

# Welcome to Geneva



## / Unique among Europe's cities!

With its exceptional setting on the shores of Switzerland's largest lake and at the foot of Europe's highest mountain – Mont-Blanc – **Geneva is unique among its kind**. The city treasures its quality of life and proudly exhibits its giant water fountain, the “Jet d'eau”.

The birthplace of the **Swiss watchmaking** industry is a paradise for luxury shopping and offers its visitors first-class services and accommodation.

World-renowned as the **Capital of Peace**, Geneva's small-town cosiness combined with its international vocation always surprises. Moving around is easy in this metropolis steeped in history. Visitors carry away unforgettable memories and the desire to return, again and again.

An aerial photograph of a large fountain, likely the Jet d'Eau in Geneva. A thick, vertical column of water is being shot upwards from a circular base. The water is white and turbulent, contrasting with the dark green water of the surrounding lake. A narrow channel of water flows from the base of the fountain towards the bottom center of the frame.

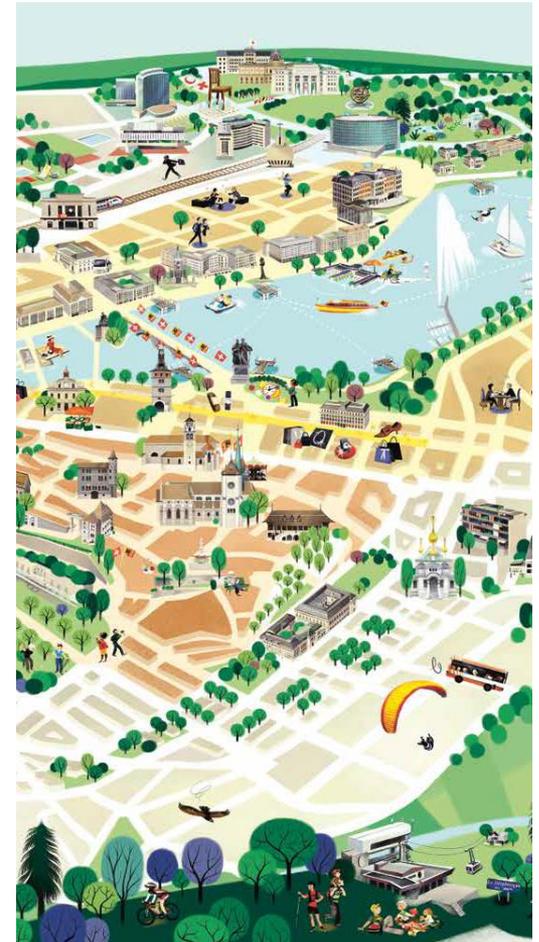
/ Highlights

## / Why Geneva?

- The blue of the lake in harmony with the green of the city's gardens
- A cultural rainbow imbued with the "Spirit of Geneva"
- A meeting point of world religions
- A perfect blend of prestige and well-being
- The quest for perfection and the sweet temptations of luxury
- A true home-away-from-home in the city of your dreams

## / Access, Map & Transport

- Exceptional location in the very heart of Europe
- Geneva International Airport connected to 112 choice destinations per week
- A six-minute train ride from downtown to the airport, every 12 minutes
- Free public transport with the Geneva Transport Card valid throughout your stay (train, tram, bus, boat)



/ Breathtaking scenery

## / One of Switzerland's most spectacular landscape

- The famous water fountain: Geneva's landmark (140 m/459 ft)
- Western Europe's largest lake: surface 582 km<sup>2</sup> (225 mi<sup>2</sup>), length 73 km (454 mi)
- The world's most stunning lakeside
- 50 verdant parks and gardens – an ever-green city in walking distance from the lake
- Panoramic views: Jura mountains and Alps with Mont-Blanc in the distance, Europe's highest summit (4,810 metres/15,776 ft)
- Ancient villages in the midst of countryside
- Switzerland's third largest vineyard (1,400 hectares/3,460 acres) only 15 minutes away from town



An unparalleled quality of life

## / The perfect blend between excellence and well-being

- Among the top eight of the world's most livable cities (Mercer Study 2011)
- A humane city with facilities of a metropolis
- Relaxing breaks in a city spa or hotel spa
- 60 award-winning restaurants to satisfy the most demanding palates
- Total comfort combined with a complete change of scenery
- City Destination of the Year – Switzerland in the 2017 LTG European Awards
- Europe's leading City Break Destination – World Travel Awards



/ The ultimate shopping experience

## / A city with prestige written all over it

- Twelve watch manufacturers following 300 years of watchmaking tradition: Rolex, Vacheron-Constantin, Patek Philippe, Chopard, ...
- Exclusive jewellery boutiques offering unique creations
- World capital of hand-rolled cigars: Davidoff, Gérard, Rhein
- International auctions: Christie's, Sotheby', etc.
- 80 watch and jewellery boutiques concentrated on a single street, Rue du Rhône
- 30 master chocolatiers and the Swiss oldest chocolate manufacturer (Favarger): a paradise for chocolate lovers



/ Capital of Peace

## / The Spirit of Geneva

- United Nations European headquarters
- 35 international and 250 non-governmental organizations are based in Geneva
- Birthplace of the International Red Cross, co-founded by Henry Dunant, the first Nobel Prize winner (1901)
- Palais Wilson – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UNHCR – The United Nations Refugee Agency and its Visitor's Centre
- The Broken Chair – Place des Nations – symbol of the campaign against landmines



/ Capital of excellence

## / The Quest for Perfection

- World – famous timepieces and fashion brands: Rolex, Patek Philippe, Cartier, Gucci, Hermès, Dior, Vuitton, etc.
- Private jets, ranked 3rd in Europe: Tag Aviation / PrivatAir / D'Jet
- 14 five-star hotels – first class welcome
- 40 internationally renowned private schools: Collège du Léman, Webster University, etc.
- 10 private clinics: Clinique Générale-Beaulieu, Grangettes, etc.
- Quintessentially Geneva – one of the 60 offices of the world's largest concierge group
- Switzerland's capital of gastronomy



A mosaic of cultural activities

## / A Cultural Rainbow

- 41 % foreigners, 190 nationalities
- 40 public and private museums – with an emphasis on natural history, fine arts, science and technology
- 4 unique museums in the world
- Geneva Festival: ten days of festivities and to crown it all, one of the world's most spectacular musical firework displays (August)
- 15 music festivals and special events: Antigél, Cinéma Tous Ecran, International Motor Show, Fair for books and press, etc.
- International sports competitions: Bol d'Or (Europe's biggest inland water sailing race), International Horse Show Jumping, etc.



/ Where religions meet

## / A city where everyone is a world citizen

- Jean Calvin, key figure of the Reformation (1536)
- Saint Peter's Cathedral – Geneva's main Protestant place of worship
- International Museum of the Reformation, winner of 2007 Council of Europe Museum Prize
- World Council of Churches (1948) – a fellowship of churches
- Where religions meet: 50 Protestant, 6 Evangelist, 55 Catholic, 4 Orthodox churches, 1 Mosque, 5 Islamic Centres, 4 Synagogues, 19 Buddhist Centres



/ Wine & Dine

## / A thousand and one temptations

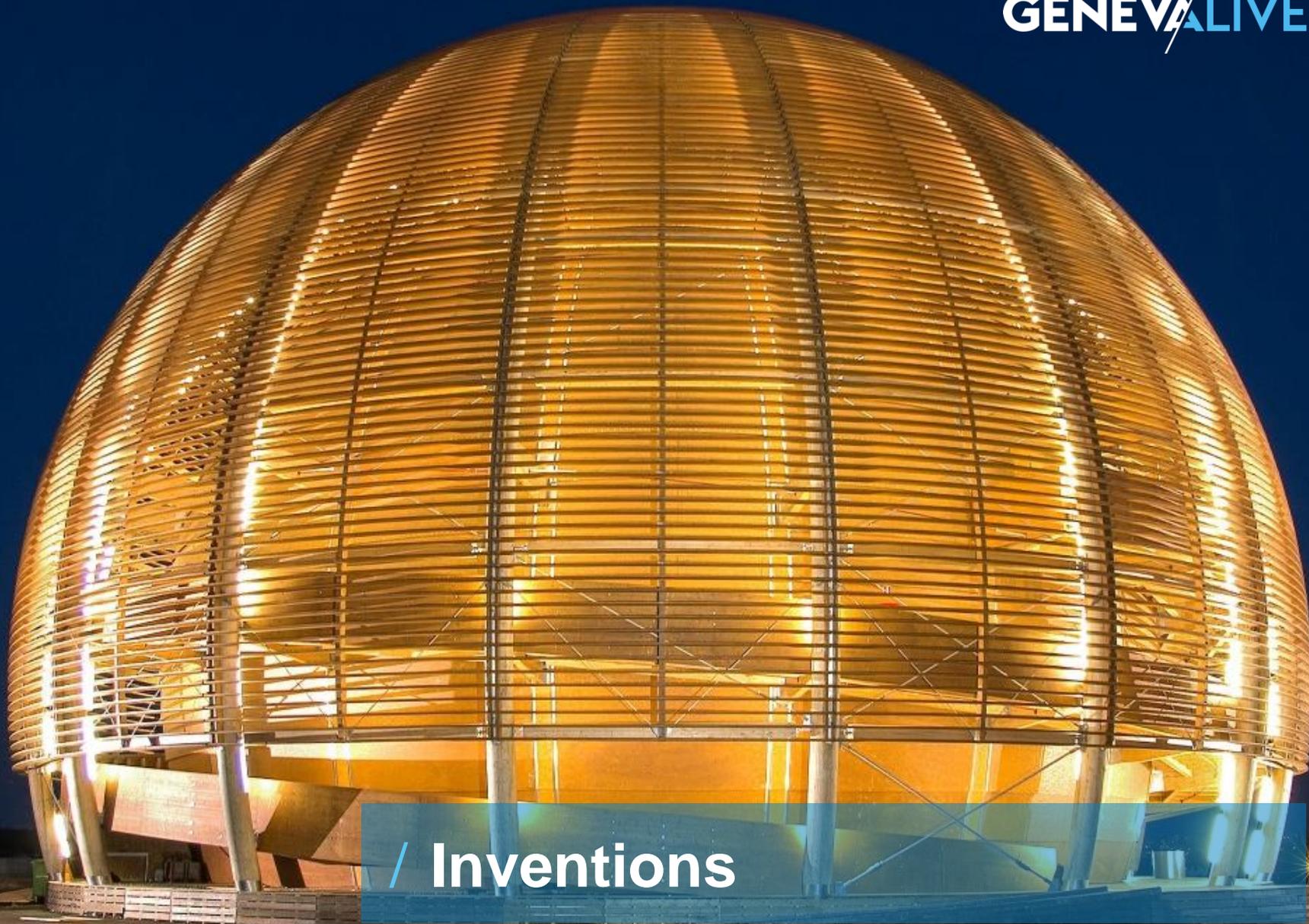
- 60 gourmet restaurants starred by Michelin's guide or distinguished by GaultMillau
- 140 ethnic restaurants representing 30 nationalities
- 30 master chocolatiers and one Geneva chocolate manufacture: Favarger
- Number 3 among Switzerland's wine producing cantons and largest Swiss wine-growing community
- High-quality Geneva wines earned ten international prizes in 2010
- The Beau Rivage Hotel has one of the largest cellars of vintages wines



/ **Celebrities**

## / Celebrities

- Calvin made Geneva into a “Rome of the Reformation” (1536)
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau – famous writer born in Geneva in 1712
- 2012: Commemoration of the tercentenary of the birth of Rousseau
- Henry Dunant creates the international committee of the Red Cross (1864)
- Woodrow Wilson, President of USA is at the origin of the creation of the Society of Nations (1919)
- Sisi Empress of Austria murdered in Geneva in 1898
- Richard Burton, famous US actor, buried in Geneva Canton (1984)



/ Inventions

## / Inventions

- The world wide web (Internet), created at the CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989
- Pierre Castan invented the first resistant and instant glue in the 30s
- Mr. Schweppé and partners invented the first sparkling water (18th C)
- Givaudan, the global leader in the fragrance and flavour industry since 1898
- Zino Davidoff founded the first humidified cigars showcases in 1929

## / Facts & Figures

### General information

- Switzerland's second-largest city
- 201,105 inhabitants in the city of Geneva
- 493,706 inhabitants in Metropolitan Geneva
- 282 km<sup>2</sup>: surface (Geneva and hinterland)

### Transportation

- 112 destinations per week
- More than 1,440 flights per week
- Second largest international airport in Switzerland
- A rapid rail network connected to Swiss and European cities

### Hotels / gastronomy

- 152 hotels / 14 five-star hotels
- 2,9 million overnights in 2014
- 2,093 restaurants
- 14 gourmet restaurants starred by Michelin's Guide
- 30 master chocolatiers
- 1,400 hectares of vineyards

### International city

- 35 international organizations
- 931 multinational companies

### Nature

- 50 parks and gardens – 310 hectares (20% of the city)
- 40,000 trees in the city

# / Contact

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