

**WELCOME  
TO GENEVA**  
PRACTICAL GUIDE  
TO LIVING IN GENEVA

**ANGLAIS**

**NOUVE  
VEGEE  
NOUVE**



REPUBLIQUE  
ET CANTON  
DE GENEVE

POST TENEBRAS LUX

# Geneva : 45 communes

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Aire-la-Ville      | 24 Gy              |
| 02 Anières            | 25 Hermance        |
| 03 Avully             | 26 Jussy           |
| 04 Avusy              | 27 Laconnex        |
| 05 Bardonnex          | 28 Ville de Lancy  |
| 06 Bellevue           | 29 Meinier         |
| 07 Bernex             | 30 Meyrin          |
| 08 Ville de Carouge   | 31 Onex            |
| 09 Cartigny           | 32 Perly Certoux   |
| 10 Céligny            | 33 Plan-les-Ouates |
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| 14 Choulex            | 37 Russin          |
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| 21 Genève             | 44 Versoix         |
| 22 Genthod            | 45 Veyrier         |
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IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY  
READING THESE TEXTS,  
A LARGE FORMAT (A4)  
VERSION IS AVAILABLE ON:  
*[www.ge.ch/integration/publications](http://www.ge.ch/integration/publications)*

OR BY CONTACTING THE  
OFFICE FOR INTEGRATION  
OF FOREIGNERS,  
01 RUE PIERRE FATIO 15  
(4<sup>th</sup> FLOOR) 1204 GENEVA  
TEL. 022 546 74 99  
FAX. 022 546 74 90  
*[www.ge.ch/integration](http://www.ge.ch/integration)*  
*[integration.etrangers@etat.ge.ch](mailto:integration.etrangers@etat.ge.ch)*

## WELCOME TO GENEVA-MESSAGE

On behalf of the Council of State of the Canton of Geneva and the Association of Geneva Communes (ACG) we wish you a very warm welcome.

Geneva has been a place of asylum and refuge for victims of religious persecution since the 16th century and has always been conscious of the richness of its multicultural society and convinced that it is one of its major strengths which favours exchange, dialogue and creativity.

In order to promote this cultural richness, symbolised by the presence of 194 nationalities in Geneva, the canton and the communes deploy a great effort to encourage integration, intercultural dialogue and respect for minorities.

This document is not intended to be exhaustive, but contains practical information on a range of subjects like health, schooling, housing, work, etc., which we hope will be useful to you in the first few months of your arrival as well as the following years.

We hope that this brochure will help you settle down and find your bearings in Geneva, and bid you once more a warm welcome to our canton.

**Pierre Maudet,**  
State Councillor



**Catherine Kuffer,**  
President of the ACG



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**WELCOME  
TO GENEVA  
A GENERALITIES**

## A GENERALITIES

### I PUBLIC HOLIDAYS - OPENING HOURS

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#### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS – SHOPS AND OFFICES CLOSED

	2013	2014	2015
New Year	1 January	1 January	1 January
Good Friday	29 March	18 April	3 April
Easter Monday	1 April	21 April	6 April
Ascension	9 May	29 May	14 May
Whit Monday	20 May	9 June	25 May
National Day	1 August	1 August	1 August
Jeûne genevois	5 September	11 September	10 September
Christmas	25 December	25 December	25 December
Restauration	31 December	31 December	31 December

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*See also: [www.geneve.ch/pratique/ferie.asp](http://www.geneve.ch/pratique/ferie.asp)*

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The normal working week is 5 days, from Monday to Friday.

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#### SHOP OPENING HOURS

Food shops open from Monday to Saturday, from 8:30 or 9:00 to 18:30-19:00, and close on Sundays. Some shops close: Monday (or Monday morning), Thursday at 19:30 or 21:00 (certain supermarkets), Friday at 19:30 and Saturday at 18:00. Some shops (railway stations or airport), or family grocers open 7 days a week, from 8:00 to 21:00, or even later.

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#### OPENING HOURS: BANKS AND POST OFFICES

Banks: normal opening Monday to Friday from 08:30-09:00 to 16:30.  
Post: normal opening Monday to Friday from 08:30 to 12:00 and from 13:30 to 18:30, and closing Saturday at 12 noon. Exception: Mont Blanc <sup>02</sup> and Balexert post offices open respectively Saturday until 16:00 and 18:00, Montbrillant <sup>03</sup> post office Saturday morning from 08:00 to 12:00 and Sunday from 15:00 to 18:45.

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*[www.poste.ch/fr/index/uk\\_privatkunden/pv\\_poststellenverz.htm](http://www.poste.ch/fr/index/uk_privatkunden/pv_poststellenverz.htm)*

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# A GENERALITIES

## II COMMUNITY INTERPRETING

For your initial interviews (with the administration, etc.), we recommend you use the interpreting service of the Geneva Red Cross rather than resort to friends or relations who speak French.

Price : 73.50 francs per hour, all included (first hour payable in full even if meeting lasts less). These costs may be covered by certain institutions (public hospitals, public education authorities, etc.)

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### HOW TO PROCEED ?

**If you are already in a specific institution** (hospital, school, etc.): show the texts in the purple squares below.

**If you are not yet in a specific institution but wish to contact it :** go with this brochure to the Geneva Red Cross

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04 **Geneva Red Cross**, route des Acacias 9, c.p. 288, 1211 Geneva 4, 022 304 04 04  
[info@croix-rouge-ge.ch](mailto:info@croix-rouge-ge.ch), [www.croix-rouge-ge.ch](http://www.croix-rouge-ge.ch)  
Stop: Acacias

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and have the message below read out at the reception :

Hello, I need the services of a Red Cross community interpreter who speaks English. Could you please put me in contact with him/her?  
Thank you

Bonjour, j'ai besoin des services d'un-e interprète parlant anglais. Pourriez-vous SVP me mettre en contact téléphonique avec lui/elle. Merci d'avance

You will then be put in touch with an interpreter who speaks your language and will enable you to communicate with the institution you need.

**Hard of hearing and deaf people** can contact, for help and orientation :

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05 **Service social pour personnes malentendantes et sourdes** (c/o AGM)  
Bd Helvétique 27, 1207 Geneva, tel. 022 735 56 42, fax 022 735 57 14,  
[info@agdm.ch](mailto:info@agdm.ch), [www.agdm.ch](http://www.agdm.ch)  
Stop: Rive

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# A GENERALITIES

## III IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE ORGANISATIONS

In function of your migratory status, you can contact, apart from the BIE (see p. 2):

Diplomats / international civil servants :

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06 **Geneva Welcome Center (CAGI)** Villa la Pastorale, rte de Ferney 106, 1202 Geneva  
022 546 14 00, [www.cagi.ch](http://www.cagi.ch), Stop : Intercontinental

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Swiss returning from abroad :

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07 **Hospice Général-CAS Champel, Unité des Suisses de retour de l'étranger**  
avenue Dumas 25C, 1206 Geneva, 022 420 61 00, Stop : Miremont

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Tourists, people staying temporarily in Geneva and congress participants :

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08 **Genève Tourisme & Bureau des congrès**, rue du Mont-Blanc 18, 1211 Geneva,  
022 909 70 00, [www.geneve-tourisme.ch](http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch)

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Lu: 10:00-18:00, ma-di: 09:00-18:00, on Sunday or public holiday: 10:00-16:00

Stop : Mont-Blanc or Chantepoulet

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Asylum seekers

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**Hospice général**, Cours de Rive 12, 1204 Genève, tél. 022 420 52 00  
[www.hospicegeneral.ch](http://www.hospicegeneral.ch), Stop : Rive

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Other immigrants (including those without legal status):

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09 **Centre de Contact suisses-immigrés (CCSI)**

rte des Acacias 25, 1227 Acacias, 022 304 48 60, [www.ccsi.ch](http://www.ccsi.ch), Stop : Industrielle

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See assistance organisations (pp. 23-24) or English language associations :

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**American International Club of Geneva**, Case Postale 371, 1211 Geneva 19

Tel 022 910 25 80, Fax 022 733 62 52 , [www.amclub.ch](http://www.amclub.ch)

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**American International Women's Club of Geneva**, Route de Chêne 11, 1207 Geneva,

Tel 022 736 01 20, Fax 022 735 03 32, [www.aiwcgeneva.org](http://www.aiwcgeneva.org)

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**English Speakers Association of Haute-Savoie**, <http://esa-hs.com/>

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**American Citizens Abroad**, rue Liotard 5, 1202 Geneva, 022 340 02 33, [info.aca@gmail.com](mailto:info.aca@gmail.com).

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**Geneva Irish Association**, chemin du Molard 7, 1266 Duillier

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[www.genevairishassociation.com](http://www.genevairishassociation.com)

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**Jamaica Association in Switzerland**, Jamaican mission,

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[margaretdetrazantique1999@yahoo.com](mailto:margaretdetrazantique1999@yahoo.com)

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## A GENERALITIES

### IV WAYS AND CUSTOMS

In addition to the clichés about the Swiss – who are reputed to be polite, discreet, punctual, and precise – here are some tips that you might find useful during your first few days in Geneva.

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#### **PUNCTUALITY**

Arriving on time for an interview is essential. Call if you are going to be more than 10 minutes late (especially if you have a professional appointment or with the administration). A doctor will require payment for the consultation if you do not show up (unless you give at least 24 hours notice).

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#### **POLITENESS - DISCRETION**

It is usual to say « Bonjour (Good Day) » to passers-by if you live in a small village. In town one says « bonjour », « au revoir (goodbye) » or « bonne journée (have a good day) » in shops or when meeting a person from your building. And you can never say « thank you » enough!

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#### **CLEANLINESS, RESPECT FOR PUBLIC PLACES AND EQUIPMENT**

By respect for public places, don't throw anything on the ground. During major events (music festivals, etc.), separate rubbish bins make it possible to sort waste (also the case at home, see p.34).

In the parks there are even plastic bags to pick up and dispose of dog mess in the waste bins.

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#### **NOISE - TRANQUILITY**

It is forbidden and not well looked upon to make too much noise in your apartment between 21:00 and 07:00. Also avoid talking too loudly, and shouting to call someone in public places. More details in the brochure bruits de voisinage/Neighbourhood Noise available in English on 022 546 76 00 or on the following Internet page:

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[http://etat.geneve.ch/dt/bruit-rayons/a\\_votre\\_service-publications\\_concernant\\_bruit-13489.html](http://etat.geneve.ch/dt/bruit-rayons/a_votre_service-publications_concernant_bruit-13489.html)

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# **WELCOME TO GENEVA**

## **B THE 10 THINGS TO DO DURING THE FIRST WEEK**

# **B** THE 10 THINGS TO DO DURING THE FIRST WEEK

## **01** TELEPHONE AND EMERGENCIES

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### **COMMUNICATION**

Use the public telephones (restaurants, post offices, stations, airports, etc.) with coins or cards available in tobacco shops.

To call Switzerland from abroad, the code is: 0041 (+22 for Geneva and then the number). In Geneva, dial 022 before the fixed number to be reached (except for emergencies).

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### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS (FREE OF CHARGE WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS)**

POLICE _____	<b>117</b>
FIRE, ALARM CENTRE _____	<b>118</b>
AMBULANCES AND DOCTORS _____	<b>144</b>
POISONING, ANTI-POISON CENTRE _____	<b>145</b> (normal rate)
ROAD ASSISTANCE _____	<b>140</b> (20 ct. per call)
ENVIRONMENT (atomic-biological-chemical) _____	<b>118</b>
LA MAIN TENDUE /THE HELPING HAND (telephone assistance for adults) _____	<b>143</b> (20 ct. per call)
TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN/ADOLESCENTS _____	<b>147</b>
RAPE ASSISTANCE _____	<b>022 345 20 20</b>
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE _____	<b>0840 110 110</b>

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For all medical problems, the number 144 will direct you to the appropriate services. When moving around, make sure you take with you:

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- An identity document (passport, identity card, with a photo).

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- A sheet of paper with your name and first name, blood group, list of your allergies, chronic illnesses or handicaps (diabetes etc.), the drugs you are taking and their dosage, in French, with the phone numbers of relatives or friends to contact in case of emergency or accident.

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- some money (if possible at least 5 francs).

## **B** THE 10 THINGS TO DO DURING THE FIRST WEEK **02** USING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

You can use Geneva public transport (TPG). Information on 0900 022 021 or at:

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[www.tpg.ch](http://www.tpg.ch)

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In this booklet, public transportation stops (bus, trams, etc.) will simply be indicated by "Stop" followed by the name of the stop.

**The Saut de puce (short hop) ticket** entitles you to either a trip of 10 minutes, maximum 3 stops on a TPG line without changing or return trip, or to a lake crossing on board the Geneva 'mouettes' (ferry boats) (not valid on railways, Proxibus or Noctambus). To buy a ticket at the automatic distributors:

- 1) press on the button «Saut de puce» on the automatic distributor.
- 2) press on the button «Prix réduit (reduced price)» if you are entitled (under 16 years of age, and holders of CFF half-price season tickets).
- 3) insert the exact change or your prepaid card Cartabonus.
- 4) then keep the ticket during the trip

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[www.tpg.ch/tarifs](http://www.tpg.ch/tarifs)

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**The «Tout Genève (all Geneva)» ticket** entitles you to use all the TPG lines (tram, trolleybus, bus and Mouettes (ferry boats) for 1 hour (60 minutes) from the time of purchase. To buy it at the automatic distributors, use the same procedure as above but select the ticket «Tout Genève».

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[www.tpg.ch/tarifs](http://www.tpg.ch/tarifs)

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### **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

On the information posts at the main TPG stops, a small «h» displayed next to the corresponding route indicates the vehicles accessible to people with disabilities (equipped with an access ramp which is folded manually by the driver).

## **B** THE 10 THINGS TO DO DURING THE FIRST WEEK

### **03** ANNOUNCING YOUR ARRIVAL IN GENEVA

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#### **EUROPEAN CITIZENS**

if your stay is to last more than 3 months, and if no action has been taken yet – you must register at the Department of Foreigners (Service des étrangers), in person or by post, within 3 months of arriving in Switzerland and in any case before starting any work:

- 1 individual form completed (a) and signed by you, and if need be by your future employer, with the required documents.
- 2 passport photos with your name/first name/date of birth on the back.
- 1 copy of your identity document currently being validated (passport, etc.).

**Settling as an independent:** add an application letter describing the activity planned (recent copy of CV, business plans, diplomas, etc.).

**Settling without gainful employment:** add an attestation of your financial resources and an attestation of being covered in Switzerland by a health insurance fund.

**Recipients of a service or treatment (hydrotherapy, etc.):** add an attestation from the establishment (recipients of hydrotherapy: medical certificate) with the estimated duration of the treatment.

**Students:** add an attestation of registration/inscription in a university or school, the ad hoc form (except if registered at the University of Geneva) and an attestation of your resources.

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#### **NON-EUROPEAN CITIZENS**

authorised to settle in Geneva must, within 14 days of their arrival, submit personally to the same department:

- 1 individual application form completed (b) and
- the 2nd page of the ad hoc form, with the documents required.
- A copy of the identity and validity pages of the passport and visa for entry into Switzerland.

Except for persons who are admitted into Switzerland as family members of a EU or EFTA citizen, who can send these documents by post with 2 passport photographs with their name and surname inscribed on the back.

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⑩ **Service des étrangers (Office cantonal de la population)(Cantonal Population Office)** route de Chancy 88, 1213 Onex, 022 546 46 46 (7:30-15:30) [www.geneve.ch/ocp](http://www.geneve.ch/ocp)

(a) [www.ge.ch/etrangers-confederes/fr/doc/ue4-1-formulaire-ue.pdf](http://www.ge.ch/etrangers-confederes/fr/doc/ue4-1-formulaire-ue.pdf)

(b) [www.ge.ch/etrangers-confederes/fr/doc/m4-1-formulaire-non-ue.pdf](http://www.ge.ch/etrangers-confederes/fr/doc/m4-1-formulaire-non-ue.pdf), Stop: Bandol

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## **B** THE 10 THINGS TO DO DURING THE FIRST WEEK **04** HEALTH-INSURANCE-DOCTOR

Taking out health insurance - within maximum three months of your arrival (except for international civil servants, diplomats and their families who should contact the CAGI, see p. 9) - is compulsory. It is recommended to insure yourself as soon as you arrive.

By paying the basic health insurance premiums (monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly) you can have 90% of your medical and hospital expenses reimbursed (excluding dental bills). Additional insurance (optional) provides access to private or semi-private treatment. Contact:

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**11** *Service de l'assurance-maladie (SAM), route de Frontenex 62, 1207 Geneva*  
*only by appointment by phone on 022 546 19 00, (Mon-Fri 9:00-12:00 and 13:30-16:00)*  
*or through the website :*  
[www.ge.ch/assurances/maladie/doc/formulaire-demande-de-rendez-vous.pdf](http://www.ge.ch/assurances/maladie/doc/formulaire-demande-de-rendez-vous.pdf)  
*Stop: Amandolier or Montchoisy*

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You must also take out accident insurance with the same insurance company (if you are working, this is paid by your employer). Look for a family doctor soon after your arrival so as to avoid waiting times in the event of illness. You can find the addresses of more than 1'500 doctors who speak English under:

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[www.amge.ch/medecins/annuaire-des-medecins](http://www.amge.ch/medecins/annuaire-des-medecins)

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The list is also available at:

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**12** *The association des médecins de Genève (Association of Geneva Doctors)*  
*rue Micheli-du-Crest 12, 1205 Geneva, 022 320 84 20, info@amge.ch*

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## **B** THE 10 THINGS TO DO DURING THE FIRST WEEK

### **05** COMPULSORY SCHOOL-CHILDREN AGED 4-15

All children, including those without legal status, are entitled to access to the free public schooling system of Geneva, which consists of:

- from 4 to 12 years old: a nursery/primary school (obligatory)
- from 12 to 15: a lower secondary (orientation) school (obligatory)
- from 15 to 19: a free higher secondary school or college: (optional, see p.28)

People with children aged between 4 and 12 should make an appointment rapidly (if possible within 3 days of their arrival) with the Welcome Office:

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**18** *Bureau d'accueil de l'enseignement primaire, Geisendorf, rue de Lyon 58*

*1203 Geneva, 022 546 39 59 or 022 546 75 22, baep@etat.ge.ch*

*Stop: Dôle*

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This office receives families, with available documents in hand (identity document, health insurance, etc.), for an initial meeting in their own language to guide them. For assistance in the absence of a residence authorisation, contact:

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**19** *Centre de contact suisses-immigrés (CCSI)*

*route des Acacias 25, 1227 Acacias, 022 304 48 60, admin@ccsi.ch*

*Stop: Industrielle*

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People with children aged between 12 and 15 should make an appointment rapidly (if possible within 7 days of their arrival), for an interview with:

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**14** *Direction générale du cycle d'orientation, avenue Joli-Mont 15 A, 1209 Geneva*

*022 388 53 00 (Collège des Coudriers-4<sup>th</sup> floor), www.geneve.ch/co*

*Stop: Bouchet*

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### **HANDICAPS - LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (4 - 18 YEARS OLD)**

For specialised schooling for children aged 4-18 with serious difficulties in learning or developing, or disabilities (physical, mental, etc.), contact:

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**16** *DIP-OMP Office médico-pédagogique secrétariat de l'enseignement spécialisé (Medical-Pedagogical Office, secretariat for specialised education)*

*rue David-Dufour 1, 1205 Geneva, 022 388 67 51, www.ge.ch/omp,*

*Stop: Sainte-Clotilde or Palladium or Jonction*

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## **B** THE 10 THINGS TO DO DURING THE FIRST WEEK **06** LOOKING FOR ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is not easy to find in Geneva. Contact the USPI (managing 80% of rental properties) – international staff/diplomats: contact the CAGI see p. 9.

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### **16** *L'Union suisse des professionnels de l'immobilier USPI Genève*

*rue de Chantepoulet 12, 1201 Geneva, 022 715 02 00*

*www.uspi-geneve.ch info@uspi-geneve.ch*

*Stop: Gare Cornavin*

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Look at the small ads or « immobilier (property) » supplements in the press or on Internet (N.B. in Geneva the kitchen counts as one room):

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**CIGUË**: *www.cigue.ch www.unige.ch/dase/bulog/accueil.html (students)*

*Other addresses on: www.logement-geneve.ch ou www.geneveimmobilier.ch*

*Supplements (press) the Genève Home Informations (GHI) (Wednesday)*

*The 022 and Tout l'immobilier (Monday)*

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To rent an apartment you need to present:

1) an attestation of residence in the canton of Geneva from:

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**10** *L'Office Cantonal de la Population, route de Chancy 88, (Monday to Friday,*

*except public holidays, from 7:30 to 15:30, 022 546 46 46, ocp@etat.ge.ch*

*Stop: Bandol*

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2) an attestation showing that you are not the object of legal proceedings/debts from:

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**17** *L'Office des poursuites et des faillites (Prosecutor's Office), rue du Stand 46*

*1204 Geneva, 022 388 90 90*

*Stop: Stand*

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3) and, often, your last 3 payslips. Take out civil responsibility insurance (obligatory) and household insurance (damage from fire, water, theft and broken glass):

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*www.comparis.ch/hausrat/intro.aspx*

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## **B** THE 10 THINGS TO DO DURING THE FIRST WEEK **07** LOOKING FOR A JOB

Foreigners must have a work permit in order to exercise a profession in Switzerland.

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### **EUROPEAN UNION AND EFTA**

The agreement on freedom of movement concluded between Switzerland and the European Union (EU) facilitates access to the labour market for EU and EFTA citizens (exceptions until 2016: Roumania and Bulgaria). Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2012, Switzerland has reintroduced quotas for certain countries. Please check conditions applying to your country of origin on the following website of the federal migration office:

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[http://www.bfm.admin.ch/content/bfm/fr/home/themen/fza\\_schweiz-eu-efta/eu-efta\\_buerger\\_schweiz.html](http://www.bfm.admin.ch/content/bfm/fr/home/themen/fza_schweiz-eu-efta/eu-efta_buerger_schweiz.html)

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### **NON - EU AND EFTA**

For people from other countries or continents, residence permits in view of gainful employment are subject to quotas and are only granted to highly qualified persons.

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#### **⑩ Le Service des étrangers (Office cantonal de la population)**

*route de Chancy 88, 1213 Onex 022 546 46 46, ssa.ocp@etat.ge.ch, reception 7:30-15:30  
Stop: Bandol*

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### **PERSONS WITH PERMIT B (REFUGEE), F OR N**

Persons with permit F (temporary admittance), B (refugee) and N can also access the labour market. Persons with permit B (refugee) and F can also benefit from help from their socio-professional integration service. Call your social assistant at Hospice général (p.23)

To find a job, look also at the daily press, various websites or the BIE (see adress p. 2) for immigrants seeking work:

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[www.ge.ch/jobs](http://www.ge.ch/jobs), [www.ge.ch/integration/doc/publications/guide-femme-emploi.pdf](http://www.ge.ch/integration/doc/publications/guide-femme-emploi.pdf)

---

Once you have found work, consult p. 37

## **B** THE 10 THINGS TO DO DURING THE FIRST WEEK

### **08** TAKING OUT CIVIL LIABILITY INSURANCE

It is compulsory to take out civil responsibility insurance (RC) in order to cover personal injury (death, injury or other damage to health) or the material damage (loss, deterioration or destruction of objects, and loss, injury, or death of animals) that you may cause to third parties or in your home. In general, a civil responsibility insurance policy is relatively inexpensive (100 to 150 francs per year for a family). Other insurances are also necessary for driving a car, riding a bicycle or for moving into accommodation (see following chapters).

## **B** THE 10 THINGS TO DO DURING THE FIRST WEEK

### **09** OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

To take out insurance, pay the rent for your accommodation, receive your salary or money transfers, it is necessary to have a postal or bank account. As conditions vary depending on the establishment, obtain information directly from the post office or bank of your choice.

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**Banks and Credit Cards:** [www.geneve-central.com/liens.asp?id\\_rubrique=3](http://www.geneve-central.com/liens.asp?id_rubrique=3)

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**Post:** [www.postfinance.ch/en/priv/prod.html](http://www.postfinance.ch/en/priv/prod.html)

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## **B** THE 10 THINGS TO DO DURING THE FIRST WEEK

### **10** CONTACTING YOUR COMMUNE

The communes – the political structure closest to the resident population – provide facilities in numerous areas: child care, culture, sport, rebates on certain services or season tickets, etc.

Your commune of residence will be able to inform you of the possibilities or to answer some of your questions, and even to help you in the things you have to do (see address list on pages 50-51). The following chapters provide addresses of organisations that can also assist you in the steps you need to take.

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*Association des communes genevoises: [www.acg.ch](http://www.acg.ch)*

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# **WELCOME TO GENEVA**

**C** USEFUL INFORMATION  
THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

## C USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

# 11 SOCIAL SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANTS

There are numerous private or public social services that are able to assist or inform foreigners or immigrants. Here is a list of some of them (the Office for Integration of Foreigners also has lists and information on this subject).

#### Public service

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⑱ **Hospice général**, Cours de Rive 12, 1204 Geneva

022 420 52 00, [www.hospicegeneral.ch](http://www.hospicegeneral.ch)

Stop: Rive

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#### Private sector

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⑲ **Caritas Genève**, rue de Carouge 53, 1205 Geneva

022 708 04 44, Monday to Friday 08:00-12:00 and 14:00-18:00, [www.caritas-geneve.ch](http://www.caritas-geneve.ch)

Stop: Pont d'Arve

---

⑳ **CSP**, rue du Village-Suisse 14 (Jonction), 1205 Geneva, 022 807 07 00

[info@csp-ge.ch](mailto:info@csp-ge.ch), [www.csp.ch/ge](http://www.csp.ch/ge)

Stop: Village-Suisse

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㉑ **Centre de contact suisses-immigrés (CCSI)**, route des Acacias 25, 1227 Acacias

022 304 48 60, [admin@ccsi.ch](mailto:admin@ccsi.ch), [www.ccsi.ch](http://www.ccsi.ch)

Stop: Industrielle

---

㉒ **AGORA**, L'Aumônerie Genevoise Œcuménique for asylum seekers, chemin du Poussy 1  
1214 Vernier, 022 930 00 89, only for asylum-seekers.

Stop: Renfile

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## C USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

# 12 GENERAL SOCIAL SERVICES

The General Hospice, the Canton's social action institution, is present in the Centres d'action sociale (CAS) (Social Action Centres) located throughout the canton : Bernex (1), Carouge/Veyrier (2), Champel (3), Eaux-Vives/Vésenaz (4), Grand-Saconnex (5), Grottes (6), Lancy (7+8), Meyrin (9), Onex (10), Pâquis, (11), Saint-Jean/Charmilles (12), Servette/ Petit-Saconnex (13), Trois-Chêne (14), Jonction (15), Plainpalais/ Acacias (16), Vernier (17+18), Versoix (19).

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(1) [rue de Bernex 313, Bernex, 022 420 40 00](#)

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(2) [22 rue des Allobroges 9, Carouge, 022 420 32 50](#)

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(3) [07 avenue Dumas 25, Genève, 022 420 61 00](#)

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(4) [23 rue des Vollandes 38, Genève, 022 420 64 00](#)

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(5) [24 rue Sonnex 3-5, Grand-Saconnex, 022 420 26 00](#)

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(6) [25 rue du Fort-Barreau 19, Genève, 022 420 65 00](#)

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(7) [av. Communes-Réunies 86 bis, Grand-Lancy, 022 420 38 00](#)

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(8) [ch. des Clochetons 1, Petit-Lancy, 022 420 39 00](#)

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(9) [4, rue des Boudines, Meyrin, 022 420 30 00](#)

---

(10) [13, rue des Evaux, 1213 Onex, 022 420 36 00](#)

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(11) [26 rue Amat 28, 1202 Genève, 022 420 68 00](#)

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(12) [27 avenue des Tilleuls 23, Genève, 022 420 66 00](#)

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(13) [28 rue de la Servette 91, Genève, 022 420 69 00](#)

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(14) [ch. de la Montagne 136, Chêne-Bougeries, 022 420 44 00](#)

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(15) [29 boulevard Carl-Vogt 2, Genève, 022 420.63.00](#)

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(16) [30 rue de Carouge 46, Genève, 022 420 67 00](#)

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(17) [avenue de Châtelaine 81 bis, 022 420 47 00](#)

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(18) [31 rue du Grand-Bay 18, Avanchets, 022 420 35 50](#)

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(19) [ch. de Versoix-la-Ville 5, Versoix, 022 420 48 00](#)

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[www.hospicegeneral.ch/notre-institution/contacts/lieux-ouverts-au-public.html](http://www.hospicegeneral.ch/notre-institution/contacts/lieux-ouverts-au-public.html)

N.B. the non-numbered CAS are located off the map.

To know which CAS centre to contact, click on :

---

[www.hospicegeneral.ch/no-cache/notre-institution/contacts/a-quel-centre-sadresser.html](http://www.hospicegeneral.ch/no-cache/notre-institution/contacts/a-quel-centre-sadresser.html)

## C USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

# 13 STRUCTURE OF WELCOME ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN

Inscribe very early (during pregnancy) to obtain a place to have your child cared for (from 0 to 4-6 years old) in a daycare centre (classes of 5 to 10 children per adult caretaker, price in function of the parents' income), a playgroup (for 2-3 hours, from 18 months old), by a childminder (4-5 children, from 4 to 6 francs per hour) or, for a few hours, by a babysitter (about 15 francs per hour). Contact:

---

### CRECHES

⑩ **BIPE** (bureau d'information de la petite enfance - Ville de Genève), rue Rousseau 4  
022 418 81 81, manned Monday 14h-17h, Tuesday-Friday 9h30-12h et 14h-17h  
[www.ge.ch/structures\\_accueil/inscrire.asp](http://www.ge.ch/structures_accueil/inscrire.asp), [www.ge.ch/structures\\_accueil](http://www.ge.ch/structures_accueil)

For creches outside town:

Left bank: Koala, 022.349.30.66, [www.koala-ge.ch](http://www.koala-ge.ch)

Onex-Familles: 022 870 10 80

North sector: Le Nid, 022.785.43.26, [www.lenid.ch](http://www.lenid.ch)

South sector: Les Poussins, 022.342.05.28, [www.poussins.ch](http://www.poussins.ch)

Versoix area: Supernounou, 022.775.66.52, [www.supernounou.ch](http://www.supernounou.ch)

West sector: Le Couffin, 022.756.09.91

More information:

[www.ge.ch/structures\\_accueil/pdf/SpelisteComSub.pdf](http://www.ge.ch/structures_accueil/pdf/SpelisteComSub.pdf)

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### CHILDMINDERS - FOSTER FAMILIES

⑩③ **Pro juventute Genève**, rue de l'Aubépine 1, 1205 Geneva

022 328 22 27, [www.proju.ch](http://www.proju.ch)

Stop: Augustins

[www.inforfamille.ch/](http://www.inforfamille.ch/)

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### BABYSITTERS

⑩④ **Uni-Emploi**, rue de Candolle 4, 1205 Geneva, 022 379 77 02

Stop: Place (de) Neuve

## C USEFUL INFORMATION THE FIRST 3 MONTHS **14 ASSISTANCE SERVICES BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL**

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### **PÉDIBUS-ACCOMPANYING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL**

With the Pedibus, children travel in groups, on foot, under parental supervision, according to precise «stops», timetables and itineraries. After school, the child is brought back to a stop close to home where his/her parent waits for him/her.

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*Coordination Pedibus (ATE / GAPP), 076 344 25 27 et 022 734 70 44*

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*www.pedibus-geneve.ch et coordinatrice@pedibus-geneve.ch*

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### **CARE/SUPERVISION AND MEALS OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS**

Care/supervision services are available for children outside schools hours in the morning (parents who work), between 12 noon and 2pm (supervision, meal on registration) and at the end of the afternoon (with snack, games, drawing, sports, etc.)

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*Groupement intercommunal pour l'animation parascolaire-GIAP*

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*(Intercommunal grouping for extra-curricular activities)*

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*Boulevard des Promenades 20, 1227 Carouge, 022 309 08 20*

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*List of extra-curricular centres, [www.giap.ch](http://www.giap.ch)*

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*Stop: Marché or Carouge*

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### **SCHOOLING ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT**

The Ajeta Association (ARA) offers individual or group support courses to students from 4 years old and even above 18 (inscription 35 francs/year, course 22-29 francs/hour- reduced prices possible). See also the CIC below :

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**35** *ARA, bd des Philosophes 5, 1205 Geneva, 022 809 60 60, [www.ararep.ch](http://www.ararep.ch)*

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*Stop: Plainpalais*

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**36** *Centre d'intégration culturelle de la Croix-Rouge genevoise (CIC)*

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*(Geneva Red Cross Cultural Integration Centre) rue de Carouge 50, 1205 Geneva*

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*022 320 59 55, assistance Tue+Thu afternoon 16:00-18:00*

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*[www.croix-rouge-ge.ch/services/interculturelle.html](http://www.croix-rouge-ge.ch/services/interculturelle.html)*

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*Stop: Pont d'Arve*

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## C USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

# 15 ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS

Aid and advice organisations for parents on various subjects :

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③③ **Pro Juventute** (childminders, etc.), rue de l' Aubépine 1, 1205 Geneva, 022 328 55 84  
[www.projuventute.ch](http://www.projuventute.ch)

Stop: Augustins

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③⑦ **CIFERN**, (Family planning and information), bd de la Cluse 47, 1205 Geneva  
022 372 55 00, <http://planning-familial.hug-ge.ch>

Stop: Augustins

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③⑧ **Couple et famille** (couples and families) (office catholique-French, Italian and Spanish), rue du Roverey 16, 1207 Geneva 022 736 14 55, [www.coupleetfamille.ch](http://www.coupleetfamille.ch)

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③⑨ **Arcade Sages-Femmes** (Arcade Midwives), bd Carl Vogt 85,  
1205 Geneva, 022 320 55 22

Stop: Plainpalais or Uni-mail

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④① **Association de familles monoparentales** (association of monoparental families)  
rue Lamartine 27, 1203 Geneva, 022 344 11 11, [www.afm-geneve.ch](http://www.afm-geneve.ch)

Stop: Servette

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④① **F-information** (woman and family information), rue de la Servette 67, c.p. 128  
1211 Geneva 7, 022 740 31 00, [www.f-information.org](http://www.f-information.org), [femmes@f-information.org](mailto:femmes@f-information.org)

Stop: Poterie

---

④② **Espace adoption** (information on adoption), avenue Industrielle 14, 1227 Carouge.  
022 910 05 48, [info@espace-adoption.ch](mailto:info@espace-adoption.ch) [www.espace-adoption.ch](http://www.espace-adoption.ch)

Stop: Industrielle

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**Homoparentalité** (rainbow families): <http://360.ch/homoparents>, 079 236 03 58

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④③ **GAPP** (Geneva grouping of parents of primary school children), rue Saint-Jean 12  
1203 Geneva, 022 344 22 55, [www.gapp.ch](http://www.gapp.ch), [gapp@gapp.ch](mailto:gapp@gapp.ch)

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**Geneva federation of parents of secondary school children (FAPPO)**, [www.fappo.ch](http://www.fappo.ch)  
and for the lower (orientation), secondary school (**FAPECO**) [www.fapeco.ch](http://www.fapeco.ch)

---

④④ **Ecole des Parents** (information parents), rue de la Servette 91, 1202 Geneva  
Mon-Fri 09:00-12:00 and 13:30-15:30, [contact@ep-ge.ch](mailto:contact@ep-ge.ch), 022 733 12 00.

Stop: Servette

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④⑤ **Service social international** (binational couples, international adoption, etc.)  
rue du Valais 9, 1202 Geneva

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022 731 67 00, [ssi@ssiss.ch](mailto:ssi@ssiss.ch), [www.ssiss.ch](http://www.ssiss.ch)

Stop: Butini

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## C USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

# 16 POST-COMPULSORY SCHOOL (FROM AGE 15)

Non-French-speaking adolescents arriving in Switzerland and aged between 15 to 19 on 30 June must register with the “Service de l'accueil du Post-obligatoire (ACPO) (Reception and Insertion Classes Service) of the post-obligatory Secondary Education.

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④⑥ **ACPO**, av. de Châtelaine 97, 1219 Châtelaine, 022 388 12 60

*contact-acpo@etat.ge.ch, <http://www.ge.ch/po/acpo/>*

*Stop: Châtelaine*

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## HIGHER EDUCATION

For conditions of entry, registration formalities and all other necessary information (recognition of diplomas, equivalences, etc.) you need to contact directly the organisations mentioned below (2 types of higher education institution):

### 1) Universities

---

④⑦ **Université de Genève**, rue du Général-Dufour 24

*1205 Geneva, 022 379 71 11, [www.unige.ch](http://www.unige.ch)*

*Stop: Place (de) Neuve*

**Institut de hautes études internationales et du développement (IHEID)**

*la Voie Creuse 16, 1202 Geneva, 022 908 57 23*

*<http://graduateinstitute.ch>*

*Stop: France or Varembe*

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### 2) Professional higher education institutions (specialised schools)

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④⑧ **Haute Ecole Spécialisée de Suisse occidentale HES-SO (Genève)**

*Chemin Château-Bloch 10, 1219 Le Lignon, 022 388 65 00, [www.hesge.ch](http://www.hesge.ch)*

*Stop: Barde*

---

## C USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

# 17 PROFESSIONAL ORIENTATION

The Office pour l’Orientation, la formation professionnelle et continue (OFPC) (Office for Orientation, Professional and Continuing Training) accompanies both youths and adults in their schooling or professional plans (advice, choices, financing, etc.) See also the Cité des Métiers (free one-stop information point).

---

④⑨ **Office pour l’orientation, la formation professionnelle et continue**, rue Prévost-Martin 6, 1205 Geneva, 022 388 44 00, [www.geneve.ch/ofpc](http://www.geneve.ch/ofpc), [ofpc@etat.ge.ch](mailto:ofpc@etat.ge.ch)  
[www.citedesmetiers.ch](http://www.citedesmetiers.ch), [citedesmetiers@etat.ge.ch](mailto:citedesmetiers@etat.ge.ch)  
Stop: *Philosophes or Pont d’Arve*

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Organisations concerned specifically with immigrants :

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⑤⑩ **OSEO**, rue Pécolat 5, 1201 Geneva, 022 595 45 00, [www.oseo-ge.ch](http://www.oseo-ge.ch)  
Stop: *Alpes*

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④⑨ **Association découvrir**, (immigrant women) Bld. Carl-Vogt 2, 1205 Geneva  
732 75 40/41, <http://associationdecouvrir.ch/>

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⑤① **Femme & Emploi** (women), rue des Gazomètres 1  
(access: quai du Rhône or bd Saint-Georges), 1205 Geneva, 022 546 71 82  
[femme.emploi@etat.ge.ch](mailto:femme.emploi@etat.ge.ch), lu-ve: 13h30-17h30  
Stop: *Village-Suisse*

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⑤② **Ici-formation** (migrant women), avenue Vibert 13, 1227 Carouge  
022 301 52 94, [www.camarada.ch/IciFormation.htm](http://www.camarada.ch/IciFormation.htm)  
Stop: *Tours de Carouge or Marché*

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⑤③ **Réalise** (professional insertion), rue Viguet 8, 1227 Les Acacias, Geneva,  
022 308 60 10, [info@realise.ch](mailto:info@realise.ch), [www.realise.ch](http://www.realise.ch)  
Stop: *François Dussaud or Quidort*

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See also F-information (women) p. 27 and the ‘chèque formation’ (training cheque) (after 1 year) p. 43, and for orientation and recognition of diplomas, the following links :

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[www.orientation.ch/dyn/10735.aspx](http://www.orientation.ch/dyn/10735.aspx)  
<http://www.sbf.admin.ch/themen/01105/index.html?lang=en>

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## C USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

# 18 FRENCH LESSONS

To avoid waiting times, register as soon as you arrive in a language school, see the brochure «cours de français» (French lessons) (link below or contact the BIE address p. 2) or the following addresses :

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[www.geneve.ch/integration/doc/publications/cours-francais.pdf](http://www.geneve.ch/integration/doc/publications/cours-francais.pdf)

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54 **Camarada (women only)**, ch. de Villars 19, 1203 Geneva, 022 344 03 39

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[www.camarada.ch](http://www.camarada.ch)

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Stop: Vieusseux

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04 **Croix-Rouge genevoise (for senior citizens)**, route des Acacias 9

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1227 Les Acacias, 022 304 04 04, [www.croix-rouge-ge.ch](http://www.croix-rouge-ge.ch)

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Stop: Acacias

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36 **Croix-Rouge genevoise, Centre d'intégration culturelle (CIC)**

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rue de Carouge 50, 1205 Geneva 022 320 59 55, [www.croixrougegenevoise.ch](http://www.croixrougegenevoise.ch)

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13 **Ecole de parents-DIP**, Inscriptions course location and Secrétariat de l'Ecole de parents, Collège des Coudriers, avenue de Joli-Mont 15A

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1209 Geneva 022 388 53 48

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[www.geneve.ch/co/encadrer/epa.html](http://www.geneve.ch/co/encadrer/epa.html)

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55 **Fédération Maison Kultura**, rte de Chêne 41b, 1208 Geneva, 022 340 71 11,

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[www.kultura.ch](http://www.kultura.ch)

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Stop: Roche

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50 **Œuvre suisse d'entraide ouvrière (OSEO)**, [www.oseo-ge.ch](http://www.oseo-ge.ch)

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rue Pécolat 5, 1201 Geneva, 022 716 59 00

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56 **Université Ouvrière de Genève (UOG)**, [www.uog.ch](http://www.uog.ch) (course location UOG)

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place des Grottes 3, 1201 Geneva, 022 733 50 60

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57 **Université populaire du canton de Genève (UPCGe)**, [www.upcge.ch](http://www.upcge.ch)

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rue du Vuache 23, 1201 Geneva, 022 339 05 00

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Stop: Isaac Mercier

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## C USEFUL INFORMATION THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

### 19 TRANSPORT (CONTINUED FROM P.14)

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#### GENEVA PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Season tickets (70.- chf per month, 45.- people aged 6-25 or aged 64-65 or more) at TPG agencies Rive 58 (Mon-Fri 7:00-19:00 Sat 09:00-18:00), Cornavin 59 (Mon-Fri 7:00-19:00, Sat 09:00-18:00), Bachet (7:30-12:30, 13:00-16:00):

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[www.tpg.ch](http://www.tpg.ch)

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#### CAR

Authorised if: 18 years of age (16 for cars limited to 45 km/h and light motorcycles) with permit, car insurance, number plates and motorway disc (40 chf/year in garages/post offices). Maximum blood alcohol level: 0.5 grams/litre (1 glass of wine). Seatbelt compulsory for all-special seats for children under 12 or less than 1.50 metres tall. Telephoning while driving forbidden. Carsharing ([www.mobility.ch](http://www.mobility.ch)) and carpooling recommended.

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*Service des véhicules, rte de Veyrier 86, 1227 Carouge*

022 388 30 30 [www.geneve.ch/san/](http://www.geneve.ch/san/)

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60 *Touring Club Suisse (TCS), quai Gustave-Ador 2, 1207 Geneva*

022 735 46 53, [www.tcs.ch/geneve/fr/home.html](http://www.tcs.ch/geneve/fr/home.html)

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*Automobile Club de Suisse (ACS), Clos de la Fonderie 19, c.p. 1205, 1227 Carouge*

022 342 22 33, [www.acs.ch](http://www.acs.ch)

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#### BICYCLES

A tax disc is compulsory for bicycles (which must be equipped with lights) (available at cycle shops and post offices for 6.- chf per year).

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61 *Association Transport et Environnement (ATE), rue de Montbrillant 18, (Îlot 13)*

1201 Geneva, 022 734 70 64, [www.ate-ge.ch](http://www.ate-ge.ch) and also PROVELO [www.provelo.ch](http://www.provelo.ch)

*Association Genève-roule: [www.geneveroule.ch](http://www.geneveroule.ch)*

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#### TRAIN AND PLANE

Trains, see p. 49. Geneva Airport can be reached from Cornavin station in 6 minutes by train 5 times per hour, or in 36-38 minutes by bus 10.

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*Aéroport international de Genève, 1215 Geneva 15, 022 717 71 05*

*(information desk, daily arrivals), [www.gva.ch](http://www.gva.ch)*

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## **C** USEFUL INFORMATION THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

### **20** ACCOMMODATION (CONTINUED FROM P. 18)

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#### **ASSISTANCE - LEASE, HOUSING LAW, DEFENCE OF TENANTS**

For all questions (lease, rent and charges, duration of contract, conditions for termination) contact Asloca :

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**62** *ASLOCA-Genève, Rue du Lac 12 (Eaux-Vives), 1207 Genève*

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*022 716 18 00, [asloca.geneve@asloca.ch](mailto:asloca.geneve@asloca.ch), [www.asloca.ch](http://www.asloca.ch)*

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*(French, Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, English and German)*

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*Stop: Place des Eaux-Vives or Rue du Lac*

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#### **NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS « VOISINS, VOISINES »**

Initiated by the City of Geneva and organised by other communes, the «Voisins, Voisines» party consists of inviting your neighbours to have a drink in order to get to know each other better. See your concierge or the link below :

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*[www.ville-ge.ch/immeublesenfete/home.html](http://www.ville-ge.ch/immeublesenfete/home.html)*

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#### **CONCIERGE, APARTMENT BLOCK SERVICE, MÉDIATION**

For various problems such as maintenance, waste disposal, breakdowns etc., contact the concierge or apartment block service. For problems with neighbours (noise, etc.), contact your concierge or mediation services (see below).

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**63** *Association genevoise pour la médiation de quartier (AsMéd-GE)*

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*022 321 11 55 (Jonction) or 022 349 52 65 (Chêne), [www.mediation-de-voisinage.ch](http://www.mediation-de-voisinage.ch)*

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## C USEFUL INFORMATION THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

### 21 ELECTRICITY, GAS, WATER, TELEPHONE, ETC

In general, water and heating are part of the charges, either included in or in addition to the rent. If possible 3 days before moving into an apartment, register with the Services Industriels de Genève (SIG) to take advantage of the various services (electricity, gas, water, etc.).

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*Register online: [www.sig-ge.ch/demenager/index.lbl](http://www.sig-ge.ch/demenager/index.lbl)*

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*by telephone: 0844 800 808, by fax on 022 420 97 77*

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*by e-mail to address: [serviceclients@sig-ge.ch](mailto:serviceclients@sig-ge.ch)*

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*in writing to: SIG-Service Clients, c.p. 2777-1211, Geneva 2*

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*Breakdown service round the clock: electricity, gas and water 022 420 88 11*

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*[www.eco21.ch](http://www.eco21.ch)*

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#### **TELEPHONE, INTERNET, FAX**

To obtain a fixed phone line (generally activated within 2-3 days) and to rent or buy a telephone, contact Swisscom (French, German, Italian and English) on 0800 800 800 or [www.swisscom.ch](http://www.swisscom.ch).

Provide your family name, first name, address, date of birth, type of residence permit and the name of the previous tenant of your home. A guarantee is required for people with permits F and N.

You can then apply to another company for a subscription with different prices: Cablecom 0800 660 800 or [www.cablecom.ch](http://www.cablecom.ch) and Sunrise 0800 707 707 or [www.sunrise.ch](http://www.sunrise.ch)

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#### **TELEVISION**

You have to pay every quarter a compulsory fee if your home has a radio and/or a television. Contact:

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***BILLAG** - Redevance télévision, radio [www.billag.ch](http://www.billag.ch) 0844 834 834*

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## C USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

# 22 SORTING HOUSEHOLD WASTE

**Special waste products** (chemical products, mercury/gallium thermometres, mineral oils, drugs, fluorescent tubes, long-life light bulbs, vehicle batteries) must be deposited either at the Site-de-Châtillon recuperation centre or at the loading bay of la Jonction, or at the place of purchase: (pharmacy, etc.)

**Paper and cartons** are collected on a fixed day per week and must be deposited the previous day in front of the entrance of the building, or in the containers made available by the property management company.

**Glass or aluminium waste and batteries** must be deposited in special containers near your home.

**Bottles or empty plastic «PET» recipients or white plastic «PE»** must be deposited in the (yellow and blue) recuperation containers located in some supermarkets, or in public containers.

**Organic, vegetable (food) waste** can be collected in green bags or bins (available in shops), or, in certain buildings, in separate green containers.

**Bulky waste** (sofas, tables, etc.) are collected free of charge, in the City of Geneva, by the official service, or at the cantonal recuperation sites, including the Site-de-Châtillon (see «special waste» above). Objects in good condition can be collected by various charitable organisations: CSP (022 884 38 00), Caritas (022 884 99 99) or Emmaüs (022 301 57 57).

**Electronic or household electrical waste products** (radios, televisions, walkmen, hoovers, mixers, computers, refrigerators, etc.) must be brought to an electronics/domestic appliance shop.

**Other waste** is collected in grey-black rubbish bags available in supermarkets, for disposal in the containers of your building.

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<http://etat.geneve.ch/dt/dechets/>

[www.jecycle.ch/](http://www.jecycle.ch/)

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**WELCOME  
TO GENEVA**

**D USEFUL INFORMATION  
THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND**

## D USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND

# 23 LABOUR LAW, TRADE UNIONS, ETC.

In the event of conflict with your employer (e.g. dismissal, non-respect of the work agreement) or even before signing such an agreement (which defines in writing the amount of salary, working hours, vacation, etc.), contact the addresses below to find out about your rights. Contact the CGAS for a complete list. The UAPG – Union des associations patronales genevoises (Union of Geneva Employers' Associations) – is the umbrella organisation for the employers' unions on Geneva territory.

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64 **SIT**, rue des Chaudronniers 16, 1204 Geneva, 022 818 03 00

Stop: Saint Antoine

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65 **UNIA**, chemin Surinam 5, 1203 Geneva

geneve.unia.ch, geneve@unia.ch, 022 949 12 00

Stop: Charmilles

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66 **SYNA**, secrétariat régional, rue Caroline 24, 1227 Carouge

022 304 86 00, <http://geneve.syna.ch>, geneve@syna.ch

Stop: Acacias

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67 **Communauté genevoise d'action syndicale (CGAS)**

rue des Terreaux-du-Temple 6, 1201 Geneva, 022 731 84 30

Stop: Mercier

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68 **Triologue**, av. de la Forêt 11, 1202 Geneva, 022 340 64 80

trialogue@infomaniak.ch, [www.letriologue.com](http://www.letriologue.com)

Stop: Servette

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69 **UAPG (Union des Associations Patronales Genevoises)**, rue de Saint-Jean 98

1201 Geneva, 022 715 32 41, [www.uapg.ch](http://www.uapg.ch), uapg@uapg.ch

Stop: Isaac Mercier

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See also the Office cantonal de l'emploi (Cantonal Employment Office) (p. 44) and, for gender discrimination, (destined mainly for women) the site:

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[www.leg.ch](http://www.leg.ch)

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## **D** USEFUL INFORMATION THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND **24** VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

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### **CONSULTATIONS FOR VICTIMS AND AUTHORS OF VIOLENCE:**

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#### ***Permanence violences domestiques (Domestic Violence help line)***

*7 days a week round the clock: 0840 110 110*

*(destined for victims, authors and witnesses of violence)*

**70** **Centre LAVI**, bd. Saint-Georges 72, 1205 Geneva, 022 320 01 02

*www.centrelavi-ge.ch, centrelavi.ge@worldcom.ch*

*Stop: Cirque*

**71** **Association Surgir**, (forced marriages), rte de Ferney 150, 1218 Grand-Saconnex

*022 791 67 06, www.surgir.ch, office@surgir.ch*

*Stop: Morillons*

**72** **Unité interdisciplinaire de médecine et de prévention de la violence**

*(UIMPV)(Interdisciplinary Consultation for Medicine and Prevention of Violence)*

*Département de médecine communautaire, c/o Hôpital Universitaire de Genève (HUG)*

*Rue Gabrielle Perret-Gentil 4, 1205 Geneva, 022 372 96 18, Monday to Friday*

*8:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 18:00, Fax 022 372 96 45*

*Stop: Hôpital*

**73** **Association VIRES**, (men and women authors of violence, by appointment made by phone), av. Ernest Pictet 10, 1203 Geneva, 022 328 44 33 and 078 765 30 14

*7 days a week, www.vires.ch, vires@bluewin.ch*

*Stop: Charmilles or Servette*

**74** **Consultation for victims of torture and war - CTG**, Centre santé migrants

*(Immigrant Health Centre), Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG)*

*rue Gabrielle Perret-Gentil 4, 1205 Genève, 022 372 53 27*

*Stop: Hôpital*

**75** **Centre de consultation pour victimes d'abus sexuels**

*(Advice Centre for Victims of Sexual Abuse) 022 800 08 50 (CTAS Association)*

*Bd Saint-Georges 36, 1205 Geneva*

*Stop: Village-Suisse*

**Solidarité Femmes**, rue de Montchoisy 46, 1207 Genève, 022 797 10 10

*www.solidaritefemmes-ge.org, info@solidaritefemmes-ge.org*

*Stop: Vollandes*

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## D USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND

# 25 SOCIAL DIVERSITY - SPECIFIC NEEDS

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#### PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Organisations providing information to people with needs or difficulties due to a disability (mental, psychological, physical, sensory, etc.):

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##### **DSE, Direction générale de l'action sociale, (DGAS)**

*Bd. George-Favon 26, 1204 Geneva, 022 546 51 45, [www.ge.ch/dgas](http://www.ge.ch/dgas)*

**76 Pro Infirmis**, *bd Helvétique 27, 1207 Geneva, 022 737 08 08, [www.proinfirmis.ch](http://www.proinfirmis.ch)*

**77 Insieme**, *association de parents et d'amis de personnes mentalement handicapées  
rue de la Gabelle 7, 1227 Carouge, 022 343 17 20, [www.insieme-ge.ch](http://www.insieme-ge.ch)*

**09 Centre de Contact Suisses-Immigrés (CCSI)** (*centre for social insurances*) (*free*)  
*route des Acacias 25, 1227 Acacias, 022 304 48 60, [www.ccsi.ch](http://www.ccsi.ch)*

*Stop: Industrielle*

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#### ETHNIC MINORITIES, RACISM, ANTISEMITISM, ETC.

Organisations providing information to persons with specific needs or difficulties due their belonging to a national, ethnic or religious community:

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**Consultation "Ecoute contre le racisme"**: *[contact@c-ecr.ch](mailto:contact@c-ecr.ch)*

**Acor SOS Racisme**, *rue de Genève 24, 1002 Lausanne*

*021 311 80 57, [karlgrunberg@yahoo.fr](mailto:karlgrunberg@yahoo.fr)*

**78 CICAD** (*Fight against Antisemitism and Defamation*)

*C.P. 5020, 1211 Geneva, [www.cicad.ch](http://www.cicad.ch) 022 321 48 78*

*Stop: Stand*

**CRAN** (*reflection and action against anti-black racism, Berne*)

*c.p. 251, CH-3000, Berne 7, 032 322 06 05, [www.cran.ch](http://www.cran.ch)*

**79 Licra** (*Fight against Racism and Antisemitism*), *rue Verdaine 13, 1204 Geneva*

*079 678 38 55, [www.licra.ch](http://www.licra.ch)*

**Association Mesemrom**, *rue Micheli-du-Crest 4, 1205 Genève, [contact@mesemrom.org](mailto:contact@mesemrom.org)*

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## D USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND

# 25 SOCIAL DIVERSITY - SPECIFIC NEEDS

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#### SEXUAL MINORITIES (HOMO-, BI- OR TRANSSEXUALS)

Organisations providing information to people with specific needs or difficulties due to their sexual orientation or gender identity :

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**80** *Dialogai (men), rue de la Navigation 11-13, 1211 Geneva*

*022 906 40 40, [www.dialogai.org](http://www.dialogai.org)*

*Stop: Môle or Navigation*

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**81** *Lestime (women), rue de l'Industrie 5, 1201 Geneva, 022 797 27 14, [www.lestime.ch](http://www.lestime.ch)*

*Stop: Lyon*

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**82** *360 (LGBT), rue de la Navigation 36, c.p. 2217, 1211 Geneva 2, 022 741 00 70*

*[www.360.ch](http://www.360.ch) **Gay International Group**, 079 773 60 08 [gig@360.ch](mailto:gig@360.ch)*

*Stop: Môle*

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#### SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior citizens (from age 64 for women, 65 for men) can benefit from services (assistance and home care – see also immigrant or general social services pp. 23-24).

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**83** *Pro Senectute, Social consultation, financial aid, day centres for the elderly and entering an EMS (nursing home), auxiliary aids centre, rue Maladière 4*

*1205 Geneva 022 807 05 65 [www.ge.pro-senectute.ch](http://www.ge.pro-senectute.ch)*

***Fondation des services d'aide et de soins à domicile***

***(Foundation for assistance and home care services)***

*Avenue Cardinal-Mermillod 36 1227 Carouge, Mon-Fri 7:30 -12:30 and 13:30 -17:00*

*[fsasd@fsasd.ch](mailto:fsasd@fsasd.ch), Telephone round the clock: 022 420 20 00*

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**84** *Cité Séniors, rue Amat 28, 1202 Geneva 022 418 53 50, [www.seniors-geneve.ch](http://www.seniors-geneve.ch)*

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**85** *AVIVO, rue du Vieux-Billard 25, 1203 Geneva, 022 329 13 60*

***Seniors d'ici et d'ailleurs** (activities for older immigrants) : 022 304 04 04*

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## D USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND

# 26 HEALTH, ILLNESSES, ADDICTIONS

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#### GENERALITIES

If you don't have a family doctor or in case of emergency, call n° 144, which will direct you to the appropriate service

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#### SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

When taking risks (unprotected sex) or at the appearance of symptoms, carry out tests anonymously by contacting the Hôpital Universitaire de Genève (HUG) (see p.38), the CIFERN (see p. 27), your doctor or the following organisations:

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86 **Groupe Sida Genève**, rue Grand-Pré 9, 1204 Geneva

022 700 15 00, [www.groupesida.ch](http://www.groupesida.ch) [info@groupesida.ch](mailto:info@groupesida.ch)

Stop: Grand-Pré

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86 **Dialogai-Checkpoint** (bi-/homosexual men), rue Grand-Pré 9, 1204 Geneva,

022 906 40 40, [www.checkpoint-ge.ch/](http://www.checkpoint-ge.ch/)

Stop: Grand-Pré

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87 **Aspasie** (sex workers), rue de Monthoux 36, 1201 Geneva

022/732 68 28, [www.aspasie.ch](http://www.aspasie.ch) [aspasie@aspasie.ch](mailto:aspasie@aspasie.ch)

Stop: Monthoux

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#### ADDICTIONS: ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS, MEDICAMENTS, ETC.

People who are or become addicted to various substances or activities can contact their doctor or the following departments of the Cantonal Hospital, which will give them the appropriate addresses:

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88 **Service d'addictologie**, rue verte 2, 1205 Geneva, 022 372 55 60

For prevention in general, see the site [www.prevention.ch](http://www.prevention.ch)

Stop: Augustins

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72 **Unité tabac, alcool, autres dépendances, Service de médecine de 1<sup>er</sup> recours**

(Tobacco, Alcohol and other Addictions Unit, First-line Medical Service)

Hôpital Universitaire de Genève (HUG), rue Gabrielle Perret-Gentil 4, 1211 Geneva

022 372 95 37

Stop: Hôpital

## D USEFUL INFORMATION THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND **27 MENTAL HEALTH**

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### FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

For any mental health problem (depression, burn-out, etc.)  
contact (public sector):

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#### *Département de santé mentale et de psychiatrie*

#### *(Psychiatry department) - Sectors (SPA-S)*

*Outpatients consultations of the 4 sectors:*

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*Sector 1 – Eaux-Vives, rue du XXXI Décembre 36, 022 382 31 03*

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*Sector 2 – Jonction, bd Saint-Georges 16-18, 022 809 82 30*

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*Sector 3 – Servette, rue de Lyon 91, 022 372 32 80*

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*Sector 4 – Pâquis, rue de Lausanne 67, 022 716 44 11*

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*See also: <http://psychiatrie.hug-ge.ch>*

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For the private sector, see under « doctors » p. 16

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### SPECIALISED ORGANISATIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS

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#### **89** *Unité mobile de soins communautaires (Mobile Unit for Community Treatment)*

*(Umsco), Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève, rue Hugo-de-Senger 4, 1205 Geneva  
022 382 53 11 (access to treatment for any person at risk or without legal status)*

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#### **90** *Programme Santé migrants (PSM) (Migrant Health Programme)*

*Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève, rue de Lyon 89, 1203 Geneva, 022 382 33 33*

*Medical treatment for people going through the asylum process.*

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#### **91** *Appartenances-Genève, Centre for immigrants (does not provide for persons without*

*insurance), bd Saint-Georges 72, 1205 Geneva, call centre Tuesday 09:30-11:30*

*and Thursday 14:00-16:00, [appartenances@appartenances-ge.ch](mailto:appartenances@appartenances-ge.ch)*

*[www.appartenances-ge.ch](http://www.appartenances-ge.ch), 022 781 02 05*

*Stop: Cirque*

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#### **92** *Pluriels, Centre for consultations and ethno-psychological studies for immigrants*

*(lines open Monday to Friday from 9h30 to 12h00 to arrange appointments)*

*rue des Voisins 15, 1205 Geneva 022 328 68 20*

*Stop: Pont d'Arve*

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## D USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND

# 28 OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

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#### **BUDGET**

Geneva is regularly ranked as one of the world's top 10 most expensive cities. To better manage your budget, you can turn for help to Caritas, the CSP (p.23) or the Trialogue (p.37)

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#### **TAXES, DECLARATION (AFTER 3 MONTHS – 1 YEAR AND 3 MONTHS)**

Any resident of Geneva must, from the age of 18, fill out a tax declaration in March of each year. Contact the tax administration or, for assistance, the CSP or Caritas (p. 23) or AVIVO (p. 40).

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**93** *Administration fiscale cantonale (Cantonal Tax Administration), (open Mon-Fri 9:00-16:00), Hôtel des finances, rue du Stand 26 c.p. 3937 1211 Geneva 3, 022 327 70 00 (automatic response), 022 327 40 04 (switchboard), [www.ge.ch/impots](http://www.ge.ch/impots), [www.impots-easy.ch/](http://www.impots-easy.ch/) Stop: Palladium*

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#### **SUBSIDIES FOR HEALTH INSURANCE (AFTER 1 YEAR)**

If you have a low income, the State grants you an additional subsidy. Contact the Health Insurance Department (SAM, p.16) after your first year in Geneva.

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#### **EXCHANGE OF DRIVING LICENCE (BEFORE 12 MONTHS)**

To use your car in Geneva, you need to exchange your foreign driving licence, within 12 months of your arrival, for a Swiss driving licence (unless you are a diplomat, international civil servant, etc., in which case get in touch with the Geneva Welcome Centre p.9). Contact the Service des véhicules (p.31).

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#### **ANNUAL TRAINING CHEQUE (AFTER 1 YEAR)**

If you are aged 18 or more, resident and paying tax in the canton for at least 1 year, you can benefit from a subsidy of 750.- CHF per year maximum to finance a professional training course. Request must be made before the start of the course to the Cité des métiers or through :

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[www.geneve.ch/caf](http://www.geneve.ch/caf)

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## D USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND

# 28 OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

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#### **REGISTER WITH THE AVS OLD-AGE PENSION SYSTEM (AFTER 1 YEAR)**

If you aged 20 and over and have lived in Geneva for more than 1 year, you must contribute to the AVS in order to benefit from an old-age retirement pension (except certain married persons without gainful employment). Request to be made (international civil servants and diplomats contact the CAGI, see p. 10) to:

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<sup>94</sup> **Caisse cantonale genevoise de compensation**, route de Chêne 54, c.p. 1211  
Geneva 6, Mon-Fri 9:00-12:00 and 13:00-16:00-022 718 67 67 [affiliation@ccgc.ch](mailto:affiliation@ccgc.ch)  
Stop: Montchoisy or Amandolier

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#### **UNEMPLOYMENT, DISMISSAL, LOSS OF JOB (AFTER 1 YEAR)**

A person who has worked and contributed to unemployment insurance for at least 12 months during the last 2 years is entitled to 70% or 80% of his/her salary for a certain period of time. For more information, contact:

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<sup>95</sup> **Office cantonal de l'emploi**, rue des Gares 16, 1211 Geneva, 022 546 36 66  
Stop: Poste

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#### **SUBSIDISED ACCOMMODATION (AFTER 2 YEARS)**

Persons with low incomes can under certain conditions (tax domicile and payment of taxes and charges in the canton of Geneva, and having resided there during 2 consecutive years during the last 5 years, etc.) benefit from subsidised accommodation. Contact:

---

<sup>96</sup> **Office du logement**, rue du Stand 26, c.p. 3937, 1211 Geneva 3  
022 546 65 00, [www.geneve.ch/logement](http://www.geneve.ch/logement) + [info-logement@etat.ge.ch](mailto:info-logement@etat.ge.ch)  
Stop: Palladium

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<sup>97</sup> **Gérance Immobilière municipale**, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville 5, 1204 Geneva, 022 418 34 05

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## D USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND

# 29 RESIDENCE IN SWITZERLAND AFTER 5, 10 AND 12 YEARS

After 5 years of uninterrupted residence in Switzerland, citizens of the European Union (except the 8 most recent members as well as Bulgaria and Rumania) or from EFTA, the USA, Canada or other countries with which Switzerland has concluded an agreement can apply to benefit from a permit C. For more details, contact the Service des étrangers (Foreigners Department).

Non-European citizens (except USA and Canada) as well as citizens of the 8 most recent members of the EU (until 2011, when the transitional measures come to an end), can apply to obtain a permit C after 10 years of residence in Switzerland, and even after 5 years under certain conditions (successful integration, mastery of the French language, financial independence, absence of legal proceedings, etc.). For more details, contact the Service des étrangers.

After 12 years residence with permit in Switzerland (the years of residence spent between the ages of 10 and 20 counting double), it is possible for foreign nationals to acquire Swiss nationality, under certain conditions (in particular, having effectively resided in the canton of Geneva for 2 years, of which 12 months preceding the introduction of the request, and fulfilling the conditions on integration in Switzerland (no police record, knowledge of the language of the canton, financial autonomy, etc.). For more details, contact the cantonal Service des naturalisations (Naturalisation Department).

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⑩ **Service des étrangers (OCP), route de Chancy 88, 1213 Onex**

022 546 46 46 accueil 7:30-15:30, [www.ge.ch/ocp](http://www.ge.ch/ocp)

Stop: Bandol

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⑩ **Service cantonal des Naturalisations, rte de Chancy 88, 1213 Onex**

022 546 46 46, [natuinfo@etat.ge.ch](mailto:natuinfo@etat.ge.ch), [www.ge.ch/naturalisations](http://www.ge.ch/naturalisations)

Stop: Bandol

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## **D** USEFUL INFORMATION THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND **30** CITIZENSHIP - INTEGRATION

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### **LANGUAGE COURSES AND CULTURE OF ORIGIN**

The consulates of certain countries provide instruction in the language and culture of origin, which allows children to maintain contact with their roots (outside school hours). In addition, for instruction in the language of origin at school, contact:

---

**98** *Direction de l'enseignement et de la scolarité, rue Jean-Calvin 11*

*1204 Geneva, 022 546 75 30, Stop: Cathédrale*

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**13** *Cycle d'orientation, Secteur des classes d'accueil DGCO, Avenue Joli-Mont 15A*

*1209 Geneva, 022 388 53 00, Stop: Bouchet or Pailly*

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### **RIGHT TO VOTE AFTER 8 YEARS**

Foreigners (with some exceptions, such as diplomats) who have resided in Switzerland for at least 8 years, have a residence permit, and are aged at least 18 and domiciled in a commune of Geneva for at least 3 months, can vote on the communal level (cantonal or federal vote excluded). Contact your commune (see pp. 50-51).

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### **POLITICS - POLITICAL PARTIES**

It is possible to follow the political debates in the parliaments of the City and Canton of Geneva on the TV channel «Léman bleu». To obtain a list of the political parties in Geneva, contact your commune or the Canton.

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*[www.ge.ch/grandconseil/parti/liste\\_partis.asp](http://www.ge.ch/grandconseil/parti/liste_partis.asp); [www.swissworld.org/en/politics](http://www.swissworld.org/en/politics)*

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### **RELIGIONS**

Apart from the 3 official church communities (Protestant, Roman Catholic and Christian Catholic), numerous religions coexist in Geneva. The Saturday editions of the Tribune de Genève and the Courrier provide a list of the church services. See also:

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*[www.geneve-annuaire.ch/adresses/religion.html](http://www.geneve-annuaire.ch/adresses/religion.html)*

*[www.interreligieux.ch](http://www.interreligieux.ch), [www.recg.ch](http://www.recg.ch)*

*[www.comisra.ch](http://www.comisra.ch), [www.uomg.net](http://www.uomg.net)*

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## D USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND

# 31 CULTURE - SPORTS - LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Cultural events and activities in Geneva (see Internet or the press supplements - Tribune de Genève in Thursdays and le Temps on Saturdays) are another means of integration :

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99 **Département de la Culture, Ville de Genève, Route de Malagnou 19,**  
1208 Geneva, 022 418 65 00  
[www.ville-ge.ch/culture/offre\\_culturelle](http://www.ville-ge.ch/culture/offre_culturelle)  
[www.regart.ch](http://www.regart.ch) or [www.tempslibre.ch](http://www.tempslibre.ch) or [www.sortir.ch](http://www.sortir.ch)  
[www.unautreregart.ch](http://www.unautreregart.ch) or [www.cesoir.ch](http://www.cesoir.ch)

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### **CIGOGNE (STORK) CARD**

Price reductions and other favourable conditions at certain establishments for families with three or more children (shops, sports clubs, shows, restaurants, etc. participating in the Cigogne network).

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33 **Carte Cigogne, Pro Juventute, rue de l'Aubépine 1, 1205 Geneva**  
022 328 55 77, [www.gigogne.ch](http://www.gigogne.ch)  
Stop: Augustins

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### **YOUTH AND 20 CARD / 20 FRANCS**

Young people under 20 and in possession of a student card benefit from price reductions. The card '20 years/20 francs' also allows you to obtain additional reductions, up to the age of 20.

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**Département de la Culture, 022 418 65 00 or [www.20ans20francs.ch](http://www.20ans20francs.ch)**  
[www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/culture/culture/jeune-public](http://www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/culture/culture/jeune-public)

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### **LEISURE ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS**

In Geneva, a large number of public organisations (leisure centres, local community centres, etc.) or private organisations (clubs, associations, etc.) offer a wide variety of activities, especially sports.

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**DIP-Coordination du sport, 022 327 31 00**  
[www.ge.ch/sport/sports-installations/quels-sports.asp](http://www.ge.ch/sport/sports-installations/quels-sports.asp); [www.ge.ch/sport/welcome.asp](http://www.ge.ch/sport/welcome.asp)

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## **D** USEFUL INFORMATION THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND **32** BASIC RIGHTS

The Swiss Constitution protects each person from discrimination related to the following characteristics: origin, race, sex, age, language, social situation, way of life – including sexual orientation –, religious, philosophical or political convictions, and physical, mental or psychological disabilities.

Other basic rights: equality between men and women, rights of the disabled, the right to marriage and family, freedom of conscience, free choice of media, religion (or not to have one), freedom of opinion, information and freedom to meet and associate, economic and trade union freedom, guarantee of ownership, protection against expulsion, extradition and turning back (for Swiss citizens), political rights, rights to vote and elect (only on the communal level for foreigners, see p. 46), right of petition, etc. These rights imply the interdiction of forced marriages, female genital mutilation, trafficking of persons, as well as the legal recognition of same-sex couples, etc.

In addition, the fact of belonging to a political community (commune, canton or Confederation) also implies duties (respect of the Swiss and Geneva Constitutions and laws) and solidarity as expressed through respect for other members of society, paying taxes, contributing to social insurances (unemployment, health, invalidity, old age) and military service (for Swiss men), etc.

In Geneva, the promotion of gender equality, the fight against domestic violence and the integration of foreigners are all state tasks entrusted to the Bureau de la promotion de l'égalité entre femmes et hommes (BPE), the Office of the Delegate for Domestic Violence (BVD) and the Office for Integration of Foreigners (BIE, see address p. 2), responsible in Geneva for promoting social cohesion between the Swiss and foreigners as well as for combating discrimination based on ethnic or national affiliation.

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01 **BPE**, rue Pierre Fatio 15, 1204 Geneva, Tél. 022 388 74 50, Fax. 022 388 74 60  
[egalite@etat.ge.ch](mailto:egalite@etat.ge.ch), [www.geneve.ch/egalite](http://www.geneve.ch/egalite)

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01 **BVD**, rue Pierre-Fatio 15, 1204 Geneva, 022 546 89 80  
[violences-domestiques@etat.ge.ch](mailto:violences-domestiques@etat.ge.ch), [www.ge.ch/violences-domestiques](http://www.ge.ch/violences-domestiques)

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## **D** USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND

# **33** CONFEDERATION, CANTONS, COMMUNES

The Swiss Confederation is a federation of 26 cantons which have a large degree of autonomy. The cantons are divided in turn into communes, which are the local authorities closest to the citizens.

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#### **THE CONFEDERATION**

The Confederation legislates on matters of: road networks and traffic, foreign policy, old-age and disability pensions, radio and television, telecommunications, protection of consumers, monetary policy, federal taxation, agriculture, higher education and universities, army and defence, protection of animals, etc.

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#### **THE CANTONS**

The cantons legislate in areas as diverse as education (except for federal universities and institutes of technology), hospitals (except communal or private organisations), the police, cantonal taxation, town and country planning, etc. The cantons are also responsible for applying the federal laws.

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#### **THE COMMUNES**

The autonomy of the communes, guaranteed within the limits set by cantonal law, can vary considerably depending on the canton. In general the communes are responsible for local services, such as culture, sports, waste disposal, childcare facilities, road signs, police, fire brigade etc.

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#### **FINDING OUT ABOUT AND VISITING SWITZERLAND**

To find out about Switzerland and its cantons, towns and communes, consult the website [www.swissworld.org](http://www.swissworld.org), published by Présence Suisse, and visit Switzerland by train. The Swiss rail network, one of the densest in the world, offers possibilities to reach all the regions of Switzerland.

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*English: [www.swissworld.org/en](http://www.swissworld.org/en)*

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***Rail Service**, 0900 300 300 (round the clock, 365 days/year)*

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*[www.cff.ch](http://www.cff.ch)*

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## The 45 communes of Geneva are the following :

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### 01 Aire-la-Ville,

Rue du Vieux-Four 37, 1288 Aire-la-Ville,  
022 757 48 29, [www.aire-la-ville.ch](http://www.aire-la-ville.ch)

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### 02 Anières, Route de la Côte d'Or 1

1247 Anières, 022 751 11 45,  
[www.anieres.ch](http://www.anieres.ch)

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### 03 Avully, Chemin des Tanquons 40, 1237

Avully, 022 756 92 50, [www.avully.ch](http://www.avully.ch)

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### 04 Avusy, Route du Creux-du-Loup 42

Sézegnin, 1285 Athenaz  
022 756 17 33, [www.avusy.ch](http://www.avusy.ch)

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### 05 Bardonnex, Route de Cugny 99

(Commanderie), 1257 Compesières  
022 721 02 20, [www.bardonnex.ch](http://www.bardonnex.ch)

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### 06 Bellevue, Route de Lausanne 329

1293 Bellevue, 022 959 88 20  
022 959 88 21, [www.bellevue.ch](http://www.bellevue.ch)

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### 07 Bernex, Rue de Bernex 313

c.p. 371, 1233 Bernex, 022 850 92 92  
[www.bernex.ch](http://www.bernex.ch)

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### 08 Ville de Carouge,

Place du Marché 14, 1227 Carouge  
022 307 89 87, [www.carouge.ch](http://www.carouge.ch)

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### 09 Cartigny,

Chemin de la Bergerie 18  
1236 Cartigny, 022 756 12 77  
[www.cartigny.ch](http://www.cartigny.ch)

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### 10 Céligny, Route de Crans 1

1298 Céligny, 022 776 21 26  
[www.celigny.ch](http://www.celigny.ch)

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### 11 Chancy, Route de Valleiry 4

c.p. 45, 1284 Chancy, 022 756 90 50,  
[www.chancy.ch](http://www.chancy.ch)

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### 12 Chêne-Bougeries,

Route de Chêne 136, c.p. 160  
1224 Chêne-Bougeries, 022 869 17 17  
[www.chene-bougeries.ch](http://www.chene-bougeries.ch)

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### 13 Chêne-Bourg, Avenue Petit-Senn 46

c.p. 148, 1225 Chêne-Bourg  
022 869 41 10, [www.chene-bourg.ch](http://www.chene-bourg.ch)

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### 14 Choulex, Chemin des Briffods 13, 1244

Choulex, 022 750 15 39, [www.choulex.ch](http://www.choulex.ch)

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### 15 Collex-Bossy, Route de Collex 199

1239 Collex-Bossy, 022 774 19 95  
[www.collex-bossy.ch](http://www.collex-bossy.ch)

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### 16 Collonge-Bellerive,

Chemin du Château-de-Bellerive 1  
1245 Collonge-Bellerive, c.p. 214  
1222 Vérenaz, 022 722 11 50  
[www.collonge-bellerive.ch](http://www.collonge-bellerive.ch)

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### 17 Cologny, Route de la Capite 24

c.p. 86, 1223 Cologny, 022 737 49 49  
[www.cologny.ch](http://www.cologny.ch)

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### 18 Confignon, Chemin de Mourlaz 2

1232 Confignon, 022 850 93 93  
[www.confignon.ch](http://www.confignon.ch)

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### 19 Corsier, Route du Lac 70

c.p. 31246 Corsier, 022 751 90 60  
[www.corsier.ch](http://www.corsier.ch)

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### 20 Dardagny, Route du Mandement 520

1283 Dardagny, 022 754 12 30  
[www.dardagny.ch](http://www.dardagny.ch)

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### 21 Genève, Direction générale,

Palais Eynard, Rue de la Croix-Rouge 4  
1211 Genève 3, 022 418 29 00  
[www.ville-ge.ch](http://www.ville-ge.ch)

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②② **Genthod**, Rue du Village 37  
1294 Genthod, 022 774 12 80  
[www.genthod.ch](http://www.genthod.ch)

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②③ **Grand-Saconnex**  
Route de Colovrex 18, 1218 Grand-Saconnex  
[www.grand-saconnex.ch](http://www.grand-saconnex.ch)

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②④ **Gy**, Route de Gy 164, 1251 Gy  
022 759 15 33, [www.mairie-gy.ch](http://www.mairie-gy.ch)

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②⑤ **Hermance**, Rue de l'Eglise 1  
1248 Hermance, 022 751 13 90  
[www.hermance.ch](http://www.hermance.ch)

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②⑥ **Jussy**, Route de Jussy 312, c.p. 125  
1254 Jussy, 022 759 91 11, [www.jussy.ch](http://www.jussy.ch)

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②⑦ **Laconnex**, Rue de la Maison-Forte 11  
1287 Laconnex, 022 756 15 69  
[www.laconnex.ch](http://www.laconnex.ch)

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②⑧ **Ville de Lancy**,  
Route du Grand-Lancy 41  
1212 Grand-Lancy, 022 706 15 11  
[www.lancy.ch](http://www.lancy.ch)

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②⑨ **Meinier**, Route de Gy 17  
1252 Meinier, 022 722 12 12, [www.meinier.ch](http://www.meinier.ch)

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③⑩ **Meyrin**, Rue des Boudines 2, c.p. 367  
1217 Meyrin 1, 022 782 82 82  
[www.meyrin.ch](http://www.meyrin.ch)

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③① **Onex**, Chemin Charles-Borgeaud 27  
1213 Onex, 022 879 59 59, [www.onex.ch](http://www.onex.ch)

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③② **Perly Certoux**, Route de Certoux 51  
1258 Perly-Certoux, 022 721 02 50  
[www.perly-certoux.ch](http://www.perly-certoux.ch)

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③③ **Plan-les-Ouates**, Route des Chevaliers-  
de-Malte 3, c.p. 17, 1228 Plan-les-Ouates  
022 884 64 00, [www.plan-les-ouates.ch](http://www.plan-les-ouates.ch)

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③④ **Pregny Chambésy**, Route de Pregny 47  
1292 Chambésy, 022 758 98 41  
[www.pregny-chambesy.ch](http://www.pregny-chambesy.ch)

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③⑤ **Presinge**, Route de Presinge 116  
1243 Presinge, 022 759 12 52  
022 759 20 33, [www.presinge.ch](http://www.presinge.ch)

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③⑥ **Puplinge**, Rue de Graman 68-70  
1241 Puplinge, 022 860 84 40  
[www.puplinge.ch](http://www.puplinge.ch)

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③⑦ **Russin**, Place du Mandement 1  
1281 Russin, 022 754 90 00, [www.russin.ch](http://www.russin.ch)

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③⑧ **Satigny**, Rampe de Chouilly 17  
1242 Satigny, 022 753 90 40  
[www.satigny.ch](http://www.satigny.ch)

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③⑨ **Soral**, Route du Creux-de-Boisset 23  
1286 Soral, 022 756 18 43, [www.soral.ch](http://www.soral.ch)

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④⑩ **Thônex**, Chemin du Bois-Des-Arts 58  
c.p. 264, 1226 Thônex, 022 869 39 00  
[www.thonex.ch](http://www.thonex.ch)

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④① **Troinex**, Grand-Cour 8, 1256 Troinex  
022 784 31 11, [www.troinex.ch](http://www.troinex.ch)

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④② **Vandoeuvres**,  
Route de Vandoeuvres 104  
1253 Vandoeuvres, 022 750 14 18  
[www.vandoeuvres.ch](http://www.vandoeuvres.ch)

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④③ **Vernier**, Rue du Village 9, c.p. 520  
1214 Vernier, 022 306 06 06  
[www.vernier.ch](http://www.vernier.ch)

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④④ **Versoix**, Route de Suisse 18, 1290 Versoix  
022 775 66 00, [www.versoix.ch](http://www.versoix.ch)

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④⑤ **Veyrier**, Place de l'Eglise 7, 1255 Veyrier  
022 899 10 10, [www.veyrier.ch](http://www.veyrier.ch)

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## D USEFUL INFORMATION

### THE FIRST YEAR AND BEYOND

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