



Visit CERN



Guided tours for groups, closed on Sundays

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO THE HIGH DEMAND WE CAN PRESENTLY ONLY OFFER VISIT DATES AFTER 1st November 2011.

CERN offers tours for groups of 12-48 persons. All tours are free of charge. For groups up to a size of 24 persons, CERN offers bus transport for the tour. Bigger groups must provide their own bus, which will be used for all journeys during the visit. Private vehicles may not be used for the tour.

Tours are organized from Monday to Saturday and start at 9h00 and 14h00. Each tour lasts about 3 hours and comprises an introduction followed by a film, a visit to one of the experiments and/or to an accelerator located at the surface. Please note that for safety reasons children under 8 years of age are not admitted. The official languages are English and French. On request, we may be able to arrange tours in other languages.

More practical information for guided tours can be found [here \(pratique.html\)](#).

Bookings are taken on a first-come first served basis. You will have to reserve at least 4-6 months - and in some cases as much as one year - in advance. To submit a visit request for groups, please fill in our group booking form below. Our visits service will chose a visit itinerary that will depend on the availability of the areas on the day of your visit.

All visit requests are subject to availability. If the requested date is available, we will send a confirmation of your booking within 5 days. If not, we will contact you via e-mail to find a suitable alternative.

If you have questions, please look at the '[Frequently Asked Questions \(faq.html\)](#)' website before contacting us by e-mail at visits.service@cern.ch (<mailto:visits.service@cern.ch>).

Group visit request form

Use this form to request a group visit to CERN. Please note that all fields are mandatory, and that we require two separate contacts. We will get in touch with you within 5 working days of submitting this form to confirm your booking.

Group name *

Country *

Number of participants *

Preferred language *



Visit CERN



Practical information

Guided tours start and end at the Reception in Building 33. To find us if you come by plane, train, car or bus, please click [here \(../contacts/index.html\)](#).

As the CERN site straddles the border between France and Switzerland, some of the tours will entail crossing the border. Do not forget to bring your identity card with you (and possibly your passport with a visa if necessary, depending on your nationality).

There is no restriction on the use of cameras and camcorders. Souvenirs of your visit to CERN and various items of educational documentation may be purchased at the shop at the Reception in Building 33 between 8:15 a.m. and 5:45 p.m., from Mondays to Friday and between 9:00 a.m. and 5:15 p.m., on Saturday . The shop accepts credit cards (VISA, MasterCard and Maestro), Swiss francs and Euros.

- There is no possibility to access the underground installations of the lab.
- Please note that the tour itineraries take you into buildings housing scientific and technical equipment. For safety reasons, high-heeled shoes or open-toed shoes, flip-flops or sandals are not permitted.
- School groups of minors visiting the site must be accompanied by one adult per 12 students.
- No smoking is allowed in any part of the Laboratory.
- The tours may be strenuous for some visitors, particularly for the elderly, pregnant women and the handicapped (e.g. steep stairways).
- Visitors confined to a wheelchair must give prior warning to the Visits Service.



Visit CERN



Frequently asked questions

How to find CERN/reception?

The visitor reception is located in Building 33. How to reach building 33 when arriving by bus, train, or plane is explained in <http://outreach.web.cern.ch/outreach/contacts/index.html>

How long are the visits?

The standard visit last approximately 3 hours. This can be supplemented by a visit to CERN's onsite exhibition. Additional activities can be requested by schools and universities.

Will the tour be guided?

Yes, your tour will be guided by volunteer staff members of CERN.

Can you recommend any Hotels/Hostels in the area?

Many school groups stay in the Geneva Youth Hostel <http://www.genevahostel.ch/en/>

Do I need to bring my passport?

Yes, because you may cross the border into France for your visit.

I have to cancel my visit, who should I email?

Please email Visits.Service@cern.ch (<mailto:Visits.Service@cern.ch>) to cancel your visit.

I want to change the date of my visit, who should I email?

Please email Visits.Service@cern.ch (<mailto:Visits.Service@cern.ch>) to change the date of your visit

How should I prepare my students to visit CERN?

The website public.web.cern.ch/public/en/About/About-en.html provides a very good starting point for exploring CERN.

Can we eat at CERN?

Yes, this is possible for groups that have booked a visit to CERN. The day of your visit, you will have to get a pass to access the cafeteria, at the reception desk, building 33.

How much does the average meal cost at CERN?

An average lunch costs around 15CHF with drink included.

Do I need to make badges for my students?

Badges are not necessary.

How much do you charge for a visit?

The CERN visit is offered free of charge.

Is it allowed to take photographs and video everywhere?

Yes, you can take photos or videos everywhere at CERN.

If we come with a laptop can we and how do we connect to the internet?

CERN does not provide internet access for visitors.

Why is the LHC not available to visit?

The LHC is now operational and cannot be visited for safety reasons.

Where can we park our bus/car?

Buses and cars may be parked outside the visits reception.

Is there a safe area to put our luggage away during the visit?

CERN cannot accept responsibility for, or safeguard, luggage or personal items.

Can CERN provide a risk assessment document or help with constructing one?

CERN is not able to provide a standard risk assessment protocol. However, it should be noted that there are on-site medical and fire services and that strict rules of safety are in operation to protect everyone working on or visiting the site.

Can I buy souvenirs?

The Visits Service reception includes a souvenir shop selling books and educational items, clothing and CERN associated gifts.

Can I pay by credit card in the restaurant?

The restaurant only accepts payment in Swiss Francs or Euros. (with change given in Swiss Francs)

Does the souvenir shop accept credit cards?

The shop accepts payment in Swiss Francs, Euros. by Maestro and by credit card.

Does the CERN hostel accept credit cards?

You can pay at the hostel in Swiss Francs, Euros, by Maestro or by credit card.

Does Visit Service personnel speak English?

Visits Service staff speaks English, French and in some cases several other languages.



Visit CERN



Contacts



[cern.reception@cern.ch \(mailto:cern.reception@cern.ch\)](mailto:cern.reception@cern.ch)



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Reception opening hours

- Monday - Friday from 8am to 5:45pm
- Saturday from 8:30am to 5:15pm

We are closed on CERN holidays - these include Easter and Christmas.

If you want to visit during official French and Swiss holidays, it should be better to phone before in order to check if CERN is opened.



Travelling by Plane

Coming from the Geneva International Airport at Cointrin

Taxi - approximately 35CHF.

Bus - First take a free public transport ticket from the machine you will find at the exit to the baggage collection hall, just before customs control. Then -

Option 1 : Take bus Y direction "CERN" and get off at the CERN stop opposite the large Globe and the CERN site.

Option 2 : take bus 23, 28, 57, and get off at the stop "Blandonnet" and then catch the Tram number [18](http://www.tpg.ch/fr/ligne18) (<http://www.tpg.ch/fr/ligne18>), final stop "CERN".

See the [TPG \(http://www.tpg.ch\)](http://www.tpg.ch) web site for full details.



Travelling by Train

Coming from the Geneva railway station at Cornavin

Tram - Take the number [18 \(http://www.tpg.ch/fr/ligne18\)](http://www.tpg.ch/fr/ligne18) tram to "CERN" which is the final stop at the CERN entrance.

Ticket costs 3.00CHF (Ticket "Tout Genève" on the ticket machine). See the [TPG \(http://www.tpg.ch\)](http://www.tpg.ch) web site for full details.



Travelling by Car

From Switzerland:

Follow signs for "Aéroport", "Lyon" and "Meyrin". Once you are in Meyrin, follow signs for "St Genis" (which is just beyond the border, in France). Before reaching St Genis, the CERN site is on your left on "Route de Meyrin", just before you reach the border.

From France (département of Ain):

Follow signs for "Gex" or "St. Genis". When you reach the border, CERN is on your right immediately after passing through customs.

An [interactive map of Geneva \(http://area-map.web.cern.ch/area-map/\)](http://area-map.web.cern.ch/area-map/) and a detailed [map of the buildings at CERN \(http://www.cern.ch/building/\)](http://www.cern.ch/building/) can help you find your way.

