



## PICTOGRAMS

- Playground
- Public Phone
- Toilets
- Coffee shop
- Public Transport (TPG)
- Passenger ferry (Mouettes Genevoises)
- Trains
- Sports, sports centre
- Pet zoo, aviary
- Culture (theatre, library, cinema, ...)
- Parking facilities
- Park and Ride
- Strikings Cedar trees
- Stairway
- Underpass
- Steep slope
- Foot-path
- From 1 to 22, suggested itinerary for the walk
- Alternative route
- Passenger ferry route (Mouettes Genevoises)

## CEDAR VARIETIES

***Cedrus libani*** : cedar of Lebanon : rigid horizontal branches, fanning out. Solid tree, firm and robust build, thick trunk, its circumference may attain 12 to 13 metres. It may reach up to 35 metres in height.

***Cedrus atlantica*** : cedar from the Atlas region : smaller needles, smaller branches, growing upwards instead of fanning out, in the shape of a pyramid. It may reach up to 35 metres in height.

***Cedrus deodara*** : cedar of the Himalayas : elegant tree, slight build. Elongated conical and pyramidal shape, with drooping branches. Long needles. It may reach up to 40 metres in height.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Municipal information [www.ville-ge.ch](http://www.ville-ge.ch)  
1, pont de la Machine, Phone +41 (0)22 311 99 70
- Public transport (TPG) [www.tpg.ch](http://www.tpg.ch)  
Information centre, Phone +41 (0)22 308 34 34
- Taxi call centre, Phone +41 (0)22 331 41 33
- Ecole d'ingénieurs de Lullier (EIG) [www.hesge.ch/eil](http://www.hesge.ch/eil)  
Phone +41 (0)22 759 95 00
- Service des espaces verts et de l'environnement (SEVE) [www.ville-ge.ch](http://www.ville-ge.ch) Phone +41 (0)22 418 50 00
- Weather forecast, Phone 162

## URBAN FRIENDLY MOBILITY

- [www.ville-ge.ch/plan-pietons](http://www.ville-ge.ch/plan-pietons)
- [www.ville-ge.ch/velo](http://www.ville-ge.ch/velo)
- [www.mobility.ch](http://www.mobility.ch)
- [www.covoiturage.ch](http://www.covoiturage.ch)
- [www.geneve.ch/parkings](http://www.geneve.ch/parkings)



## BETWEEN CITY AND COUNTRY

Special bonds link Geneva to the trees on its territory. Trees bear testimony to the attachment of leading citizens to their city. These men donated their estates to Geneva for the enjoyment of the general public. Trees also remind us of the keen botanical interest of Geneva's renowned 18th-century scientists such as de Candolle, Bonnet, Boissier, de Saussure. From their travels these scientists brought back unknown species which were often planted to mark special family events. Cedars figure among the saplings brought back to Geneva.

The territory of Geneva numbers 3,800 cedars out of the 40,000 trees growing on it. The first cedar in Geneva was planted by the baron de Sellon, who brought it from Paris in 1736. As luck would have it, these plants seem to fare much better in the city of Calvin than in Paris.

These relics of 18<sup>th</sup>-century ornamental vegetation recall a period when landscapes and grand gardens were all the vogue. They also bear witness to the country estates built and cherished by Geneva's important families, which were often inspired by Rousseau's romantic pastoral ideals.

This keen botanical interest lives on today and the City of Geneva is intent on protecting its tree heritage in the face of ever-developing urbanisation.

Cedars are a link between the past and the present. They harbour memories of things past, the events of a lifetime, or those which mark a city. Watch out for the signs of time as you encounter the cedars pointed out to you all along this walk...

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

- Christine Amsler (2001), Maisons de campagne genevoises du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle, Domus antiqua helvetica
- Leila El-Wakil (1998), Bâtir la campagne : Genève 1800-1860, Georg
- Jean-Jacques Marteau (1997), Quand les parcs racontent Genève, Slatkine
- Journées européennes du patrimoine (1996), Ville et canton de Genève
- Isabelle Charollais, Jean-Marc Lamunière, Michel Nemeo (1999), L'architecture à Genève 1919-1975, Direction du patrimoine et des sites, DAEL, Payot
- Répertoire des immeubles et objets classés (1994), DAEL, Georg
- Les parcs de Genève 125 ans d'histoire (1988), SEVE, Ville de Genève
- Véronique Palfi (2003), Rendez-vous à Cologny, Kohler et Tondeux
- Bruhart Armand et Erica Deuber-Pauli (1993), Ville et Canton de Genève, Arts et monuments, Berne, Benteli, 2<sup>e</sup> édition

## THE PEDESTRIAN PLAN COLLECTION

This itinerary is part of the Pedestrian Plan collection of walks conceived by the Planning Office of the City of Geneva.

- Walking in Geneva
- From estate to estate  
Geneva - Bois-de-la-Bâtie - Jardin Botanique
- From site to museum  
Geneva on foot - in the heart of its heritage
- From quay to runway  
Geneva on foot - between travel and nature
- From city to city  
Geneva on foot - from the lake to the Arve
- Walking Downstream  
Geneva on foot - nature and technology
- From here and afar  
Geneva on foot - between work and leisure
- From body to heart  
Geneva on foot - health and urban planin
- From history to modernity  
Geneva on foot - from local to international

## IMPRESSUM

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## 1 THE BEACH OF GENÈVE-PLAGE

In 1917 a small beach Plagewas opened at the end of Eaux-Vives Lane (now William Favre Street) on the site of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Lullin baths. These public baths, the oldest in Geneva, were named after the proprietors of the La Grange estate.

Later on the baths were housed further away for « decency's sake », but also to make room for the Eaux-Vives waterfront, now Gustave-Ador Quay, which extended as far as the Noir harbour (1923-1933).

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in the wake of enthusiasm for modern theories of hygiene, the City of Geneva decided to provide for the physical well-being of its citizens. The beach and bathing facilities of Genève-Plage were opened in 1932, during the construction of the quay of Cologny. Swimming pools were not built there before 1972.

- [www.geneve-plage.ch](http://www.geneve-plage.ch)



## 2 EAUX-VIVES PARK

The land used to be part of the Plonjeon estate in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century. The mansion and French garden were built some time around 1710 by the Trembley family, then enlarged in 1750 by a banking family, the Bouers.

By turns a private residence, a guest house for distinguished visitors and a restaurant, the mansion changed hands several times over the century. The style of the building and gardens evolved according to the whims of taste and fashion.

In 1896, a fairground took over much of the park's green areas, with a theatre, a giant slide, a cycling track, an aeronautical display-ground, an automobile club, a restaurant and a menagerie. There was even a small train running at the end of the park between 1912 and 1914.

To preserve the park from further urban development, the municipality of the Eaux-Vives bought it in 1912, bringing the urban expansion of the neighbourhood to a halt. The park was thus preserved as a single piece of ground. Most of its green areas were reinstated just before the First World War.

In 1931, with the fusion of several municipalities, the stewardship of this exceptional green heritage was entrusted to the City of Geneva.

The park boasts majestic conifers and tall rhododendron bushes presented by the Dutch authorities in return for the humanitarian aid received from the Swiss during the Second World War.

The Eaux-Vives Tennis Club took up its quarters in the park in 1928.

- *Did you know that jelly very rich in vitamin C can be made by pressing cedar leaves?*

- *Contact point with the walk : From body to heart*



## 3 EAUX-VIVES NEIGHBOURHOOD

The development of the city's old lake district was always closely linked to water. The name « Eaux-Vives », or « lively waters », comes from the many springs, streams and rivulets that run underground, as well as from the various water-based activities that used to or still flourish here, such as textile dying, fishing, navigating.

The Eaux-Vives neighbourhood has a claim to fame as part of the first topographically exact view of a landscape, painted by Konrad Witz in the altarpiece Christ walking on the waters, dated 1444, and depicting the pastures on Geneva's left bank. Up to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, life in the Eaux-Vives was still very much on the rural side. Large estates were built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the smaller ones concentrated around Pré-l'Évêque, and the more prestigious ones near the parks of Eaux-Vives and La Grange.

The dismantling of the city fortifications in 1849 signalled the onset of Geneva's urban expansion. To avoid anarchic development, urban plans were drawn up at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, such as the one for the Montchoisy residential area, named after the estate it replaced. It was devised by the architects Maurice Brillard and Louis Vial between 1925-1927. They wished to create a model neighbourhood, in the spirit of the « Grande Genève », light, airy, open and rational, surrounded by green spaces and inspired by the prevalent theories of hygiene.

In 1930, the Eaux-Vives and two other suburban municipalities decided to link their fate to the City of Geneva.

- *Contact point with the walks : From body to heart, From city to city*



## 4 LA GRANGE PARK

With its majestic trees, superb flower-beds, magnificent lakeview, 18<sup>th</sup>-century mansion and archaeological site of a Gallo-Roman villa, La Grange Park is the most beautiful in Geneva.

The La Grange estate, formerly in the hands of the Franconis, was essentially agricultural, with vineyards, fields and orchards. It was bought in 1706 by Marc Lullin, a banker and gift manufacturer.

The formal mansion and geometrical French garden were built between 1768 and 1773. Four generations of the Favre family, which acquired the estate in 1800, cherished and embellished it with great taste.

Guillaume Favre, dubbed « the scholar with a violet » by Mme de Staël, was the first to do so, assembling a very rich library and collection of art objects which attracted a great number of scholars.

A less formal landscape garden replaced the French one during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the lakeside were terraces, a pergola, as well as an imposing entrance with a wrought iron gate and lions sculpted by Frédéric Dufaax (1859). An orangery, a theatre (now « théâtre de l'Orangerie ») and greenhouses, which still stand today, graced the upper part of the park.

The « mountain lake », inspired by a site on Mount Salève, was William Favre's idea. According to his will the estate, donated to the City of Geneva in 1918, was to be turned into a park « for the enjoyment of the population ». The park became part of Geneva's local heritage in 1921.

Superb native varieties of trees grow there, ash, beech, oak, as well as exotic species, sophora, plane trees, bald cypress, Norway pine and cedar of Lebanon, a living tribute to the botanical passion of the Favre family.

- *Contact point with the walk : From body to heart*



## 5 CEDAR (La Grange Park)

The great cedar in the park is probably an offspring of the cedars in Beaulieu Park, which were brought from Paris by the baron of Sellon in 1736.

Planted in 1800, it is unusually squat because its leading shoot was cut off by one of Edmond Favre's rifle shots. This hindered the growth of the top branches, while the lower ones became overdeveloped. It is certainly one of the oldest specimens in Europe, just like the one growing in the Jardin des Plantes in Paris.

- *Did you know that cedar oil is an excellent remedy for anxiety? It has calming, equilibrating, stabilising and reinvigorating properties.*



## 6 ROMAN VILLA (La Grange Park)

Titus Riccius Fronto, a Roman civil servant in 1 AD, had a summer estate built on the entire surface of the park, with living quarters, pavilions, thermal baths and terraced gardens. On this huge estate, the villa (pars urbana) overlooked the lake, while the offices and outbuildings (pars rustica : farm buildings) were set close to the lakeshore.

The Roman ruins were discovered in 1888. William Favre unearthed them during levelling work on the upper part of the grounds, along the old Roman highway (Frontenex road). The excavations, undertaken in 1919 only under the aegis of the City of Geneva, revealed traces of human activity as far back as prehistoric times. But the main bulk of archeological remains are Gallo-Roman.

The landscape artist Tobias Pauli devised the setting of this unique heritage.

- *Did you know that the cedar is called the "Tree of life"? Its curative properties are used in medicine. Essential oil, dyes and natural insect repellents are made from its branches and needles. Its bark has aromatic and disinfectant properties.*



## 7 FRONTENEX STADIUM

The plateau of Frontenex belonged to the Picot family, who donated it to the Eaux-Vives in 1920. The municipality decided that the site should be devoted to outdoor activities.

Frontenex Stadium was one of the first to be built in Switzerland. The architect, Louis Vial, also collaborated with Maurice Brillard on the Montchoisy precinct. After the First World War, sports became very popular and were encouraged by doctors, architects and urbanists alike in the light of theories of healthful living. New sports facilities were opened to the public, such as Frontenex Stadium in 1921 and tennis courts in Eaux-Vives park in 1928.

However, these novelties did not always meet with approval: the City received countless complaints about the indecent attire of young people practising their favorite sport!

Today the stands and locker rooms remain unchanged. They were built in the so-called « Swiss style » or « Heimatstil », marked by the 1896 National Exhibition which was held in Geneva.

As there was no room to expand Frontenex Stadium, other stadiums were built later on in the area: Richemont Stadium in 1948, the playing fields of the Fourches in 1960 and Pré-Picot in 1971.

- *Did you know that cedar resin is used for making torches ?*



## 8 PICOT ESTATE

« ...it is a nook in Paradise filled with birdsong » where the sun shines on « the greenery of underbrush, the fields and pastures, the harvests », wrote Pierre Picot in his album Extraits des souvenirs du voisinage de Frontenex, 1818.

Close by the stadium lies the former Picot-Trembley estate, with a mansion built in 1809. Numerous trees still growing on the site recall the former tree-lined avenues.

Pré-Picot School, built in 1993 along the avenue linking the Picot mansion to the farmhouse, marks the border between the city and the countryside, thus providing an exceptionnal green environment for the school children.

- *Did you know that cedar oil is an excellent mosquito repellent ?*



## 9 DE SAUSSURE MANSION (chemin de Grange-Canal 41)

The mansion was built around 1722 by Théodore de Saussure, on the foundations of older buildings. His son, a keen botanist passionately interested in agriculture, planted the garden with exotic species. The scientist Horace-Bénédict de Saussure, nephew of the naturalist Charles Bonnet, lived here for 15 years, writing several of his scientific treatises. His manifold interests took him to the summit of Mont Blanc, a feat which brought him wide acclaim all over Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He installed one of the first lightning conductors in Europe, (a revolutionary device at the time), in this mansion, and was one of the founders of the Fine Arts Society of Geneva (1776). The « Saussurée » (Saussurea alpina), a plant discovered in the Alps by the naturalist Augustin Pyramus de Candolle, was named in his honour.

The mansion is barely visible today, surrounded by modern apartment buildings and backed by the Annemasse-Eaux-Vives rail line (1888) linking Geneva to France.

- *Did you know that the Celts used to emblam the heads of their noblest enemies with cedar resin, a symbol of immortality ?*



## 10 SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH (avenue de Saint-Paul 6)

This Roman Catholic church was built in 1913 on land belonging to the former Saussure estate. The architect Adolphe Guyonnet conceived it as a global and collective work of art, the furniture and decor echoing the primitive architectural style. It reflects the renewal of sacred architecture in the Suisse romande at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with subtle references to Italian Paleo-Christian basilicas, even though the main structure is made entirely of concrete. The Geneva-born artist Alexandre Cingria designed some of the stained glass windows.

- *Did you know that cedar oil stimulates circulation in the tissues (in cellulite) as well as the regeneration of arterial tissues (in artériosclerosis) ?*



## 11 GRANGE-CANAL

This used to be an isolated rural estate, property of the Canal family in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, with a farm, stables, a wine press and barns. The area suffered from a bad reputation until the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, because it was situated just at the outskirts of the town and persons banned from Genevan territory lived there. Furthermore, there was a theatre which, in the eyes of the city's leading citizens, was a bad influence on the inhabitants. In 1716 it was forbidden to attend the performances under pain of a fine.

Several 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century estates (de Saussure estate north of route de Chêne and Grande Boissière to the south) have left their mark on this neighbourhood, now subdivided and cut across by the Eaux-Vives-Annemasse rail line (1888). Caught between the city and the countryside, the area has an unusual layout but is little by little being gained by the town's urban development.



## 12 GRANDE BOISSIÈRE

Grande Boissière estate, one of the most beautiful country domains on the city's outskirts, covered up to 26 hectares by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was part of a larger piece of land called « Territoire de l'Amandolier » in the Middle Ages, comprising the estates of Grande Boissière and Petite Boissière, which were separated at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The name derives from the Boissiers, a family of French protestants from the Cévennes region who settled in Geneva during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The castle was built in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> and underwent several transformations over time. The reception rooms saw many famous and distinguished men of the Age of Enlightenment, guests of Jean-Robert Tronchin, a friend of Voltaire who had married a Boissier heiress.

Succeeding proprietors sold the estate, which was subdivided around 1830, under the dual influence of urban development and changing lifestyles.

The building was used for a language and trading college in 1925, then bought by the Geneva International School in 1929. The members of the League of Nations founded the school along the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Their aim was to open the school to children of different horizons, cultures and languages, who would then be able to continue their studies abroad.

- *Did you know that the Egyptians used cedar wood to build temples, sarcophagi and ceremonial boats ?*



## 13 PETITE BOISSIÈRE

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century Petite Boissière estate, formerly part of the « Territoire de l'Amandolier », was situated at the place called « vers Malagnou »; vineyards and orchards flourished on the domain.

In 1735, a residence and outbuildings were built on the site of a Roman villa and linked by a magnificent avenue lined with elms and lime trees, species still growing there today.

The agronomist Alexandre-Charles Martin, founder of Geneva's first orchestra, bought the estate in 1832 and added more land. So did the following proprietor, the minister Charles Martin, who built the mansion now called the « Cénacle » between 1892 and 1893.

At his death in 1934, the inheritors had to divide up the estate; this was done following the city's extension law of 1929 as well as the urban development plan of 1935. These plans and regulations established guidelines for the urbanisation of the area in accordance with the site's primary character and unity. A complex of 5 and 6-room family villas was built « along very economic principles ».

This site offers the unique opportunity to observe gardens of different styles side by side, ranging from the formal 18<sup>th</sup> century French garden to family vegetable gardens typical of the 1930s.

- *Did you know that cedar bark was used to make clothing in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and that it is both insect repellent and waterproof ?*



## 14 CHARLES-MARTIN WALK

This walk, created by Charles Martin on his estate in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and lined with superb beech trees, links Malagnou Road to Petite Boissière Lane.

It is 24 meters long, with no pavements. The grass borders allow tall trees to grow without being hindered by underground conduits.

The avenue is lit from below, so as not to dazzle walkers. This has the effect of emphasizing the walk's perspective and the tall silhouettes of the tree trunks.



## 15 MARTIN OUTBUILDINGS AND ORANGERY

The outbuildings and former orangery of Petite Boissière estate (Malagnou) were built at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. They have since been converted into houses.

The juxtaposition of several elements - buildings, high vegetation, gardens, pool and connecting walls - reflects the former nature of the site as well as the organisation of the estate (agriculture and residences).

Their layout and structure provide a neat balance, leaving pride of place to nature, in an arrangement typical of the region's 18<sup>th</sup>-century rural estates.



## 16 LE CORBUSIER SCHOOL

The school was built in two stages by the architects Ugo Brunoni, Imre Vasas and Jean-Yves Ravier between 1985 and 1989.

The brick facade on the road side provides protection from the noise and cold, whereas the facade overlooking the school playground to the south is based on a more open « Mediterranean » type of architecture, with windows exposed to the sun and vegetation. Named after one of Switzerland's most famous architects, the complex was awarded the Interassar prize in 1986.

- *Did you know that cedar wood incense is burnt during Tibetan religious ceremonies, as it favours spiritual elevation?*



## 17 VILLA EDELSTEIN

In 1904 Aimée Wexel, princess Franceschi, commissioned the so-called « Helios » villa, built in the neo-renaissance style very popular in Italy at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The land was formerly part of the Rieu estate.

The mansion's name is linked to the last proprietor, Dr Henri Enach Edelstein. After his death, its conservation was the object of heated debate. It nearly burnt down in 1984, but was salvaged from demolition and entirely restored for the « Fondation Louis-Jeantet de Médecine » at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Domino architects bureau and TER landscape designers oversaw the restoration.

The mansion now houses a modern auditorium in the basement, graced by a garden excavated from the rock. These elements, invisible from the road (route de Florissant), offer a secluded area inspired by Mogol gardens of Rajasthan.

- [www.jeantet.ch](http://www.jeantet.ch)



## 18 FALAISES PARK (Cliff park)

With its 40,000 trees and 330 hectares accessible to the public, Falaises Park is a tribute to Geneva's botanical tradition. Today, the conservation of the city's « green » heritage is essential in an ever-developing urban context. One of the earliest departments in the municipal administration, the « Service des espaces verts et de l'environnement (SEVE) », founded in 1863, was made responsible for the care of this green heritage as a legacy for future generations.

Whenever possible, the city acquires land, often through voluntary transfer, deliberately not destined for construction, in order to develop the quality of urban open space. Falaises Park is a case in point. Stretching atop the cliffs overlooking the river Arve, it provides a playground, as well as a pathway with a superb vista over the Geneva countryside.

- [www.ville-ge.ch/seve](http://www.ville-ge.ch/seve)



## 19 UNIVERSITY HALL OF RESIDENCE

During a housing crisis, a group of former university students in Geneva decided to build a student hall of residence, as the city had no student housing facilities.

Two buildings were opened in 1964. Designed by Ernest Martin and Louis Payot, the complex was deemed the most modern in Europe at the time. Though it was set relatively far from the university buildings, new facilities were soon added, such as a concert venue with 300 seats, now called Cité Bleue (formerly Salle Simon Patino).

- *Did you know that for every kilo of essential oil you need some 30 kilos of cedar wood? The oil smells of wood and balsam.*

- [www.unige.ch/cite-uni](http://www.unige.ch/cite-uni)



## 20 CHAMPEL

Medieval communal pastureland formerly stretched around Champel, also called « Petit champ » (small field). By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with changing ways of life, many rich families established country estates there, attracted by the plateau's dominant position, as was the case on the plateau of Frontenex. The cliffs and the Bout-du-Monde (« end of the world ») area, on the contrary, retained their rural function. However, after 1900, urban development overtook this area too, and many very modern architectural projects were implanted there in the 1930s.

Nowadays, to preserve the « green » tradition of the neighbourhood, Champel community centre provides the residents with free plots for vegetable gardens.

- *Did you know that the Egyptians used cedar essential oil in the embalming process of mummies ?*



## 21 CHEMIN EDOUARD-TAVAN

This lane is named after the famous Swiss poet Edouard Tavan (1842-1919), who used to own an estate on the heights of Champel, built around an 18<sup>th</sup>-century farm.

The lane once lead down to the cliff path towards the river Arve, beside the medieval hamlet of Champel. The line of cedar trees testifies to the existence of a mansion around 1875, built on a 17<sup>th</sup>-century rural estate.

A foot-path will soon link the plateau with the Bout-du-Monde sports centre, leading behind the school on the heights of Champel (Crêts-de-Champel).

Passing through several different types of landscape and preserved from road traffic, it will enable walkers to appreciate to the full the unique quality of the site.

- *Did you know that cedar essential oil is made by steam distillation of cedar wood or needles?*



## 22 BOUT-DU-MONDE (« End of the world »)

Romantic spirits most certainly gave this place its name in 1827. It was once a peninsula, since at the time Geneva's territory around the cliffs of Champel ended at the river Arve. The other side of the river, covered with forest, seemed wild, hostile and foreign – the end of the world!

Just as with the plateau of Frontenex, the site was given over to sport activities right after the First World War and became Champel Stadium.

- *Did you know that a decoction of cedar-needle juice, sugar, concentrated lemon juice and fruit pectin makes a savoury vinaigrette for lamb, cold or smoked fish ?*

- *Contact point with the walk : From here and afar*