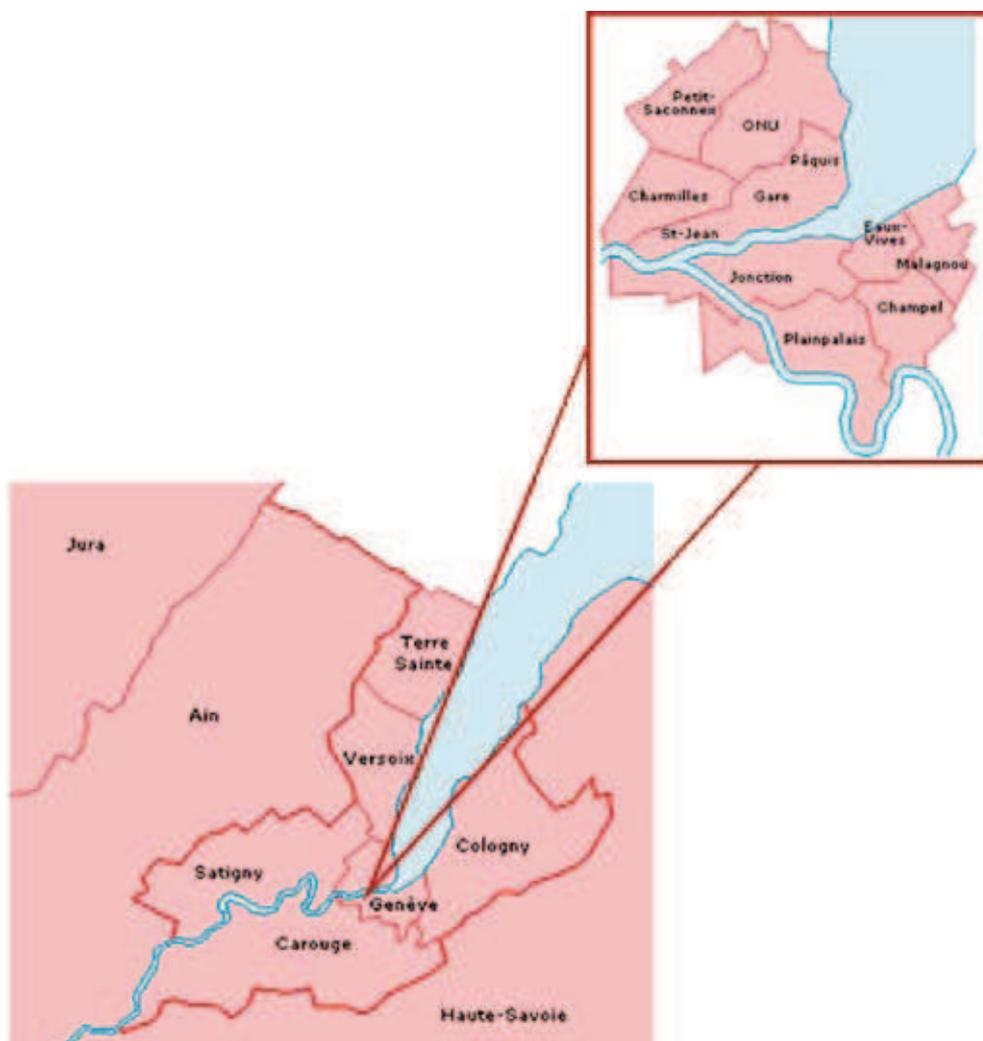


# Living in Geneva

This section is dedicated to helping you find a place to live for your time in Geneva. Geneva has a very low vacancy rate and it is admittedly tough to find a place to live. The first part of this section outlines the different areas to live in Geneva and neighbouring France, followed by some tips on finding accommodation. You will find in the Appendices, an extensive list of accommodation locations, such as foyers and studios, to help you in your search.



Map of the main neighbourhoods in Geneva

## Carouge

People talk about the history of this little town, but it is in fact separated from Geneva by the Arve river. Carouge has a different atmosphere from the centre of Geneva, especially when you go to Vieux-Carouge where you can find the old houses, market square, little (and expensive) boutiques, small parks, craft shops and the church. You can get there by tram and bus, though you may want to note that it is a little distance from the centre of Geneva. For more information on Carouge, visit [www.carouge.ch](http://www.carouge.ch).

## Chamilles and St. Jean

This area is close to Gare Cornavin and close enough to the ILO (about 30 minutes), though it is quite a peaceful area. In this neighbourhood there are lots of shops, mainly the best supermarket/department/electronics store (Manor – it has everything, including a café!). As an intern, this area is great to live because of its proximity to the ILO and to Pâquis.

## Champel and Malagnou

Champel is one of the more chic areas in Geneva. It is generally a family neighbourhood and is therefore a relatively calm and pleasant place to live, with many shops and restaurants. It has a lovely park, Parc Bertrand, which is one of the biggest parks in the city. This area is walking distance from the old town (10 minutes), but the main way to get there is Bus 3.

## Eaux-Vives and Old Town

Eaux-Vives and the Old Town are home to the most touristy spots in Geneva, such as the Jet d'Eau, the Flower Clock and the Cathedral. This area also hosts shopping streets, fine watch and jewellery shops and many luxury boutiques. This area is not too far from Geneva city centre and has fairly good bus and tram connections. It is about 30-40 minutes from the ILO on the bus or tram.

## France

Another option when working at the ILO is to live in a village in neighbouring France,

Ferney-Voltaire. Living here is a nice option as it is fairly close to the ILO (about 15 minutes by bus). Note that although the buses run fairly frequently at rush hour, they are not very frequent in the later evenings or on the weekends. There is a night bus option on the weekends (Noctambus). Housing and supermarkets tend to be slightly cheaper in France than in Geneva (though prices have risen lately). Some people tend to go into France just to shop on a Saturday. There is a Saturday market offering homemade cheese, fresh vegetables, fruit, fish, meat, bread, pasta, flowers and more. There are a couple of supermarkets as well, such as Lidl, Ed and Champion.

### Jonction

Jonction is located close to Plainpalais and Eaux-Vives/Old Town and is another good option as it is fairly central and well connected with public transport. Jonction has a number of apartments, supermarkets, restaurants and more, as it is fairly central. From Jonction, it takes approximately 30 minutes to get to the ILO.

### Les Pâquis and Gare Cornavin area

This area is known as Geneva's red light district. It is the city's international/multicultural area, is extremely lively and animated, but is also one of the least expensive places to live. There are a lot of nightclubs, bars, boutiques and restaurants. If you are to visit Geneva by train, Pâquis is one of the first areas you will visit, as Gare Cornavin is located right next door. In Pâquis you are not far from Lac Léman as this district faces the harbour of the Right Bank. There are two beautiful parks in this area, both behind Gare Cornavin, Parc des Crochettes and Parc Beaulieu. One of the best places to hang out, weather permitting, is the Bains des Pâquis – you can swim here, hang out by the water of Lac Léman, and eat at reasonable prices. In fact, les Bains des Pâquis is reputed to have one of the best fondues in town! If you like ethnic food, ethnic grocery stores, second-hand stores and generally a lively place to live, Pâquis might be a good option for you.

### Petit-Saconnex and UN Area

This area is located closer to France than to the centre of Geneva. It is essentially a suburb, a residential and consular zone. The area's main attractions include the Palais des Nations (the United Nations) and Musee Ariana, which houses an impressive collection of ceramics and glass. A favourite restaurant among locals is Café du Soleil, famous for its cheese

fondue. This is a great area to live in if you want to be very close to the ILO, but be careful because there are limited buses and trams at night.

### Plainpalais

This great neighbourhood is located on Rive Gauche, southwest of the Old Town and near Jonction. It is relatively easy to get to the ILO from Plainpalais (approximately 30 minutes) as it is well connected with buses and trams. This area is also close to the banking quarter, Carouge and Champel and is a hot spot for students. There are many cafés, pubs and clubs, given the proximity to the university. In or fairly close to Plainpalais you will find everything you need, in terms of supermarkets, theatres, cinemas, museums, bookstores and small boutiques.