



RELAX

Bains-Bleu Hammam

This large, multi-pool spa is an aquatic playground located near the shore of Lake Geneva. A visit starts with the indoor thermal baths with heated pools and massage jets to ease tension. Next is the steam rooms and finally the outdoor rooftop pool, with the option to either float under the open sky with the city skyline in view or sit and watch the boats ploughing the lake with a cocktail in hand. In winter, steam rises from the pool into the crisp air, while summer brings a different atmosphere, with a beach-club vibe as sunlight bouncing off the water. This is a great place to mix with Geneva's multi-national local population as it's a popular place to go and unwind at the weekend.

bain-bleu.ch



MAKE

Chocolate workshops

Thirty master chocolatiers call Geneva their home, including La Bonbonnière, Geneva's century-old chocolate factory. Chocolate-making workshops offer a hands-on experience to craft chocolates to take home. To get a taste of the whole variety of the city's chocolate, the Choco Pass allows visitors to sample at each of the participating stores, including La Bonbonnière. Activating after the workshop will mean 24 hours to visit the other stores. It's a treasure hunt through the city where the rewards are rich artisan delicacies. Pavé de Genève is a highlight – soft ganache cut into squares and dusted with cocoa powder, resembling paving stones.

labonbonniere.ch; geneve.com

MINI GENEVA GUIDE

ANTONIA WINDSOR

The gateway to the Alps

With its international airport, well-connected train station and comprehensive road network, Geneva serves as a natural starting point for travellers seeking alpine adventures. But if you can bear to delay your race to the lift, there's fun to be had here, too. From exploring the chi-chi high-end shopping streets, tasting the creations of the city's chocolatiers and soaking in a multi-pool spa there is plenty to detain you on your way to the slopes.



DINE

Monsieur Ardor

Monsieur Ardor, on Lake Geneva's south promenade, is a contemporary brasserie filled with Art Deco-style interiors and an impressive display of James Bond memorabilia. Recommended in Sébastien Ripari's Geneva Food Guide (available to download from Geneve.com) the bijou restaurant serves, as Ripari puts it, "cuisine that deserves to be awarded a Michelin star in the near future". The *tarte fine aux champignons* (pictured above) contrasts crisp pastry with a soft egg yolk that breaks into the earthy flavours of ceps and Gruyère. The restaurant has fine Geneva wines (very little is exported) – a bottle from the 13th-century winery Château Du Crest is a good place to start.

monsieurador.ch



SHOP

Rue du Rhone

In the 16th century, protestant reformer John Calvin banned ostentatious jewellery in the city, prompting local goldsmiths and artisans to turn their skills toward watchmaking. Now, Geneva is the global capital of horology. At the Patek Philippe Museum (pictured above) you can view precious items spanning 500 years of horological history, while the Patek Philippe shop sits among a dazzling 80 watch and jewellery stores along the Rue de Rhone in a salon that it has occupied since 1853. Keeping it company are brands such as Cartier, Rolex, Audemars Piguet and Piaget, along with high-end fashion stores including Prada, Gucci, Versace and Saint Laurent. Just don't forget your credit cards.