

# INVITATION TO HOLD THE DEBIAN CONFERENCE



**In Geneva – Switzerland  
In summer 2013**

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# 1. INVITATION

It is with great pleasure that we propose the candidature of Geneva, Switzerland, for the Debian Conference in the year 2013.



## Welcome to Geneva

Geneva, 16 August 2011

To the President of the Debian  
Conference

**Debian Conference in Geneva – Switzerland in 2013**

Dear Madam, Sir,

On behalf of the Geneva Convention Bureau, we would like to thank you for considering Geneva as a destination for Debian Conference in the year 2013.

After examining the requirements specific for the congress, we can positively state that Geneva has the capacity to provide all facilities required.

Traditional meeting place for 2000 years, an international metropolis, Geneva offers its visitors different faces from its humanitarian commitment and cultural activities to numerous conferences and renowned gastronomy. Its international airport and its privileged location on the major occidental routes make it one of the leading European centres of business and leisure tourism.

We offer a first-class hotel infrastructure at all levels and an efficient public transportation network, which is free of charge for all guests staying at hotels in Geneva.

We would be very honoured to host your congress and we hope that Geneva will be selected. Should we have this opportunity, we will do our utmost to make your congress an unforgettable event.

Sincerely yours,

Geneva Tourism &  
Conventions



Anja Loetscher  
Director Convention Bureau

Geneva Tourism &  
Conventions



Enrico Zuffi  
Association Conferences  
Marketing Manager

## 2. THE CITY

### *THE SMALLEST OF THE BIG CAPITALS*

Geneva is situated in one of Europe's most beautiful scenery, between lake and mountains.



In the very heart of Europe, Geneva has a long tradition as a venue for major meetings and is a host city to many international organizations such as the United Nations Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labor Office, the International Red Cross and the European Organization for Nuclear Research, among others. It has been a cultural center for many centuries and home to many creative spirits in the fields of science and art. It has all the advantages of a small city combined with the facilities and services usually only found in much larger cities.

Switzerland has three official languages: French, German and Italian. French is the official language spoken in Geneva, but most citizens speak fluent English. English is also the official language of most multinational and of international organizations based in Geneva.

Geneva is Europe most international city. Some 44% of its inhabitants are not Swiss nationality. The city remains open to people of different origins and cultures.

The currency in Switzerland is the Swiss Franc, but the Euro is also accepted at most businesses.



### 3. ACCESS

#### GENEVA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Geneva has an international airport offering direct regular flights to more than 100 international destinations.

The terminal has all the facilities a traveller could wish for. It is designed for speedy and simple check-in and has essential services such as change, information and restaurants at strategic points.



The company Swiss and its partners would be happy to support this conference as the official carrier. Swiss is also a member of the Star Alliance Group.



EasyJet operates low cost flights between Geneva and Ajaccio, Alicante, Amsterdam, Asturias, Barcelona, Bastia, Belfast, Berlin Schoenefeld, Bilbao, Birmingham, Bordeaux, Bournemouth, Brindisi, Bristol, Brussels, Budapest, Cagliari, Copenhagen, Dubrovnik, Edinburgh, Faro, Glasgow, Hurghada, Heraklion, Ibiza, Leeds, Lisbon, Liverpool, London (Gatwick, Luton, Stansted), Madrid, Malaga, Manchester, Marrakech, Mykonos, Nantes, Naples, Newcastle, Nice, Olbia, Palma, Paris-Orly, Porto, Pristina, Rome Fiumicino, Santiago de Compostela, Sharm el Sheikh, Split, Stockholm, Tel Aviv and Toulouse.

#### DESTINATIONS OPERATED BY EASYJET



## FLIGHTS FROM GENEVA – SUMMER 2011



## FLIGHTS NETWORK – SUMMER 2011

### Scheduled destinations 108

Europe 81  
Intercontinental 27

Scheduled Airlines 50

### Highest Weekly Frequencies

172 x London (LHR, LGW, LCY, LTN)  
84 x Paris (CDG, ORY)  
63 x Zurich  
55 x Frankfurt  
61 x Brussels  
57 x Amsterdam  
41 x Munich  
28 x Rome (FCO)

## **CROSSROADS OF EUROPE: BY HIGHWAY OR RAIL**

Geneva's favoured geographical proposition makes it a natural focal point for the international traveller. Road and rail facilities radiate from Geneva to provide rapid access to the rest of Switzerland and Europe.



Geneva is only 3 hours away from the heart of Paris by TGV (high speed Train).

## **COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE BY RAIL**

The Swiss National Railroad system offers hourly links to Lausanne, Bern, Basel, Zurich and the regions of Vaud and Valais.

There are also Inter-city trains to France, Spain, Italy and Germany.

## **HIGHWAY HUB FOR CENTRAL AND WESTERN EUROPE**

In recent years, highway construction within Switzerland and in neighbouring countries has turned Geneva into a highway intersection of Europe.

A branch of this same highway offers rapid link from Geneva to the South of France and from Geneva to the West of France. To the North and east, the Swiss highway system provides fast direct connections to Germany and Eastern Europe.

## **FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN GENEVA !**

As of January 1st 2007, every visitor receives a **free Geneva Transport Card** upon check-in to their hotel establishment with validity for the entire duration of their stay.

Unlimited use of the entire public-transportation network in Geneva, covering trams and buses, CFF Swiss Federal rail's local trains, as well as yellow taxi boats operated by the Société des Mouettes Genevoises.



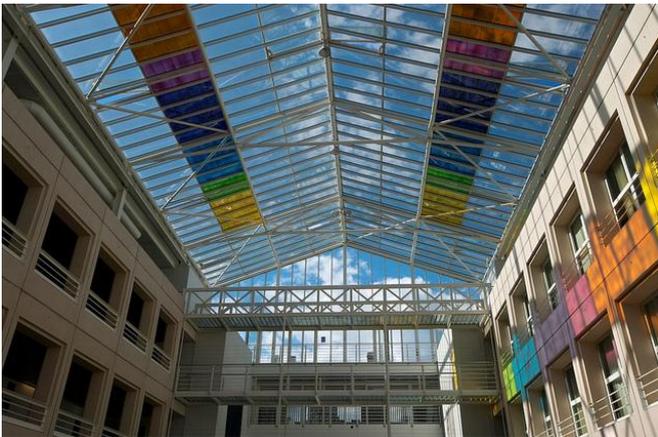
From 2008: 80 minutes free public transport card for all passengers arriving in Geneva by plane.

## 4. SUGGESTED CONFERENCE SITES

### *UNIMAIL UNIVERSITY*

Possible dates: **Summer 2013. Dates to be confirmed later.**

The proposed conference site for your congress is the newly constructed part of the Geneva University called UNI-MAIL.



The Uni-Mail can be reserved and used almost for **free**, under the condition that the final reservation will be made by a Professor from the University.

Uni-mail offers several auditoriums and numerous conference rooms, all of them with the most up-to-date equipment.

**THE DIFFERENT ROOMS OF THE GROUND FLOOR LEVEL:**

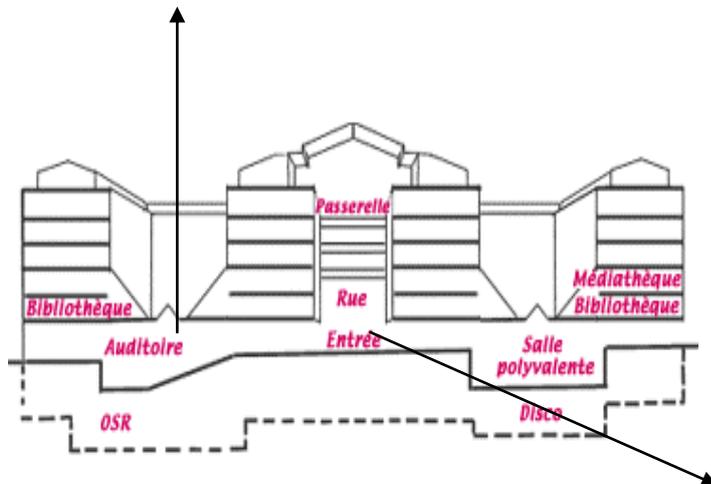
Auditoriums: R 380 550 seats  
 R 080 400 seats  
 R 290 200 seats  
 R 280 200 seats

Thanks to a high-performance Audio Visual system, several auditoriums can be used together for the same conference

- 11 seminar rooms : from 40 to 120 seats
- Exhibition area : more than 3000 sqm available
- Catering area : 2 cafeterias at your disposal (600 seats in total)
- Internet cafe corner: with more than 30 terminals



**Auditorium**





# 5. ACCOMMODATION

Geneva and its vicinity have a capacity of 12'625 hotel rooms in international and local hotel chains.

**ROOMS**

4-star hotels	2'568
3-star hotels	1'759
1-2-star hotels	782
Other categories	1'409

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Total hotel accommodation	6'518
French vicinity (20 minutes)	3'400

**TOTAL ROOMS 9'918**

500 beds are available in low cost, student accommodation from CHF 40.-

The Geneva Convention Bureau can pre-book the room allotment for your congress free of charge.



## 6. FOOD & RESTAURANTS

As a very cosmopolitan city, Geneva has more than 1'100 restaurants offering an extremely vast and varied range of cuisine and for every budget.

The variety of food offered in Geneva's restaurants is widely renowned.



Many visitors are very pleasantly surprised by the quality and the creativity of the meals served in even the simplest establishments, which are very popular with local residents.

Let yourself be tempted by the aroma and flavour of some of our typically Swiss or local Genevan specialities, accompanied of course by Geneva wines.

Genevan cooking has evolved from French cuisine by developing its own local specialities and incorporating the recent "nouvelle cuisine" trends.

This has created what is now referred to as "Swiss Cuisine".



## 7. SOCIAL EVENTS & EXCURSIONS

### *GALA EVENING AND RECEPTION*

Geneva offers a large choice of prestigious venues for gala events:



### *GRAND THÉÂTRE*

The Geneva Opera House, with its imposing 19<sup>th</sup> century façade, faces one of Geneva's main squares and parks. It can host in its elegant surroundings a gala dinner for 270 persons and a reception for up to 450 persons.

### *RESTAURANT OF THE PARC DES EAUX-VIVES*

The “Parc des Eaux-Vives” is an historical site that constitutes one of the highlights of the Geneva region. The “Maison de Maître Plonjon”, dating from the 18th century, was transformed into a luxury restaurant around 1900 and has, since the Sixties, had an international reputation. This restaurant offers the plush atmosphere of an Art Déco style lounge and the Brasserie du Parc serves a light and varied diet of Mediterranean dishes. In Summer, the terrace offers an exceptional view overlooking the Lake Geneva.



## ***ARIANA MUSEUM***

Completed in 1884, the Ariana Museum, with its palatial Italian architecture, is situated in the very heart of the neighbourhood of the international institutions next to the United Nations. The museum was built to present collections of ceramics and glass. Surrounded by a park, it is an elegant venue to host either a gala dinner or a cocktail for up to 200 persons.



## ***CGN STEAMERS***

Cocktail parties or an entire evening with dinner and music can be organized on steamers for an evening cruise on the Lake of Geneva.

## ***DOMAINE DE CHOULLY***

The Domaine de Chouilly is a beautifully restored mansion nestled in the heart of Geneva's vineyards. This venue offers a wide range of possibilities to organize conferences, brunches, cocktails, weddings, Gala dinners and so on. This 17th century country house, situated in a magnificent 15'000 m2 park, in the heart of the vineyards, is a listed building as part of the Geneva heritage.



## EXCURSIONS

Since the Lake of Geneva Region covers a wide area, a great variety of excursions can be envisaged either in the city of Geneva itself or in one of the many other towns along the lake coast or in the nearby mountains.

Geneva offers an incontestably rich choice of visits, for instance the visits of various international organizations (e.g. UNO, ILO, ITU, WIPO, WHO, WTO,...) or to numerous local museums (Museum of Art and History, Watch Museum, Contemporary Art Museum, Bodmer Foundation, etc.)



With a guided tour of the city you may discover the old town and the cathedral, the University, the Promenade des Bastions and its world famous Reformation Wall, the lake front and the unique Water Fountain.

Within 10 minutes drive from the city centre you can discover the beautiful countryside of Geneva with its vineyards and typical villages.



The fabulous world of everlasting snow is at Geneva's doorstep. In one hour you can go to Chamonix, beautiful place at the foot of the famous Mont-Blanc and of other Alpine peaks. Chamonix can also easily be reached by bus or train.

## 8. SUPPORT OFFERED BY THE GENEVA CONVENTION BUREAU



### ***WELCOME DESK AT GENEVA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (FREE OF CHARGE)***

Upon availability, a welcome and information desk is available free of charge at Geneva International Airport's arrival hall. Your staff must be present on the desk.

### ***WELCOME MESSAGE ON PLASMA SCREEN AT GENEVA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT***

Upon availability, two plasma screens are available to welcome your delegates in the baggage reclaim area at the airport; video clip or text needs to be provided by the organiser.

### ***FLAGS ON THE MONT-BLANC BRIDGE OR OPPOSITE THE MAIN TRAIN STATION FOR THE DURATION OF YOUR CONGRESS***

You may hoist your congress' flags on the famous Mont-Blanc Bridge to promote and announce your convention in the city, upon availability. You bear the cost of the flags (specific size).



## GENEVA PASS

With the GENEVA PASS, you take advantage of Geneva's large tourist offer – more than 40 free offers, preferential rates and gifts! The principle is very simple. The moment you hold your GENEVA PASS, valid for 1, 2 or 3 days, you can set forth to discover Geneva. It is your "open Sesame" to museums, cruises, visits, tours and many other surprises... This is the perfect offer for accompanying person and the participants extending their stay in Geneva.



## CHOCOLATE BOOTH DURING YOUR CONGRESS

Your delegates have no time for shopping but would like to bring some Swiss chocolate home? Why not arrange for a "chocolate booth" at your convention center?

We can recommend two local suppliers: Philippe Pascoët and Favarger.

- *Philippe Pascoët is a master chocolate maker. His work was awarded Grand Prix of the home-made chocolate of Geneva in 2008. He owns a shop in Carouge (Geneva area) and one in Paris.*



- *The Favarger manufacture is one of the oldest chocolate factories to roast the cocoa beans and to handle the entire chocolate manufacturing process in Switzerland. The manufacture was built in Geneva in 1826.*

## WELCOME RECEPTION

The Geneva Convention Bureau can help you to receive some support from the State of Geneva for your Welcome Reception.

# 9. PROFESSIONAL CONGRESS ORGANISER

Several well experienced PCO's are handling congresses in Geneva.

Our bureau could send a request for proposal and collect offers from the PCO's. You may select the most appropriate agency, at your desire.



SEE YOU SOON  
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IN GENEVA  
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