WELCOME PROGRAMME

For Newcomers to Geneva's International community

2019-2020
INTERNATIONAL GENEVA WELCOME CENTRE
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Founding members: Swiss Confederation, State of Geneva.
The International Geneva Welcome Centre is also supported by 22 other public and private entities.

Crédit photo: Loris Von Siebenthal
Dear Madam, dear Sir,

If you are employed by an international governmental or non-governmental organisation, a diplomatic mission, a consulate-general, a multinational company, have just arrived as a PhD student or a professor at Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève or at the University and are interested in meeting people and joining the local community,

the Newcomer Network Service can help you and your family!

We offer:

- Welcome Call: a telephone call to welcome newcomers
- Lunchtime conferences (see p. 6 - 7): on practical, cultural and social life in Geneva
- Discover Geneva and the Lemanic region (see p. 8 - 10)
- Insiders' Geneva (p. 11): discover regional events
- The Escalade party (see p. 14): an infamous Genevan tradition

Open to all International and local Geneva residents:
- Conversation Exchange Programme - BEL (see p. 12 - 13): the opportunity to practice a foreign language
- CAGI Events (see p. 15)

To receive our invitations, register by filling out the enclosed registration form.

We hope to have the pleasure of welcoming you and counting you among our participants.

Salman Bal
Director
International Geneva Welcome Centre

Diane Zoelly
President of the Newcomer Network
Member of the Board of Fondation pour Genève
The Newcomer Network committee

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Some of our members
International Geneva Welcome Centre

Founded in 1996 by the Swiss Confederation and the Canton of Geneva, the International Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI) is funded by national, local, public and private entities. Its mission is to facilitate the settling-in and integration, to the Geneva and Lemanic region, of all international civil servants (IO), members of permanent missions, consulates, NGOs, multinational companies, PhD students and professors at Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève and at the University of Geneva, along with their families. Besides practical assistance, it organises and supports cultural and social events, enabling exchange between International Geneva and local communities.

The International Geneva Welcome Centre provides:

- **housing service**: assistance in finding accommodation, office space, advice on real estate (reserved for holders of a legitimation card delivered by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs). Monthly information sessions on housing and related insurance.
- **information service**: practical assistance on everyday needs, including information on schools, nurseries, language courses, insurance, cars, administration, etc.
- a **Cultural Kiosk** at the United Nations Office in Geneva, located at Door C6: ticket sales for all major events and information on cultural and touristic events in the Lemanic region and Switzerland
- **events** all year round
- a **programme of activities for international newcomers** to facilitate their integration and help them discover Geneva’s multicultural aspects and traditions. This programme is coordinated by CAGI and run by the **Newcomer Network** of the Fondation pour Genève, a group of Geneva-based volunteers who help the CAGI in its mission of welcoming and promoting relations between Geneva’s international community and the local population.
Lunchtime conferences

All International newcomers to Geneva are invited to lunchtime conferences held throughout the year. These conferences provide newcomers with the opportunity to learn about practical, social and cultural aspects of life in the city. An informal sandwich lunch will be offered in the presence of the speakers and the Geneva Welcome Network members.

Invitations will be sent to all 2019-2020 newcomers who have registered for the Welcome programme.
Thursday 19 September 2019
& Thursday 19 March 2020
Practical Geneva
The key to a successful stay! Tips to facilitate your first steps in Geneva

Thursday 14 November 2019
The Health and Healthcare Network in Geneva
With the participation of The Association of Geneva's Private Clinics and Geneva University Hospital (HUG)

Thursday 23 January 2020
Geneva's Public and Private Education Systems
With the participation of The Republic and Canton of Geneva (Department of Public Education - DIP) and the Association of Geneva's Private Schools (AGEP)

Thursday 11 June 2020
Summer 2020: What to do in Geneva?
With the participation of the Geneva Tourism Foundation & Congress
Discover Geneva and the Lemanic region

*Discover Geneva and the Lemanic region* is a programme of excursions and visits for International newcomers:

- **Discover communes (canton of Geneva and canton of Vaud) and specific neighbourhoods in the Geneva region**
- **Discover local institutions and companies**

These excursions usually take place on a monthly basis, on Saturdays, enabling you to participate with your spouse and children. The Newcomer Network's Geneva volunteers will facilitate personal contacts with participants.

Registration to this programme is for one year (non-renewable) and free of charge; please note that some events may require a moderate financial contribution.

N.B. In order to receive the invitations, you need to fill out the enclosed registration form which can also be requested via email at network.cagi@etat.ge.ch
**Excursions**

**Saturday 28th September 2019: Dardagny**
Discover and learn about Dardagny, an area with one of Geneva’s largest vineyards; with wine tasting and a locally-sourced meal.

**Saturday 12th October 2019: Meinier**
The Geneva countryside and it’s locally-grown produce, with visits to a cider brewery, a beer brewery and a farm set up by a collective of young farmers.

**Saturday November 2019: Nyon**
Welcome and reception at Nyon Castle before exploring the town with a guided tour.

**Saturday 7th December 2019: The Old Town in the time of the Escalade**
Discover medieval Geneva and its secret passages before celebrating, in traditional manner, the triumph of the Genevans over the Savoyards at a private club in the Old Town.

**Saturday 18th January 2020: Geneva Airport**
The runway, the control tower or the baggage reclaim… Come and visit the airport - a space everyone has had to pass through at least once in their life - and be guided through its inner workings.
**Saturday 1\textsuperscript{st} February 2020: Snowshoeing**
A snowshoe tour at the Col de la Givrine in the Jura mountains, followed by a hearty cheese fondue meal in the late afternoon.

**Saturday 2\textsuperscript{nd} May: Aubonne**
A guided visit of the Arboretum, a botanical collection of trees and hedgerows from all over the world. We are then invited by a member of the Newcomers’ Network to her private 18th century village house: “a place which time forgot”.

**Saturday 7\textsuperscript{th} March 2020: Geneva’s Grand Théâtre**
An exclusive and private visit behind-the-scenes at Geneva’s Grand Théâtre.

**Saturday 30\textsuperscript{th} May 2020: Veyrier, Etrembières and the Salève**
Discover two areas in very close proximity but separated by a border, its challenges and cross-border collaboration issues. Then ascend the Salève by cable car for a picnic and to take in its breath-taking views.

**Saturday 13\textsuperscript{th} June 2020: The Bol d’Or**
Invitation to a private property on the lake shore to witness the start of the world's most important inland sailing race. Around 500 sailing boats participate each year in this spectacular regatta.
Insiders' Geneva

Discover the diverse local events happening in Geneva throughout the year with the latest Newcomers Network initiative.

4 volunteers will take you to Geneva's under-the-radar cultural event spots: authentic, chic and alternative. These are the places to be!

Meetings:

Thursday 12 September 2019: "la Nuit des bains"
1-9 November 2019: GIFF - Geneva International Film Festival
Saturday 9 November 2019: La "Fête de la Saint-Martin" à Peissy
Saturday 9 May 2020: "la Nuit des musées"
Saturday 11 July 2020: "la Nuit de la science"
Conversation Exchange Programme (BEL)

Make the most of Geneva’s exceptional cultural diversity to **improve** and **practice speaking any language** of your choice in exchange for your own.

**The Conversation Exchange Programme is open to all International and local Geneva residents**

Based on an exchange of languages, this programme is free of charge and aims to be an enjoyable addition to, but not a replacement of, language courses.

**How to join the Conversation Exchange Programme**

1. **Registration:** Fill out the online form:
   Upon reception, one of the coordinators will contact you to suggest a language partner.

2. **Contact:** Contact the selected person yourself to arrange a first meeting in a public place of your choice, agree on the frequency of meetings and how you wish to alternate your languages.

3. **Feedback:** Confirm to the secretariat whether the exchange is a success or not and let us know if you require an additional partner.

**The success of our programme depends on your commitment and collaboration.**
Aperitifs

Twice a year, the Newcomer Network Service invites the Conversation Exchange Programme participants to meet for an informal drink. Don't miss this opportunity to find new conversation exchange partners, renew old acquaintances and make friends.

Wednesday 30 October 2019
&
Wednesday 13 May 2020
from 5.30 pm to 8 pm
Escalade party at Palexpo

The International Geneva Welcome Centre, in collaboration with the Geneva authorities and the Newcomer Network of the Fondation pour Genève, invites International newcomers to enjoy a foretaste of the festivities surrounding the traditional Escalade celebrations.

Music and entertainment provided by Compagnie de 1602 and Fifres et Tambours du Conservatoire populaire de musique, danse et théâtre.

Conclude the evening with a "do it yourself" cheese fondue.

Wednesday 4th December 2019 from 6 pm

International newcomers will receive an invitation
CAGI Events

The International Geneva Welcome Centre organises diverse cultural activities and local events throughout the year to promote the integration of Internationals living in Geneva.

These events are open to all and published on our website: https://www.cagi.ch/en/events.php

If you would like to receive all event details by mail, just register with our online form
Founding members

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Associate members

Fédération des Entreprises Romandes
Genève

Sympathiser members

Une Fondation privée genevoise

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