

Coming from the airport or train station to school site – Sciences II

When you arrive **by plane** at “Genève/Contrin”, pick up a free public transport ticket in the baggage claim area, then pass the customs, turn left, stay on the arrivals level, and walk to the airport train station. Take any train and exit the next stop at “**Gare Genève/Cornavin**”. When exiting the train, descend one level, and walk opposite to the travel direction of the train (south-west).

When you arrive **by train** from Lausanne at “**Gare Genève/Cornavin**”, descend one level, and walk in the travel direction of the train (south-west). Continue to walk in this direction until you exit into an underpass below the train tracks and wait for **tramway 14** direction “**Bernex P+R**”. If you arrived by train or forgot to pick up the free ticket at the airport you must buy the “Geneva ticket” (“Billet tout Genève”) from a vending machine for CHF/Euro 3.50 (both currencies accepted, older machines return no change) before boarding the tramway.

You cannot buy any tickets on the tramway.

Get off the tramway at the stop “**Jonction**”. Then follow the river downstream (to the right) without crossing it. You soon arrive at a big building Sciences II, which is on the right side of the street. Walk along the travel direction of the tram towards the river “Arve” (south-west) and cross the main street. Then follow the river upstream (to the left, south-east) without crossing it. Soon you arrive at the big building Sciences II, which is on the left side of the street. Enter the building and watch for signs.

From the airport or train station to hotel – Ibis budget Petit-Lancy

Follow exactly the same directions as to Sciences II. However, do not get off the tramway as indicated, but three additional stops later. Get off at “**Les Esserts**” and you will see the hotel in front of you towards the east.

From the hotel – Ibis Budget Petit-Lancy – to the school site – Science II

At the stop “**Les Esserts**” in front of the hotel, take the **tramway 14** direction “**CERN**” or “**Meyrin/Gravière**”. Get off three stops later at “**Jonction**”. Walk to Sciences II according to the description given above. Do not forget to pick up your free public transport pass at the hotel.

Walking from the hotel to Science II takes about 20 min. Have a look at the Mini-Zoo in the “Bois de la bâtie” underpass.

Practical hints

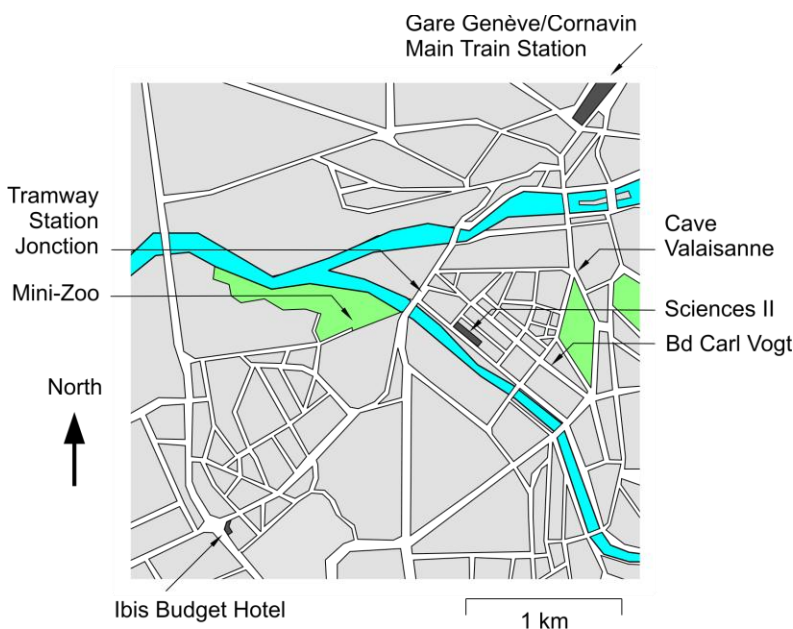
Free public transport: Booking any hotel room in Geneva entitles you for a pass for all public transport during the same period. You receive the pass in your hotel. Geneva has a good public transport system, and since it is free for you, there is no point trying anything else. Most lines operate between 6:00 until 24:00. The fun part is that boats are part of the network (Lines M1–M4). Finally, Geneva is relatively small, and you can easily walk. Taxis are expensive.

Language: The local language is French. Nevertheless, you can communicate in English more or less easily everywhere. Restaurants normally offer menus upon request in English. Spanish and Italian might also work.

Weather: During April the weather is usually mild, with daily temperatures 10–20°C, but an umbrella might be useful.

Parking: Parking in Geneva is scarce and expensive. Long term parking is available at the airport (hall P51) for about CHF 100 per week, but often it is fully booked. Similar or higher rates apply in other city parking areas or hotels. With some luck, you may find free **white** parking places, for example, close to the Mini-Zoo. Be careful with **blue** parking places, unless you park for less than one hour and you indicate the arrival hour inside your car. Avoid any parking marked with “propriété privé” (private property). Towing might be astonishingly fast.

Electricity: The power is 220V / 50 Hz as in other places in Europe, but the plugs might pose problems. If you have a two-pole plug, that one usually fits, but the grounded three-pole plug is different, see photo. There might be an EU socket in the hotel, but if not, you need an adapter. You may get one cheaply in **Interdiscount** store in the airport at



the departure level (level 1) or in the **Fust** store at the train station, which you find on the right hand side when you use the Mt Blanc street exit from lowest level. No adapters are available at the school site.

Currency: The Swiss currency is the **Swiss Franc** (CHF). Currently, CHF 1.0 is about € 0.80. The good places to exchange money are the main train station (Gare Cornavin) or the airport. Banks either don't do it or charge substantial fees. With most bank cards, you can also obtain money from cash machines. Euro is often accepted in restaurants and stores. You will normally get a fair exchange rate and the change in CHF back. Credit cards are accepted throughout.



Safety: Geneva is reasonably safe. Mugging incidents do happen, but rarely. Still, use your common sense as in other big cities: Do not count your money openly in the street, hide the badge outside the school site, pretend not to be lost, and avoid empty side streets, especially at nighttimes. Police can be called at 117 from any public phone or from your portable, and they may come quickly. The highest risk you run is pick pocketing, especially in crowds. Also be careful when helping strangers in the streets, as you might be the target of a theft-trick. Leave absolutely nothing in a parked car, especially with a foreign license plate.

Water: Water from the municipal water supply is excellent, sometimes better than bottled water found in stores. At public fountains watch for the sign "eau potable" (drinking water).

Restaurants: Reasonably priced restaurants close to the school site can be found on Bd Carl-Vogt. Many nice restaurants can be found in Carouge or the old town, but sometimes bit expensive, though.

Little leisures

Jonction: The confluence of the Rhone river, coming from the lake, and the wild river Arve, coming from the Mont Blanc, is called Jonction. It is only a 10 min walk from the school site along the Arve river downstream.

Bois de la bâtie: Cross the tramway bridge and take one of the steep paths uphill. You find a pretty forest, a Mini-Zoo, and nice view of the Alps if the visibility is good.

Short walk around the lake and the old town: The lake shores are pretty and made for strolls. Visit the parks (Jardin Anglais or Perle du Lac) and the "Jet d'Eau", the sizeable Geneva's water fountain. Come back to the school site through the old town, dominated by the St. Pierre cathedral.

Longer walk around the lake, the rivers, and the old town: Walk along the Arve river upstream, cross the Plainpalais, and pass the reformers wall. This place commemorates the most important event in Geneva's history: The reformation in 1535. Since then Geneva is mainly protestant, and therefore it does not belong to France, but to Switzerland, whose cities were equally protestant.

Shopping district: Les Rues Basses is the place where people shop. You will find many watchmakers, a craftsmanship that is blossoming again in Geneva. You find watches for every budget, from CHF 20 all the way to 2M. In the ground floor of the store "Globus" you get decent sample of the lower category. Returning to the main train station, you find also many stores in the streets Mt. Blanc, Chantepoulet, rue Rousseau, mainly aiming tourists. Usual opening hours are weekdays 9:00-19:00, Thursday 9:00-21:00, Saturday 9:00-18:00, and closed on Sundays.

Trip to the Salève: If you have a half a day to spare and the weather is nice, make a trip to the Salève. From the main train station take the bus No. 8 direction "Veyrier douane" all the way to the last stop. Walk about 5 min to the cable car (Téléphérique du Salève, opening hours 9:30-18:00, around € 11 roundtrip). The cables help find it, in case. From the upper station of the cable car, walk about 30 min to the top. When the visibility is good, the view of the Alps and the Geneva and Annecy basins with the two lakes is unique. Return the same way back. Note that you need a valid passport and visa, since you are crossing the French-Swiss border.

River rafting: For the more adventurous minds, you may try rafting of the Arve river. For more information call 0041 22 784 0205, email: info@rafting-loisirs.ch, or inspect the website <http://www.rafting-loisirs.ch/descente-arve/>. The website is in French, but they understand English.