cafes and a diverse range of museums detailing the history, art and culture of the city.

Ideal for: Art-lovers, history buffs, foodies, skiers, hikers

INSPIRATO INSIGHTS

JET D'EAU

Geneva's most recognizable landmark, the Jet d'Eau is a 460-foot high fountain of water that's even visible from the plane as you land. Perch on the Pont du Mont-Blanc or the Promenade du Lac for a stunning photo-op.

FONDUE

The Swiss fondness for dipping crusty bread into gooey melted cheese is not just the stuff of legends. While visiting Geneva, sampling the traditional half-gruyère, half-vacherin fondue is a must. Try Les Armures or the aptly-named Le Gruyèrien.

RED CROSS HQ

The International Red Cross is headquartered in Geneva, and the Red Crescent Museum is an affecting depiction of their history and commitment to humanitarian work and aid around the world. Visitors will be guided through displays detailing the organization's founding and its extensive work with the victims of war, genocide and natural disasters.





THINGS TO DO

GOLF

Less than 30 minutes from Geneva lies the Domaine Impérial Golf Club, one of only three Pete Dye-designed courses in Europe. The course takes its name from its illustrious former owner, Prince Jérôme Napoléon. The course's lavish clubhouse was originally built in 1859 as La Villa Prangins. The course opened in 1987, and is described by its designer as "more difficult than meets the eye."

BEACH

Although Geneva is far from the ocean, visitors can sunbathe and take a refreshing dip in Lake Léman, or Lake Geneva as the locals call it. There are several beaches along the lake, including the Bains des Paquis right in the city center. Stretch out on the wooden platform over the gravel beach, make friends with a swan by sharing your lunch from Buvette des Bains, and luxuriate in the adjoining thermal baths and saunas. For something a little more secluded, venture out to tree-lined Jonction, where the Arve and Rhône Rivers meet. A nature trail extends along the Rhône River side, past barbecue pits and picnic areas, to the Sous-Terre Bridge where you can see the rivers converge.

SKI

Chamonix-Mont-Blanc is on every avid skier's bucket list thanks to its luscious powder and challenging terrain. This mountain can be intimidating, so enroll in ski school or hire a guide who can help you find the Chamonix experience you're looking for, whether you're an expert skier or new to the sport. Host of the Winter Olympics in 1924, Chamonix is also a charming ski town full of Belle Epoque buildings housing cafes, bookstores and art galleries, all just an hour away from Geneva.

TREAT YOURSELF

The Nescens Spa is the centerpiece of La Réserve Genève, expanding over 21,00 square feet with 17 treatment rooms, a Turkish hammam, saunas and steam baths. The spa's focus is on anti-aging science, and is overseen by an on-site doctor, acupuncturist, nutritionist and osteopath, all of whom can consult with guests to tailor a personalized 7- or 14-day "better aging" program.

STAY FIT

La Réserve's fitness center is truly state-of-the-art, with machines and equipment from Technogym and Kinesis. On-site coaches are available to help you take your workout to the next level. Using personal memory keys, the machines store your workout data allowing your coach to analyze and design a completely personalized routine ideal for your fitness goals.

FAMILY

Families will delight in the Bois de la Bâtie – 1,200 acres of natural forest in the middle of Geneva. Aside from exploring the wooded paths along the Arve and Rhône Rivers, the Bois has an extensive animal park featuring diverse creatures, like exotic birds, wild boars and goats. There is also a large play area for children and a casual café for lunch or a snack.

ROMANTIC

No visit to Geneva would be complete without indulging in decadent Swiss chocolate. Switzerland is famous for their milk and dark chocolate, and Geneva has a number of exceptional representatives. Arrange for a tour of the Philippe Pascoët Chocolaterie where you'll have the chance to sample his inventive flavors like saffron, absinthe and cinnamon ganache. You'll also learn how to make your own chocolates, which you can take home as a souvenir.

ADVENTURE

Mont-Salève is Geneva's neighborhood mountain – a pre-Alp on the French side of the border, just half an hour outside the city. The best way to experience Mont-Salève is by cable car, which will carry you up to the highest cliff for dramatic views of Geneva, the lake and mountains beyond. Once you reach the top, you'll find mountain biking and cross-country skiing trails, options for paragliding and mountain climbing. For those seeking something a little more tame, there's a restaurant with scenic vistas.

MUST-DO

Many European cities sit on top of the ruins of their former selves, but Geneva rests on something decidedly modern: the Large Hadron Collider. Part of the European Council for Nuclear Research, or CERN, the LHC and the rest of this cutting-edge research facility are open to the public. Schedule a tour to see the LHC (when it's not active) and the computer on which Sir Tim Berners-Lee created the Internet (not Al Gore, apparently). End your visit at the spherical Globe of Science and Innovation center, where guests can explore the concepts and significance of particle physics.

LOCAL

Carouge is the Italian section of Geneva, immediately evident from the stone archways, painted shutters and red roofs identical to neighboring Turin. This is the bohemian quarter of the city, full of music clubs, indie clothing shops and secondhand bookstores. Savor an apéro, or pre-dinner drink, at Qu'importe, or listen to jazz with a side of tapas at Le Chat Noir.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Visit Old Town

Reformation Wall

Cruise the Rhône River

Walk through Bastions Park

St. Pierre Cathedral

Patek Philippe Watchmaking Museum

Plainpalais fleamarket

Concert at Victoria Hall

DINING IN GENEVA



Local ingredients, traditional flavors, and slow-cooking techniques define Genevois cuisine. Geneva is looking outside its country borders for culinary inspiration, which has led chefs to turn away from traditional French cooking, and embrace other foods, like tapas-style small plates and Asian cuisine. Geneva's residents tend to spend their weekends out in the country, so venture outside the city for an authentic meal.

PIZZERIA LUIGI

Atmosphere: Family

Rue Adrien-Lachenal 24, 1207 Genève, Switzerland

Right near Geneva's Natural History Museum, this hip Italian eatery is perfect for lunch or dinner. In addition to the extensive wood-fired pizza menu, where diners will find something for kids and grownups alike, there is also a play area for kids with tables for coloring and a foosball table.

RESTAURANT HÔTEL DU PARC DES EAUX-VIVES

Atmosphere: Romantic

Quai Gustave-Ador 82, 1207 Genève, Switzerland

This 18th century mansion was turned into a hotel over 100 years ago, and is nestled in the middle of a verdant park that overlooks Lake Geneva. Dine indoors on velvet armchairs, or choose a table on the terrace and enjoy the mild summer weather. The seasonal menu is complemented with Swiss and regional wines. Guests craving a little more privacy can take a picnic meal out to enjoy in the park.

IZUMI

Atmosphere: Fine Dining

des 1201, Quai des Bergues 33, 1201 Genève, Switzerland

For a long time, people have gone to the Four Seasons to eat at Il Lago, a refined and delectable Italian restaurant on the top of every best list. But the recent addition of Izumi to the Four Seasons has turned that upside down. One the few Japanese restaurants in Geneva, Izumi deftly walks the line between Asian flavors and techniques and regional ingredients. Standouts include lobster and foie gras with teriyaki and truffle, and the chocolate and matcha bento box for dessert. The view from the rooftop out to the lake and the Jet d'Eau doesn't hurt either.

CAFÉ PAPON

Atmosphere: Local

Rue Henri-Fazy 1, 1204 Genève, Switzerland

This icon of Geneva's culinary scene opened in 1808, and has long been the favorite of Swiss politicians for wining and dining (or wheeling and dealing). Café Papon is tucked into a stone-walled cellar giving it an old-world flavor, but after being renovated in 2005, the interior is distinctly modern. The terrace leads out to Bastions Park, and is ideal for leisurely summer meals, so book in advance to secure your spot. The seasonal menu changes frequently, making the most of local produce, meats, and seafood.

FESTIVALS AND ACTIVITIES

- **June** – Fête de la Musique
- **July** – Montreux Jazz Festival
- **July** – Geneva Festival (cultural festival)
- **October to November** – International Film & Television Festival
- **December 9th - 11th** – Fête de l'Escalade (cultural festival)



THINGS TO KNOW

CLIMATE

Characterized by mild spring and summer days, brisk fall weather, and cool winter evenings, each season in Geneva is distinct but not extreme. At its peak, summer is warm and humid, between 55 and 80 degrees fahrenheit. The winters are cold, but stay between 30 and 40 degrees for crisp, frosty days.

GETTING THERE

La Réserve Genève is just 7 minutes from Geneva Airport. Taxis are plentiful, or your Destination Concierge can reserve a rental car for you. Public transit is also an option.

GETTING AROUND

Downtown Geneva is just 4 miles from La Réserve, and there are several options for exploring the area. The hotel provides all guests with a complimentary public transit pass, and the closest transit station is a 6-minute walk from the hotel. Guests can also take advantage of the hotel's complimentary boat rides to and from the city on La Réserve's classic wooden boat.

GENEVA QUICK FACTS

AIRPORTS

Geneva Airport (GVA)

CURRENCY

Swiss Francs (CHF)

PASSPORT?

Yes

LANGUAGE

French

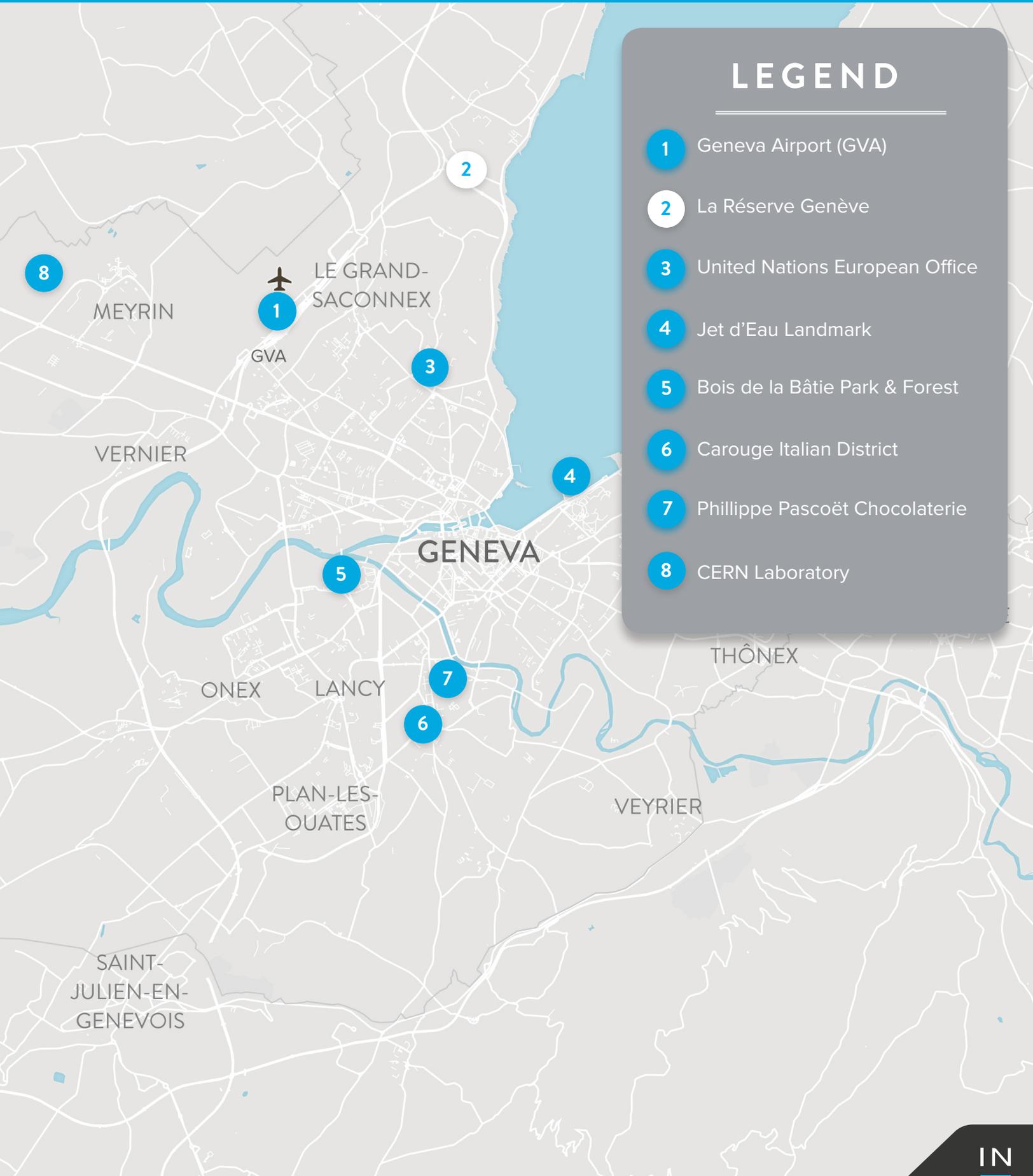
CONVERTERS

Swiss outlets are 230V 50Hz. Some appliances, like iPhones, accommodate this voltage so all you need is an adapter. For appliances that function on a different voltage, like many hair dryers, you will need a converter.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

- Taxis: Round up to the nearest franc
- Housekeeping: One or two francs each day of your stay
- Restaurants: Round up to the nearest multiple of 5 francs; add a bit more for large groups
- Tours & Excursions: Most include a service charge, but 10 francs per couple is a nice gesture

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LEGEND

- 1 Geneva Airport (GVA)
- 2 La Réserve Genève
- 3 United Nations European Office
- 4 Jet d'Eau Landmark
- 5 Bois de la Bâtie Park & Forest
- 6 Carouge Italian District
- 7 Phillippe Pascoët Chocolaterie
- 8 CERN Laboratory

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