

## INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

Dear Participants,

We are pleased to welcome you to Geneva for the upcoming meeting at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Headquarters. Below is some practical information to help you plan your participation and ensure a smooth experience.

### Geneva, Switzerland



Geneva is a global city located at the heart of Europe, renowned for its picturesque setting on the shores of Lake Geneva, surrounded by the Alps and Jura mountains. Known as a hub for international diplomacy, it hosts numerous international organizations, making it a center for global governance and cooperation.

The city boasts a rich history, diverse culture, and offers a high quality of life. With a population of around 200,000, Geneva is a relatively small city, but it has a cosmopolitan atmosphere, with over 40% of residents being non-Swiss nationals.

This international flavor is reflected in its wide range of restaurants, cultural events, and institutions.

Geneva is also famous for its beautiful parks, museums, and proximity to outdoor activities, including hiking in the summer and skiing in the winter. The city is safe, walkable, and offers efficient public transportation, making it easy to explore during your stay. We recommend you visit Parc de la Perle du Lac, located 3 minutes' walk from WMO Headquarters, a scenic and tranquil park known for its stunning lake views and beautifully maintained green spaces.

## **Languages in Geneva**

Geneva is a multicultural city where multiple languages are spoken due to its international character and status as a hub for global organizations. The official language of Geneva is French, which is widely used in government, education, and daily life. However, English is also commonly spoken. Additionally, German and Italian, Switzerland's other official languages, are spoken by some residents, reflecting the country's linguistic diversity.

When traveling in French-speaking areas like Geneva, it's useful to know a few basic French words and phrases.

Common greetings include "Bonjour" (hello) and "Bonsoir" (good evening).

To say thank you, you can use "Merci," while "S'il vous plaît" means please.

For polite interactions, "Excusez-moi" (excuse me) is handy when navigating crowded spaces or asking for help.

If you need directions or help, "Où est...?" (Where is...?) followed by a location is useful.

These basics can go a long way in making your travels more comfortable!

## **Time Zone**

Geneva operates on Central European Time (CET), which is UTC +1. During daylight saving time (late March to late October), the city follows Central European Summer Time (CEST), which is UTC +2.

## **Weather in Geneva**

Geneva experiences a temperate climate with significant seasonal variation. Depending on the time of year, you may encounter the following conditions:

Spring (March - May): Temperatures range from 8°C to 15°C. Light rain is common, so packing an umbrella and light jacket is recommended.



Summer (June - August): Warm temperatures between 20°C and 30°C. Light, breathable clothing is advised.

Autumn (September - November): Cooler temperatures from 10°C to 18°C. You'll need a jacket, and expect occasional rain.

Winter (December - February): Cold temperatures from 0°C to 7°C. A heavy coat and warm clothing are essential, as snow is possible.

For the most accurate weather forecast during your stay, we recommend checking online weather services closer to your travel date.

## **Currency**

The official currency of Switzerland is the Swiss Franc (CHF). Major credit and debit cards are widely accepted. ATMs are readily available throughout the city and accept most international cards for cash withdrawals.

As of October 2024, here are the approximate exchange rates for the Swiss Franc (CHF) against major currencies:

**USD** 1 CHF = 1.1556 USD  
**EUR** 1 CHF = 1.068 EUR  
**GBP** 1 CHF = 0.769 GBP  
**CAD** 1 CHF = 1.378 CAD  
**AUD** 1 CHF = 1.495 AUD  
**JPY** 1 CHF = 149.9 JPY

You can also check the exchange rates on [this](#) website.

## **SIM card**

To get a Swiss SIM card, you need a valid ID (passport or identity card). You can buy one in regular shops, in electronics stores, at the main train station, at the airport, in operators' shops, small shops, at the post office. Credit to top your card can be bought at the same places, or online. The most widely used operators include Swisscom, Salt, and Sunrise.

## **Transportation in Geneva**

Geneva has an excellent public transport system, operated by Transports Publics Genevois (TPG), which includes buses, trams, and trains. Tickets are to be bought at the ticket machines located at every bus or tram stop in the city and inside the buses going outside of the city. As there are no ticket machines in the city buses, you are supposed to buy your ticket at the station before the vehicle comes.

## **How to get to the city center from the airport**



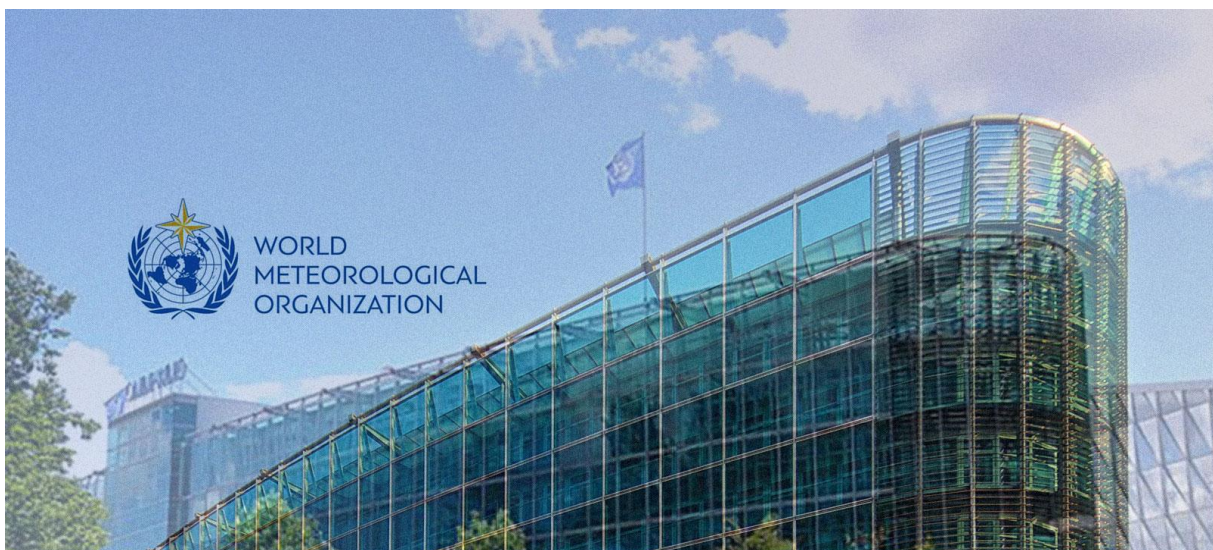
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**Train:** The easiest and fastest way to get to central Geneva from the airport is by train, which departs from the airport every 12-20 minutes. The journey to Geneva's Cornavin station takes around 7 minutes.

**Bus:** Several buses also connect the airport to various parts of the city. Bus 5 or 10 can take you to the city center from the airport in about 15-20 minutes.

**Taxis:** Taxis are available outside the arrivals area and take around 15-20 minutes to reach downtown Geneva, depending on traffic. The fare is usually between CHF 35-45.

## **WMO Headquarters**



**Address:** 7bis Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

**Access:** The WMO building is located near Place des Nations, and can be accessed by tram, bus, or train. You will be required to present a valid ID at the reception to receive a visitor's badge.

**Tram:** The nearest tram stop is "Nations" (Tram 15), which is a short walk from WMO. Trams run frequently throughout the day.

**Bus:** The nearest bus stop is "Genève-Sécheron", 3 minutes' walk from WMO.

**Train:** The train also connects the Geneva's Cornavin station with Genève-Sécheron station in 5 minutes. The train runs every 15 minutes.

## **Tax & Tipping**

Switzerland has a value-added tax (VAT) on goods and services, which is typically included in prices. Non-EU residents may be eligible for VAT refunds on



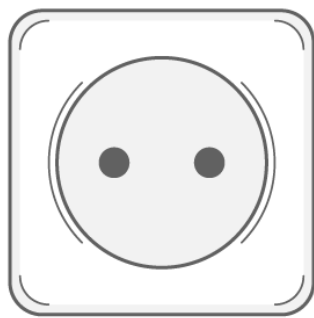
certain purchases, so keep your receipts. Tipping is not obligatory in Switzerland, as service charges are included in most bills, but rounding up or leaving small change for good service is appreciated.

## Emergency Calls

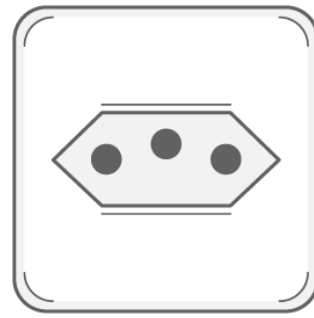
In case of an emergency, dial 112 for general emergencies, 117 for police, 118 for fire, and 144 for medical assistance.

## Electricity

Switzerland uses Type C and Type J power sockets. The standard voltage is 230V, with a frequency of 50Hz. Please ensure you have the correct plug adapters for your devices. You can also purchase a WMO adapter at the WMO souvenir shop.



Type C



Type J



## Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in enclosed public spaces, including restaurants, cafes, and public buildings. However, many establishments offer designated outdoor smoking areas.

## Hotels and Accommodation

There are many hotels within a short distance of WMO Headquarters. Below is a list of recommended hotels for your stay. Please note that these suggestions are provided for your convenience, and we do not have any partnerships or special arrangements with these establishments.

Hotel InterContinental Geneva  
(15 minutes' walk to WMO)

Address: 7-9 Chemin du Petit-Saconnex, 1209 Geneva



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Tel: +41 22 919 39 39

Website: [intercontinental.com](http://intercontinental.com)

Hotel Eden

(5 minutes' walk to WMO)

Address: 135 Rue de Lausanne, 1202 Geneva

Tel: +41 22 716 37 00

Website: [eden.ch](http://eden.ch)

Ibis Geneve Centre Nations

(15 minutes bus to WMO)

Address: Rue du Grand-Pré 33-35, 1201 Geneva

Tel: +41 22 919 20 30

Website: [ibis.com](http://ibis.com)

You can also explore other options through hotel booking platforms like Booking.com or Expedia, keeping in mind that hotels in the city center are well connected to WMO by public transport.

## Visa Information

If you require a visa to enter Switzerland, please ensure that you apply well in advance of your travel date. Participants attending meetings at the WMO in Geneva may need to obtain a Schengen visa, depending on their nationality.

We recommend using a visa eligibility checker to confirm your requirements. <https://schengeninsuranceinfo.com/schengen-visa/who-needs/>

For the most up-to-date visa regulations and application procedures, consult the official Swiss government visa page or contact the nearest Swiss consulate or embassy. Please also visit this link: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/entry-switzerland-residence/visa-requirements-application-form.html>

If needed, WMO can provide you with an official invitation letter to support your visa application. Please contact the WMO Conference Services team if you require assistance.

## COVID-19 Guidelines

Please ensure you are up-to-date with the current Swiss health and safety guidelines, including entry requirements related to COVID-19. We recommend checking the Swiss government's official website for the latest travel advisories.

## Cultural Activities

If you are interested in [cultural activities](#), the [Cultural Kiosks](#) are a unique ticket sales point located in the heart of international organizations in Geneva.

## WMO Building

### Wi-Fi: WMO-Guest Password: wifi4Guest25+

Meeting Rooms: Salle Obasi, Salle B, Press Room are located on the ground floor. Salle C1, Salle C2 are located on the floor -1. Jura and Lake side meeting rooms are located at the end of corresponding floor.

No Food or Drinks: Please refrain from bringing food or drinks into the meeting rooms. Water is provided inside each room.

Room Etiquette: Please arrive on time to avoid disrupting ongoing sessions. Please Set your mobile devices to silent mode.

Interpretation Services: When attending meetings with interpretation, please use the headset and control panel at your seat to select your preferred language.



## Listen to Interpretation

In-person

Switch languages

- 0 – Floor
- 1 – English
- 2 – Français
- 3 – РУССКИЙ
- 4 – ESPAÑOL
- 5 – العربية
- 6 – 中文



Badges: Please report to the information desk at the entrance to collect your badges. Please plan to arrive at least 30 minutes before the meeting start time to allow sufficient time for badge collection.

Cloakroom: A cloakroom (without locks) is available outside Salle B on the ground floor for storing your belongings. Please do not leave any valuables.

Prayer room: Prayer room is located on floor -1 near Salle C1.

The WMO souvenir shop is located on the ground floor, offering souvenirs of the WMO for sale.

