



AN UNDERGROUND JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

Discover fascinating vestiges from the time of the Allobrogians to the Middle Ages. Listen and watch as history unfolds before your eyes...

**SITE ARCHEO-
LOGIQUE
CATHEDRALE
SAINT-PIERRE
GENEVE**

A unique site in the heart of Geneva

The Archaeological Site of Saint-Pierre Cathedral is situated at the top of the hill, in the centre of Geneva's old town. This beautiful area with its unique location invites both exploration and reflection.

An exceptional heritage

The archaeological site is internationally famous as one of the largest of its kind in Europe. The many vestiges excavated here provide an opportunity to discover the birth of Geneva and understand how Christianity became established in this region. The many exceptionally fine remains are like a vast research library, which has now been opened to the general public.

In 1976, the Cantonal Archaeological Service began excavating the site. This was the start of an ambitious plan to research the area under and around the current Cathedral. Archaeologists discovered the remains of several preceding churches, the oldest of which dates from the 4th century, offering striking evidence of early-Christian Geneva's role in the development of Christianity.

The space under Saint-Pierre Cathedral also contains traces of pre-Christian activity in this part of the city on the hill: wells, a wheat processing area, a place of worship, an Allobrogian tomb. Vestiges of ancient Geneva are still easily discernible even though the site has been continuously occupied for well over 2000 years.

An exciting journey

The itinerary that winds through the site represents a veritable scientific and technical feat, plunging visitors into the daily life of the Allobrogians, Romans and medieval Christians. Spaces within the site have been specially fitted out to welcome visitors and help them understand the remains through state-of-the-art displays. A new exhibition, inaugurated in November 2006, enhances visitors' appreciation of excavations that are widely acknowledged as some of the most significant of their kind north of the Alps.

The exhibition offers a variety of displays, from 3-D animations and audiovisual shows to computer terminals that provide detailed information on the practice and methods of archaeological research, as well as models and drawings showing the main stages of Geneva's development over several centuries.

At the ticket counter, each visitor receives an audio tour device that provides explanations of the site's principal attractions in six languages: French, English, German, Spanish, Italian and Japanese. Main points of interest on this tour include the baptisteries, the tomb of an Allobrogian chieftain, the beautiful mosaics of the bishop's reception, the wells, and some fine decorative elements carved in stucco or stone, such as birds, angels and grapes.

We hope that you will find your visit both interesting and enriching.



Archaeological site of Saint-Pierre Cathedral

Opening hours:
Every day, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm

Admissions archaeological site
Adults: CHF 8.00
Children (7-16), pensioners, disabled, unemployed,
students and apprentices (16-25): CHF 4.00
Groups of 15 or more: CHF 4.00

Audio tour available in French, English, German, Spanish,
Italian and Japanese

Informations:
Telephone: + 41 (0) 22 311 75 74
Fax: + 41 (0) 22 310 02 25

Guided tours on prior reservation;
please call +41 (0)22 310 29 29

The archaeological site of Saint-Pierre Cathedral is connected
by an underground passageway to the International
Museum of the Reformation; the two museums and the
Cathedral and its towers constitute the "Espace Saint-
Pierre", Geneva's latest cultural offering.

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la cathédrale Saint-Pierre
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●))) Audio tour:

- 1 / Model of the archaeological site
- 2 / Audiovisual show
- 3 / The north cathedral
- 4 / Opus africanum and monks' cells
- 5 / Geneva in the 6th century
- 6 / Wheat processing
- 7 / The liturgical furnishings in the choir
- 8 / The 11th-century cathedral and the baptisteries
- 9 / The east cathedral
- 10 / Audiovisual show
- 11 / The tomb of an Allobrogian chieftain
- 12 / The Romanesque crypt
- 13 / Audiovisual show
- 14 / An official building from the 1st century
- 15 / Audiovisual show
- 16 / The bishop's reception and mosaics
- 17 / The episcopal group
- 18 / Epilogue

