Geneva is the second most populous city in Switzerland, and is the most populous city of Romandy (the French-speaking part of Switzerland). It is situated where Lake Geneva (French Lac Léman) flows into the Rhône River, and is the capital of the Canton of Geneva. The population within the city limits is 185,526 (2004) and that of the metropolitan area — which extends into France and Vaud — is about 700,000. Geneva is widely regarded as a global city, mainly due to the presence of numerous international organisations, including the European headquarters of the United Nations.


GENEVA WEBSITES

Official Geneva Website: [http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/](http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/)

Geneva Welcome Centre: Extensive free services for diplomats, international civil servants and NGOs to help meet housing, transportation, health, leisure and other needs -- [http://www.cagi.ch/en/home.html](http://www.cagi.ch/en/home.html)


MAPS OF GENEVA

- [http://www.newtogeneva.com/Orientation/Maps/Map%20pages/maps_interactive.htm](http://www.newtogeneva.com/Orientation/Maps/Map%20pages/maps_interactive.htm)
- [http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/?rubrique=000000262](http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/?rubrique=000000262)

GENEVA FACTS

Languages: Official language: French (English and German also spoken)

Currency: Swiss Franc (CHF)

Voltage: The electric current in Switzerland is 220 V. The electrical plugs have 3 prongs but they can accommodate the standard European two prong.
The Confederation Helvetique, or Switzerland, is one of the smallest countries in Europe. This confederate structure consists of 26 cantons endowed with a considerable amount of legislative and fiscal autonomy. As such, it is very hard to define “Swiss traditions” with the possible exception of eating fries and grilled sausages on the 1st of August (Swiss National Day).

Switzerland has four official languages of which Swiss German is the most widely spoken followed by French, Italian, and Romansch. However, besides certain cantons such as Fribourg that lie on the linguistic borders, you are likely to find local people in German speaking regions know better English than French, and vice versa.

Geneva is one of the smallest cantons. Nonetheless, it is a canton that stands apart from the others due to its unique workforce. As the seat of most of the UN organizations, other International Organizations, and the European Headquarters of the UN, there is a large international community that is reinforced by a considerable number of French nationals that cross the border to work in Switzerland.

While the Swiss have a very live-and-let-live type of conservatism that has enabled the country to live peacefully for 700 years, there are a few standards that they expect their neighbors to maintain:

**Quiet**: Avoiding noise past 10 PM during the week is common courtesy. Sounding the car horn at night or leaving a car’s motor running is badly viewed.

**Punctuality**: When a Swiss person invites you out at 9 PM, for example, and you confirm, he expects you at 9 PM, give or take 15 minutes. It is also common courtesy to provide a bottle of wine or flowers.

**Bottles**: Glass bottles are not allowed to go into your bin but rather should be collected and disposed in the recycling bins located around the area.

**Greeting**: "La bise" is a common greeting custom in Geneva wherein friends give a cheek to cheek kiss three times when they meet each other and when they part.

**Visits**: If you would like to visit someone, it is advised that you call first.

For more information, please review this short guide to Swiss social customs: http://www.newtogeneva.com/Orientation/Anecdotes/social_customs.htm
PHONE SERVICES

All phone numbers in Switzerland start with 0. Landline phone numbers in Geneva start with 022 and cellular phone numbers with 079 or 078 or 076.

To call Switzerland from other countries, just dial the international line code (usually 00), followed by 41 (for Switzerland), then the local phone number without the 0. For instance: 022 123 45 67 will become 00 41 22 123 45 67

To make international calls from Switzerland, dial 00, then the country code and the desired phone number.

Calls to abroad can be made from the public telephone booth with a telephone card (PTT taxcard on sale at post offices and Tabac kiosks)

USEFUL NUMBERS

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Information for Switzerland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Fire Brigade (emergencies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Road help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(01) 251.51.51</td>
<td>Intoxication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>Ambulance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>748.49.50</td>
<td>SOS Doctors on call</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Duty pharmacy (Open pharmacy at night)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>161</td>
<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>162</td>
<td>Weather forecast</td>
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<tr>
<td>163</td>
<td>Traffic conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164</td>
<td>Sport Information</td>
</tr>
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<td>187</td>
<td>Avalanche bulletin</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>787.60.00</td>
<td>Lost and Found</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>311.12.22</td>
<td>SOS Keys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>719.11.00</td>
<td>SOS Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>787.60.00</td>
<td>Public Utilities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HEALTH SERVICES

SOS Emergency Doctor Service: 022 748 49 50 or https://www.sosmedecins.ch/f/index_f.aspx

The Association des Medecins du Canton de Geneve: http://www.amge.ch/amge/

Map of area hospitals: http://www.newtogeneva.com/Orientation/Maps/Maps/Map%20-%20Hospitals.jpg

Pharmacies: Pharmacies are generally closed at night but at least one will be open all night based on a rotating schedule. For a list of all Geneva-area pharmacies as well as the rotation schedule, visit http://pharmacies-geneve.ch/cad_gardes.html
**BANKS**

In general, banks are open from Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Wednesday to 5:30 PM) and closed on Saturday and Sunday.

Foreign exchange is available in the station (Gare Cornavin) every day from 6:45 AM to 9:30 PM and in Rue du Mont-Blanc 21 (Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 7 PM; and on Saturdays from 9 AM to 5 PM).

**POST OFFICE**

Geneva Post Office:  

**SHOPPING**

To locate a specific type of store, visit the **Geneva Tourism Office**’s online shopping database:  
http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/?rubrique=000000006

**Swiss yellow pages:**  
http://www.directories.ch/pagesjaunes/index.aspx

**Grocery Stores:** Migros, Coop, Pick Pay, Denner – found throughout the city

**Shopping districts:**
- Rue de Rhône: chic and expensive stores and boutiques, jewellers
- Rue de la Confédération: a wide variety of inexpensive boutiques
- Old Town on the Place Bourg-de-Four: Geneva's art galleries, antique shops
- Rue de Carouge: numerous inexpensive shops

**Markets:**
Outdoor markets selling everything from fresh produce to books abound.  
For a complete list visit http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/?rubrique=000000202

**Book stores:**
Off the Shelf:  English language bookstore  
Transportation

BUS AND TRAMWAYS
Geneva’s public transport system provides very comprehensive coverage of the city.

For schedules and route maps, visit the Transports publics genevois website at http://www.tpg.ch

Buses and trams start at 5:30 AM and run till midnight.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fares</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Below 25 years old</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>During the day</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid for 60 minutes: CHF 3.00 (2.20*)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valid for 3 stops: CHF 2.00 (1.80*)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Valid for the day (24 hrs): CHF 10 (7.30*)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly fare</td>
<td>CHF 35</td>
<td>CHF 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly fare</td>
<td>CHF 70</td>
<td>CHF 45</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* This price is the reduced fare price for holders of the Swiss Half-Price Card.

Purchasing Tickets
Daily tickets can be purchased from bus stops either with coins (the machine does not return change) or a pre-paid card (CHF 10, CHF 20, CHF 50) that can be bought from local newspaper stands (“Tabacs”).

Noctambus – The Night Bus
Geneva night buses run after the regular buses and trams end for the night. These buses have more limited routes than the regular buses. For schedules and route maps, visit http://www.noctambus.ch/accueil.htm

Taxis
Taxis are an alternative, albeit an expensive one, to the bus system. For taxi information, visit http://www.taxi-phone.ch
Taxi-Phone: Tel. 33.141.33 or AA New Cab: Tel. 320.20.20

Water Taxis – Mouettes Genevoises
For a scenic crossing of the lake on beautiful sunny days or at dusk when the lights illuminate the lake shore, take a “Mouette Genevoise” for a ride across the lake. There are various routes that run every ten minutes from 7:30 AM to 6 PM. For schedules, visit http://www.swissboat.com/en/shuttles.php
TRAVELLING

Lake Geneva Region:  
http://www.lake-geneva-region.ch/

My Switzerland:  
http://www.myswitzerland.com/de/welcome.cfm

Switzerland is Yours.com:  
http://switzerland.isyours.com/e/index.html

Swiss Backpacker News:  
http://www.backpacker.ch/


TRAINS

Switzerland’s comprehensive rail system allows you to easily visit even the most remote corners of the country. From the central station – Gare Cornavin – or the Geneva Airport station, trains depart for destinations across Switzerland and Europe.

Schedules, fares, and other information can be found on the SBB website:  
http://mct.sbb.ch/mct/en/reisen.htm

Many types of rail passes are also available:  
http://mct.sbb.ch/mct/en/abonnemente.htm

RAIL PASSES

- **The Half-Fare Card:** For CHF 150 for an annual pass, you receive a half price discount on all rail travel. This card also brings discounts on many metropolitan transportation systems, including the Geneva bus/tram system. This card is highly recommended if you plan on traveling in Switzerland.
- **Combined “Gleis 7” and Half-Fare Card:** For CHF 249 (or an additional CHF 99 for holders of the Half-Fare Card), individuals under 25 years of age can travel in the daytime at half rate and completely free after 7 PM.

Note: Almost all Swiss rail stations have lockers where you can store your baggage when traveling.

LOCAL AIRLINES

- **Easy Jet:**  www.easyjet.com
- **Swiss International Airlines:**  www.swiss.com
- **Helvetic Airways:**  www.helvetic.com
- **Air Berlin:**  www.airberlin.com (operates out of Basel/Mulhouse and Zurich)
Eating Out

RESTAURANTS

With over one thousand restaurants, Geneva is proud of its culinary diversity. The sites below will provide you access to the gastronomical delights of the city.

In general, lunch costs from CHF 12 – 19, drinks cost CHF 2.80 – 4 and 5 dl of local quality wine CHF 12 – 15 and coffee is CHF 2.80. Menus with starters, main dish and dessert range from CHF 25 – 50. Gourmet menus may cost CHF 45 – 120.

TIPPING POLICY

The indicated prices for restaurants, hotels and taxis are service included. Therefore, tipping is not an absolute necessity. It is however customary to leave a tip for quality service.

RESTAURANT WEBSITES

Geneva Tourism Office Restaurant Guide:
The site includes a searchable database by cuisine type. Individual restaurant listings include average prices, main dishes, and web links: http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/?rubrique=0000000005

Geneva Central Restaurant List:

Resto-ranG – with restaurants rated by quality and cost (French only):
http://www.resto-rang.ch/index.cfm?lang=EN

Geneva Bars:
http://www.genevatourisme.ch/?rubrique=0000000119

RestauGuide.com (French only):
http://geneve restauguide.com/

VegGuide.org – guide to vegetarian restaurants:
http://www.vegguide.org/location/view.html?location_id=174
Recreation


Language Lessons:


Inlingua:  [www.inlingua.ch/](http://www.inlingua.ch/)

Berlitz:  [www.berlitz.ch](http://www.berlitz.ch)

Bars and discos:  [http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/?rubrique=0000000004](http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/?rubrique=0000000004)


Movies in Switzerland are shown in their original version with French and German subtitles. Movie tickets normally cost CHF 15 or CHF 10 on Mondays (many also offer a student discount).

Ticket for Concerts & Shows:  [http://www.ticketcorner.com/home.jhtml;jsessionid=Q43GK0FZC2GP1QZP23UCFFA?localeCountry=CH&country=CH](http://www.ticketcorner.com/home.jhtml;jsessionid=Q43GK0FZC2GP1QZP23UCFFA?localeCountry=CH&country=CH)


Language Lessons:


Inlingua:  [www.inlingua.ch/](http://www.inlingua.ch/)

Berlitz:  [www.berlitz.ch](http://www.berlitz.ch)
**SPORTS**


**Swimming**

A list of Geneva swimming pools can be found at [http://www.genevatourisme.ch/?rubrique=0000000384](http://www.genevatourisme.ch/?rubrique=0000000384)

In the summer, you can also swim in the lake at **Bains de Paquis** – also features massages (reserve in advance): [http://www.bains-des-paquis.ch/](http://www.bains-des-paquis.ch/)

**Bicycles**

Information on how to rent a bike: [http://www.genevatourisme.ch/?rubrique=0000000028](http://www.genevatourisme.ch/?rubrique=0000000028)

From May to October, you can borrow a bike for free at the following locations:

- Place de Montbrillant 17
- Bains des Pâquis
- Place du Rhône
- Plaine de Plainpalais

To borrow a bike you will need a valid identity card and CHF 50 cash deposit. Arriving early is recommended.

**Bike Groups**

- ASPIC: [http://www.aspic.ch/](http://www.aspic.ch/)

**Geneva Walking Tour**

The Geneva Tourism office ([http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/](http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/)) rents a portable recorder for a walking tour that includes 25 points of interest and lasts approximately 2.5 hours.

A map and a portable recorder (available in French, English, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Japanese and Korean (coming soon) will guide you.

A passport or identity card is required and the rental fee is CHF 10, plus a refundable deposit of CHF 50. Recorders are available Monday (10 AM – 6 PM), Tuesday to Saturday (9 AM to 6 PM) and Sunday (9 AM – 6 PM).

**Guided Walking Tour**

The Tourism office also offers a guided tour of the old town of two hours. The tour cost CHF 15 (CHF 10 for students). It takes places on Saturdays at 10 AM and, from June to September, on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday at 10 AM and Tuesday and Thursday at 10 AM and 6:30 PM. The departure point is Geneva Tourism, rue du Mont-Blanc 18.

**Hiking**

Accommodation

APARTMENTS

Be Aware that some websites offering accommodation may be FRAUDULENT. never send money to those!
The Center maintains a current list of apartment rentals for interns that they can email you upon request.

HomeGate:  http://edicom.homegate.ch/homegate/index


GHI:  http://www.ghi.ch/live/1/home/  (click Annouces)

GenevaOnline:  http://www.genevaonline.ch/MarketPlace/HousingBoard/?rand=1078731104  (ex-pat housing forum)

Tip: book your first weeks at airbnb.ch, then you choose a better solution when you arrive

YOUTH HOSTELS & RESIDENCES

A sample of hostels is available below from the Geneva Tourism Office. For a more detailed list, please see the list available at  http://www.iun.ch/index.cfm/en/iun/student_services/housing or  http://www.asso-etud.unige.ch/cite-uni/logements/liste.html.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auberge de jeunesse</th>
<th>Backpacker Hostel</th>
<th>Cité universitaire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rue Rothschild 30</td>
<td>Rue Ferrier 2</td>
<td>Av. Miremont 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1202 Genève</td>
<td>1202 Genève</td>
<td>1206 Genève</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel. +41 (0)22 732 62 60</td>
<td>Tel. +41 (0)22 901 15 00</td>
<td>Tel. +41 (0)22 839 22 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax +41 (0)22 738 39 87</td>
<td>Fax +41 (0)22 901 15 60</td>
<td>Fax +41 (0)22 839 22 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web: <a href="http://www.yh-geneva.ch">www.yh-geneva.ch</a></td>
<td>Web: <a href="http://www.cityhostel.ch">www.cityhostel.ch</a></td>
<td>Web: <a href="http://www.unige.ch/cite-uni">www.unige.ch/cite-uni</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:booking@yh-geneva.ch">booking@yh-geneva.ch</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:info@cityhostel.ch">info@cityhostel.ch</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:cite-uni@unige.ch">cite-uni@unige.ch</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Price per person:</strong> Dormitories:</td>
<td><strong>Price per person:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Member YH: CHF 26.-</td>
<td>• Single: CHF 58.-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Non-member: CHF 32.-</td>
<td>• Double: CHF 42.50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dormitories: CHF 28.-</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cité universitaire</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Price per person:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Single: CHF 55.-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(student: CHF 46.-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Double: CHF 74.- for room (student: CHF 65.-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Studio: CHF 84.- (add. bed CHF 19.-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dormitories: CHF 22.-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# YOUTH HOSTELS & RESIDENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hostel Name</th>
<th>Address 1</th>
<th>Address 2</th>
<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centre universitaire protestant 1</td>
<td>Av. du Mail 2 1205 Genève</td>
<td></td>
<td>+41 (0)22 322 90 00</td>
<td>+41 (0)22 322 90 99</td>
<td><a href="mailto:welcome@cup.dpn.ch">welcome@cup.dpn.ch</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre universitaire protestant 2</td>
<td>Rue du Petit-Salève 10 1205 Genève</td>
<td></td>
<td>+41 (0)22 708 10 10</td>
<td>+41 (0)22 708 10 11</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cup2@span.ch">cup2@span.ch</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foyer George Williams</td>
<td>Av. Ste-Clotilde 9 1205 Genève</td>
<td></td>
<td>+41 (0)22 328 12 03</td>
<td>+41 (0)22 328 12 04</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@ucq.ch">info@ucq.ch</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foyer international pour jeunes filles</td>
<td>Rue Plantamour 29 1201 Genève</td>
<td></td>
<td>+41 (0)22 731 55 69</td>
<td>+41 (0)22 731 55 69</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension Clotilde</td>
<td>Rue du Mont-de-Sion 14 1206 Genève</td>
<td></td>
<td>+41 (0)22 703 51 70</td>
<td>+41 (0)22 703 51 99</td>
<td><a href="mailto:villaclothilde@bluewin.ch">villaclothilde@bluewin.ch</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Résidence universitaire internationale</td>
<td>Rue Rothschild 22 1202 Genève</td>
<td></td>
<td>+41 (0)22 716 02 02</td>
<td>+41 (0)22 716 02 01</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rui@unige.ch">rui@unige.ch</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Saint-Pierre</td>
<td>Cour St-Pierre 4 1204 Genève</td>
<td></td>
<td>+41 (0)22 310 37 07</td>
<td>+41 (0)22 310 17 27</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@homestpierre.ch">info@homestpierre.ch</a></td>
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### Price per person:

- **Single:**
  - Centre universitaire protestant 1: CHF 40.-
  - Centre universitaire protestant 2: CHF 40.-
  - Foyer George Williams: CHF 20.- per day / CHF 510.- per month
  - Foyer international pour jeunes filles: CHF 20.- for the heating
  - Pension Clotilde: CHF 31.- to 60.-
  - Résidence universitaire internationale: CHF 31.- to 60.-
  - Home Saint-Pierre: CHF 40.- (woman)
  - Double: CHF 30.- (woman)
  - Triple: CHF 27.- (woman)
  - Dormitories: CHF 27.- (man & woman)

### Remarks:

- Centre universitaire protestant 1: Reserved for women + CHF 20.- for the heating
- Foyer international pour jeunes filles: Furnished studios with kitchen area and private bath: CHF 530.- à 630.- per month
- Pension Clotilde: Reserved for women
- Résidence universitaire internationale: Reserved for women
- Home Saint-Pierre: Reserved for women

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**Price per person:**

- **Single:**
  - Centre universitaire protestant 2: CHF 40.-
  - 1 night: CHF 40.-
  - 1 week: CHF 180.-
  - 2 weeks: CHF 320.-
  - 1 month: CHF 600.-
  - Foyer international pour jeunes filles: CHF 20.- per day / CHF 510.- per month
  - Foyer international d’étudiants Saint-Justin: CHF 70.- (1 pers), CHF 100.- (2 pers)
  - Home Saint-Pierre: CHF 31.- to 60.-

**Minimum stay:**

- Foyer international pour jeunes filles: 3 nights
EXPENSE ESTIMATES

The following information is intended to assist you in estimating the cost of your internship (all figures indicated in Swiss Francs):

Travel expenses:
- Round trip air/train/bus tickets to/from Geneva: varies according to starting location
- Passport/visa application fees: varies

Accommodation in Geneva:
- Youth Hostel: 26 (member) CHF/night
- Foyer/ residence house: 400 and up CHF/month
- Room in an apartment: 600 and up CHF/month
- Apartment: 750 – 1000 CHF/month

Transportation:
- Bus: 3.00 CHF per trip or 70 CHF for an unlimited month-long pass (45 CHF if under 25 years old)

Meals depends if you're cooking for your own meal or buying outside

Insurance expenses:
- Medical insurance: varies

Note: Interns are not covered for non-occupational accidents and illness.

Other expenses: Additional 10-20% of the budget