

GENEVA & THE ALPS

(*Mileage is estimated from each preceding city or site. Before you begin your trip, please note: For space reasons, we could not provide the most detailed map with this brochure. We recommend that you refer to the Road Atlas of Switzerland, available at most travel bookstores, or order Michelin maps, call 1-800-233-6987.*)

GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Located minutes from the city of Geneva and close to the French border, the airport offers easy access to the region.

GENEVA – This graceful and cosmopolitan city on the southwestern end of Lake Geneva (Lac Léman) is the heart of Switzerland's French-speaking cantons. It is a bastion of wealth and sophistication, and shops are filled with the world's finest watches. You'll see hand-made chocolates displayed with a care normally reserved for diamonds. The winding streets of old Geneva will lead you to Place de Boissière, the fine art boutique Grand Rue, where philosopher/landscape architect Le Corbusier's names closely associated with Geneva include religious reformer John Calvin and writers such as Voltaire, Victor Hugo and Percy Bysshe Shelley. On the lake shore, the Jet D'Eau shoots up a tower of water, the tallest fountain in the world.

The Musées d'Art et d'Histoire is worth a detour, as is the sobering Musée International de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge, the Red Cross museum. Lined at one of the city's most scenic spots, the Boardwalk, is a lake steamer to enjoy the scenic waters of Lake Geneva. Now you're ready to explore the Alps.

LAUSANNE

Smaller, slower-paced and more down to earth than Geneva, Lausanne has a wonderful setting overlooking Lake Geneva, with the French Alps in the background. Begin with a walking tour of the steep streets of the Old Town, with its little shops and cafes, and stop at the 13th-century Cathédrale Notre-Dame, the finest Gothic cathedral in Switzerland. Then visit the luminous, white, baroque interior of the neighborhood of Lausanne where the gardens are elaborate gardens. Don't miss the Musée Olympique. Lausanne, the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee is headquartered here and this splendid museum offers an elaborate presentation on the history of the games as well as artifacts ranging from track star Carl Lewis' shoes to the Olympic torch created by Philippe Starck for the Albertville Games.

VEVEY

This exceptionally relaxed and charming city in the midst of Switzerland's finest wine districts sits on the scenic shores of the French Alps. Here you'll find the Hotel du Lac, where Anita Brookner set her eponymous novel, "Vevey's," Saturday antiques market is worth a visit, and do stroll along the lakefront park, where you'll come across a life-size statue of Charles Chaplin. "The Little Tramp" made Vevey his home for the last decades of his life. Once every 22 years or so, Vevey celebrates the Fête des Vignerons or festival of the wine growers. With some 5,000 amateur actors, this is one of Europe's

most elaborate folk festivals. The last one was held in 1999. But visit the Musée Historique de Vevey to see costumes and photos from previous celebrations. Then enjoy a glass of the local St. Saphorin wine at a café at Place du Marché.

MONTREUX

Montreux is the unofficial capital of the Swiss Riviera, a scenic path leading to the lakefront contrasts with a backdrop of the snow-capped French Alps. Best known for its jazz festival, Montreux is also a city beloved by wealthy expats. The Montreux Palace Hotel was home to novelist Vladimir Nabokov for many years. In recent times, the city welcomed the late rocker Freddy Mercury of Queen, and commemorated him with a statue in the center of town. Just outside the city sits Montreux's most memorable monument, the extraordinary fortress called Chillon Castle. Perched on the edge of the Lake Geneva, the fortress inspired Lord Byron to write his poem "The Prisoner of Chillon."

GSTAAD

One of the most fashionable resorts in Switzerland, Gstaad is about old money and discreet displays of wealth. Located at the nexus of four valleys, it offers plenty of easy day hikes in summer, extensive ski slopes in winter and fashionable shopping anytime.

Literally located between the lakes, Interlaken is the central hub of the Bernese Oberland. Spin off down to Thun, Megève, and Yvill from Interlaken. The nearby village of Jungfrau Massif. It's a good base for exploring the nearby mountains, glaciers and lakes for a few days.

MURREN

Perched on an alpine balcony, this lovely car-free village is accessible by the Schilthorn Cable Car. The views across the valley to the neighboring Jungfrau Massif are truly stunning. A favorite ski resort for the British for nearly a century, Mürren is charming at any time of year.

SUSTEN PASS

Completed in 1945, the Susten Pass is a spectacularly rugged 19th-century automobile. The Susten Pass runs from Interlaken near Mürren to Wassen, a 29-mile journey. You'll climb to about 7,412 feet, and be rewarded with some classic Alpine vistas along the way. Near Mérimin, Sheriff Holmes fans can detour briefly to see Reichenbachfälle, the waterfall where the fictional Holmes and Professor Moriarty disappeared in one of Conan Doyle's best tales.

ST. GOTTHARD PASS

The most dramatic Alpine pass, travelers made their way on foot through the St. Gotthard Pass since the 13th century. This is the route that led to the Gotthard Tunnel, which was built by the Italian-speaking cantons of the Ticino.

ZERMATT

This car-free village – you can leave yours at nearby Täsch and take the train in – has dramatic views of the jagged 14,685-foot Matterhorn, which towers above it. Zermatt is the heart of the Alps and whether you hike in the shadow of the Matterhorn, take a day hike or even contemplate the rigorous climb, there's no escaping its mythic power.

Europe's highest world-class climbers, but the physically fit can take the cable car. The Matterhorn Blanc, which takes you into Switzerland and Italy as well. If you're time-pressed, simply board the Aguille du Midi cable car for the dramatic views.

MÉGÈVE

Think of Megève as the Sun Valley of France, with fashionable guests, terrific restaurants, highly regarded hotels and an inspiring setting. In summer, hiking and mountain biking are popular. Take the gondola up Mont D'Arbois for superb views of nearby Mont Blanc.

ANNÉCY

Set on Lac d'Annecy and surrounded by beautiful parks, Annecy has one of the best settings in France. The city's delightful medieval quarter, complete with canals and arched streets, is made for strolling. In summertime, the bridges are bedecked with flowers. Markets days are the liveliest times in this lakeside city. The 15th-century church of St. Maurice d'Annecy has a chapel bearing the emblems of aristocratic families and guilds. The Palais des îles is a 12th-century prison that sits squarely in the middle of the Thoiry Canal while the Château d'Annecy affords views of the old town and the lake. When it's time to depart, you'll be happy to know that Geneva Airport is but a half-hour drive away.

HOTELS

Hotel d'Angleterre – British antiques, views of Mont Blanc and the Lionnery Brasserie, a fine dining restaurant. This cozy city hotel on the edge of Lake Geneva that welcomed royalty a century ago. The 30 rooms are quite elegant. Quiet du Mont-Blanc, 17, Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: 41 22 905 5555 For reservations in the USA, 800-745-8888

On the summit of Mont-Pèlerin above Vevey, this hotel commands an all-encompassing view of the Geneva region. The property is in the heart of Swiss wine country, Mont-Pèlerin, Switzerland. Tel: 41 21 925 11 12 Fax: 41 21 925 11 12 For reservations in the USA, 800-426-3135

Grand Hotel Victoria-Jungfrau. This stellar property, with a great spa and pool, has been welcoming guests since the 19th century. The 212 rooms have fabric-covered walls and marble columns. Many boast fantastic views of the mountains. Hoheweg 71, Interlaken, Switzerland. Tel: 41 333 838 38 80 Fax: 41 333 838 38 80 For reservations in the USA, 800-745-8883

Rifflapal Resort 2022. Set at 2,222 meters or 7,290 feet, the views from this five-star hotel of the Matterhorn are unsurpassed. Reached via the Corrigat railway, this 63-room hotel has polished granite, salvaged farmhouse timbers, Oriental carpets and a delightful spa. Zermatt, Switzerland. Tel: 41 27 966 05 55 Fax: 41 27 966 05 50 For reservations in the US, 800-745-8883

Auberge du Bois Pén. A delightful 11-room chalet, with rooms and balconies offering superb views of Mont Blanc and the surrounding mountains. The inventive cuisine, 69, Chemin de l'Herminette, Chamotix, France. Tel: 33 04 50 53 33 51 Fax: 33 04 50 53 48 75 For reservations in the USA, 800-735-2478



Les Fermes de Marie. A cluster of antique chalets that hoteliers Jocelyne and Jean-Louis Sibret turned into a chic hotel that resembles a Haute Savoie village. The 52 rooms have honey-colored pine walls and antique canopied beds, with luxurious bathrooms and a full health spa. Chemin de la Grande Croix, Megève, France. Tel: 33 04 50 93 09 84 Fax: 33 04 50 93 09 84

DINING

Auberge du Raisin. One of the most charming restaurants in France can be found in this 18th-century hotel in the wine village of Cully, near Annecy. Chef Adolfo Blohberger has earned two Michelin stars and the restaurant's 9,000 bottle wine list includes many offerings from the nearby Lavaux vineyards. Place de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, Cully, Switzerland. Tel: 031 7992131 Fax: 031 7992501 For reservations in the USA, 800-735-2478

