

# Geneva



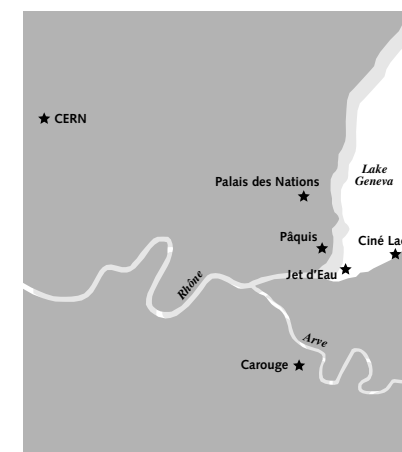
Super sleek, slick and cosmopolitan, Geneva is a rare breed of city. It's one of Europe's priciest. Its people chatter in every language under the sun and it's constantly thought of as the Swiss capital – which it isn't. This gem of a city superbly strung around the sparkling shores of Europe's largest Alpine lake is, in fact, only Switzerland's third-largest city.

Yet the whole world is here: the UN, International Red Cross, International Labour Organization, World Health Organization. You name it, they're in Geneva; 200-odd top-dog governmental and nongovernmental international organisations meting out world affairs with astonishing precision and authority. They fill the city's bounty of plush four- and five-star hotels with big-name guests. They feast on an incredulous choice of international cuisine, cooked up by restaurants to meet 'local' demand. And they help prop up the overload of banks, luxury jewellers and chocolate shops for which the city is known. Strolling through manicured city parks, sailing on the lake and skiing in the Alps next door are hot weekend pursuits.

But, ask critics, where's the urban grit? Not in the lakeside with its tourist boats, silky-smooth promenades and record-breaking high fountain. Not in its picture-postcard Old Town. No. If it's the rough-cut side of the diamond you're after, you need to dig into the Pâquis quarter, walk west along the Rhône's industrial shores or south into trendy Carouge where rejuvenated factories, alternative clubs and humble neighbourhood bars hum with attitude. This is, after all, the Geneva of the Genevois...or as close as you get, at any rate.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Watching a movie beneath the stars against a backdrop of legendary Lake Geneva at **Ciné Lac** (p73)
- Inhaling bohemia in Italianate **Carouge's** (p68) lounge-lazy café life
- Taking a **gastronomic tour** (p70) of the world, especially in rough-cut Pâquis
- Dashing like mad beneath the world's tallest fountain, the **Jet d'Eau** (p61) – or get wet!
- Getting your head around **CERN** (p66) or the monumental **Palais des Nations** (p65)



■ POPULATION: 185,000

■ AREA: 282 SQ KM

■ LANGUAGE: FRENCH

## HISTORY

Occupied by the Romans and later a 5th-century bishopric, rich old Geneva has long been the envy of all. Its medieval fairs drew interest far and wide, and in the 16th century John Calvin and his zealous Reformation efforts turned the city into 'Protestant Rome'. Savoy duke Charles Emmanuel took a swipe at it in 1602 but was repulsed by the Genevans, who still celebrate their victory (p68).

French troops made Geneva capital of the French Léman department in 1798, but in June 1814 they were chunked out and Geneva joined the Swiss Confederation. Watch-making, banking and commerce prospered. A local businessman founded the Red Cross in 1864 and as other international organisations adopted the strategically located city and birthplace of humanitarian law as their HQ, Geneva's future as an international melting pot was secured. After WWI the League of Nations strived for world peace from Geneva and after WWII the UN arrived. By the end of the 20th century, Geneva ranked among the world's 10 most-expensive cities, relying heavily on international workers and world markets (world demand generates 50% of cantonal GDP) for its wealth.

## ORIENTATION

Geneva sits on the southwest lip of Lake Geneva (Lac Léman in French). The lake-side city is split by the westward progress of the Rhône, which meets the Arve River further west.

The main train station, Gare de Cornavin, is a few blocks north on the Rhône's north or right bank (*rive droite*). Northeast is seedy, sexy Pâquis and the international Palais des Nations quarter, where many world organisations are.

South of the Rhône on the left bank (*rive gauche*) is Geneva's famous landmark, the Jet d'Eau fountain; the Rue du Rhône shopping district; the pedestrian Old Town (*vieille ville*); and museum-studded Plain-

palais. Cross the Arve River to reach hip Carouge.

## Maps

The tourist office distributes a free city map and there are some excellent searchable maps available on the City of Geneva website ([www.ville-ge.ch](http://www.ville-ge.ch)).

## INFORMATION

### Bookshops

**Book Worm** (Map p65; ☎ 022 731 87 65; Rue Sismondi 5; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat) Second-hand English books in a café.

**Off the Shelf** (Map p62; ☎ 022 311 10 90; [www.offtheshelf.ch](http://www.offtheshelf.ch); Blvd Georges Favon 15; ☎ 9am-6.30pm Tue-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat) English-language bookshop.

### Emergency

See the inside front cover for emergency telephone numbers.

**Police station** (Map p65; ☎ 117; Rue de Berne 6)

### Internet Access

For a list of free-access public wi-fi terminals in Geneva, see [www.espritdegeneve.ch](http://www.espritdegeneve.ch).

**Charly's Checkpoint** (Map p65; ☎ 022 901 13 13; [www.charlys.com](http://www.charlys.com); Rue de Fribourg 7; per 15/65 min Sfr1/5; ☎ 9am-midnight Mon-Sat, 2-10pm Sun) Has 40 machines.

**Internet Café de la Gare** (Map p65; ☎ 022 731 51 87; per 10/30/60 min Sfr2/4/6; ☎ 8.30am-10pm Mon-Thu, 9.30am-11pm Fri & Sat, 9.30am-10pm Sun) In the train station, on the Place de Montbrillant side.

### Internet Resources

**City of Geneva** ([www.ville-ge.ch](http://www.ville-ge.ch))

**International Geneva Welcome Centre** ([www.cagi.ch](http://www.cagi.ch))

### Laundry

Wash your smocks for Sfr5 per kilogram at these places:

**Lavseul** (Map p65; Rue de Monthoux 29;

☎ 7am-midnight)

**Salon Lavoir** (Map p62; Rue du 31 Decembre 12;

☎ 6am-midnight)

### Left Luggage

**Aéroport International de Genève** (☎ 0512 25 23 80; per day Sfr7; ☎ 7am-7.30pm)

**Gare de Cornavin** (Map p65; Place de Cornavin; per 24hr small/large locker Sfr4/7; ☎ 4.30-12.45am)

### Media

**World Radio Geneva** (WRG; [www.wrgfm.com](http://www.wrgfm.com); 88.4 FM) English-language radio station.

## GENEVA IN...

### Two Days

Explore the left-bank **parks and gardens** (p63) and **Jet d'Eau** (below), then hit the **Old Town** (p70) for lunch and a stroll. Tummy full, **sail a seagull** (p74) to the **Parc de la Perle du Lac** (p65). Finish off with a dip in the water and aperitif at the **Bains des Pâquis** (p66). Indulge in a lazy **breakfast or brunch** (p72) on day two, preceded, or followed, by a museum visit. Fill up the afternoon with a **CERN** (p66) or **Palais des Nations** (p65) tour – or a good old spot of **shopping** (p73).

### Four Days

Follow the two-day itinerary. Take your pick of the various **boat trips** (p69) on offer on the third day, perhaps venturing as far as **Hermance** (p69) or **Yvoire** (p69) in France for lunch. Hiring a **bicycle** (p66) for a lakeside spin or embarking on one of the city's **wacky walking tours** (p66) around Geneva's more obscure corners makes a fun fourth day.

## Medical Services

**Hôpital Cantonal** (Map p62; ☎ 022 372 33 11, emergency 022 372 81 20; [www.hug-ge.ch](http://www.hug-ge.ch) in French; Rue Micheli du Crest 24; ☎ 24hr)

**SOS Médecins à Domicile** (☎ 022 748 49 50) Home/hotel doctor calls.

## Money

Exchange offices, banks and ATMs are well distributed across the city.

**American Express** (☎ 022 717 86 98; [www.americanexpress.ch](http://www.americanexpress.ch) in German & French; Aéroport International de Genève; ☎ 7am-9pm)

## Post

**Mont Blanc Post Office** (Map p65; Rue du Mont-Blanc 18; ☎ 7.30am-6pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat)

## Tourist Information

**Information de la Ville de Genève** (Map p62; ☎ 022 311 99 70; [www.ville-ge.ch](http://www.ville-ge.ch); Pont de la Machine; ☎ noon-6pm Mon, 9am-6pm Tue-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat) City information point; ticketing desk for cultural events.

**Genève Tourisme** (Map p65; ☎ 022 909 70 00; [www.geneve-tourisme.ch](http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch); Rue du Mont-Blanc 18; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon, 9am-6pm Tue-Sat) Tourist office.

## SIGHTS

Geneva's major sights are split by the Rhône that flows through the city to create its greatest attraction: the lake.

## South of the Rhône

Get snapped in front of the **flower clock** in the Jardin Anglais, make a mad dash for it beneath the city's legendary fountain, then head south to the **Old Town** or stroll north-

east along the lake for the beach buzz of **Genève Plage** (p66).

## JET D'EAU

This fabulous fountain, visible from the sky (ie from the aeroplane when you land) and other points of the lake on clear days, is easily Geneva's most impressive sight. The world's tallest **fountain** (Quai Gustave-Ador; ☎ 9.30am-11.15pm Mar-Oct) shoots up water with incredible force – 200km/h, 1360 horsepower – to create a 140m sky-high plume. At any one time seven tonnes of water is in the air – much of which sprays spectators on the pier.

## ESPACE ST-PIERRE

The hybrid mix of **Cathédrale de St-Pierre** (St-Peter's Cathedral; Map p64; Cour St-Pierre; admission free; ☎ 9.30am-6.30pm Mon-Sat, noon-6.30pm Sun Jun-Sep, 10am-5.50pm Mon-Sat, noon-5.30pm Sun Oct-May) is

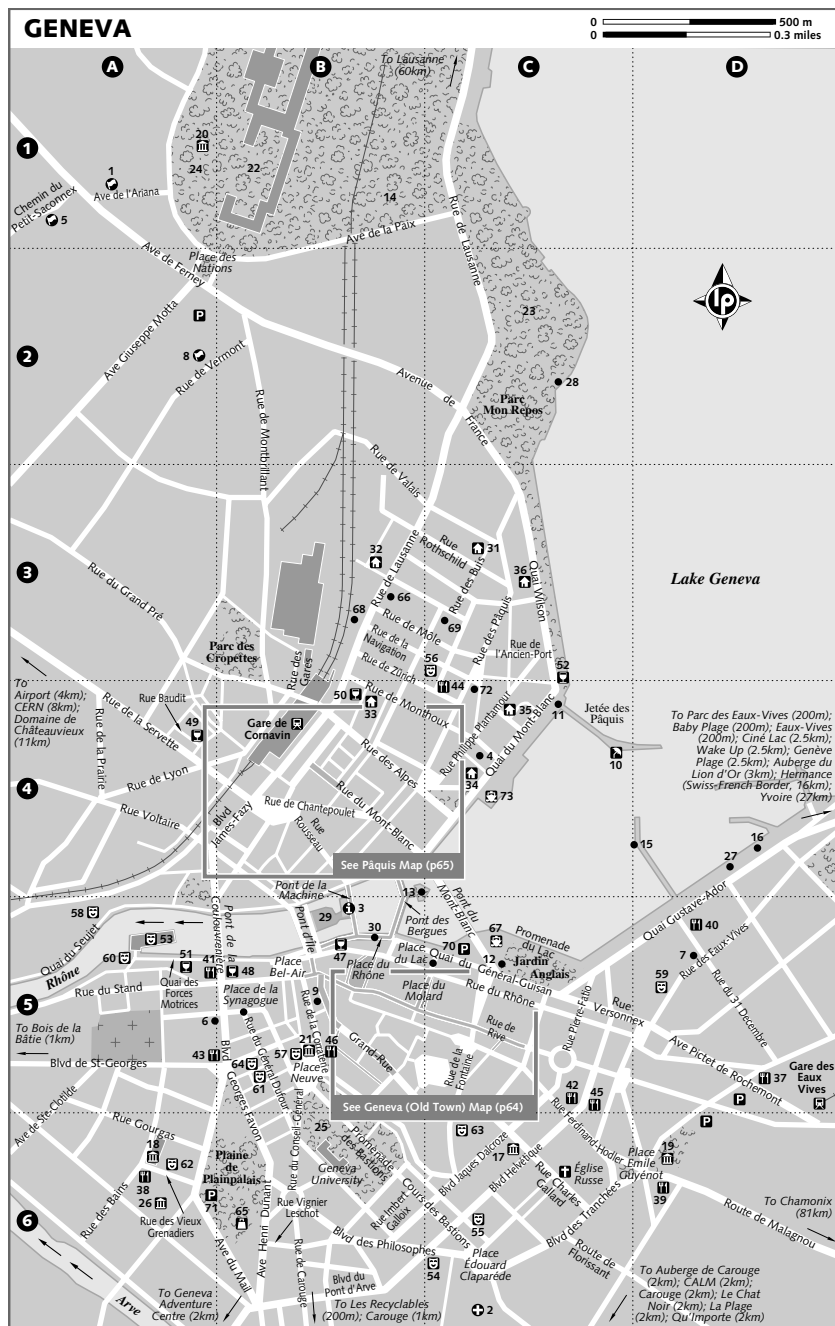
## CENT SAVERS

To save a bob, visit Geneva's museums on the first Sunday of the month when admission to most is free. On other days, the Swiss Museum Pass kicks in.

**Keypass** ([www.keytours.ch](http://www.keytours.ch)) is a Geneva city pass, valid for 24 hours (adult/child aged four to 12 Sfr49/25) or 48 hours (Sfr98/49), that includes admission to most museums, public transport and a clutch of city tours (including by bus, electric train and tram, or on foot). More details are available at the tourist office.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Foreigners – 184 different nationalities no less – make up 45% of Geneva's population (2005).



questionable. Started in the 11th century, the style is Gothic with an 18th-century neoclassical façade tacked on.

Protestant John Calvin preached here between 1536 and 1564: see his seat in the north aisle and trace his life in the **Musée International de la Réforme** (International Museum of the Reformation; Map p64; ☎ 022 310 24 31; www.musee-reforme.ch; Rue du Cloître 4; adult/under 16/16-25yr Sfr10/free/7; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun). From here a passage leads to a **Site Archéologique** (Archaeological Site; Map p64; ☎ 022 311 75 74; Cour St-Pierre 6; adult/under 7/7-16yr Sfr8/free/4; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun) with fine 4th-century mosaics. Atop the cathedral's 157-step **northern tower** (adult/under 16yr Sfr4/free; ☎ 9.30am-6.30pm Mon-Sat, noon-6.30pm Sun Jun-Sep, 10am-5.50pm Mon-Sat, noon-5.30pm Sun Oct-May) a city panorama fans out.

#### MAISON TAVEL

Little is left to remind you of the age of Geneva's oldest house, 14th-century **Maison Tavel** (Map p64; ☎ 022 418 37 00; Rue du Puits St-Pierre 6; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm). Inside, enjoy an intriguing account of 14th- to 19th-century Geneva life.

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#### ESPACE ROUSSEAU

The **Espace Rousseau** (Map p64; ☎ 022 310 10 28; www.espace-rousseau.ch; Grand-Rue 40; adult/under 7/7-18yr Sfr5/free/3; ☎ 11am-5.30pm Tue-Sun) is home to little bar an audiovisual display tracing the troubled life of the great thinker born here in 1712. En route you pass the 15th-century **Hôtel de Ville** (Map p64; Rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville).

#### MUSÉE BARBIER-MUELLER

The **Barbier-Mueller Museum** (Map p64; ☎ 022 312 02 70; www.barbier-mueller.ch; Rue Jean Calvin 10; adult/under 12/student Sfr5/free/3; ☎ 11am-5pm) proves its dedication to world culture with an impressive collection of objects from so-called primitive societies: South American pre-Columbian art treasures, Pacific Island statuettes, and shields and weapons from Africa.

#### PARC DES BASTIONS & PLACE NEUVE

Giant 4.5m-tall figures of Bèze, Calvin, Farel and Knox – in their nightgowns ready for bed – loom large in **Parc des Bastions** (Map p62). The park's northern entrance hugs **Place Neuve** (Map p62), pierced by a statue of Red Cross co-founder Henri Dufour, who drew the first map of Switzerland in

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1865. Geneva's lead theatre (p73) and the **Musée Rath** (Map p62; ☎ 022 418 33 40; Place Neuve; adult/under 18/student 18-25yr Sfr9/free/5; 🕒 10am-5pm Thu-Sun & Tue, noon-9pm Wed) are also here. Off the square, the **Maison des Arts du Grütli** (p73) is the place for contemporary photography, theatre and art happenings.

### MUSÉE D'ART MODERNE ET CONTEMPORAIN

**MAMCO** (Museum of Modern & Contemporary Art; Map p62; ☎ 022 320 61 22; www.mamco.ch in French; Rue des Vieux-Grenadiers 10; adult/under 18/student Sfr8/free/6; 🕒 noon-6pm Tue-Fri, 11am-6pm Sat & Sun), set in an industrial 1950s factory, plays host

to young, international and cross-media exhibitions.

### PATEK PHILIPPE MUSEUM

A treasure trove of precision art, this **museum** (Map p62; ☎ 022 807 09 10; www.patekmuseum.com; Rue des Vieux Grenadiers 7; adult/child Sfr10/free; 🕒 2-5pm Tue-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat) displays exquisite time-pieces from the 16th century to present.

### OTHER LEFT-BANK MUSEUMS

Paintings, sculpture, room interiors and weapons fill the **Musée d'Art et d'Histoire** (Art & History Museum; Map p62; ☎ 022 418 26 00; Rue Charles Galland 2; admission free; 🕒 10am-5pm Tue-Sun). Kon-

rad Witz's *La pêche miraculeuse* (c 1440-44), portraying Christ walking on water on Lake Geneva, is a highlight.

Kids adore the stuffed bears, tigers and giraffes and Swiss fauna in the **Musée d'Histoire Naturelle** (Natural History Museum; Map p62; ☎ 022 418 63 00; Route de Malagnou 1; admission free; 🕒 9.30am-5pm Tue-Sun).

### North of the Rhône

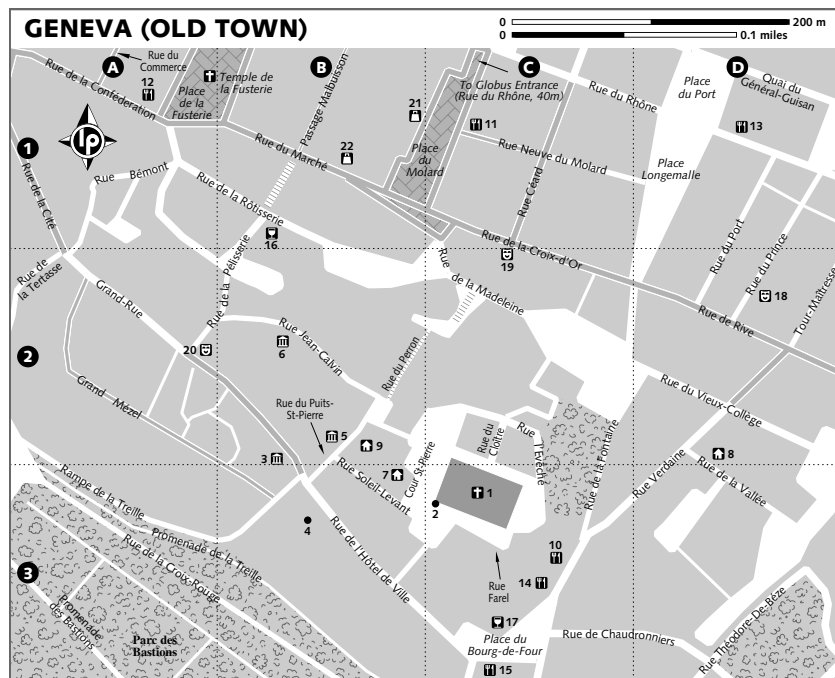
Cross the water by **Pont du Mont-Blanc** (Map p62; Geneva's only road-traffic bridge, notorious for backlogs) or a footbridge, or sail a seagull (p74).

Flower gardens, statues and great views of Mont Blanc (clear days only) abound on this northern lakeshore promenade, Quai du

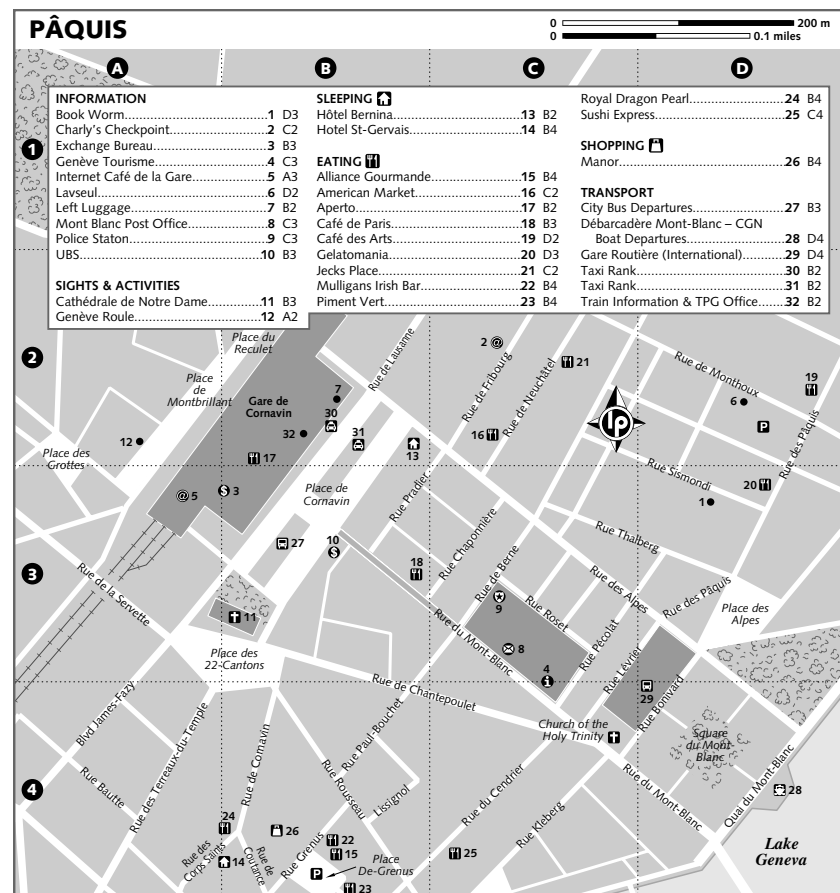
Mont-Blanc, which leads past the fun-filled **Bains des Pâquis** (p66) to **Parc de la Perle du Lac** (Map p62), where Romans built ornate thermal baths. The peacock-studded lawns of **Parc de l'Ariana** (Map p62) further north ensnare the UN, a couple of museums and the **Jardin Botanique** (Botanical Garden; Map p62; admission free; 🕒 8am-7.30pm Apr-Oct, 9.30am-5pm Nov-Mar).

### PALAIS DES NATIONS

The **Palais des Nations** (Map p62; ☎ 022 917 48 60; Ave de la Paix 14; adult/under 6/6-18 yr/student Sfr8.50/free/4/6.50, passport obligatory; 🕒 10am-noon & 2-4pm Apr-Oct, 10am-5pm Jul & Aug, 10am-noon & 2-4pm Mon-Fri Nov-Mar), home to the UN since 1966, was built between 1929 and 1936 to house the now-defunct League of Nations. Admission



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### THESE STREETS ARE MADE FOR WALKING

So say city planners, who have come up with nine thematic, colour-coded walks to steer pedestrians off the tourist track. Cedar trees, the comic Smurf-inspired Schtroumpfs architectural ensemble, Geneva's first reinforced-concrete housing estate and the romantic Bout de Monde (End of the World) are unexpected sights. Walks last two to four hours and are mapped out in French/English editions of *Genève à pied/ Geneva on Foot*. Get them at the tourist office or [www.ville-ge.ch/plan-pietons](http://www.ville-ge.ch/plan-pietons).

includes an hour-long tour and entry to the gardens, where a grey monument coated with heat-resistant titanium, donated by the USSR to commemorate the conquest of space, sprouts.

### MUSÉE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE

The **International Red Cross & Red Crescent Museum** (Map p62; ☎ 022 748 95 25; [www.micr.org](http://www.micr.org); Ave de la Paix 17; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Wed-Mon) is a compelling multimedia trawl through atrocities perpetuated by humanity. Against the long litany of war and nastiness, documented in films, photos, sculptures and soundtracks, are set the noble aims of the organisation created by Geneva businessmen and philanthropists, Henri Dunant and Henri Dufour, in 1864.

### CERN

The **European Organisation for Nuclear Research** (☎ 022 767 84 84; [visits-service@cern.ch](mailto:visits-service@cern.ch); admission free; ☎ guided tours 9am & 2pm Mon-Sat), 8km west near Meyrin, is a laboratory for research into particle physics and was founded in 1954. It accelerates electrons and positrons down a 27km circular tube (the world's biggest machine) and the resulting collisions create new forms of matter – in 1996 it created antimatter for the first time. The lab can be visited by a free three-hour guided tour; book at least one month in advance.

Equally riveting is **Microcosm** (☎ 022 767 84 84; <http://microcosm.web.cern.ch>; admission free; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat), CERN's on-site multimedia and interactive visitors centre that runs

physics workshops for children aged 12 and older.

Take bus No 9 marked 'CERN' from the train station (Sfr3, 40 minutes).

### ACTIVITIES

#### Cycling & Blading

Rent a bike from **Genève Roule** (Map p62; ☎ 022 740 13 43; [www.geneveroule.ch](http://www.geneveroule.ch) in French; Place de Montbrillant 17; ☎ 7.30am-9.30pm Apr-Oct, 8am-6pm Mon-Sat Nov-May) or its seasonal Jetée des Pâquis pick-up point for Sfr10/60 per day/week (Sfr50 deposit). From May to October, borrow a bike carrying publicity for free.

#### Rafting

From April to October, raft white water with **Geneva Adventure Centre** (☎ 079 301 41 40; [www.rafting.ch](http://www.rafting.ch); 8 Quai des Vernets). An easy 7km-long Rhône canoe descent from the city takes four hours (with/without a guide Sfr70/60).

#### Sailing & Water-skiing

**Les Corsaires** (Map p62; ☎ 022 735 43 00; [www.lescorsaires.ch](http://www.lescorsaires.ch) in French; Quai Gustave-Ador 33) rents yachts (per hour Sfr45 to Sfr70), speed boats (per hour Sfr60) and pedalos (per hour Sfr18).

Water-ski or wakeboard with **Ski Nautique Club de Genève** (Map p62; ☎ 078 663 35 13; [www.sncg.ch](http://www.sncg.ch) in French; Parc de la Perle du Lac; per min Sfr3) or **Wake Up** (☎ 079 202 41 61; [www.wake-up.ch](http://www.wake-up.ch) in French; Genève Plage; per hr Sfr170).

#### Swimming

Swim at **Genève Plage** (☎ 022 736 24 82; [www.geneve-plage.ch](http://www.geneve-plage.ch); Port Noir; adult before/after 5pm Sfr7/4.50, 6-16yr Sfr3.50; ☎ 10am-8pm mid-May-mid-Sep), a 1930s complex with shingle beach, outdoor pool and waterslide; or the legendary **Bains des Pâquis** (Map p62; ☎ 022 732 29 74; [www.bains-des-paquis.ch](http://www.bains-des-paquis.ch) in French; Quai du Mont-Blanc 30; adult/6-15yr Sfr2/1; ☎ 9am-8pm mid-Apr-mid-Sep) where Genevans have frolicked in the sun since 1872.

#### WALKING TOUR

Cosmopolitan buzz it might lack, but Geneva lays claim to a bunch of record breakers.

Start at the world's tallest fountain, the **Jet d'Eau (1)** which shoots up water at 200km/h. If you stand on the pier to view the fountain, prepare to get wet.

Next, walk west along Promenade du Lac to see the **horloge fleurie (2)**; Flower Clock; Quai du Général-Guisan), Geneva's most photographed

clock, crafted from 6500 flowers, which has ticked since 1955 and has the world's longest second hand (2.5m). If it happens to be on the hour, nip into the **Passage Malbuisson (3)**; Rue du Rhône 40) to see 13 chariots and 42 bronze figurines dance to the chime of 16 bells on a fanciful 1960s clock. Then veer west for a coffee on **Île Rousseau (4)**, one of five islands to pierce Europe's largest alpine lake.

Further west along the Rhône is 13th-century **Tour d'Île (5)**, once part of the medieval city fortifications. Head south down cobblestone Rue de la Cité to Grand Rue and **Rousseau's birthplace (6)**; p63). Cut onto parallel Rue Jean Calvin to visit the **Musée Barbier-Mueller (7)**; p63) and the **Cathédrale de St-Pierre (8)**; p61) before lunch on **Place du Bourg-de-Four (9)**, Geneva's oldest square. From here, chestnut tree-lined **Promenade de la Treille (10)** leads to the world's longest

bench (126m) and cultured **Place Neuve (11)**; p63). Finish with a slug of Swiss wine at **Boulevard du Vin (12)**; p72).

### GENEVA FOR CHILDREN

On and around the lake the kids will love the ducks and swans, boats (opposite), swimming (opposite), electric train tours (p68) and Tarzan-inspired tree park with tyres to swing from at **Baby Plage** (Quai Gustave-Ador), Geneva's baby beach. Parc de la Perle du Lac (p65) and **Bois de la Bâtie** (Bâtie Woods), where peacocks, goats and deer roam, have well-equipped playgrounds for toddlers.

The exhibits and Wednesday-afternoon workshops at the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle (p65) mesmerise children, as do many interactive exhibitions at MAMCO (p64).

**Baby's Lounge** (Map p62; ☎ 022 310 93 20; [www.babylounge.ch](http://www.babylounge.ch) in French; Rue de la Cité 24) is ideal for hungry parents with under-fours.

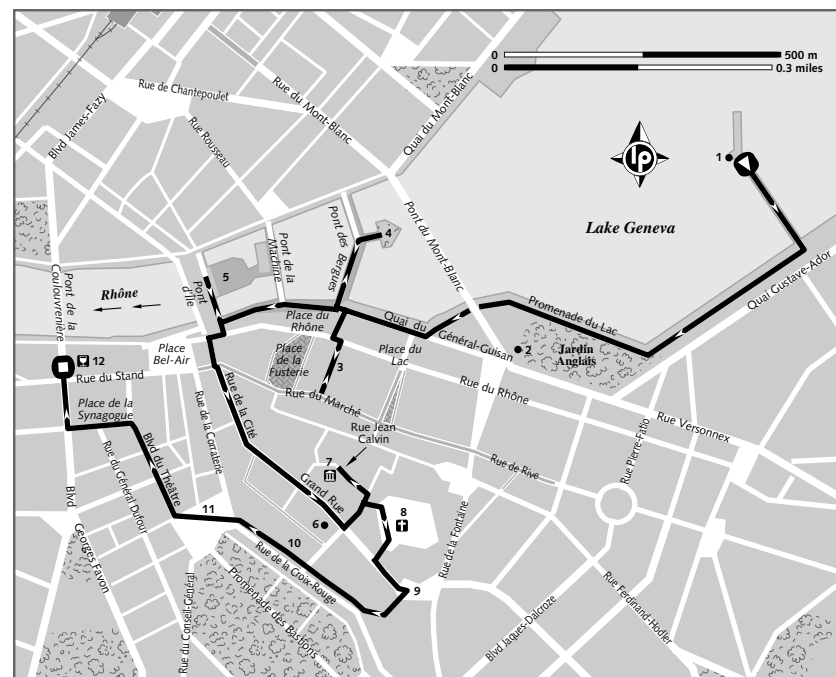
### TOURS

Pick up an English-language audioguide at the tourist office (Sfr10) for a 2½-hour walk around 26 of the left-bank sights. Or, you

#### WALK FACTS

Distance 2.5km

Duration 2 hours



could enjoy an organised two-hour Old Town walking tour (Sfr15).

Tired feet can take a 45-minute **Tramway Tour** (Map p62; ☎ 022 781 04 04; Blvd St-Georges 36; adult/child Sfr8.90/5.90; 🕒 9am-7pm May-Oct) departing 12 times daily from Place du Rhône or Cour St-Pierre; a lakeside **Pâquis Express** (Map p62; ☎ 022 781 04 04; Blvd St-Georges 36; adult/child Sfr7.90/4.90; 🕒 every 45 min 10am-dusk Mar-Oct) train tour along the right bank from Quai du Mont-Blanc; or a left-bank tour aboard **Petit Train Solaire** (☎ 022 735 43 00; 33 Quai Gustave-Ador; adult/child Sfr7/4; 🕒 hourly 10.15am-10.15pm Jun-Oct) from the Jardin Anglais.

Between April and October, **Swissboat** (☎ 22 732 29 44; www.swissboat.com; 4-8 Quai du Mont Blanc) runs 40-minute to 2¼-hour thematic cruises on the lake.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Smashing marzipan-filled *marmites en chocolat* (chocolate cauldrons) and gorging on the sweet broken pieces is part and parcel of **L'Escalade** (www.escalade.ch in French), Geneva's biggest festival, which fills the city with frolics on 11 December. Torch-lit processions enliven the Old Town and a huge bonfire is lit in the cathedral square to celebrate the defeat of Savoy troops in 1602. A tall tale says the assault was repelled by a housewife who tipped a pot of boiling soup over a trooper's head, whacked him with her cauldron then raised the alarm.

The two-week **Fêtes de Genève** (www.fetes-de-geneve.ch in French) brings parades, open-air concerts and fireworks to the city in August. As party-mad is the one-day **Lake Parade** (🕒 July or August), when DJs from around Europe spin tunes from 20 lakeside love-mobiles.

### A DETOUR INTO BOHEMIA

Geneva's bohemian streak strikes in fashionable Carouge, where the distinct lack of any real sights – bar 18th-century houses overlooking courtyard gardens and a **Musée de Carouge** (☎ 022 342 33 84; muse@carouge.ch; Place de la Sardaigne 2; admission free; 🕒 2-6pm Tue-Sun) displaying 19th-century ceramics – is part of the charm.

Carouge was refashioned by Vittorio Amedeo III, King of Sardinia and Duke of Savoy, in the 18th century in a bid to rival Geneva as a centre of commerce – until 1816 when the Treaty of Turin handed it to Geneva. Funky bars, restaurants, boutiques and artist's workshops fill its narrow streets today.

Tram No 12 or 13 links central Geneva with Carouge's plane tree-studded central square, Place du Marché, abuzz with market stalls Wednesday and Saturday morning. Horses trot along the streets during April's Fête du Cheval, while horse-drawn carriages line up on Place de l'Octroi in December to take Christmas shoppers for a ride.

## SLEEPING

Plug into a comprehensive list at www.geneva-hotel.ch.

### Budget

Pick up the annual *Info-Jeunes Genève* guide at the tourist office for a comprehensive list of hostels.

**City Hostel** (Map p62; ☎ 022 901 15 00; www.cityhostel.ch; Rue de Ferrier 2; 3- or 4-bed dm per person Sfr28, sheets Sfr3.50, 2-bed dm ind sheets Sfr35, s/d Sfr58/85; 🕒 reception 7.45am-noon & 1-11pm; ☎ P 📺) Spanking clean is the trademark of this organised hostel, where two-bed dorms give travellers a chance to double up on the cheap. Facilities include kitchen, free lockers, garage parking (Sfr10), laundry, TV room and Internet station (open 7.30am to 2am, per hour Sfr8).

**Auberge de Jeunesse** (Map p62; ☎ 022 732 62 60; www.yh-geneva.ch; Rue Rothschild 28-30; dm Sfr26, d with toilet Sfr75, d with shower & toilet Sfr85; reception 🕒 6.30-10am & 2pm-1am Jun-Sep, 6.30-10am & 4pm-midnight Oct-May; 📺) Pâquis' 350-bed apartment-block hostel serves its purpose handsomely: dorms max out at six beds, bathrooms tout hairdryers, there are facilities for disabled guests and a multi-machined laundry. Rates include breakfast and non HI-card holders pay Sfr6 more.

**Hôte St-Pierre** (Map p64; ☎ 022 310 37 07; www.hostelpierre.ch; Cour St-Pierre 4; dm Sfr27, s/d with wash-basin Sfr40/60; 📺) St-Pierre only takes women. In a centuries-old building, the place was founded by the German Lutheran Church in 1874 to put up German women coming to Geneva to learn French. Staying here is a home away from home and the view from the rooftop terrace is fab. Breakfast costs Sfr7.

### DAY TRIPPER

Day trips from Geneva boil down to a boat trip to another lakeside hot spot, a mountain foray into the Jura or a meander into neighbouring France.

Oh-so-pretty French Vorey, 27km northeast of Geneva on the lake's southern shore, is *the spot* where diplomats to dustmen while away weekend afternoons. The medieval walled village with a fishing port and fairytale castle (closed to visitors) has a few cobbled pedestrian streets to stroll, extraordinary flowers to admire, a restored medieval vegetable garden **Jardin des Cinq Sens** (Garden of the Five Senses; ☎ 72 82 04 50 80; www.jardin5sens.net; adult/4-16yr Sfr9/5.50; 🕒 mid-Apr–mid-Oct) and an overkill of souvenir shops and touristy lunchtime spots. The CGN boat ride from Geneva's Jardin Anglais (day return Sfr35.20; 1¾ hours, May to September) is part of the day out.

Quaint Swiss Hermance, 16km northeast of Geneva on the French–Swiss border, lures a more discerning crowd with its narrow streets lined with medieval houses, the odd pricey art gallery and the legendary **Auberge d'Hermance** (☎ 022 751 13 68; www.hotel-hermance.ch in French; Rue du Midi 12; plat du jour Sfr19, menus Sfr68-125), one of the region's most prestigious culinary addresses, where chickens are baked whole and served in a magical salt crust. TPG bus E (Sfr4.60, 30 minutes, at least hourly) links Hermance with Rue de Pierre Fatio on Geneva's left bank.

## Midrange

**Hotel St-Gervais** (Map p65; ☎ 022 732 45 72; www.stgervais-geneva.ch; Rue des Corps-Saints 20; s/d with wash-basin Sfr70/85, d with bathroom Sfr115) This quaint choice near the train station is a delight. Just like an old-fashioned auberge, rooms tout tartan carpets, wood furnishings and crisp white linen. Travellers with jumbo-sized suitcases beware: scaling the seven floors in the pocket-handkerchief lift is a squash and a squeeze.

**Hôtel Bel'Espérance** (Map p64; ☎ 022 818 37 37; www.hotel-bel-esperance.ch; Rue de la Vallée 1; s/d Sfr160/180; ☎) This small two-star hotel is a

### GAY & LESBIAN GENEVA

The key port of call is **Dialogai** (Map p62; ☎ 022 906 40 40; www.dialogai.org; Rue de la Navigation 11-13), which publishes a gay guide to the Geneva region and hosts candlelit dinners, Sunday brunch, film evenings, French–English discussion groups, club nights etc in its retro café; see its website for details.

The mainly male, expat **Gay International Group** (GIG; gig@360.ch) brings together 80-odd nationalities for monthly drinks and dinners.

Key entertainment spots include **Nathan** (Map p62; ☎ 022 733 78 76; Rue Baudit 6; 🕒 5pm-2am), a gay bar heaving with Geneva's most hip, especially at weekends; and gay nightclub **Le Prétexte** (Map p64; ☎ 022 310 14 28; www.lepretexte.ch in French; Rue du Prince 9; admission Sfr10-20; 🕒 11pm-5am Thu-Sun).

two-second roll home from the Old Town. Rooms are quiet and those on the 1st floor share a kitchen. Ride the lift to the 5th floor to discover a flower-filled rooftop terrace with table and chairs to lounge on.

**Auberge de Carouge** (☎ 022 342 22 88; Rue Ancienne 39; s/d/tr/q Sfr130/180/210/250; 📺) With its tree-shaded garden and the artsy scene of Théâtre de Carouge around the corner, this old Carouge hotel oozes appeal. Its room count is just a couple over a dozen so get in quick.

**Hôtel At Home** (Map p62; ☎ 022 906 19 00; www.hotel-at-home.ch; Rue de Fribourg 16; s/d/tr from Sfr100/140/160) At home is what At Home makes you feel. It rents kitchen-equipped apartments too, and surrounding eateries take you around the world.

**Hôtel Bernina** (Map p65; ☎ 022 908 49 50; www.bernina-geneve.ch; Place de Cornavin 22; s/d/tr/q from Sfr140/170/190/230; 📺) Spacious, if plain, rooms with TV, telephone and balcony ensure a decent – if unmemorable – night's sleep for punters keen to roll out of bed and into the train station. We assume the 'Attention! Pickpockets!' sign at reception means out on the streets, not in the hotel.

## Top End

Geneva is studded with four- and five-star hotels.

**Hôtel Les Armures** (Map p64; ☎ 022 310 91 72; Rue du Puits-St-Pierre 1; www.hotel-les-armures.ch; s/d from Sfr360/520, extra bed Sfr90; 📺 🕒 📺) This slumbering 17th-century beauty just oozes with history from every last beam. Beautifully placed in the heart of the Old

## AUTHOR'S CHOICE

**Hôtel de la Cloche** (Map p62; ☎ 022 732 94 81; hotelcloche@freesurf.ch; Rue de la Cloche 6; s with/without bathroom Sfr110/80, d Sfr140/115, s with shower & toilet Sfr90-110, d Sfr110-140, extra bed Sfr15; ☒) Hôtel de la Cloche, an old-fashioned hotel in a bourgeois home, is part of a dying breed. And more is the pity. Monsieur Chabbey runs this small, one-star hotel with grace and panache, opening the door as a butler welcoming you home. Likewise, it is Monsieur Chabbey who delivers breakfast to each room from 8am every morning (each of the eight rooms have a table and chairs), sorts out the bill and so on. Elegant fireplaces, period furnishings, wooden floors and the odd chandelier add a touch of grandeur. Some rooms come with wrought-iron balconies that face the Jet d'Eau.

Town, it provides an intimate and refined atmosphere.

**Hôtel Beau-Rivage** (Map p64; ☎ 022 716 66 66; www.beau-rivage.ch; Quai du Mont Blanc 13; d/ste from Sfr495/1180; ☎ ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒) Run by the Mayer family for four generations, Beau-Rivage is a 19th-century jewel dripping in opulence. Sotheby's (actually based in the hotel) auctioned off the late Duchess of Windsor's jewellery here for millions in 1987, and celebrity names fill its guest book. A continental/buffet breakfast costs Sfr29/39.

**Hôtel President Wilson** (Map p62; ☎ 022 906 66 66; www.hotelwilson.com; Quai Wilson 47; s/d from Sfr580; ☎ ☒ ☑ ☒ ☒ ☒) This shimmering five-star glass palace with spice-driven restaurant stars in the *Guinness Book of Records* as host to the world's most-expensive hotel room: its four-bedroom bullet-proof penthouse Imperial Suite – with lake view, private lift, table for 26 and library to entertain 40 – costs US\$33,000 per night in 2003, so the book says. 'Rate on request' says the hotel. Meals here cost Sfr75 to Sfr128.

## EATING

As the Swiss gastronomic capital, Geneva flaunts a fantastic choice of ethnic food, although quality occasionally plays underdog to interior design. For the culinary curious without a fortune to blow, Pâquis cooks

up cheapish eateries from every corner of the globe.

## Restaurants – South of the Rhône

**Le Relais de L'Entrecôte** (Map p64; ☎ 022 310 60 04; Rue du Rhône 49; starters/mains Sfr10/25) If *entrecôte* and fries (some say the best steak and chips in Geneva) are your cup of tea then this busy bistro wedged between designer shops is for you. Get here dot on to snag the table with a lake view.

**ù bobba** (Map p62; ☎ 022 310 53 40; Rue de la Coraterie 21; starters/mains Sfr15/30; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon, 8-12.30am Tue, Wed & Thu, 8-1am Fri, 10-1am Sat) A cultured crowd gathers at this dining spot, decked in red and gold and oozing attitude. Particularly hot is its *u jardinù bobba*, one of Geneva's best roof terraces. Inventive mains range from veal medallions with pistachio nuts (Sfr42) to Gorgonzola-dunked gnocchi (Sfr25).

**Souppçon** (Map p64; ☎ 022 318 37 37; www.souppçon.ch in French; Place du Bourg-de-Four 8; lunch/dinner mains Sfr25/40) Stark cream tablecloths, white china and a moneyed crowd add an urban edge to slick Souppçon, with a wooden decking terrace on busy Place du Bourg-de-Four. The cuisine is creative: think scallops strung on a lemongrass skewer.

**Café du Centre** (Map p64; ☎ 022 311 85 86; www.cafeducentre.ch; Place du Molard 5; plat du jour Sfr15-20, seafood platters Sfr39-350) It looks like a bog-standard century-old bistro from the outside, but peek at the lavish shellfish displayed in its window and you'll be raring to get in. A dandy terrace on Place du Molard tops off its culinary prowess.

**La Truffe Noire** (Map p62; ☎ 022 800 03 82; Blvd Georges Favon 4; starters/mains Sfr20/30; ☎ Tue-Sat)

## AUTHOR'S CHOICE

**Café des Bains** (Map p62; ☎ 022 321 57 98; www.cafedesbains.com; Rue des Bains 26; starters/mains Sfr15/40; ☎ 11am-3pm & 6pm-1am Mon-Fri, 6pm-1am Sat) No brand labels, beautiful objects and an eye for design are trademarks of this fusion restaurant where Genevan beauties flock. The king prawns, pan-fried with green pepper, sweet Thai basil and mango and served with a mint and apricot mousse, certainly won our hearts. Green almond and parmesan risotto woos vegetarians.

## ASIAN CORNER

Geneva's most legendary (hence pricey) pan-Asian haunts are **Chez Kei** (☎ 022 346 47 89; Route de Malagnou 6; mains from Sfr30), the city's second-oldest ode to Chinese cuisine; and hip **Jacks Place** (Map p65; ☎ 022 731 33 03; Rue de Neuchâtel 14; mains from Sfr25), a moveable feast of Singaporean, Chinese, Malaysian and Thai.

Truffle junkies will be left breathless by this elegant boutique restaurant specialising in black truffles and cuisine from southwestern France. *Rapée de truffe* (grated truffle; Sfr48) followed by *cuisse de canard* (duck thigh) is a typical feast.

**Au Pied de Cochon** (Map p64; ☎ 022 310 47 97; Place du Bourg-de-Four 4; mains from Sfr30) Piggy feet are the house speciality at Au Pied de Cochon, where fat little trotters come stuffed, braised or pan-fried. A zinc bar and noisy wine-quaffing clientele complete the classic bistro picture.

**Bistrot du Boucher** (Map p62; ☎ 022 736 56 36; Ave Pictet de Rochemont 15; mains Sfr30-40) Beef cuts are the mainstay of this feisty meat number, a Parisian-style bistro with lace curtains, stained glass and Art Nouveau wood. *Entrecôte* (sirloin steak), *côte* (side), carpaccio or tartare are served with a choice of sauces, fries or risotto and salad. Baby-cow lovers will love or hate the sweet *tartare de veau*.

**Auberge du Lion d'Or** (☎ 022 736 44 32; Place Gautier 5, Cologny; mains Sfr100-150) Formal and packed with suits, the Lion d'Or is in the heart of Geneva's most expensive 'urb. Mouth-watering fish and seafood creations honour a fine wine list. Service and setting are immaculate and designed to impress.

## Restaurants – North of the Rhône

**Alliance Gourmande** (Map p65; ☎ 022 901 10 03; www.alliancegourmande.com; Place De-Grenus 10; menus Sfr25; ☎ closed Sun) A clever mix of old and new – beamed ceiling, leg of ham-strung bar and designer chairs – invites gourmands to feast on all things tempting and tasty (the ricotta-stuffed king prawns in a whisky sauce are irresistible). Inventive tasting sessions tickle the tastebuds and cooking workshops (Sfr10, noon to 2pm Saturday) reveal some chef secrets.

**Café de Paris** (Map p65; ☎ 022 732 84 50; Rue du Mont-Blanc 26; steak & chips Sfr37) An impressionable dining experience: everyone here eats the same – green salad followed by *entrecôte* with a herb and butter sauce of legendary standing and as many supermodel-skinny fries as you can handle. Advance reservations are essential.

**Les 5 Portes** (Map p62; ☎ 022 731 84 38; Rue de Zürich 5; breakfast Sfr8.50-12.50, starters/mains Sfr10/20) The Five Doors is a favourite Pâquis port of call. Named after the five entrance doors it sports, the relaxed and fashionable eating joint embraces the whole gambit of moods and moments – romance, breakfast, solitary lunch, social brunch etc.

**Buvette des Bains** (Map p62; ☎ 022 738 16 16; www.bains-des-paquis.ch in French; Quai du Mont-Blanc 30; mains Sfr16; ☎ 8am-9.30pm) Meet Genevans at this earthy beach bar – rough and hip around the edges – at Bains des Pâquis (p66). Grab breakfast (Sfr10), a salad or *plat du jour* (Sfr10 to Sfr12), or dip into a *fondue au crémant* (champagne fondue). Dining is on trays and alfresco in summer.

## Cafés

**CALM** (☎ 022 301 22 20; Rue Ancienne 36; brunch Sfr30, salads Sfr7) Divine quiches (Sfr12), Swiss bircher muesli and other house-baked goodies lure a discerning crowd to this kitchen-styled café just *comme à la maison* (like home) with a fabulous Italianate terraced garden out back.

**Café des Arts** (Map p65; ☎ 022 321 58 85; Rue des Pâquis 15; ☎ 11-2am Mon-Fri, 8-2am Sat & Sun) As much a place to drink as a daytime café, this trendy Pâquis hangout lures a local crowd with its Parisian-style terrace and artsy interior. Food-wise, think meal-sized salads, designer sandwiches and other titillating lunch dishes.

**Les Recyclables** (☎ 022 328 60 44; www.recydables.ch; Rue de Carouge 53; ☎ 9am-11pm Mon-Sat; ☎) Sip coffee while glued to a book at this literary café with a difference. Committed to 'cultural recycling', Les Recyclables sells books and exchanges second-hand books for reading or edible matter.

**Le Pain Quotidien** (Map p62; ☎ 022 736 36 90; Blvd Helvétique; breakfast/brunch from Sfr15/32; ☎ 7am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm Sat & Sun; ☒) Choose from a whole heap of breakfasts (continental, English etc) and brunches (classic, countryside etc) at this twin-set of rustic daytime spots.

**B&B**

A culinary kick-start to the day is what Geneva trendies do: CALM (p71), Buvette des Bains (p71), Soupçon (p70), Les 5 Portes (p71), Le Pain Quotidien (p71), Arthur's (right) and Alhambar (right) are breakfast and/or brunch favourites.

There's also a branch situated on Blvd Georges-Favon.

**Quick Eats**

Rue de Fribourg, Rue de Neuchâtel, Rue de Berne and the northern end of Rue des Alpes (all Map p65) are loaded with kebab, falafel and quick-eat joints. Eat in or take out at the following:

**Piment Vert** (Map p65; ☎ 022 731 93 03; www.pimentvert.ch in French; Place De-Grenus 4; menu Sfr24, starters/mains Sfr10/15; ☎ 11.30am-2.45pm & 5.30-10pm Mon-Fri, noon-4pm Sat) Fast, fresh, trendy is what this Sri Lankan bar aims for.

**Globus** (Map p64; ☎ 022 319 50 50; Rue du Rhône 50; ☎ 9am-10pm Mon-Sat) Snack-attack on sushi, sashimi, panini, tapas, antipasti, noodles and curry in the central department store.

**Sushi Express** (Map p64 & Map p65; ☎ 022 310 80 10; www.ekai.ch; Place du Bourg-de-Four 19; sushi platters from Sfr10; ☎ 11.30am-2.45pm & 5-9.30pm Mon-Fri, 11.30am-3.30pm & 4-8pm Sat) Consume raw fish from a clean-cut sushi bar. There's also a branch at Rue du Cendrier 18.

**Self-Catering**

Shop for Asian at **Royal Dragon Pearl** (Map p65; ☎ 022 731 16 41; Rue de Cornavin 1), for American at the **American Market** (Map p65; ☎ 022 732 32 00; Rue

**LICK IT**

Enviably choices for ice on the move:

**Gelateria Arlecchino** (Map p62; ☎ 022 736 70 60; Rue du 31 Decembre 1; per scoop Sfr3.50) Left-bank choice: chocolate and ginger, honey, peanut cream and mango are among the 40 flavours at this lip-licking parlour.

**Gelatomania** (Map p65; Rue des Pâquis 25; per scoop Sfr3) Right-bank choice: a constant queue loiters outside this shop where ice-cream maniacs wrap their tongues around exotic flavours like carrot, orange and lemon, cucumber and mint, lime and basil or pineapple and basil.

de Neuchâtel 3), and for stuff fresh from the farm at **Les Saveurs de la Ferme** (Map p62; ☎ 022 786 20 40; Cours de Rive 20). **Delicatessa Globus** (Map p64; Rue du Rhône 50) is the Harrods food hall of Geneva.

Central supermarkets in Geneva include the following:

**Coop City** (Map p64; Rue de la Confédération)

**Aperto** (Map p65; Gare de Cormavin; ☎ 6am-10pm)

**DRINKING**

In summer, the **pailote** (Map p62; Quai du Mont-Blanc 30; ☎ to midnight), with wooden tables inches from the water, is rammed. By 11pm the grassy lawns, quay and walls within a 20m radius of the kiosk overflow with merry punters.

**Arthur's** (Map p62; ☎ 022 810 32 60; www.arthurs.ch; Rue du Rhône 7-9; ☎ 7-2am Mon-Fri, 11-2am Sat) If Arthur was real he'd be called 007 and drink vodka martinis shaken not stirred at this drop-dead gorgeous lakeside terrace where aperitif lovers linger.

**Omnibus** (Map p62; ☎ 022 321 44 45; Rue de la Cou-louvrenière 23) Angels trumpet at the bar and an old three-wheeler hangs outside at this retro hangout.

**La Plage** (☎ 022 342 20 98; Rue Vautier 19; ☎ 11-1am Mon-Thu, 10-2am Fri & Sat, 5pm-1am Sun) With bare wood tables, checked lino floor, green-wood shutters and tables outside, the beach in Carouge is a timeless drinking hole.

**Qu'importe** (☎ 022 342 15 25; www.quimporte.ch in French; Rue Ancienne 1) Never Mind makes no bones about its mission in life: 'qu'importe le facon pourvu qu'on ait l'ivresse' ('Never mind the bottle as long as it gets you drunk...'), so said French Romantic poet and bar muse Alfred de Musset.

**Olé Olé** (Map p62; ☎ 022 731 38 71; baroleole@yahoo.com; Rue de Fribourg 11; tapas Sfr10-20) An industrial tapas bar with giant street-facing windows and a bar lit by naked bulbs ensures a stop with a difference near the train station.

**Boulevard du Vin** (Map p62; ☎ 022 310 91 90; www.boulevard-du-vin.ch in French; Blvd Georges-Favon 3; ☎ 11.30am-1.30pm & 5-11pm Mon-Thu, 5pm-2am Fri, 6pm-2am Sat) Wine sluggers will enjoy this excellent wine shop which doubles as wine bar with its weekly dégustation sessions. Food platters (Sfr10) add a gastronomic dimension.

**Alhambar** (Map p64; ☎ 022 312 13 13; www.alhambar.com in French; Rue de la Rôtisserie 10; ☎ noon-2pm Mon, noon-2pm & 5pm-1am or 2am Tue-Fri, 5pm-2am Sat, 11am-midnight Sun) Hidden behind a cinema, Alhambar cooks up a heady cocktail of

drinks, DJs and food in a relaxed, convivial setting. Sunday brunch is worth rolling out of bed for.

**La Clémence** (Map p64; ☎ 022 312 24 98; www.lademence.ch; Place du Bourg-de-Four 20) Indulge in a glass of red at this more than veritable Genevois institution fronting the city's loveliest square.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Keep in the loop online with **nuît.ch** (www.nuît.ch in French).

Edgy mixed-bag entertainment venues include the following:

**L'Usine** (Map p62; ☎ 022 781 34 90; www.usine.ch in French; Place des Volontaires 4) A converted gold-roughing factory, entertainment ranges from dance nights, art happenings, cabaret and theatre to urban clubbing for night animals at Le Zoo (☎ 022 321 47 93, www.lezoo.ch, admission before 11pm/2am/5am Sfr5/10/15, open Friday and Saturday or Sunday). The entrance is on Quai des Forces Motrices.

**Bâtiment des Forces Motrices** (Map p62; ☎ 022 322 12 20; www.bfm.ch in French; Place des Volontaires 4) Geneva's one-time riverside pumping station (1886) is now a striking space for rock concerts, opera, ballet and other cultural events.

**Bistr'Ok** (Map p62; ☎ 022 329 33 95; www.bistrok.ch in French; Blvd des Philosophes 24) This ground-floor squat fronts Geneva's alternative cultural scene with its hybrid café-bar, cinema evenings, jam sessions and live bands.

**Le Chat Noir** (☎ 022 343 49 98; www.chatnoir.ch in French; Rue Vautier 13; concerts Sfr16-20) Nightly jazz, rock, funk and salsa gigs.

**Nightclubs**

**SIP** (Map p62; www.lasip.ch in French; Rue des Vieux Grenadiers 10) Soul Influence Product is 'not a nightclub', says the propaganda of this design-led space, an 1860s factory.

**Soda Bar** (Map p62; ☎ 022 312 00 98; www.sodabar.ch; Rue Étienne Dumont 3) Soul, salsa, funk and r'n'b; downhill from Place du Bourg Neuf.

**crem** (Map p62; ☎ 022 347 22 20; www.lacrem.ch in French; Blvd Helvétique 10) Gastronomic restaurant, lounge club, dance floor and bar so trendy its name doesn't carry an upper case.

There are also some mainstream nightclubs here:

**Jet Set** (Map p62; ☎ 022 732 13 13; Quai du Seujet 20; admission Sfr20)

**X-S** (Map p64; ☎ 022 311 70 09; Grand-Rue 21, entrance at Rue de la Pelisserie 19; admission Sfr10; ☎ 11pm-4am Thu, 11.30pm-5am Fri & Sat)

**Cinemas**

Watch films in English at **Rex** (Map p64; ☎ 0900 900 156; Confédération Centre 8, Rue de la Croix d'Or 11) or **Les Scala** (Map p62; ☎ 022 736 04 22; www.les-scala.ch in French; Rue des Eaux-Vives 23). Programmes are online at <http://geneve.cinemas.ch> (in French).

**Ciné Lac** (www.cinelac.ch in French; ☎ Jul & Aug) is a glorious summertime open-air cinema with a giant screen set up literally on the lakeside, which oozes romance. Watch a box-office hit against a twinkling backdrop of stars, boat lights and rippling water.

**Theatre & Classical Music**

**Grand Théâtre de Genève** (Map p62; ☎ 022 418 31 30; www.geneveopera.ch in French; Blvd du Théâtre 11) Geneva's opera, ballet, dance and theatre stage.

**Victoria Hall** (Map p62; ☎ 022 418 35 00; Rue du Général Dufour 14) Home to the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande.

**Théâtre du Grütli** (Map p62; ☎ 022 328 98 68; www.grutli.ch; Rue du Général Dufour 16) Experimental theatre and comedy.

**SHOPPING**

Designer shopping is wedged between Rue du Rhône and Rue de Rive. **Globus** (Map p64; Rue du Rhône 50) and **Manor** (Map p65; Rue de Cornavin) are the main department stores.

Grand-Rue in the Old Town and Carouge (p68) boast artsy boutiques. Something different can also be found at Geneva's twice-weekly **flea market** (Map p62; Plaine de Plainpalais; ☎ Wed & Sat).

**GETTING THERE & AWAY****Air**

**Aéroport International de Genève** (flight information ☎ 0900 57 15 00; www.gva.ch) has frequent connections to major European cities and many others worldwide. See p323.

**Boat**

The **Compagnie Générale de Navigation** (CGN; Map p62; ☎ 0848 811 848; www.cgn.ch) operates a steamer service from a jetty near Jardin Anglais to other villages on Lake Geneva. Many only sail from May to September, including those to Lausanne-Ouchy (adult 1st-/2nd-class single Sfr47.40/34.80, return Sfr73.60/54, 3½ hours). Passengers aged six



to 16 pay 50% less and under sixes sail for nothing.

Those planning to stop off at other places en route should buy a Carte Journalière CGN (one-day CGN pass) costing Sfr74/55 in 1st/2nd class. Otherwise, the Swiss Boat Pass (Sfr35), available at any boat pier with a ticket office, yields a 50% discount on lake-steamer tickets for one year. Eurail and Swiss rail passes (see the boxed text Swiss Travel Passes, p327) are also valid.

## Bus

International buses depart from the **Gare Routière** (Bus Station; Map p65; within Switzerland ☎ 0900 320 320, 022 732 02 30; www.coach-station.com; Place Dorcière). Buses run to a plethora of ski resorts, including Swiss Flaine and Verbier (both December to April), and to Chamonix (five daily, 1¾ hours, adult/child four to 12 Sfr49.50/25) in France.

## Car & Motorcycle

### RENTAL

**Avis** Airport (☎ 022 929 03 30); City (Map p62;

☎ 022 731 90 00; Rue de Lausanne 44)

**Budget** (☎ 022 717 86 75; Airport)

**Easycar** (www.easycar.com) Online, no-frills car rental operating out of Geneva airport.

**Europcar** Airport (☎ 022 717 82 37); City (Map p62;

☎ 022 732 52 52; Rue de Lausanne 37)

**Hertz** Airport (☎ 022 798 22 02); City (Map p62; ☎ 022 731 12 00; Rue de Berne 60)

**Sixt** Airport (☎ 022 717 84 10); City (Map p62;

☎ 022 732 90 90; Place de la Navigation 1)

## Train

More-or-less-hourly connections operate between Geneva's main train station, **Gare de Cornavin** (Map p65; Place de Cornavin), and most Swiss towns, including Lausanne (Sfr20, 40 minutes), Bern (Sfr45, 1¾ hours) and Zürich (Sfr77, 2¾ hours). Pick up timetables at the **information office** (☎ 0900 300 300; ☎ 8.30am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4.45pm Sat).

Trains running southeast to/from Anancy, Chamonix and other destinations in France use Geneva's French Railways (SNCF) train station, **Gare des Eaux-Vives** (Ave de la Gare des Eaux-Vives).

For international connections see p326.

## GETTING AROUND

Swiss rail pass holders (p327) travel for free on Geneva's trams and buses.

### To/From the Airport

The quickest way to/from Geneva airport is by train: some 200 trains per day link the airport train station with Gare de Cornavin (Sfr2.80, eight minutes). Slower bus No 10 (Sfr2.80) also runs between the airport and Gare de Cornavin; get off at the '22 Cantons' stop. A metered taxi costs around Sfr30.

### Boat

Yellow shuttle boats, Les Mouettes (the seagulls), crisscross the lake every 10 minutes between 7.30am and 6pm. Public transport tickets dispensed by machines at boat bays are valid.

### Car & Motorcycle

Much of the Old Town is off-limits to cars. Street parking (1½-hour maximum stay) costs Sfr1.50 or Sfr2 per hour, and public car parks (www.geneve.ch/parkings in French) are well signposted: those parking in **Parking du Mont Blanc** (Map p62; Quai du Général-Guisan; per 25 min Sfr1) or **Parking Plaine de Plainpalais** (Map p62; Ave du Mail; per 40 min Sfr1) get one hour of free travel for two people on buses, trams and boats; validate your ticket in an orange TPG machine before leaving the car park.

### Public Transport

Tickets for buses, trolley buses and trams run by **Transports Public Genevois** (TPG; ☎ 0900 022 021; www.tpg.ch in French) are sold at dispensers at stops and at the **TPG office** (☎ 7am-7pm Mon-Sat), at the central train station: a one-hour ticket for multiple rides in the city costs Sfr2.80; a ticket valid for three stops in 30 minutes is Sfr2.20; and a city/canton day pass valid 9am to midnight is Sfr7/12. Schedules for **Noctambus night buses** (☎ 0900 022 021; www.noctambus.ch in French) are online.

### Taxi

Pick one up from in front of the train station or call ☎ 022 331 41 33. Count on paying Sfr6.30 flag fall plus Sfr2.90 per kilometre.

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