



# Geneva

POP 189,000 / AREA 282 SQ KM / LANGUAGE FRENCH

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Buvette des Bains (p49)
- ➔ Brasserie des Halles de l'Île (p50)
- ➔ Le Relais d'Entrecôte (p51)
- ➔ Auberge d'Hermance (p55)
- ➔ Le Grill (p50)

## Best Places to Drink

- ➔ La Buvette de Bateau (p52)
- ➔ Le Bateau Lavoir (p53)
- ➔ Yvette de Marseille (p52)
- ➔ L'Atelier Cocktail Club (p52)
- ➔ La Barje (p53)

## Why Go?

Sleek, slick and cosmopolitan, Geneva is a rare breed of city: it's among 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 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 to it.

## When to Go

- ➔ Being a busy business city, Geneva has markedly cheaper hotel rates at weekends.
- ➔ April and May see boats going back in the water and the lake's quays coming alive with city dwellers walking, rollerblading and hanging out in waterfront terrace bars.
- ➔ July and August are the months to swim in the lake, dive off jetties, discover the city's alfresco cafe society and picnic in its many parks.
- ➔ Winter, with its December festivals, toasty lakeside sauna bars and fondue cuisine (not to mention nearby skiing) is a real charmer.



## Geneva Highlights

**1** Dash beneath the **Jet d'Eau** (p42) then plunge into the **Old Town** (p42).  
**2** Bone up on the Big Bang at **CERN** (p47), the UN at **Palais des Nations** (p46) and communications at **ICT Discovery** (p47).

**3** Indulge in a **shopping spree** (p54) in Geneva's Old Town and Pâquis' boutiques.

**4** Sail a paddle steamer to **Yvoire** (p55) in France.

**5** Chink glasses with locals in a trio of summertime

**pop-up terrace bars** (p53) on the water's edge.

**6** 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** (p54).