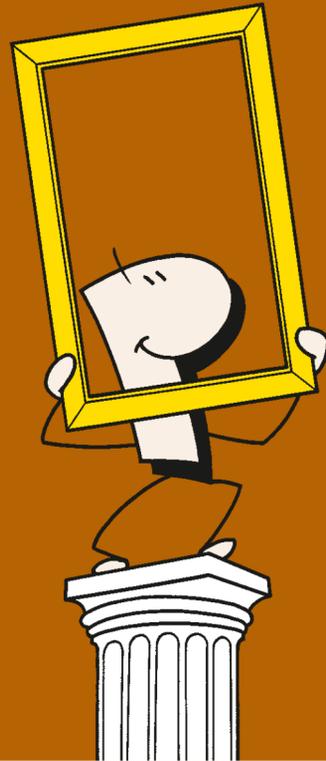


From site to museum



PICTOGRAMS

- Museum
- Culture (theatre, cinema, etc...)
- Music
- Library
- Sports, sports centre
- Playground
- Game
- Pet zoo, aviary
- Long chair
- Public Phone
- Toilets
- Coffee shop
- Bus (Public Transport TPG)
- Tramway (Public Transport TPG)
- Passenger ferry (Mouettes Genevoises)
- Lake Geneva General Shipping Co (CGN)
- Trains
- Parking facilities
- Covered parking facilities
- Information
- Slope
- Steps
- Underpass
- From 1 to 32, suggested itinerary for the walk
- Alternative route
- Future route
- Passenger ferry route (Mouettes Genevoises)



FOUR STORIES TO SKIP THROUGH...

Geneva was already in the Middle Ages an important European city, and from the 16th centuries a major religious and banking centre; its international vocation grew even stronger in the 19th and 20th century. The left bank of the town boasts an exceptional number of richly endowed museums spreading through different urban fabric. These jewels of Geneva's heritage are the purpose of the walk, through four districts.

- The remains of former estates in Malagnou, now providing green surroundings for several museums;
- The Tranchées area, built in the 19th century above the ancient fortifications;
- The Old Town atop the hill, with a continuous history ever since Roman times, and nearly twenty centuries of urban evolution;
- The Place Neuve, the Bastions Park and neighbourhood, a cultural district mainly dating from the 19th century;

The walk can be completed in about one hour (without stops), but it is likely to take longer, for many places in the heart of this city of history and culture may appeal to you.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Armand Brulhart et Erica Deuber-Pauli, Arts et Monuments, ville et canton de Genève, publié par la Société d'histoire de l'art en Suisse, Berne, éditions Benteli, 1993.
- Musées de la Ville de Genève: Genève, Musée d'art et d'histoire, s.d.
- Musées de la Ville de Genève: Instituts scientifiques, bibliothèques universitaires, 1993.
- Rafael Matos-Wasem, Genève à pied, 10 parcours à thèmes, Slatkine, Genève, 2008

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 – urban planning and health
- From history to modernity
Geneva on foot – from local to international
- From cedar to cedar
Geneva on foot – between city and country
- Spirit of Geneva
Geneva on foot – of dialogue and peace

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Arcade d'information municipale: www.ville-ge.ch
1, pont de la Machine, phone +41 (0)22 311 99 70
- "Plan Piétons" website: www.ville-ge.ch/plan-pietons
www.dimancheapied.ch
- Bicycle website: www.ville-ge.ch/velo
www.samediduvélo.ch
- Geneva public transport (TPG): www.tpg.ch
Information centre, phone +41 (0)22 308 34 34
- Passenger ferry (Mouettes Genevoises): www.mouettesgenevoises.ch T. +41 (0)22 732 29 44
- Lake Geneva General Shipping Co (CGN): www.cgn.ch Infoline +41 (0)848 811 848
- Taxi call centre, phone +41 (0)22 331 41 33
- Weather forecast, phone 162

IMPRESSUM

- Editor** • City of Geneva
- Texts** • Richard Quincroet / Update: City of Geneva
- Translation** • Irène de Charrière, Elizabeth Fischer / Update: City of Geneva
- Photography** • Ceux d'en face, Geneva, City of Geneva
- Illustration (cover)** • Gilles Calza
- Design** • Ceux d'en face, Geneva
- Printed by** • Imprimerie Genevoise S.A., Geneva
- Circulation** • 20'000 copies, June 1997
15'000 copies, November 2008



WARNING

• Estimated walking time (without stops) : 1.30 hours

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THE FORMER ESTATES OF MALAGNOU

"Passions of Geneva"

Malagnou park is the green setting of the Genevan passions: time at the Musée de l'Horlogerie et de l'Émaillerie, science at the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, and botany... thanks to the trees of the park itself.



1 PARC DE MALAGNOU

Malagnou park now extends over several former private properties built in and after the 18th century, each with a main house, outbuildings and gardens. The fondness for botany at the period has left some very fine trees: among them several cedars from the Atlas and Lebanon, Austrian pines, and lime trees well over a hundred years old.

- [Route de Malagnou 15](#)



2 CHALET

This astonishing chalet, dating back to 1880-1890, is the work of an unknown architect. Rebuilt around 1930, it still has its original balcony and wooden decor, and is a good example of the 19th century patriotic fancy for Swiss picturesque elements, inspired by Rousseau. Today, it shelters certain offices of the Department of the cultural affairs of the City of Geneva.

- [Route de Malagnou 17](#)
- [www.ville-ge.ch/culture](#)



3 MUSÉE DE L'HORLOGERIE ET DE L'ÉMAILLERIE

Built in 1842 by architect Jean-Philippe Monod, the former "Bryn Bella" mansion follows, although on a much more modest scale, the tradition of the Palladian villas. Since 1972 its reception rooms house the permanent collections of the Watch and Enamel Museum, covering three hundred years of watches and jewellery, and a unique collection of painted Geneva enamels. The museum also regularly presents creations of contemporary Geneva watch manufacturers.

- [Route de Malagnou 15 \(at present closed\)](#)
- [http://mah.ville-ge.ch](#)



4 MUSEUM D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

Erected in 1965-66 (by architect Raymond Tschudin, assisted by Michel Girardet), the Natural History Museum is the modern heir of an institution created in 1811 by Henri Boissier (1762-1845) for the scientific collections of the great 18th century scholars of Geneva. This white building, with an entrance enhanced by a relief by Paul Bianchi (1973), has one of the most outstanding Swiss collections of (zoology, palaeontology, geology, mineralogy, regional collections and natural history). Its attractive exhibitions have made it a "must" visited by all the children of the Geneva area.

- [Route de Malagnou 1](#)
- [Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am-5pm closed on Mondays](#)
- [www.ville-ge.ch/mhng](#)



5 PLACE EMILE-GUYENOT

The Emile-Guyenot square, surrounded by traffic, is at the end of the Malagnou road. The old tram station-shelter, built in 1931 by the City, is the only remains of the former circle tram-line, still missed by many citizens of Geneva.



PLATEAU DES TRANCHÉES

"Opening to the world"

The district of the *Tranchées* (literally: "trenches") is one of the most brilliant creations of modern Geneva. For centuries the city had been tightly constrained within fortifications that spread until they finally formed a belt as extended as the town itself. The demolition of these fortifications was the end of the closed city with doors shut at night, and provided an open city with scope for development. The decision was taken after the 1846 radical revolution led by James Fazy (1794-1878); this explains the name "Fazy belt" given to the areas built after 1850 around the old city. Conceived as an octagonal urban extension in 1858 by the cantonal engineer Blotnitzki, the *Plateau des Tranchées* is the most harmonious and least densely populated district built on the land of the old fortifications. The "trenches" of the *Helvétique* and *Jaques-Dalcroze* boulevards still



6 PLACE STURM

Under the glittering domes of the Orthodox church (built in 1865-1866 according to the Russian architect David Ivanovitch Grimm's plans) lies the esplanade called "Place Sturm". This plot and grassy slope – which link the plateau of the *Tranchées* with Rive neighbourhood - have inspired numerous urban projects: housing complexes, buildings for the State archives, office premises, and most recently a new location for the Ethnographic Museum. The population has clearly voted to maintain a green area here, a park is proposed there today.



7 COLLECTIONS BAUR

N° 8 of the quiet Munier-Romilly street is a private mansion with neo-Louis XV facades, built in 1898 by Charles Gampert and Jean-Louis Cayla. Since 1964, thanks to the generosity of Albert Baur, this elegant town house has become a Museum of oriental art, home to over seven hundred Chinese and Japanese ceramics.

- [Rue Munier-Romilly 8 \(closed 2008 - 2009\)](#)
- [Open Tuesday to Sunday 2-6pm](#)
- [Wednesday 2-8pm, closed on Mondays](#)
- [www.collections-baur.ch](#)



8 SQUARE LEFORT

In the district's main axis the streets of the Lefort square form a long rectangle ending on one side with the Russian church, at the other with a building typical of the area. The trees and lawns give it a park-like character, all the more so because the gardens and terraces of the neighbouring private residences (19th century) are full of flowers.



9 PETIT-PALAIS

At the end of Saint-Victor street stands the mansion built in 1862 by Samuel Darier above the boulevard *Helvétique*. The more ornate facade looks towards the Old Town. Called Petit-Palais since 1968, it now houses the private collections of Oscar Ghez, offering a complete panorama of French painting from Renoir to Picasso.

- [Terrasse Saint-Victor 2 \(at present closed\)](#)
- [www.ville-ge.ch/culture](#)



10 PROMENADE DU PIN

Located between the "trenches" of the *Helvétique* and *Jaques-Dalcroze* boulevards, the old du Pin bastion was converted into a garden in 1865-1866 and it is one of the first natural gardens of Geneva. In 1958 it was embellished by a bronze monument "In memory of Ferdinand Hodler 1853-1918", the work of Henri König.



11 CABINET DES ESTAMPES

The mansion built in 1861-1862 by Charles-Gabriel Diodati for Emile Plantamour now shelters the Print Museum and the Art and Archaeological Library of the Art and History Museum. The Cabinet des Estampes has a collection of more than 300,000 prints, recounting the history of engraving from the 15th century to this day. The collection is presented during temporary exhibitions by subject or artist, and may also be viewed by appointment.

- [Promenade du Pin 5](#)
- [Open Tuesday to Sunday 10-12am and 2-6pm., closed on Mondays](#)
- [http://mah.ville-ge.ch](#)



12 PROMENADE DE SAINT-ANTOINE

To reach the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire, cross the second bridge over the *Jaques-Dalcroze* boulevard, walk along the Saint-Antoine promenade, and turn back over the boulevard towards Charles-Galland street.

The Promenade of Saint-Antoine is the remains of a bastion dating back to 1558-1560, enhanced by trees since 1720. The writer and early cartoonist Rodolphe Toepffer lived at n° 14. As for n° 8, it was built in 1852 and belonged to the Turetini family until it was converted into a kindergarten in 1932. Since 1966 the Promenade has regained its 1802-1803 lay-out, after the construction of the underground parking. The entrance of the latter presents an archaeological site at the boulevard level, and can be reached with a lift.



13 MUSÉE D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE

Erected between 1903-1910 by architect Marc Camoletti after a competition, the imposing building forms a quadrangle around an interior courtyard. The three-storey structure cleverly unifies the complex site. The collections of archaeology, painting, sculpture, and applied arts rank among the most complete and important to be found in Swiss museums. A friendly cafeteria and a bookshop open onto the main courtyard, an oasis protected from the urban noise. Visitors are offered a year-round programme of exhibitions and conferences.

- [Rue Charles-Galland 2](#)
- [Open every day except Monday 10am-5pm](#)
- [http://mah.ville-ge.ch](#)



14 PROMENADE DE L'OBSERVATOIRE

Opposite the Art and History Museum the former bastion, which became a "promenade" in the 19th century, has lost its observatory which was demolished in 1969, but has gained in its place a large and voluptuous gilt bronze by Henry Moore "Reclining figure Arch leg" (1973).



THE HILL OF THE OLD TOWN

"History and city"

The fortified hill of the Old Town lies about thirty metres above the low town. Peopled long before Roman times, this site overlooking the bridges crossing the Rhône is still the main seat of political and religious power. After the Reformation (1536), the flood of Huguenot refugees made it necessary to elevate the buildings and reduce the courts and gardens of the Middle Ages. The streets were lined with high and narrow facades with an entrance and arcade on the ground floor, and two or three windows at each level. The prosperity of the 18th century prompted the ruling class to remodel the upper town within the ramparts. Under both Florentine and French influence, magnificently laid-out private mansions were conceived by regrouping several Medieval plots, "rules of alignment" were ordained, and streets unified by remodelling the facades.



15 TERRASSE AGRIPPA D'AUBIGNÉ

For a long time the Evêché prison, built in 1840, stood on the site of the former residence of the bishop princes of Geneva. In 1940 the demolition of this prison cleared the surroundings of the cathedral on the lake side, creating the Agrippa d'Aubigné terrace, and opening a view over the low town and the lake.



16 COUR SAINT-PIERRE

The cathedral square acquired its present aspect in the 18th century. We can discover beautiful mansions as the house Rilliet built by the family of Candolle (1707) in n°1, the house Duquesne in n°2 (1703) or still the house Mallet in n°6 (1723) where is situated the current museum of the reformation. Trees were planted in the square.



17 CATHÉDRALE SAINT-PIERRE

Hundred and fifty seven stairs lead at the top of the north tower where from we can discover a magnificent sight on the city and the lake. The building Gothic romano, such as it reached us, dates from 1150 till 1232. In this time, it was held in the heart of a real religious district (convents, houses) surrounded with an outer wall. The reformation of 16th century will transform considerably the inside of the building, emptying it of any decorative objects and painting its painted decorations, only stained glasses will be protected. In 1752, it was decided to replace the Medieval facade of the cathedral by a neo-classical portico, erected by Jean-Michel Billon, according to plans by the Piemontese architect Benedetto Alfieri.

- [www.saintpierre-geneve.ch](#)



18 SITE ARCHEOLOGIQUE DE LA CATHÉDRALE

The cathedral has been the subject of practically continuous archaeological excavations since 1850. The results of this long research tradition are accessible to the public thanks to the archaeological site opened in 1986. The history of the «Dark Ages» is recounted in the basement of the cathedral, from the proto-historical oppidum to the building site of the 12th century, the present structure mainly resulting from the latter.

- [Cour Saint-Pierre, to the right of the cathedral porch](#)
- [Open Tuesday to Sunday 10am-5pm](#)
- [Closed on Mondays](#)
- [www.site-archeologique.ch](#)



19 MUSÉE INTERNATIONAL DE LA RÉFORME

The theologian and the reformer Jean Calvin (1509-1564) and the ideas diffused by the reformation (1536) unmistakably shaped the architectural, economic and social image of Geneva. It is in the walls of the mansion of the banker Gédéon Mallet de la Rive that the museum of the reformation redraws party of this history. This mansion, at the corner of the rue de l'Evêché, was built in 1723 by the French architect Jean-François Blondel, in place of the former caputular cathedral cloister. An underground passage connects henceforth, the museum with the archeological site of the cathedral.

- [Cour Saint-Pierre n°6](#)
- [Open Tuesday to Sunday 10am-5pm](#)
- [Closed on Mondays](#)
- [www.musee-reforme.ch](#)



20 MUSÉE BARBIER-MUELLER

The private Barbier-Mueller Museum exhibits its outstanding collections of primitive art from Africa, the South seas, Melanesia and America at rue Calvin 10. This private collection, introduced from 1907 by Joseph Mueller, is the most important of the world. For more than 20 years, the museum of Geneva also constitutes a picture library (slides, photos, films) to get monuments and rites in the world.

- [Rue Calvin 10](#)
- [Open every day from 11 am. to 5 pm](#)
- [www.barbier-mueller.ch](#)



21 MAISON TAVEL

Reconstructed in the 14th century after a fire, the Tavel house is the oldest residence in Geneva. Since 1986 it is a museum dedicated to local urban history and domestic life. The colour of the facade - dark grey with fake white joints-reproduces the 17th century paint discovered while restoring the building. The 14th century carved polychrome heads have no equivalent in the region. The basement and upper levels display drawings, engravings, photographs, coins, furniture, weapons and silver from the 14th to the 19th century, as well as temporary thematic exhibitions. In the attic a "light and sound" show explains the Magnin Relief, a fascinating model 30 square metres large representing Geneva around 1850, enclosed in its system of fortifications.

- [Rue du Puits-Saint-Pierre 6](#)
- [Open every day except Monday 10am-5pm](#)
- [http://mah.ville-ge.ch](#)



22 ARCHIVES D'ÉTAT

Who in Geneva does not know the «cannons»? Opposite the Town Hall, the basket handle arches shelter five Geneva artillery guns from the 17 and 18th century. First a market hall and corn house, the building was rebuilt around 1630 and served as arsenal from 1720 to 1877. Since 1972 the first floor shelters the Geneva State Archives.

- [Rue de L'Hôtel-de-Ville 1](#)
- [www.geneve.ch/archives](#)



23 ZOUBOV FOUNDATION

Not far from the ancient Saint-Germain church, at rue des Granges n° 2, Jean-Jacques Dufour built a residence for the banker Jean Sellon in 1720-1723. Today this mansion houses the private foundation of Tatiana Zoubov, boasting a unique collection of 18th century furniture, pictures and art objects.



- [Rue des Granges 2](#)
- [Free visit Monday to Friday 2.30-5pm](#)
- [Guided tour 1 October to 31 May Tuesday 5pm, Saturday 2.30 and 3.30pm](#)
- [1 June to 30 september Monday to Friday 3.45pm](#)
- [www.ville-ge.ch/culture](#)



24 PROMENADE DE LA TREILLE

At the end of Henri-Fazy street, the neo-classical portico from 1783 leads to the Promenade de la Treille. This esplanade at the foot of the Baudet tower - the seat of the State Council - has been continuously rearranged since the 16th century. Here grows the chestnut tree the first leaf of which the Republic's "sautier" has noted down every spring since 1815. The bench over-looking Plainpalais is supposedly , the longest in the world.



THE DISTRICT OF NEUVE

"Cultural innovations"

At the foot of the Old Town, on the side where the attempted "escalade" (wall climbing) took place in 1602, is located one of the two main urban developments of the beginning of the 19th century (the other being the banks along the Rhône). Ever since the 18th century innovative constructions proliferate: in 1740, a town door with a classical pediment; in 1765, a drawing school for the Republic; in 1766, a wooden theatre, thanks to Voltaire, and in 1783, a classical theatre by Pierre-David Matthey. It is also here that the first exhibitions of the Art Society took place in 1789, that the first botanical garden was created in 1791 and that the Palais Eynard was built between 1817 and 1821. The cultural tradition of the district was launched, and it would grow even stronger in the course of the 19th century, particularly after the demolition of the fortifications.



25 PLACE NEUVE

At the beginning of the 19th century, the Restauration initiated a policy of embellishment within the city walls. The alignment of the Corratierie street, the Rath Museum and a small Neuve square (literally "New" square) were undertaken in the eighteen-twenties, at the instigation of the mayor Jean-Jacques Rigaud, the cantonal engineer and general Guillaume-Henri Dufour and the architect Samuel Vaucher. The square was considerably enlarged after the demolition of the fortifications, taking its definite shape around 1870. In 1884, after public subscription, it was adorned by an equestrian statue of General Dufour (bronze by Alfred Lanz).



26 MUSEE RATH

The Rath museum was the first of its kind in Swiss history to be devoted to the fine arts. Four competitions were necessary to choose the final project, which was erected in 1826 by Samuel Vaucher with the bequest of the French Empire General Simon Rath. The building was first used for exhibitions, training and storage. After 1910 the museum was turned over to the Art and History Museum for large thematic or monographic exhibitions. Contemporary Swiss and international art presentations alternate with modern art and archaeology.

- [Place Neuve 1](#)
- [Open Thursday to Tuesday 10am-5pm, Wednesday 12am-9pm, closed on Mondays](#)
- [http://mah.ville-ge.ch](#)



27 THE GRAND THÉÂTRE

Thanks to the legacy of the duke of Brunswick the Big Theater of Geneva was built by Jacques-Elysée Goss, on the model of the Opera Garnier of Paris. Inaugurated in 1879, it is of style Second Empire (Napoleon). Four allegorical major figures which glorify the entrance of the building represent the Drama, the Dance, the Music and the Comedy. On the facade of the building, we can again discover niches decorated with busts representing big musicians such as Rossini, Mozart, Beethoven or Rousseau. The addition of the concrete superstructure resulted from the partial reconstruction of the building after the devastating fire that almost destroyed the Grand Théâtre in 1951. This superstructure replaced the beautifully decorated dome that imitated that of the Paris Opera House.

- [www.geneveopera.ch](#)



28 LE GRUTLI

Built in 1871-1873, after the Conservatory of Music (1856-1858) and before the Grand Theatre (opera house, 1874-1879), the Grütli is by architect Georges Matthey. The construction originally sheltered three schools (industrial, primary and drawing), thereby completing the educational equipment of the new city. Its transformation into a Cultural Centre in 1989 integrated contemporary elements.

- [Rue du Général-Dufour 16](#)
- [www.grutli.ch](#)



29 UNI-DUFOUR

In place of the election building which burnt down in 1964, UNI-II (now Uni-Dufour) was erected after a competition in 1973-1974, by the firm of architects Jacques Vicari, Gilbert Paux and Werner Francesco. Resolutely modern, the outside is inspired by Le Corbusier and the interior by Alvar Aalto. In 1996, on a private initiative, an architectural competition took place to improve its exterior aspect and environment. Tatsuo Miyajima was the laureate with a project called "Fortress of human right".

- [Rue du Général-Dufour 24](#)
- [www.unige.ch](#)



30 PLACE RENÉ-PAYOT

Opposite the entrance to Uni-Dufour is a small square named after René-Payot (1894-1970, main editor of the Journal de Genève since 1940); bordering a café terrace, which is very popular in warm weather, it was inaugurated on 23 September 1997. The "Projet végétal" conceived by Maria Carmen Perlingeiro, Christophe Beusch and Marc Junod transformed this public space back to a pedestrian area.



31 BIBLIOTHÈQUE DE GENÈVE

The University, built between 1868 and 1873 by architects Joseph Collart, Jean Franel and Francis Gindroz is situated at the beginning of de Candolle street. Its main entrance faces the circus of Plainpalais, and leads right through the building, providing a direct passage-way out the back to the Bastions park, where the University Library is located. Founded in the 16th century, at the same time as the College and the Academy, during the period of development due to the Reformation, the institution is one of the oldest of the city. With 1.8 million volumes, it ranks among the five largest libraries in Switzerland. Furthermore, rooms in the suggestive names (Bonivard, Lullin, Saussure, Senebier, Moynier) contain ancient manuscripts and treasures.

- [main entrance in the Bastions park](#)
- [www.geneva-city.ch/lbge](#)



32 PROMENADE DES BASTIONS

The Bastions park was created in 1726 between military fortifications of which some remain, notably the high wall supporting the Croix-Rouge (Red-Cross) road. The fine avenue of trees is original, and has survived many changes. Other features are interesting too: the iron gates (1875), the music pavilion (1881), the Eynard mansion (1817-21) where the Administrative Town Council meets, the numerous monuments, busts and fountains spread in the park, the remarkable species of trees from all over the world, and finally the Mur des Réformateurs (Reformers' Wall) erected between 1909-1917, after a competition based on a programme by historian Charles Borgeaud to commemorate the fourth centenary of the birth of Calvin and the 350th anniversary of the foundation of the Academy. The sculptor, Paul Landowski, is also the creator of the redeeming Christ of Rio de Janeiro (1931).



33 CENTRE D'ÉDITION CONTEMPORAINE

The Center of contemporary edition (formerly Genevan Center of contemporary engraving) is settled since July, 2000 in the heart of the Old town, looking forward to joining the museum of modern and contemporary Art (MAMCO) to Plainpalais. In the center of contemporary edition, it is the world of the book and the contemporary creation (artists' books, "papers") which are revealed.

- [Rue Saint-Léger](#)
- [Open Thursday to Friday 2.30-6.30am, Saturday 2-5pm, closed on Sundays and Mondays](#)
- [www.c-e-c.ch](#)