



# GENEVA, SWITZERLAND HISTORIC TRAIL



## FIELD GUIDE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
TRANSATLANTIC COUNCIL

# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Field Guide contains information on the Geneva Historical Trail designed by Troop 130 in Geneva, Switzerland. The guide is intended to be a starting point in your endeavor to learn about the history of the sites on the trail. Remember, this may be the only time your Scouts visit Geneva in their life so make it a great time!

While TAC tries to update these Field Guides when possible, it may be several years before the next revision. If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to [Admin@tac-bsa.org](mailto:Admin@tac-bsa.org) or post them on the TAC Nation Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/27951084309/>.

This guide can be printed as a 5½ x 4¼ inch pamphlet or read on a tablet or smart phone.



Front Cover: Aerial view of Geneva

Front Cover Inset: Palais des Nations



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HISTORIC TRAIL

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# GETTING PREPARED

Just like with any hike (or any activity in Scouting), the Historic Trail program starts with **Being Prepared**.

1. Review this Field Guide in detail.
2. Check local conditions and weather.
3. Study and Practice with the map and compass.
4. Pack rain gear and other weather-appropriate gear.
5. Take plenty of water.
6. Make sure socks and hiking shoes or boots fit correctly and are broken in.
7. Pack a first aid kit, "just in case."
8. Discuss the day's activities, so there are no surprises; discuss safe hiking.
9. Ensure Two-Deep Leadership at all times.



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# WHAT IS THE HISTORIC TRAIL?

A tour of the global city of Geneva, along the shores of Lake Geneva and banks of the Rhône River, presents a fun opportunity to Scouts of the Transatlantic Council for several reasons. Geneva is a worldwide center for diplomacy hosting the headquarters of numerous organizations such as agencies of the United Nations and the Red Cross. It is also one of the top five financial centers in Europe.

It is also the capital of the Swiss canton of Geneva. The city, together with nearby areas, form Grand Genève (Greater Geneva), a metropolitan area with a combined population of about 915,000 people. About two-thirds of whom live in Switzerland and one-third in France. Finally, it is one of 19 historic trails available to Scouts in Europe.

This Trail Guide provides a walking tour of sites important to the history and mission of the Church of Scotland in Geneva, Switzerland. It is intended as a starting point for youth and visitors to learn about Geneva's rich history and connections with the Church. What sites in your local community are similarly connected?

Before setting out, please review the trail route in detail, check local weather conditions and dress accordingly, packing any necessary supplies and safety equipment. Several sites may be open to visitors, but the entire route may be completed outdoors. Along the hike, you will experience quiet city parks, bustling shopping areas, quaint back alleys and the general charm of Geneva. There will be plenty of eating and shopping establishments along the way so be sure to bring along some Swiss francs.

Scouts and leaders are encouraged to wear Scout uniforms. As you walk the trail and interact with others, this fleeting experience with American Scouts is the only one visitors may have in their lifetime. Consequently the Scouts are expected to personify the Scout Law and Oath and conduct themselves accordingly.

This Trail Guide contains everything you need to complete the hike. Read it thoroughly, walk the Trail, and...

GOOD HIKING! – BONNE RANDONNÉE!



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# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Where and How to Start

To reach the Auditoire de Calvin (the starting point), it is possible to park at the Parking Saint-Antoine lot and walk northwest (along the road at the top elevator exit).

Also, several bus and tram stops of the Geneva Public Transport system are located near the Auditoire.

All directions are for when you are facing away from the site's front entrance as if leaving.

## Distance and Time

The hike is about 7 kilometers from the first to last stop and will take about 2 hours and 15 minutes of walking, if you do not stop to see the sights. It will take about 4 hours of walking if you stop in the churches, and outdoor places of interest, and look for the history behind them all.. Finally, it will take about 5 hours to complete the trail and go into the museum as well.

There is no set "break time" during the hike. You decide when you want to stop and take a short break for drinks or food. There are numerous restaurants, cafes and stands along the route. The best time to start on the hike is around nine in the morning as most shops along the route will be open (except on Sundays) at those times. Just remember, the goal is the trail, not the finish.



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# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Start Point – Auditoire de Calvin

The **Auditoire de Calvin** is today the place of worship of the Church of Scotland Geneva. It is found in the Old Town of Geneva and is close to: The Museum of the Protestant Reformation, St. Pierre Cathedral, the Maison Tavel, the Geneva Town Hall, the Museum of Art and History and the Parc des Bastions.

The **building** was built in the 15th century and has been the place of worship of the Church of Scotland Geneva since 1959, though the Church of Scotland has held regular worship in Geneva since 1867.

During the Reformation in the early 1500s, leaders of the Reformation John Knox and John Calvin both taught and debated at the **Auditoire** about theological matters. It is believed that Knox's discussions with Calvin and his experience in Geneva were a stepping stone to the creation of the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian Church), which has spread all over the world.

You can read more about the church at <https://churchofscotlandgeneva.ch/>.

### 46.200732 N, 6.148109 E – Place de la Taconnerie 1, 1204 Genève

*Starting from the Auditoire de Calvin, head northeast (right, facing away from the Auditoire) on the Place de la Taconnerie. The cathedral is located directly ahead.*

*Next, turn left onto the Rue Guillaume-Farel (the path past the line of chain barricades) to soon enter the Cour de Saint-Pierre square. The entrance to St. Pierre Cathedral should be to your right, on the southeastern side of the Square. You are now at St. Pierre Cathedral.*



# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #2 – St Pierre Cathedral

The **Cathedral** is a place of worship and where individuals and groups of visitors can also learn more about the history of Geneva. The **Cathedral** is located in the heart of the Old Town of Geneva. The Site of the modern **Cathedral** was first used as a place of Christian worship in the 4th century AD. In the 12th century, the first prince-bishop of Geneva, Arducius Faucigny, began construction of the present cathedral, a stage which lasted for about a century, from 1150 to 1250 AD.

Since its construction, the **cathedral** has been a place of Christian worship, first Roman Catholic and then Protestant. In the 4th century AD, Geneva became the seat of a bishopric. The first Christian building (a baptistry) was built on the hill between 350 and 375.

In 1032, Geneva was integrated into the Holy Roman Empire, which then constituted as an episcopal principality which is the origin of the half-eagle and the key to its coat of arms. These and later periods were turbulent times for the region and eventually into the time of the Reformation and the involvement of John Calvin and his fellow reformers, who preached at the **Cathedral**.

Dedicated to Saint Pierre and an emblematic image of Geneva, which the **cathedral** dominates from the hill of the Old Town, it is also a symbol of the influence of religion in Geneva's history. Also, it is possible to go beneath the building and access the catacombs of the Cathedral, including preserved foundations built on the site prior to the **Cathedral**.

### 46.201256 N, 6.147961 E – Cour de Saint-Pierre, 1204 Genève

*To reach the International Museum of the Reformation, head northeast across the Square (right) for 30 meters until you reach the Rue du Cloître (the building with the green signs saying “Musée international de la Réforme”), then turn right onto the Rue du Cloître. Turn northeast (left) at the first opportunity on the road, and the museum will be to your left.*





# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #3 – International Museum of the Reformation

The **International Museum of the Reformation (MIR)** is situated in the Old Town of Geneva, one of the most historically influential parts of the city, with numerous buildings around the site dating back c. 200 years and the actual settlements dating back 1500 to 2000 years ago. Currently, the **MIR** is used as a historical museum to educate tourists, scholars and citizens of the canton about the history of Geneva and its impact on the world of religion.

The **MIR** is housed in the Maison Mallet. The Maison Mallet was constructed by the French architect Jean-François Blondet (1683-1756), who was hired by banker and merchant Gédéon Mallet (1666-1750), during the years 1722-1725. In April 2005, the International Museum of the Reformation opened to the public. Additionally, the legal documents the MIR houses spread the knowledge about how Genevans worked with different people to bring the area into a time of peace.

A couple interesting facts about the site are:

- The Maison Mallet was constructed on the foundations of St. Pierre's Cloister, the same place Genevans voted in favor of the Reformation.
- The **MIR** has more than 600 books, manuscripts, paintings, engravings and objects that tell us about five centuries of Protestant history.
- The **MIR** is in the same square as the Auditoire de Calvin, the place John Calvin and John Knox preached.
- The building was the site of the 1st meeting of the international Red Cross societies from 1919 to 1922.

More information can be found at <https://www.musee-reforme.ch/en/>.

### 46.201464 N, 6.148518 E – Rue du Cloître 4, 1204 Genève

*To reach the Art and History Museum from the IMR, first continue northeast (left) along the Rue du Cloître. Turn east (right) onto the Rue de l'Evêché, and go straight to enter the Terrasse Agrippa-d'Aubigné.*



# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #3 – International Museum of the Reformation (cont.)

*After entering the terrace, turn left and take the stairs down ahead of you. At the bottom of the stairs, turn south (right) and go 20 meters, passing a metal sculpture. Take a second set of stairs down, exiting the terrace onto the Rue de la Fontaine. Turn south (right), following the Rue de la Fontaine for about 90 meters as the road becomes the Place du Bourg-de-Four.*

*When you reach a fountain, turn east (left) onto the Rue des Chaudronniers. Continue along this road as it begins to curve southward (right), becomes the Rue Charles-Galland, through the Promenade Saint-Antoine and across the bridge over the Boulevard Emile-Jaques-Dalcroze, for 230 meters until the Art and History Museum is to your right.*

## Checkpoint #4 – Museum of Art and History Geneva

The **Museum of Art and History** is a large museum with over 1 million exhibit pieces of art and history from ancient to modern times with free admission. The museum is spacious, and you could spend a couple of hours in it. The **museum** has audio guides available, as well as cameras to take photos with.

Construction of the building finished in 1910 and has contained the **museum** since, though it has undergone renovation since then. The museum is, besides the Maison Tavel, the main **museum** in Geneva about its history and is informative about the events surrounding the Escalade (attack of Geneva by the Duchy of Savoy), which is commemorated every year.

The museum also has a large collection of weapons from the time of the Escalade and furniture of homes in Geneva throughout its history.



# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #4 – Museum of Art and History Geneva (cont.)

**46.199402 N, 6.151713 E – Rue Charles-Galland 2, 1206 Genève**

*To get from the Art and History Museum to the Russian Church, head southeast along the Rue Charles-Galland about 75 meters and turn left on Rue Rodolphe-Toepffer. Follow the road for about 100 meters as it curves to the right and the church should be on your left.*

## Checkpoint #5 – Russian Orthodox Church

The **Russian Church** (French: Cathédrale de l'Exaltation de la Sainte Croix, Cathedral of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross) is a historic Russian Orthodox church in the fashionable Les Tranchées neighborhood of Geneva.

Russians first started coming to Geneva in the 19th century after writer Nikolai Karamsin visited and described the place in one of his travelogues. In 1859, the tolerant authorities of Geneva authorized the growing Russian Orthodox population to build a **church**.

The Grand Duchess Anna Fyodorovna, sister-in-law of Tsar Alexander I and aunt of Queen Victoria, was a long-time resident of Geneva. Geneva funded the construction of a **Russian Orthodox church** in 1863. Built over the remains of a 16th-century Benedictine priory, it was designed by David Grimm, a professor at the St-Petersburg Imperial Academy of Arts, and completed in 1866.

A stately neighborhood (Les Tranchées) developed around the **church** in the late 19th century, accommodating the many Russians who came to Geneva to study. Since the fall of Communism, Geneva's existing Russian community has been joined by a wave of new-rich Russians, about 3,000 of whom now call the Swiss city home.



# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #5 – Russian Orthodox Church (cont.)

The Russian revival **church**, with its Byzantine striped arches and gold onion domes, underwent restoration in 1966. Today the **Russian Church** serves not only the Russian community but also Bulgarians, Serbs, Coptic Christians and other Orthodox worshippers who do not have their own church in Geneva.

### 46.198717 N, 6.153657 E – Rue Rodolphe-Toepffer 9, 1206 Genève

*To get from the Russain Church to the Parc des Bastions, first backtrack to the Art and History Museum. Then head northwest along the Rue Charles-Galland and straight onto the Rue des Chaudronniers (back the way you came) for 230 meters until you reach the Place du Bourg-de-Four (square) with the fountain.*

*Turn south (left) for 30 meters, then turn west (right) to follow the Place du Bourg-de-Four ramp heading down. Continue along the Place du Bourg-de-Four as it begins to curve southwards for about 100 meters.*

*Then turn west (right) onto the Rue René-Louis-Piachaud (first road you reach). Continue along the road, turning right as it merges with the Rue de la Croix-Rouge, going 100 meters in total. Take the first crosswalk across the Rue de la Croix-Rouge southwestwards (left). From there you can enter the Parc des Bastions.*

*Once inside the park, continue down the ramp to the right and make your way northwest, following the Reformation Wall on your right for 100 meters before finding yourself in front of the center of the wall (where the 4 largest statues are).*

## Checkpoint #6 – Parc des Bastions

The **Parc des Bastions** was declared such in 1720, making it the oldest park in Geneva, and many public events happen here. The famous part of the **park** is the Reformation Wall which has depictions of various Protestant heroes, primarily from the Protestant Reformation.



# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #6 – Parc des Bastions (cont.)

The **park** is considered part of the Old Town of Geneva. The **park**, particularly its Reformation Wall, is one of the main monuments in the city to Protestantism. The sculptures on the Reformation Wall were built onto a wall which was part of the City of Geneva's defenses at the time of the Escalade, and the park is considered a memorial to that as well.

The Reformation Wall also includes John Knox, founder of the Presbyterian Church (Church of Scotland) to commemorate his time in Geneva and his work in the Protestant movement.

### **46.200218 N, 6.145882 E – Prom. des Bastions 1, 1205 Genève**

*From the Parc des Bastions to the Town Hall, first head northwest (right, facing away from the statues) along the Reformation Wall for about 170 meters until you exit the park.*

*You should find yourself on the southeastern side of the Place de Neuve. Head north along the eastern (right) side of the square, crossing the Rue de la Croix- Rouge, until you reach the Rampe de la Treille on your right. Turn southeast (right) onto the Rampe de la Treille, and head up (note: both sides of the ramp lead to the same destination).*

*In about 200 meters, at the statue of Pictet de Rochement, turn northeast (left) onto the Rue Henri-Fazy. In about 60 meters, turn southeast (right) onto the Rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville. Continue for approximately 10 meters and the Geneva Town Hall should be directly on your right.*



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## Checkpoint #7 – Geneva Town Hall

The Geneva Town Hall is the seat of the Geneva city and cantonal government and meeting place for the Administrative Council (the city's legislative body). The Town Hall is located in the center of the Old Town of Geneva.

The Town Hall was built in the 1500s and has been the Town Hall since then. The building has undergone renovations, though remains just as important to the management of the City and Canton of Geneva as it has for 500 years.

In 1872, the Town Hall was the location of the Alabama Tribunal of Arbitration, the first time a tribunal of arbitration was used to avert a crisis, which ended a potential war. This is remembered by the Alabama Room within the Town Hall (normally open to visitors) and a plaque commemorating the tribunal (in French) at the building's entrance within the courtyard..

### 46.201047 N, 6.146907 E – Rue de l'Hotel-de-Ville 2, 1204 Genève

*From the Geneva Town Hall to the Maison Tavel, first turn northwest (left) along the Rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville and go along it for 10 meters to the Rue du Puits-Saint-Pierre (back the way you came). Turn Northeast (right), and in about 40 meters, walking past the 3 cannons, the Maison Tavel should be to your northwest (left).*

## Checkpoint #8 – Maison Tavel

The **Maison Tavel** is a free museum used to share the history of old Geneva through artifacts, architecture, artwork and even a short film about the city's development. It is located in Old Town Geneva.

The **Maison Tavel** (meaning House Tavel) was built originally in the 12th century. However, it was rebuilt after a fire in 1334. It was originally built as a home but was turned into a museum in 1986 after being purchased by the city of Geneva in 1963. It is home to the Relief Magnin, which models Geneva prior to 1850, the year the city's fortifications were demolished.



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## Checkpoint #8 – Maison Tavel (cont.)

**46.201361 N, 6.147195 E – Rue de Puites-Saint-Pierre 6, 1204 Genève**

*From the Maison Tavel to the Île de Rousseau, turn northeast (left) on the Rue du Puits-Saint-Pierre, and follow the road for approximately 180 meters as it curves northwest (left) past the bust of Pierre Fatio and becomes the Rue Jean-Calvin.*

*At the intersection with the Rue de la Pélisserie, turn north (right) at the sign commemorating George Eliott and continue for about 30 meters to the Rue Frank-Martin. Turn northwest (left) onto the Rue Frank-Martin and continue for approximately 110 meters, as you curve right past the public library.*

*Once you reach an intersection with the Rue de la Rôtisserie, turn north-northwest (slight left) to the Rue Bémont, following signs to the Pont des Bergues. Continue on the Rue Bémont for approximately 40 meters until you reach the Rue de la Confédération.*

*Go north (straight) onto the Place de la Fusterie, and continue north for 160 meters, following signs to the Pont des Bergues, past the Place du Rhône, to the intersection with the Quai Bezanson-Hugues road. Here, turn east (right) and then north (left) onto the Pont des Bergues, the footbridge to the Île de Rousseau.*

*Continue along the footbridge for 130 meters, until you reach a small intersection of bridges. Turn right onto the Passerelle de l'Île-Rousseau. Continue for approximately 50 meters, and you will be on the Île de Rousseau.*

## Checkpoint #9 – Île de Rousseau

The **Île de Rousseau** is an island park, more precisely a small island in the middle of the Rhône river, in the heart of the city of Geneva. It is dedicated to the Genevan Enlightenment philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who was born and spent part of his life in Geneva. Rousseau argued in support of the natural goodness of people.



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## Checkpoint #9 – Île de Rousseau (cont.)

After serving as a fortification to the city of Geneva, a statue of Rousseau was raised in the center of the island in 1832, and the Île was dedicated to Rousseau in 1882. The Île today is a symbol of the influence the Enlightenment has had on Geneva, as well as the influence Geneva had on it (by being the birthplace of Jean-Jacques Rousseau).

The Île was part of the city's defenses whilst it was a protestant stronghold. The Île also served as a shipyard from 1628 to 1882.

### 46.206000 N, 6.147600 E – Île Rousseau, 1204 Genève

*To get from the Île de Rousseau to the Quay du Mont-Blanc, retrace your steps along the Passerelle de l'Île-Rousseau until it intersects with the Pont des Bergues. Turn north (right) onto the Pont des Bergues, and continue about 100 meters until you cross the river. Once you reach the shore, turn east (right) onto the Quai des Bergues. Follow the Quai des Bergues approximately 100 meters, cross the Rue du Mont-Blanc, and continue straight onto the Quai du Mont-Blanc.*

## Checkpoint #10 – Quay du Mont-Blanc

Between the Pont du Mont-Blanc and the Jetée des Pâquis lies the approximately 600-meter-long Quai du Mont-Blanc. Flowers, statues, outdoor art exhibitions and views of Mont Blanc (on clear days only) abound on this picturesque northern lakeshore promenade.

On the Park Square des Alpes, you will see the Brunswick Monument, the tomb of Duke Charles II of Brunswick. After being exiled from Brunswick in 130, Charles lived in Paris in London before moving to Geneva. In his will, he left his entire estate to the city with a single stipulation: that a mausoleum be built in a prominent position in Geneva for him. The estate totaled 24 million Swiss Francs (about 1 billion Swiss Francs today) and was used to build the monument along with numerous public buildings around the city.





# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #10 – Quay du Mont-Blanc (cont.)

If you look east, you will see the Jet d'eau, a 140m high water jet that is one of the landmarks of the city. Originally built in 1885, only a few meters high, the fountain served as a pressure relief for the pressurized water pipe of the Forces Motrices de la Coulouvrenière power plant, with which the Geneva jewelers operated their machines. In 1891, the city of Geneva decided to move the large fountain into the lake basin as a tourist landmark and to increase the water pressure. In 1951 the current plant was built, which has two pumps with a total output of about 1000 kW. It emits 500 liters of seawater per second at a speed of 200 km/h.

At the end of the quay is the Bains des Pâquis, an artificial peninsula where the Genevois have enjoyed the sun since 1872. The peninsula contains a lively beach, restaurants and a light house built in 1894.

## 46.207948 N, 6.149053 E – Quai du Mont-Blanc 11-7, 1201 Genève

*To get from the Quay du Mont-Blanc to the Palais Wilson, follow the Quai du Mont-Blanc as it turns northeast for approximately 650 meters, past the Brunswick Monument. Continue following the road as it curves north and becomes the Quai Wilson. In approximately 380 meters, the Palais Wilson should be to your west (left), directly past the Hôtel President Wilson..*

## Checkpoint #11 – Palais Wilson

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has its headquarters in the historic **Palais Wilson** building in Geneva, Switzerland. The building is located on Lake Geneva, next to the Hôtel President Wilson. It is very close to the Jardin Botaniques (Botanical Gardens). The site is not far from many international organizations, such as the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other United Nations offices. The five-story and 225-room building by Lac Léman (Lake Geneva) was originally constructed in 1873-1875 as Hôtel National.



# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #11 – Palais Wilson (cont.)

When Switzerland joined the then newly-created League of Nations in 1920, the premises became the world body's headquarters. In 1924, the building was renamed **Palais Wilson** after the death of US President Woodrow Wilson, who played an important role in the establishment of the League of Nations during the 1919 Paris Peace Conference after World War I and received the Nobel Peace Prize that same year.

In 1937, the League of Nations moved to the purpose-built Palais des Nations on a far larger piece of land overlooking lakeside Geneva. In the following decades, **Palais Wilson** became the office of various government departments and later returned to being a hotel. By the late 1980s, the building had fallen into serious disrepair. Fires in 1985 and 1987 severely damaged parts of the building.

The Swiss authorities and the private Société des Hôtels Wilson restored and renovated the building extensively from 1993 to 1998. After the renovations were completed, **Palais Wilson** was made available at a preferential rent to become OHCHR's Headquarters. The **Palais Wilson** is a sign of the city's very strong historical ties to international diplomacy, as the home of the League of Nations and a branch of the United Nations, organizations meant to promote both justice and peace in the world.

### 46.214973 N, 6.151603 E – Rue des Pâquis 52, 1201 Genève

*From the Palais Wilson to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, continue north along the Quai Wilson for approximately 500 meters as it becomes the Avenue de France.*

*Cross the Rue de Lausanne and continue northwest (straight) on the Avenue de France for approximately 700 meters. At this point, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees building should be to your south (left).*



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## Checkpoint #12 – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The headquarters of the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR) is located here in Geneva, in the vicinity of other UN affiliated and international group offices, such as the Palais des Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross. It is close to the Broken Chair sculpture. The building was constructed in the late 20th century.

The **UNHCR** is dedicated to helping millions of displaced persons across the globe. Not only is its headquarters one of the larger UN offices in Geneva, but it is the nerve center for the organization that is helping people across 135 countries who face starvation and lack a home. Though it employs more than 17,000 people, about 10% work at the headquarters; the rest are helping those out in the world.

### 46.221063 N, 6.140780 E – Rue de Montbrillant 94, 1202 Genève

*From the UNHCR to the Broken Chair sculpture, go northwest (left) along the Avenue de France for approximately 300 meters, until you reach the Place des Nations (square). Turn northeast (right), and go about 70 meters to reach the Broken Chair sculpture.*

## Checkpoint #13 – Broken Chair

The **Broken Chair** sculpture, in the Place des Nations, is a big wooden sculpture that depicts a giant chair with a broken leg, symbolizing the despair and dignity of armed violence victims. Its aim is to remind states of their obligation to protect and help victims. It also symbolizes opposition to landmines and cluster bombs, and acts as a reminder to politicians and others visiting Geneva of the harm these devices cause.

The **sculpture** was constructed in 1997 and is located close to UN affiliated and international group offices in the square where the Palais des Nations has its main entrance. It is constructed of 5.5 tons of wood and is 12 meters (39 feet) high.



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## Checkpoint #13 – Broken Chair (cont.)

The **sculpture** is an important symbol of peace and justice. It is a reminder of the harm of war and that people should care for each other.

### 46.222800 N, 6.138800 E – Place des Nations, 1202 Genève

*From the Broken Chair sculpture to the Palais des Nations, turn north-northeast. Straight ahead 30 meters is the main visitor entrance to the Palais des Nations and its column of flags.*

## Checkpoint #14 – Palais des Nations

The **Palais des Nations** is today a large conference and diplomatic center for the United Nations (UN). It serves as the main office complex for the UN in Geneva. The Palais is located in the vicinity of other UN affiliated and international group offices and is adjacent to the Broken Chair sculpture.

Construction of the **Palais** began in 1929 to be the headquarters for the UN's predecessor, the League of Nations, and was finished in 1938. In 1946, the UN took ownership of the **Palais**, and it became the center of diplomacy that it is today. The **Palais** is one of the main reasons Geneva is a major center for international diplomacy.

The UN's purposes are:

- "To maintain international peace and security,"
- "To take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace" and
- "To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."

The Palais des Nations is the second largest UN office in the world, with more than 4,100 full time employees. More than 10,000 meetings are held there each year.



# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #14 – Palais des Nations (cont.)

**46.222982 N, 6.138960 E – Place des Nations, 1202 Genève**

*From the Palais des Nations to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) headquarters, head northwest (right, facing away from the Palais) along the Avenue de la Paix, and continue along it as it begins to curve northwards for about 500 meters. Past the intersection with Avenue Appia, a path leading to the ICRC should be to your northwest (left). Follow the path and signs to the Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent for about 40 meters. The museum and ICRC entrance should be ahead of you.*

## Checkpoint #15 – International Committee of the Red Cross

The site is the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is an independent, neutral organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence.

The palatial looking building was built in the 1860s and was the site of the 1863 international conference where the International Red Cross movement was founded. It is the headquarters of the ICRC (today, there are offices behind the building where the work happens), and the museum was opened to the public in 1988.

The ICRC building in Geneva is a symbol of the international influence the city has had on the world and is the site of the original founding of an important international organization which helps and cares for victims of war. Picture of ICRC Headquarters

**46.227292 N, 6.136985 E – Avenue de la Paix 19, 1202 Genève**

*From the ICRC to the World Health Organization (WHO), go south, back along the path you came in on, leading away from the ICRC to the Avenue de la Paix. Turn south (right) along the Avenue de la Paix and then northwest (right) onto the Avenue Appia. Continue on the Avenue Appia as it curves north for 900 meters, until you reach a roundabout. Turn northeast (right) at the roundabout, and continue for 140 meters. The main entrance to the WHO should be to your southeast (right).*



# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #16 – World Health Organization

The **World Health Organization** (WHO) is headquartered in Geneva, close to other international organizations and the Ecumenical Center. The construction of the headquarters' main building was finished in 1966 and has been the **WHO's** headquarters since then, though it has gone through renovation and expansion.

The **WHO** is devoted to improving international health and wellbeing. It works to solve many health-related issues through a number of means including: vaccination, epidemiological work and raising awareness.

The work of the **WHO** has been highlighted due to its work on mitigating the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 46.232749 N, 6.134347 E – Avenue Appia 20, 1202 Genève

*From WHO to the Ecumenical Center, head southwest (left) away from the WHO main entrance. At the roundabout, turn southeast (left) onto the Avenue Appia for about 60 meters, and then turn southwest (right) onto the Route des Morillons.*

*Continue on the Route des Morillons for approximately 330 meters. Shortly after the road curves northwest (right), the Ecumenical Center should be to your southwest (left).*

## Checkpoint #17 – Ecumenical Center of Geneva

The **Ecumenical Center of Geneva** is the headquarters of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and hosts many Christian-related conferences throughout the year. The building also contains the offices of other international organizations.

The WCC was founded in 1939, and the **Ecumenical Center** was built and became the WCC's headquarters the same year. The **center** is located near other international organizations, such as the WHO and ICRC.



# GENEVA HISTORIC TRAIL

## Checkpoint #17 – Ecumenical Center of Geneva (cont.)

The Ecumenical Center in Geneva provides a place of learning and spiritual growth for church leaders around the world and provides them with the opportunity to share their visions.

A goal of the WCC is Christian unity, bringing together groups from more than 110 countries and territories, representing over 500 million Christians.

### 46.229603 N, 6.129204 E – Route des Morillons 1, 1218 Le Grand-Saconnex

*Congratulations, you have finished the trail! You can walk the trail back to your car or catch public transport to your next destination. We hope you have enjoyed your hike around Geneva!*



Coat of Arms of the City of Geneva





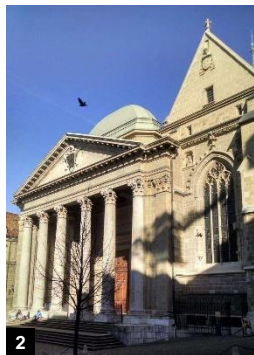
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND  
HISTORIC TRAIL



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GENEVA, SWITZERLAND  
HISTORIC TRAIL



GENEVA, SWITZERLAND  
HISTORIC TRAIL

# BSA REQUIREMENTS

**Completion of the Geneva Historic Trail may complete the following Requirements:**

## **Cub Scouts:**

### **Tiger:**

My Tiger Jungle  
Tigers in the Wild  
Tiger Tales

Req 1  
Req 1, 2, 4  
Req 7

### **Wolf:**

Paws on the Path  
Finding Your Way

Req 1-5  
Req 4

### **Bear:**

Fur, Feathers, and Ferns  
Paws for Action

Req 1  
Req 2B

### **Webelos:**

Webelos Walkabout

Req 1-6



## **Scouts BSA:**

### **Tenderfoot:**

Req 4d, 5a, 5b, 5c

### **Second Class:**

Req 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 6c

### **First Class:**

Req 4a, 4b



\*Note: Requirements for the Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Hiking, Orienteering, and American Heritage Merit Badges and the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award can be earned by completing this hike and learning about sites found on this hike.



[illegible]



## NOTES

[illegible]

[illegible]



This Historic Trail was put together by Troop 130 of Geneva, Switzerland in 2021 as part of an Eagle Scout Project.

*Additional Historic Trails in the Transatlantic Council area can be found at <http://tac-bsa.org> or by scanning the QR Code below.*



UPDATED 20 SEPTEMBER 2021