



# Geneva

POP 178,600 / AREA 282 SQ KM / LANGUAGE FRENCH

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Auberge Communale de Presinge (p50)
- » Le Comptoir (p48)
- » L'Adresse (p49)
- » L'Entrecôte (p49)
- » Omnibus (p50)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Hôtel Bel'Esperance (p47)
- » Edelweiss (p47)
- » La Réserve (p47)
- » La Cour des Augustins (p47)
- » Hôtel Auteuil (p47)

## Why Go?

Sleek, slick and cosmopolitan, Geneva is a rare breed of a city: it's one of Europe's priciest, its people chatter in every language under the sun and it's constantly perceived as the Swiss capital (it isn't). Superbly strung around the shores of Europe's largest Alpine lake, this is only Switzerland's third-largest city.

Yet the whole world is here: 200-odd governmental and nongovernmental international organisations fill the city's plush hotels, feast on its incredible choice of international cuisine, and help prop up Geneva's famed overload of banks, luxury jewellers and chocolate shops.

But where's the urban grit? Not in the lakeside's silky-smooth promenades and iconic fountain of record-breaking heights, nor in its pedestrian Old Town. To find the rough cut of the diamond, dig into the Pâquis quarter or walk along the Rhône's industrial shores where local neighbourhood bars hum with attitude. This is the Geneva of the *Genevois*...or as close as you'll get.

## When to Go

Geneva is a year-round destination. Winter with its December festivals, toasty lakeside sauna bars and fondue cuisine (not to mention nearby skiing) has a real charm. Then there is spring when many more boats serenade the lake and its quays come alive with city dwellers out for a walk, roller-blade or early evening drink on a waterfront bar terrace. July and August are the months to dip in the lake, dive off jetties, discover the city's alfresco cafe society and picnic in its many pretty parks.



## Geneva Highlights

- 1 Dash beneath the **Jet d'Eau** (p40) then plunge into the labyrinthine **Old Town** (p40)
- 2 Learn a worldly thing or two about the Big Bang at **CERN** (p45) and the UN at the **Palais des Nations** (p45)
- 3 Indulge in a shopping spree in Geneva's Old Town

- and Pâquis boutiques, lunch at **L'Adresse** (p49) and take afternoon tea at **Cottage Café** (p48)
- 4 Spoil yourself with a soak in a chocolate bath at **After the Rain** (p46)
- 5 Sail a belle époque paddle steamer to **Yvoire** (p54) in France

- 6 Trade in urban chic for lunch at an old-fashioned *auberge* in the Genevan countryside (p50)
- 7 Watch a box-office hit against the romantic backdrop of twinkling stars, boat lights and the rippling water of Lake Geneva at the **Orange Cinéma** (p52)