

# Les conservatoire et jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève

The following is copied from the web site of the botanic garden in Geneva: [http://www.ville-ge.ch/cjb/index\\_en.php](http://www.ville-ge.ch/cjb/index_en.php). The University of Geneva is not directly involved in the origin or the daily functioning of the garden, but occasionally partners in research projects – and keen users of the garden.

## History of the Garden

The naturalist spirit that reigned in Geneva during the 1800's allowed A.-P. de Candolle to found the first large Botanical Garden in Geneva with the support of the Geneva population.

Situated in the current Park of Bastions, the Garden had to move at the beginning of 20th century to bigger premises. It gave up its place to the University buildings and to the "Wall of the Reformers".

The installation, within the Parc de l'Ariana which extended at that time to the edge of the lake, of the area named La Console, took place in 1904. The Conservatory occupies a building there that was specifically built to house the herbaria and the garden occupies a surface of 7.5 ha. The first alteration work was confided to Jules Allemand. The Greenhouses and Orangery that have stayed in the Bastions Park, were finally reconstructed in 1908 and 1911 in La Console.

The acquisition of the farm of Duval in 1954, and the Terre de Pregny in 1978 increased the territory of the Garden to encompass a surface of 18 ha. A new building was inaugurated along the railway line in 1971 to house laboratories and herbarium collections. It was enlarged in 1974 to accommodate two-thirds of the herbarium collections and the entire library.

The State of Geneva gave to the CJB the responsibility of the maintenance of the domain of Penthes's domain, adjoining the current Garden in the direction of the Juras, visitors to the Botanical garden can presently walk in 28 ha of nature near to the City.

With its 175 years of history and fidelity to the spirit of its founders, our Institute carries out its missions of exploration, research, education and protection, while continually enriching its collections which confer on us one of the first places in the world among Botanical Institutions.

The CJB offers to their numerous visitors a space of beauty and relaxation, of instruction on the conservation of a too often threatened nature, while leading numerous regional, national and international research programmes, using the most modern techniques (satellite remote sensing, molecular biology, Geographic Information Systems, in vitro culture, automatic sequencing of DNA).

## An open door on nature

Close to the town centre and within the series of lakeside Parks, the Botanical Garden provides its visitors with a magnificent panorama of the Alps, and a large open door on nature.

The naturalist spirit that reigned in Geneva during the 1800's allowed A.-P. de Candolle to found the first large Botanical Garden in Geneva with the support of the Geneva population. With almost 200 years of history and fidelity to the spirit of its founders, our institution carries out its missions of exploration, conservation, research, teaching and the protection of plant diversity, while also

enriching its collection. It is this collection which places the CJB amongst the leading botanical institutes of today.

While active in numerous regional, national and international research programmes employing the most modern techniques, the CJB does not forget its public, and offers its numerous visitors a place of beauty and relaxation, while informing them of different aspects of nature and nature conservation.



#### [Library](#)

More than 100,000 volumes are at your disposal in the fields of floristics and the taxonomy of plants.



#### [Herbarium](#)

With around 6 million specimens, the collection of the CJB is one of the most important in the world. It is derived from a long tradition of botany in Geneva that goes back to the 1800's.



#### [Garden](#)

Let yourself be guided through this open air museum and we hope that you will enjoy all the magic and beauty of this showcase of greenery, on the doorstep of Geneva.

## The Greenhouses

When visiting the greenhouses of the CJB, you will feel yourself transported far from Geneva and you may be surprised, in particular, by the ambient heat and the humidity of our tropical greenhouses.

In these exotic surroundings, amongst plants of unexpected shapes or with iridescent and delicate colours, you may have an irresistible dream of voyaging for a long time ... These plant species derived from the different continents all have something in common: in order to survive and prosper in our local climate they need protection, under glass, for all or part of the year. The Greenhouses are open every day from 9h30 until 16h30.



#### [Winter Garden](#)



#### [Exhibition Greenhouse](#)



#### [Temperate House](#)

The hidden side of the greenhouses re-groups the greenhouses for the collections and the experimental greenhouses that hold the plants of scientific interest or those that are cultivated experimentally. These can be visited only upon request.

The greenhouses at Pregny, annexed to those of the Botanical Garden, contain certain specific collections, the sector which produces the plants for use in the main collection of flowerbeds and for the decoration of the park, an Orangery for the over-wintering of exotic shrubs that are not frost

resistant, as well as a collection of ancient varieties of fruit trees, inherited from the former owner, Baron Edmond de Rothschild.

## Opening Hours

Free Entry		
<b>The Garden</b> open year round	25th October until 31st March	9h30 - 17h00
	1st April until 24th October	8h00 - 19h30
<b>The Greenhouses</b>	Open all year round	9h30 - 16h30
<b>The Botanic Shop</b> at the Villa le Chêne (closed between Christmas and New Year)	25th October until 31st March	10h30 - 12h00 13h00 - 17h00
	1st April until 24th October	10h30 - 12h00 13h00 - 18h30
<b>The Reception, Villa Le Chêne</b> (closed on week-ends, holidays and also between Christmas and New Year)	Monday to Friday	7h45 - 12h00 13h00 - 16h45
<b>The Public Library</b> specialized in Botany, (Closed week-ends holidays, and between Christmas and New Year)	Monday to Thursday	Fermé le matin 13h30 - 16h30
	Fridays	Fermé le matin 13h30 - 16h00
<b>The Carrousel of Fairy Tales</b>	See more <a href="#">information</a>	

## Address and Access

Conservatory and Botanical Garden of the City of Geneva

Department of Culture and Sports

Chemin de l'Impératrice 1

Case postale 60

CH-1292 Chambésy-Genève

Tél. +41 (0)22 418 51 00

Fax +41 (0)22 418 51 01

### Reception

[Villa le Chêne](#)



### The different entrances are found at:

- 1) Place Albert Thomas
- 2) Avenue de la Paix
- 3) Chemin de l'Impératrice 1
- 4) La Console, route de Lausanne 192
- 5) From the lakeside "Rive droite"

6) Parking for handicapped persons

7) Villa le Chêne



## Access:

### By public transport:

Bus No **1**, direction of *Jardin botanique*, stop *Jardin botanique*

Bus No **11** and **28**, stop *Jardin botanique*

Trams No **13** or **15** direction *Nations*, stop *Gare Cornavin*: change for the No 1 bus, as above

**On foot:** about 25 minutes from *Cornavin* railway station (rue de Lausanne)

About 15 minutes from the *Perle du Lac* restaurant (quai rive droite)

### By train:

Regional trains leaving from *Cornavin* railway station in the direction of *Lausanne*, Stop *Genève-Sécheron*

### By car:

Parking Nations, is ten minutes' walk from the Garden,

Route de Lausanne, lake-side

Avenue de la Paix

### From Cointrin airport:

Bus No 28 stop *Jardin botanique* (20 minutes)

### Handicapped Persons:

Only the Greenhouses are partially inaccessible. Equipped toilets are available.

### Restaurant:

The "Buvette" proposes light meals as well as a daily menu.

Open from March until the end of October, closed in the case of rain.

**Picnic area:** located on the "Terre de Pregny"

**Play area:** for children, located next to the "Buvette"

**Carrousel of Fairy Tales:** from Easter until mid-October