

# WELCOME PROGRAMME 2025/2026

For newcomers to  
International Geneva



**NEWCOMER  
NETWORK**  
FONDATION POUR GENÈVE



**CAGI**  
CENTRE D'ACCUEIL DE LA GENÈVE INTERNATIONALE  
INTERNATIONAL GENEVA WELCOME CENTRE



## Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

*If you are employed by an international governmental or non-governmental organisation (NGO), a diplomatic mission, a consulate general, a multinational company, have recently relocated to Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève, the University or HES-SO as a PhD student or professor, and you are interested in meeting people and integrating into the local community, **the Welcome Service is here to assist you and your family.***

*To receive our invitations, kindly complete the online registration form. We encourage you to follow us on X, LinkedIn, Facebook and Vimeo (@CagiGeneva) to receive news from CAGI and to keep up to date with our events. Thanks to the support of numerous public and private institutions, CAGI's services are free of charge. We look forward to welcoming you as a participant at our events.*

Yannick Roulin  
Director  
International Geneva Welcome Centre

Juliette van Berchem  
President of the Newcomer Network  
Member of the Board of the Fondation pour Genève



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# INTERNATIONAL GENEVA WELCOME CENTRE (CAGI)

Founded in 1996, CAGI's mission is to facilitate the settling-in and integration of all international employees and their families in Geneva and the Lake Lemman region, including:

- civil servants,
- members of Permanent Missions,
- consular staff,
- NGO personnel,
- employees of multinational companies,
- as well as PhD students and professors at the Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève, University of Geneva and HES-SO.

In addition to providing practical assistance, CAGI organises and supports cultural and social events to foster exchanges between the Geneva international community and local residents.

## **Founding members**

The Swiss Confederation and State of Geneva.

The International Geneva Welcome Centre is also supported by associate and supporting member entities from both the public and private sector. (see p. 16-17)



## Services offered by CAGI for International Geneva's newcomers

- **The Welcome Programme:** offers a series of activities designed to facilitate the integration of international newcomers to Geneva. These activities are intended to provide an insight into the city'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 assist CAGI in its mission of welcoming and fostering connections between the international community and the local population
- **Practical guide for newcomers:** essential information on settling in and integrating into Geneva for internationals and their families.
- **Housing support:** accommodation search, lease proofreading, administrative procedures, litigation support, insurance, online housing platform.
- **Cultural Kiosks at UN Geneva and CERN:** provide information on cultural and tourist offerings in the region, as well as tickets at preferential rates.





## WELCOME CALL

**Each month, based on official lists provided by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the programme's volunteers reach out to newcomers with a welcome call.**

## WELCOME COFFEE

**Information session over coffee and croissants for international newcomers and their families in Geneva and the surrounding area.**

## LUNCHTIME CONFERENCES

**These conferences, open to all newcomers to International Geneva, provide an invaluable opportunity to gain insight into the practical, social, and cultural aspects of Geneva throughout the year.**

More than just a greeting, this personalised call provides newcomers with practical information and reliable answers to help them settle in smoothly.

By invitation, organised every 2 months.

Please be advised that invitations will be automatically sent to all newcomers registered on the Welcome Programme.

# INFORMATION



## Practical Geneva

**28.08.25  
19.03.26**

*The key to a successful stay! Tips to facilitate your first steps in Geneva*



## The Health and Healthcare Network in Geneva

**09.10.25**

*With the participation of The Association of Geneva's Private Clinics, the Geneva University Hospital (HUG) and the United Nations Staff Mutual Insurance Society (UNSMIS).*



## Geneva's Public and Private Education Systems

**22.01.26**

*With the participation of Department of Public Education of the Canton of Geneva (DIP) and the Association of Geneva's Private Schools (AGEP).*



## Leisure activities for children

**12.02.26**

*With the participation of the Groupe de Liaison genevois des Associations de Jeunesse (GLAJ-GE).*



## Summer 2026: What to do in Geneva?

**11.06.26**

*With the participation of Ville de Genève and the Geneva Tourism Foundation & Congress.*



## Dual careers jobs for spouses/partners

**Twice a year, in spring and in autumn**

*An informative event dedicated to the local job market, designed to support the spouses and partners of International Geneva employees in their job search by providing them with valuable insights and resources.*



## Housing and insurance

*One conference per season with a specific theme for each edition (finding an accommodation, subletting, terminating a lease, the diplomatic clause).*

# DISCOVER GENEVA AND THE LAKE GENEVA REGION

**A programme of excursions and visits for International newcomers:**

## **Discovering the cantons of Geneva and Vaud (municipalities, neighbourhoods, and enterprises).**

These excursions take place on a monthly basis, on Saturdays, allowing participants to bring their families along. The group of Geneva-based volunteers creates opportunities for newcomers to connect and build friendships with local residents. Registration to the programme is free of charge and valid for one year (non-renewable).

Invitations will be sent to all 2025-2026 newcomers who have registered for the Welcome Programme.





# EXCURSIONS



**Graf's  
farm**

## AUGUST

*A visit to a farm in the countryside on the left bank before tasting local produce. A fun-filled excursion for families and children!*



**Grape  
Harvest**

## SEPTEMBER

*Discover the secrets of the grape harvest and practice this trade for a morning.*



**Télévision  
Suisse  
Romande**

## OCTOBER

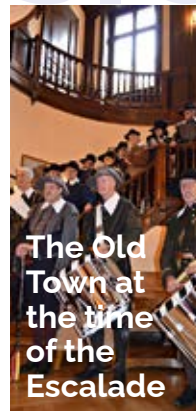
*A visit to the Geneva studios, film sets and backstage of Swiss television (RTS).*



**Lausanne  
and Vidy  
theatre**

## NOVEMBER

*A guided tour of the Old Town, followed by a welcome and official reception hosted by the authorities at the Town Hall. In the afternoon, a visit and performance at the Théâtre de Vidy.*



**The Old  
Town at  
the time  
of the  
Escalade**

## DECEMBER

*Discover medieval Geneva and its secret passages, before celebrating the traditional 'Fête de l'Escalade' in a private club in the Old Town.*



**Transports  
Publics  
Genevois**

## JANUARY

*Guided tour of Geneva's Public Transportation (tpg) HQ, followed by a ride on an old historic tram through the city.*



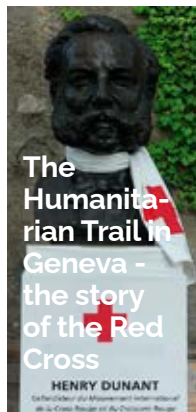
## FEBRUARY

*On the Col de la Givrine in the Jura mountains, a snowshoe tour followed by a hearty cheese « fondue » in the late afternoon.*



## MARCH

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



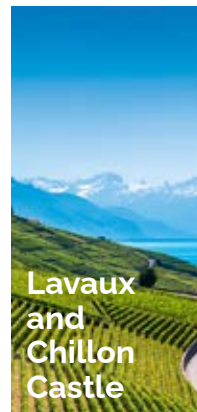
## APRIL

*While exploring the city, you will gain insight into the history of humanitarian action, the Geneva Conventions, and the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.*



## MAY

*Afternoon dedicated to children and families on La Pastorale estate.*



## JUNE

*Visit Lavaux, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2007. See the terraced vineyards with views over Lake Geneva. Afternoon visit to Chillon Castle, a 12th century fortress.*

# ESCALADE CELEBRATION

**TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2025  
FROM 6PM**

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. Traditional music and entertainment provided by the illustrious Compagnie de 1602 and the Fifres et Tambours du Conservatoire populaire de musique, danse et théâtre.

*All international newcomers will receive an invitation.*





# CONVERSATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (BEL)

Geneva's diverse array of cultures and nationalities provides an excellent opportunity to enhance language skills through mutual exchange.

**The Conversation Exchange Programme is open to all, including both internationals and residents.**

The programme is free of charge and based on an exchange of languages. It is designed as an enjoyable complement to language courses, not a substitute for them.

Please note that **a minimum intermediate level** proficiency in a language is a requirement for participation.

More than **1'293**  
participants

Over **65**  
languages  
available

**FREE**  
programme

# EXCHANGES

## How to join

### 1 - REGISTRATION

**Fill in the online form on CAGI website,**



one of the coordinators will contact you to suggest a language partner.

### 2 - MEETING

**Contact the suggested partner yourself.**

Reach out to arrange a first meeting in a public place (or virtual platform) of your choice and then decide together on the frequency of meetings and the alternation of languages.

### 3 - FEEDBACK

**Confirm the meeting with the secretariat**

and let them know if you would like an additional partner.

**The success of the programme depends on your commitment and collaboration!**

## Informal get-togethers

The Welcome Service invites all participants in the Conversation Exchange Programme to an informal and convivial get-together in autumn and in spring. This is an opportunity to find new language partners, meet old acquaintances and build a network.





# CULTURAL KIOSKS AT UN GENEVA AND CERN

# CULTURE

**Discovering the local culture often makes it easier to integrate into a new city, CAGI's cultural kiosks offer a wide range of tickets at preferential rates.**

These spaces offer the large international community access to local cultural and leisure expertise, thanks to CAGI's collaboration with over 50 local partners in the fields of performing arts, museums, music, sports, and outdoor activities.



*In order to make the most of the benefits and to find out about events that are « not to be missed », CAGI's Newsletter highlights a curated selection of offers and recommendations every Wednesday.*



# THE NEWCOMER NETWORK COMMITTEE

Laetitia Boulard, Sylvie Chassagnade, Regina Cirmon, Steven Damal Pathangi, François Delaite, Maria Teresa Dutli, Veronica Eggly (Deputy Welcome Service), Stéphane Hankins, Corinne Hudson, Fiona Jackson, Charles Jacquemart, Kasia Marzewski, Delphine Muret, Eric Mitchell, Jacques Moret, Mounia Ouldaïssa (Administrative assistant Welcome Service), Anastasia Outkina, Yannick Roulin (Director of CAGI), Karin Soller, Béatriz Sperandio, Louise Turrettini, Juliette van Berchem (President of the Newcomer Network), Diane Zoelly (Honorary President of the Newcomer Network).



Some of our members