

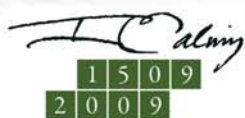
WALKING MAP

GENEVA: "IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE REFORMATION"

casbach



MUSÉE INTERNATIONAL
DE LA RÉFORME



GENEVA: "IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE REFORMATION"

INTRODUCTION

The history of Geneva through the Reformation

The 14 stages of this walking tour through the historic heart of Geneva connect places of symbolic importance for the Reformation, a period that deeply influenced both the architecture and the economic and spiritual life of the city of Calvin. Its impact on the urban space around us can still be perceived today.

In the early sixteenth century, on the eve of the Reformation, Geneva's economy was in a slump and the city was becoming depopulated. The emergence of fairs in Lyons hastened the decline of Geneva's formerly prosperous markets, and the once-opulent city had fallen into indigence.

The first traces of the Reformation, a movement begun in Germany by Martin Luther in 1517, appeared in Geneva around 1525. It took ten years for the Reformation, preached by the French reformer Guillaume Farel, to be adopted by the Genevans, between 1535 and 1536. But it was only with the arrival of John Calvin, in July 1536, that the movement truly took off; he turned Geneva into one of the main centres of religious thought in Europe, with a reputation that far outstripped the independent republic's modest size.

Soon thereafter, from the 1540s onward, Geneva became a city of refuge for followers of the Reformation persecuted in their homeland. These men and women found in Geneva a haven where they could freely live their faith, while benefiting from the insightful teachings of Calvin and his fellow pastors on the scriptures, the foundation of their faith.

The first 'Refuge' began in the mid-sixteenth century and peaked in 1572 after the Massacre of Saint Bartholomew's Day, when the royal government attempted to physically eliminate all the Protestants in France.

Hailing mostly from France, but also from Italy, England and even Spain, the refugees brought skills with them to Geneva: they provided the pastors that the city needed to grow spiritually, the professors, lawyers and doctors who fostered its intellectual and social expansion, printers, watchmakers, goldsmiths, textile specialists and merchant bankers who spurred its economic development. Moreover, the French, who made up three-quarters of the refugees, consolidated the position of French as the main language of the city.





A second 'Refuge' occurred during the seventeenth century, after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685). For the second time, Geneva welcomed refugees from France. They strengthened the industries for which Geneva became famous in the eighteenth century: watch-making, banking and cotton calico. They also reinforced the spiritual and artistic aura of the city.

Following the adoption of the Reformation, Geneva, the 'Protestant Rome', gained considerable intellectual and spiritual influence.

1 REFORMATION WALL

Built to commemorate the Reformation, this monument evokes the events and people that contributed to the expansion of the Calvinist Reformation during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, in Geneva and beyond.

The location of the Reformation Wall is highly symbolic: it stands against the old fortifications, below the Hôtel de Ville (City Hall) and facing the University of Geneva (formerly the Academy).

Begun in 1909, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Calvin's birth and the 350th anniversary of the foundation of the Academy by Calvin, the monument was completed in 1917.

The inscription "POST

TENEBRAS LUX" (After the darkness, light) is the motto adopted by Geneva after the Reformation, and also a trigram IHS in Greek letters, reproducing the name of Jesus in a contracted form (IHESUS). There are ten statues; the four large ones at the centre represent the main figures of the Reformation in Geneva: from left to right, Guillaume Farel, John Calvin, Théodore de Bèze and John Knox.

The six smaller statues and eight bas-reliefs evoke the principal actors and events that marked the spread of the Geneva Reformation throughout Europe and America.

On either side of the broad steps, rectangular blocks engraved with the names of Luther and Zwingli honour the two other great reformers who shaped the sixteenth-century Reformation, especially in Switzerland. It also shows the name of Marie Dentière, one of the first women of the time to be historian and theologian.



Note: when leaving Parc des Bastions in the direction of the old town, notice the beautiful classical-style façades of the houses on the so-called "high town". This architectural ensemble was built along rue des Granges during the early eighteenth century by refugee families who had settled in Geneva after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. In 1685, Louis XIV revoked the edict by which his grandfather, Henri IV, had granted freedom of worship to Protestants in France. Protestants risked the galleys, or even death, if they disobeyed the order. So, rather than disavow their religious beliefs, 200,000 French Protestants fled their country to find safety in the Protestant countries of Europe and America.

2 HÔTEL DE VILLE (CITY HALL)

The Hôtel de Ville has been the political heart of the city for over five centuries. During the late medieval period, the community of the citizens of Geneva bought several small buildings to house the government offices, or "Hôtel de Ville". Construction continued for close to three centuries, and the building went through many changes before reaching its present state. The last significant renovation dates from the eighteenth century.



In 1526, a new political institution was created: the Conseil des Deux-Cents (Council of Two Hundred), is the ancestor of the present Grand Conseil, or state parliament.

In 1535, the Conseil des Deux-Cents suspended the celebration of mass in the city, signifying Geneva's passage to the Reformation.

At the entrance, N°2, we notice over the gate the goât of arms of Geneva: the combination of the symbols of the Empire (the eagle's crowned head), to which Geneva was attached during the eleventh century and of the Bishop (Golden Key) whose citizens have taken

their liberties and franchise since 1387.

The first thing you will see on entering the courtyard is a masterpiece of sixteenth-century architecture, a grand paved ramp on a square plan that gave access to the three upper floors of the building to visitors on horseback or sedan chair.

3 SAINT-GERMAIN CHURCH

Saint-Germain is one of the five oldest churches in Geneva. A first sanctuary on this site has been dated to the fifth century. the church was rebuilt in the fifteenth century in its present form. After the Reformation it was put to several different uses: as an overflow place of worship during the great waves of refugee arrivals, artillery armoury, political meeting place, and even butcher's warehouse! During the French occupation of Geneva (1798-1813), the church was sold to the Roman Catholic community for the celebration of mass (1803). After 1873, it was transferred to the secessionist Christian Catholic Church, also known as Old Catholic.



TIPS FROM AESCHBACH SPORTS

Walk at your own speed!



To keep this walk enjoyable, walk at your own speed – don't impose a pace that you won't be able to sustain. At every stage, you will find suggestions on how to keep fit and healthy, so you can continue walking for a long time, and explore all the symbolic sites of the Reformation.

4 FRENCH RESIDENT'S HOUSE AND GRAND-RUE

The main thoroughfare of the old town, Grand-Rue displays a variety of architectural styles. Medieval houses rub elbows with seventeenth- and eighteenth-century dwellings. The older buildings were almost all extended with extra stories at the time when, facing an influx of Huguenot refugees (the nickname given to the French Protestants expelled from France), but unable to expand beyond the narrow confines of the city walls, Geneva was forced to grow taller.

The house at no. 11, Grand-Rue, is the former hôtel of the French Resident, built in 1743 on the site of a building which already served as a residence for the French diplomat. In 1679, Louis XIV decided to dispatch a permanent envoy – the French Resident – to represent his interests in, and keep an eye on, the Republic of Geneva, then an independent state. Availing himself of the usual diplomatic privileges, as soon as he arrived in Geneva, in November 1679, the resident had mass celebrated in his house. This upset the Genevans, who had abolished mass in 1535 on adopting the Reformation. They worried that the French king might try to impose Catholicism by force in the city; over time, however, their fears were shown to be unfounded.



TIPS FROM AESCHBACH SPORTS

Feet



Your feet are made up of 26 bones shaped like an arch. The muscles, ligaments and tendons of the foot hold up the bony arch.

If you neglect your feet, they may become stiff or weak, leading to back pain, leg cramps and fatigue.



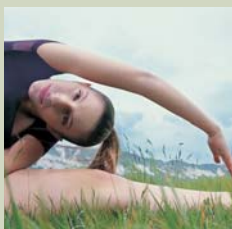
5 PLACE BÉMONT

The last existing dôme in Geneva can be seen at no. 15, rue de la Cité. A sort of wooden eaves supported by columns, the dôme provided cover to the pedestrian part of the street. These vaulted passageways probably originated in the Middle Ages at the time of the fairs. A characteristic feature of traditional Geneva architecture, they were destroyed during the Restoration-era public works, beginning in 1824.

The passageway at no. 13 leads to place Bémont. This piazza, and the street continuing from it, mark the end of the "high town" and the beginning of the industrial and commercial district of the "low town". The latter quarter coincides with the expansion of the city during the thirteenth century.

TIPS FROM AESCHBACH SPORTS

Exercise



Exercising is a great way to prevent illness, fight stress, boost your mood, enjoy nature, make friends, and improve your lifestyle by reducing your intake of alcohol or cigarettes.

And to think you can do all this in as little as 30 minutes per day!

6 LA FUSTERIE CHURCH

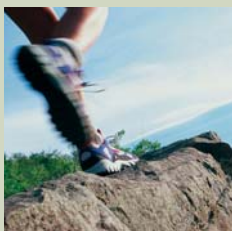
Built between 1713 and 1715, La Fusterie, formerly known as New Church, was the first new building erected in Geneva after the Reformation. Until then, Protestant worship was held in Saint-Pierre Cathedral, Saint-Gervais and La Madeleine, all of which were medieval Catholic churches whose interiors had been transformed for the needs of the Protestant service, mainly by removing statues of saints and religious paintings. The population grew so much with the arrival of refugees after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, in 1685, that the churches could no longer accommodate all the city's inhabitants. Population growth thus motivated the building of a fourth church, on a circular plan inspired by the French Protestant church in Charenton, near Paris, which was demolished in 1686 on orders from Louis XIV.

A number of baroque-style elements give the building its original aspect, which is unique in our city.



TIPS FROM AESCHBACH SPORTS

Shoes



Choosing the right shoes is very important. You should consider the level and frequency of exercise as well as the shape of your foot. A well-fitting shoe exerts a uniform pressure throughout, and should neither rub, nor grip your heel too tightly.

When buying shoes, make sure you get advice from a specialist.

7 RUES-BASSES

In the past, the low town was already a vibrant commercial hub, thanks to the nearby ports, halls and open markets. The first fairs were held here in the mid-thirteenth century, and their importance clearly contributed to the urbanization of this district.

At the time of the Reformation, the rues du Marché, de la Croix-d'Or and de Rive, named the Rues-Basses, or Low Streets, were divided in three sections, as was usual during the Middle Ages. In the middle was a cart road. On either side of it were hauts-bancs, wooden kiosks where merchants could set out their wares protected from the elements. Finally, between the hauts-bancs and the houses were pedestrian walkways covered by wooden dômes.



Place du Molard was, for many centuries, the economic and political heart of Geneva. In the early sixteenth century, the square became the theatre of confrontations between the various factions in the city: first, between supporters of Savoy and supporters of an alliance with the Swiss cantons, and later, between followers of the old Catholic faith of the pope and followers of Luther's new Protestant faith. It was on Place du Molard that the Reformation was first preached in public, by Antoine Froment, on 1 January 1533.

TIPS FROM AESCHBACH SPORTS

Walking



One of the easiest sports to do, walking is good for you because it stimulates your heart and lungs. It's a healthy antidote to our overly sedentary lifestyles.

For children, walking insures a good development of the bones, joints and lungs.

8 LA MADELEINE CHURCH

Several sanctuaries antedate the former Church of Sainte-Marie-Madeleine on this site. Built in 1110, it was still surrounded by a cemetery at the time of the Reformation. The church was established following the expansion of the city in the direction of the lake. The development of the fairs, ports and the Rues-Basses turned the parish of La Madeleine into the richest in the city.

After suffering two fires in close succession, the church was completely restored in 1146. During the Reformation, it underwent several transformations to convert it for use as a Protestant church. The bell-tower was knocked down and all ornamentation removed. The interior followed a plan typical of Protestant churches, with pews surrounding a pulpit, and a gallery was added around the apse.

Geneva's oldest bell, "le Grillet", cast in 1420, hangs in the bell-tower.

Note: When looking towards the Old City, especially around the places du Bourg-de-Four and de la Taconnerie, you can see houses on which an extra floor was added. During the Reformation, Geneva, tight between its walls has to heighten the buildings in order to accomodate the population from the shelter.



TIPS FROM AESCHBACH SPORTS

Aerobic exercise



Walking, jogging, swimming and bicycling are highly recommended forms of aerobic exercise. Doing them at your own pace will strengthen your body without overworking it.

And spending time outside in the fresh air is as good for your mind as it is for your body!

9 COLLÈGE CALVIN



The Reformation transformed Geneva into an educated and learned city, for education was a principal concern of the Reformed Church. As a result, the literacy rate of Protestants in Geneva was far higher than that of their Catholic neighbours.

When they adopted the Reformation on 21 May 1536, the people of Geneva also decided to establish a school where

citizens would be held to send their children. The project only saw the light of day in 1559, when the Collège, or grammar school, and the Academy (the ancestor of the current University of Geneva) were founded. This called for a new building; named Collège Calvin, it is still in use today.

The two original structures, built between 1558 and 1562, on John Calvin's request, betray the influence of early sixteenth-century French architecture.

Boys attended the Collège from the age of seven. The curriculum was mainly literary: students learned Latin, then Greek, and studied grammar, logic, rhetoric and the classics, not to mention Calvin's catechism. The school day was long: ten hours a day, six days a week, beginning at 6 a.m. in summer and 7 a.m. in winter.

The Academy became the seedbed of European Calvinism. Many were the students from abroad who came to Geneva to study under Calvin, and later his successors, then returned to their homeland as pastors to spread the Reformed doctrines they had learned in Geneva. The first rector of the Academy was Théodore de Bèze.

Geneva's first library was also established in these same buildings, where it remained until its removal, in 1872, to the new university buildings in Parc des Bastions.

TIPS FROM AESCHBACH SPORTS

Eating well



A varied and balanced diet can prevent cancers and cardio-vascular disease. Experts recommend eating raw or cooked fruits and vegetables at least 5 times a day, substituting fish for meat (it contains less fat), and reducing your intake of sugars and fats.

10 LUTHERAN CHURCH

This house, built between 1762 and 1766, was donated to the German-speaking Lutheran community of Geneva. While they share a common Protestant faith, Calvinists and Lutherans diverge slightly in both practice and doctrine. In order for the Lutherans to worship in their usual way, in 1760, the Republic of Geneva allowed them to establish a place of worship, on the condition that it should not be identifiable as such. This is why the building was designed to look like a classic three-storey house rather than a church. Inside, the church occupies the entire ground and first floors.



Today, the Lutheran Church caters to a broad community of faithful, through services in English, German, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian and Finnish.

11 MAISON TURRETTINI

The Maison Turretini at no. 8 rue de l'Hôtel de Ville was built in the seventeenth century for Francesco Turretini, a silk merchant and banker of the first wave of Italian refugees. When he had this house built, he was one of the richest men in the city.



The building also housed his highly successful business, "la Grande Boutique". Several of Francesco Turretini's descendants played an important role in the religious, political and economic history of Geneva.

The Maison Turretini was the first great bourgeois house to be built in a Renaissance style. It faces the inside of the city, unlike its eighteenth-century counterparts, which look out over the city walls, as we saw when leaving Parc des Bastions.

TIPS FROM AESCHBACH SPORTS

Stairs



Why not walk up the stairs instead of taking the lift? Look at stairs as an opportunity for some modest exercise that strengthens your feet while stimulating your blood circulation, heart, and muscle tone.

12 AUDITOIRE CALVIN

The Auditoire Church, formerly Notre-Dame-la-Neuve, stands on the site of an earlier tenth-century chapel. Built right next to Saint-Pierre Cathedral during the fifteenth century, it features a sober, Gothic-style façade.

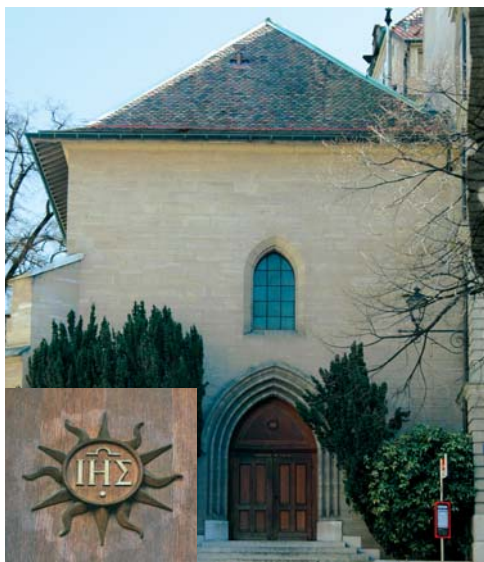
In the mid-sixteenth century, foreign Protestants – English, Scottish, Dutch and Italian – gathered here to worship in their own language. The reformer John Knox preached here when he was a refugee in Geneva. It was here too that, with a group of English Protestants, he decided to translate the Bible into English. Their translation, made in 1556-1559, became famous as the "Geneva Bible".

The name "Auditoire" (Auditorium) recalls the fact that the church served as a lecture hall for students following the teachings of John Calvin, Théodore de Bèze and their successors. It was in this auditorium that the spiritual and moral insights that made Geneva's reputation in the sixteenth century and thereafter were first exposed.

From the 1540s onwards, the Compagnie des Pasteurs (Company of Pastors), presided by Calvin, also met here to govern the Church of Geneva.

The Auditoire is still in use as a church: the Scottish, Dutch, and Italian Protestant communities hold services here.

Detail of the upper part of the door of the Auditorium with the trigram (IHS) in Greek letters, reproducing the name of Jesus in a contracted form.



TIPS FROM AESCHBACH SPORTS

Relaxation



In our stressful modern lifestyles, taking time out to relax is essential.

There are techniques and exercises that can help you re-centre your energies, find yourself, achieve greater self-awareness and heighten your physical, mental and spiritual well-being.



13 SAINT-PIERRE CATHEDRAL

The site on which the cathedral stands was first occupied by an edifice of the Lower Empire, followed by a series of religious buildings that appeared with the establishment of a cathedral complex in the fourth century.

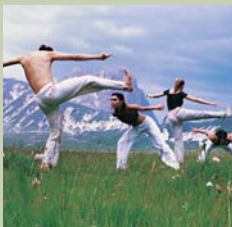
The Gothic cathedral was built between 1150 and 1250. It underwent countless restorations and reconstructions, often following fires. In the 1750s, for example, the crumbling medieval façade was replaced with the present neo-classical portico. In the mid-sixteenth century, at the time of the Reformation, all the interior decoration and ornamentation was removed, and the painted decor was covered over. Only the stained-glass windows were spared.

It was here that John Calvin preached twice a Sunday and every working day every fortnight, before several hundred faithful.

Nestled against the cathedral's south wall, the Chapelle des Macchabées was built beginning in 1400. During the Reformation it was used to store salt, and in 1670, it was turned into classrooms for the Academy on three levels.

TIPS FROM AESCHBACH SPORTS

Avoiding sore muscles



You've finished the walk, or almost...

When you arrive at the cathedral, you can visit the International Museum of the Reformation, and/or climb the 153 steps of the south tower to the watchman's lookout (inside the cathedral, go to the end and turn left). However, do take a minute to stretch and rest, in order to relax your muscles and avoid soreness.

14 MAISON MALLET AND

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE REFORMATION

The Maison Mallet stands next to Saint-Pierre Cathedral. This magnificent eighteenth-century mansion was built on the site of the former cathedral cloisters, where the Reformation was voted by the people on 21 May 1536.

The original owner, Gédéon Mallet, a draper turned banker in Geneva and Paris, intended it as a home for his family.

The architect had to take into account several factors: the Mallets' large family (they had nine children), the city government's desire to improve the appearance of Cour Saint-Pierre, and local architectural constraints.

When the mansion was finished, in 1723, on plans drawn in the classical style by the Parisian architect Jean-François Blondel, its magnificence upset partisans of the strict enforcement of sumptuary laws.*

**laws that aimed to limit and control spending and luxury.*



Winner of the 2007
Council of Europe
MUSEUM PRIZE

John Calvin, 53 years old



Serving as the headquarters of the Protestant Church of Geneva, this historical building now also houses the International Museum of the Reformation.

VISIT THE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE REFORMATION AND DISCOVER THE REFORMATION FROM 1536 TO THE PRESENT DAY

The Museum is located on the Cour Saint-Pierre in the prestigious Maison Mallet. This historic dwelling was built in the 18th century on the site of the Cathedral cloisters, where the Reformation was proclaimed in 1536.



**MUSÉE INTERNATIONAL
DE LA RÉFORME**

4, rue du Cloître - 1204 Geneva – www.musee-reforme.ch

Opening hours Tuesday to Sunday 10 am to 5 pm

R

We hope that this walking tour through Geneva "In the footsteps of the Reformation" has allowed you to discover a more historical facet of the city and kindled your interest in this important period.

To learn more about this religious movement and how it has shaped the world, we suggest you continue your visit with the International Museum of the Reformation.

The Museum is part of a new tourist offering, "Espace Saint-Pierre", which also includes Saint-Pierre Cathedral, its towers and the archaeological site, which is connected to the Museum by an underground passage.



This walking map has been created with the support of
AESCHBACH SHOES

Historical and iconographic
researchs, redaction, translation: Nicole Boissonnas
Olivier Fatio
Viviane Lowe

Photographic credits: Lightmotif-C. Blatt
Nicolas Lehr

Conception and realisation: CSM-agence conseil
Nicolas Lehr

Aeschbach
Chaussures Sport