

IOP REMS Visit to CERN 1 - 4 May 2016

Caveat: Some of this information may have changed since last year.

If bringing your phone, do add my number to your contacts: 00 44 7747 800837

TRAVELLING TO CERN FROM GVA

The simplest and best-served route is by train and tram. As you exit airside look out for the ticket machines (illustrated) which dispense free tickets for the public transport system. These are valid for 80 min - plenty of time to get to CERN but **retain your flight boarding pass** – the 2nd class ticket is only valid with proof you have flown in. Once you have your ticket, take one of the frequent trains (every 10-15 min) to Cornavin, Geneva's main station, the next stop. You will need another ticket if you tarry in town for any length of time.

This sign is now blue ↓



DIRECTIONS: Leave airside, (*information desk opposite*) turn left and carry straight on past the ATMs, shops and cafés, go through the glass doors and follow signs to the trains. After passing some paying ticket machines (use if you forgot to collect your free ticket, no re-admittance), you will see an escalator/stairs which you descend. Check the sign, it tells you that **ALL** trains go to Geneva, a 7-8 minute ride. Walk through carriages or along the platform to the **2nd class carriages**.

Once at downtown Cornevin station, head S in the subway passage (i.e. to the *left* as seen by the driver of the train) *down* the stairs towards the lake and bus station. To the left at the bottom of the steps are self-service left luggage lockers. Use if want to spend time in town before going to CERN. €4-10 according to size for first 6h (~1.35 ChF to £1). You may be able to visit the public transport office at the station to pick up maps etc. and the main city and region Tourist Office is on the way to the lake, a few minutes away, down the pedestrianised Rue du Mont Blanc opposite the station, at a lower level, slightly to the right, towards the lake. It is in the far corner of the imposing Hotel de Ville. A recommended detour, to keep within the 80m limit, allow 30 min to CERN from the station, including waiting time.

TRAM 18 TO CERN

As you exit the station, lake side (S), turn right until you come to a road with tram tracks. The tram 18 stop is to your right under the bridge, on the central island with a real time destination board. Look out for 18 CERN. On board, the name of the next stop is displayed on a rolling screen, get off at the terminus CERN. You'll see the rusty looking Globe on the rhs (in fact it's wood whose mass equates with the amount of wood that grows in Switzerland each day). Head for Gate B 200m further along. The journey takes 21 min and trams run every 10/20 minutes day/eves.

RETURNING TO GVA

There is an approximately hourly minibus from CERN and GVA and v.v. Mon – Fri. Last at 19h. Timetable by reception or link at the end, the bus stops at Building 39. Reception can help with taxis.

ARRIVAL AT CERN

From the stop, point 3 on the map, go to [Gate B](#), 200m direction *away from Geneva* and point 6 on the map. Tell security you have a reservation at the foyer for your pass. The CERN Hostel itself is in building 39 (point 10) a 5 min walk from the security gate along the road arrowed 7. The access pass will be needed to enter the site **throughout your visit so keep it on you** (but note: their system is constantly changing). Car parking is available beside the Globe, check with security if that is the best place to leave your car during your stay. Enter Reception Building 39 and they will sort out your room. The restaurant (point 8) faces the accommodation. They are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner but can run out late evening so beware. Instructions for paying for your room (CHF cash only) will follow.

GENEVA PUBLIC TRANSPORT

At all other times tickets must be purchased from machines at the stops before boarding. You don't show it to the driver but could be asked to show it to an inspector, so just keep it on you. A day ticket 09:00 – 05:00 the next day might be the most convenient at 8 CHF or 10 CHF before 9am. Singles are 3.00 CHF but are valid only 1h, *do not buy for your return*. Day tickets save time and are not much more than two singles. All tickets are valid for trams, trolley buses, buses and the boats that cross the lake within the city. Make sure you've got exact money, few machines give change, some accept cards. No concessions. See transport links below but note: CERN do *not* provide guests with a free transport pass.

THE VISIT

Your tour starts and ends at the Reception in Building 33 (top right on plan).

As the CERN site straddles the border between France and Switzerland, some of the tours will entail crossing the border. Do not forget to bring your identity card with you (and possibly your passport with a visa if necessary, depending on your nationality).

Please note that the tour itineraries take you into buildings housing scientific and technical equipment. For safety reasons, high-heeled or open-toed shoes, flip-flops or sandals are not permitted. Don't forget to consult our web page to familiarise yourself with the safety rules that apply during visits by the general public.

CERN's restaurants and cafeterias accept only Swiss francs and Euros but will give change in SwF.

There is no restriction on the use of cameras and camcorders.

Souvenirs of your visit to CERN and various items of educational documentation may be purchased at the shop at the Reception in Building 33 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Mondays to Saturdays.

The shop accepts credit cards (VISA, MasterCard and Maestro), Swiss francs and Euros.

MEETING POINTS AND TIME KEEPING

Below is the timetable for our 3 day visit. When we meet after breakfast or lunch in the restaurant our **rendez-vous point** will be in the lobby beside the ATM machines and toilets, past the tray return racks (just watch people to see where they go with them).

A hint, if you like hot coffee after your meal ask for a coffee token (un jeton café). You can then serve yourself to a hot coffee after your meal, the machines are by the tray return point. There are also token dispensing machines opposite.

***Please be punctual, we cannot wait, phone me if significantly late or not coming.
They can't accept delays with so many visitors - 40 of us alone.***

TIMETABLE

Sun 1 May: Arrive, you can visit the many museums in Geneva which are nearly all open Sundays. Meet informally in evening at CERN restaurant from 20h, we can treat it as a bar. Give money for the foyer to Tony Colclough and John Belling.

Mon 2 May: DIY. If going on the lake trip, meet at ATM rendez-vous at 08:30. Tram to just past Cornevin, walk 5 min to boat. 10:15h dep to Yvoire, DIY lunches in groups, return by 16:00 or 16:50 (Belle Epoque steamer) arr Geneva 17:50 or 18:35 respectively. Linger in town or return to CERN. Some will gather in restaurant no doubt.

Tue 3 May: Meet at ATM rendez-vous 08:30 after breakfast.

09:00: Visit to ATLAS (10-15 min walk)

10:30: Talk on LHCb

11:45: Visit Globe and Microcosm exhibitions, *buy tram tickets*

13:00: Lunch in CERN restaurant or a *little* earlier

13:30: Meet at ATM rendez-vous

14:00: Official visit: Presentation at Reception by tram stop

15:00: Visit to SM18 (magnet testing facility, by minibus)

16:00: Visit the CERN Control Centre

17:00: End of visit

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19:00 Meet at Foyer Reception before heading for tram

20:00 Celebratory fondue in Geneva

Wed 4 May Further optional visits to Microcosm and Globe, depart.

When in the canteen, you will find researchers happy to talk about their work. There is an elderly couple in their 90s, I forget their names, joint Nobel Laureats who still visit the canteen daily. It is a very important hub of communication within CERN itself. It's the real networking centre, R4 once referred to it as the Olympic village of the mind and the first sketch of the ATLAS detector was drawn there on a carefully preserved paper napkin! I hope we can still follow the grey line on the floor that takes us to reception, past Tim Berners-Lee's office but I have heard security has been tightened.

THE EDELWEISS FONDUE

We have a reservation at the Edelweiss restaurant for 20h, a 15 minute walk from Cornevin at 1 Place de la Navigation. The menu is fixed price: cheese/ meat fondue for 48/51 CHF and good news, *they don't expect tips in Switzerland, just loose change*. Drinks: pay as you go – when it's brought to the table. Oh... and get ready to help play the alpine horn or cow bells or whatever other native musical instrument they are performing upon!

DIRECTIONS: this time we will meet, **at the Foyer reception downstairs**, Building 39 at 19:00. Please purchase your tram ticket in the morning when visiting The Globe to save a log-jam at the stop. If going into town early, Google *Edelweiss Geneva* and a map should appear for you to print off, to confirm, it's on Place Navigation *but please let me know*.

OTHER FAVOURITE VISITS

There is a lot to see in Geneva, best European City Break destination 2014 and 2015.

- Museum of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent is a number 8 bus ride from Cournevin, direction OMS or Appia, alight Appia for both. Follow by a stroll through the botanical gardens, along the lake shore and back into town via the Museum of the History of Science. The museum is housed in the building where the League of Nations was set up and is one of the loveliest sites/sights in Geneva with big Physics toys outside - acoustic parabolas, Magdeburg spheres etc.! Then take a boat to the other side (included in your day pass) and walk to the Jet d'Eau (plaque with facts and figures), then find a restaurant to eat. A very pleasant stroll on a fine day, but what isn't in Geneva?
- Interested in horology? Patek Philippe museum - best watch museum in the world.
- Manor is a major department store visible from the front of the station to the right. It sports a wonderful and huge lunch time buffet on the top floor at reasonable cost (for Switzerland that is), very popular with city workers.
- The old town around the cathedral where Calvin preached and its amazing crypt. Also its Museum of the Reformation adjacent.
- Mammon? Shopping is good, especially on the far side of the lake, i.e. old town side.
- Chamonix and the Aiguille du Midi, €50 return by bus (1½ h) or more expensive organised tours. It's the highest point in the Alps (?) accessible in ordinary footwear, therefore COLD! Visit the Tourist Office next to the station or go here: <https://www.geneve.com> or google it.
- More locally there is the Mont Salève cable car just into France with great views from 2000' above Geneva, watch paragliders launch themselves off the mt. Bus 8 from Cornavin then a 20 min walk at the end but bring €! It's in France. Link below.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- *Swiss electrical wall sockets do not accept European plugs.* They are recessed, a universal adapter should work. A limited number can be borrowed from reception.
- Towels are provided **but not shampoo nor soap.**
- Ironically public internet access via wi-fi or Ethernet cable is limited to eduroam.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

http://www.cern.ch	What it says
https://www.geneve.info	Excellent site incl. transport maps, tickets etc.
http://www.tpg.ch/en/web/site-international	Transport, includes some useful apps, English
http://www.telepherique-du-saleve.com	Mont Salève cable car
http://gs-dep.web.cern.ch/en/ShuttleService/Circuit4	CERN – GVA Shuttle

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