

VISITOR GUIDE MUSÉE D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE GENEVA





Un musée Ville de Genève

www.mah-geneve.ch



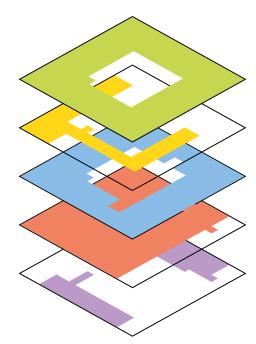
INTRODUCTION

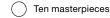
Built between 1903 and 1910 by Genevan architect Marc Camoletti, with the aim of regrouping under one roof a number of dispersed public collections, the Musée d'art et d'histoire is one of Switzerland's most important encyclopaedic museums. Boasting over half a million objects including a number of major works and unique series that have made it an institution of international stature, the museum maintains a permanent exhibition of a selection of its applied arts, fine arts and archaeology collections.

Regional archaeological discoveries, Egyptian and Classical antiquities, artworks, furniture, arms, musical instruments, paintings and sculptures all bear witness to 15,000 years of history.

THE MUSEUM







Disabled access

Elevator

Cloakroom



Access to other levels

Restaurant "Le Barocco"

Restricted zones

VISITING SUGGESTIONS

Depending on the time at your disposal, your tastes and your desires, the Musée d'art et d'histoire can offer a large variety of itineraries. Audio guides and detailed thematic tour suggestions are available at the main entrance. Three examples of possible visits to the museum are as follows.

The **portrait** theme provides a good idea of the diverse range of the museum's collections. It takes you from the Egyptian Antiquities to the Fine Arts departments. Along the way you can admire an exceptional group of Roman busts and the delicate pastel likenesses composed by the great 18th-century Genevan portraitist Jean-Étienne Liotard.

The heroines of Antiquity are also to be found all the way from the archaeological era to the fine arts collections. The tragic destinies of Niobe and Cassandra, especially as depicted on red-figure vases, constitute an enchanting circuit through the heart of the Greco-Roman collections. In the fine arts section, the frequent presence of ancient heroines, Andromeda and Lucretia in particular, bear testimony to the continual reinterpretation of themes of Antiquity by later artists.

TEN MASTERPIECES

This selection consists of a tour through the permanent collections with a commentary on the works' distinctive features and highlights. These ten masterpieces would indeed deserve a visit to the museum all by themselves.



NIVEAU 0

Savoyard helmet Ca. 1580



NIVEAU 0

Saint James the Greater, stained glass of St. Peter's Cathedral 1487



NIVEAU

Antonio Canova Venus and Adonis 1789-1794 and 1820



NIVEAU 2

Konrad Witz
The Miraculous
Draught of Fishes
The Qua
in Gene



Camille Corot The Quai des Pâquis in Geneva, ca. 1842



NIVEAU 2

Félix Vallotton The Turkish Bath 1907



NIVEAU 2

Giovanni Giacometti, Orchard in Stampa 1910



NIVEAU -1

Colossal statue of Ramses II 19th Dynasty ca. 1290-1224 BC



NIVEAU -1

Large silver plate, known as the charioteer and the hunters plate End of the 3rd-beginning of the 4th century AD



NIVEAU -1

Portrait of Pompeia Plotina, wife of Trajan Between 118 and 120 AD

APPLIED ARTS LEVEL 0*

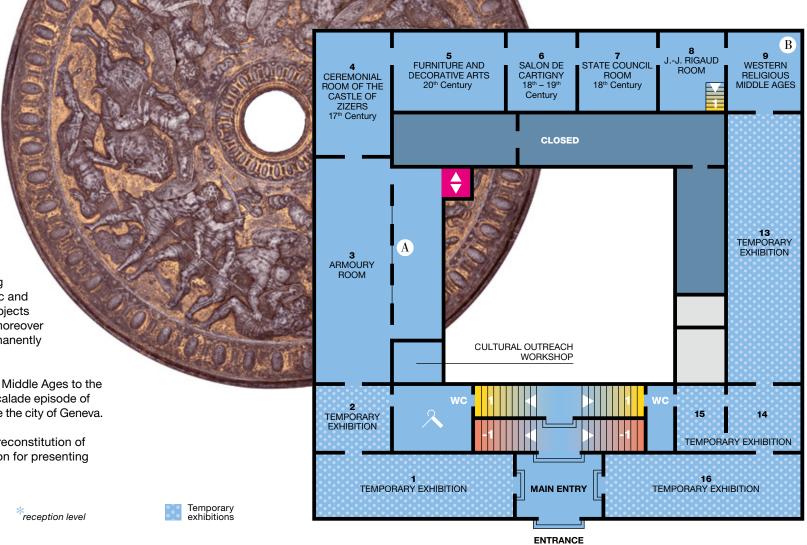
With more than **23,000 objects** ranging in date from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, the applied arts collections are characterised by their diversity. Distributed over two floors (levels 0 and 1), they display a multitude of ancient arms, silverwork, pewterware, textiles and furniture.

The Christian Middle East constitutes the strong point of level 0, in particular thanks to its Coptic and Byzantine pieces including bronzes, liturgical objects and ceramics. The Musée d'art et d'histoire is moreover the only public institution in Switzerland to permanently exhibit a collection of Greek and Russian icons.

The Armoury Room displays arms from the late Middle Ages to the 18th century and presents artefacts from the Escalade episode of 1602, when the Duke of Savoy attempted to seize the city of Geneva.

Historic rooms immerse the viewer in a lifelike reconstitution of the past, illustrating the 20th-century predilection for presenting furniture and artworks in their original context.

Parade rondache, attributed to Eliseus Libaerts, Antwerp, circa 1557-1560 © MAH, photo: J.-M. Yersin, inv. Arm F 78



APPLIED ARTS LEVEL 1*

A selection of the **800 musical instruments** conserved by the museum is on display in an area called "musical interlude". Dating from the late 16th to the early 18th century, these mainly string instruments illustrate the vigour of European instrument making during the Baroque period.

The **silverware** collection is well stocked with 18th and 19th-century French and Swiss tableware while also including pieces from all over Europe as well as North America and Peru. It is complemented by a large pewterware collection composed primarily of domestic Swiss specimens.

Several **historic Swiss rooms**, whose sculpted woodwork comes from the Castle of Zizers (Canton of Graubunden), display the decorative arts of the 17th century.



FINE ARTS LEVEL 2

The Fine Arts collections, grouped by schools or in monographic ensembles ranging from the 15th to the 20st century, showcase several key moments in the history of Western painting.

By the spring of 2019, the Fine Arts galleries will feature an entirely new presentation of the collections. The first stage of the redesigned display will propose a tour with a fresh focus on Swiss art, providing thematic insights into portrait and landscape, two of the collection's strongpoints, and a showcase of the best of Swiss modernity, marked by Symbolism, Fauvism, Futurism or Cubism.

New rotating exhibitions rooms dedicated to works from the collection will now be integrated directly into the Fine Arts gallery. Two temporary exhibitions *Hodler, an intimate portrait* and *Bathers*, introduce them until the beginning of 2019.

LIOTARD **EUROPEAN SCHOOLS JEAN-PIERRE** CALAME **TOWARDS** 18th Century PASTELS. SAINT-OURS AND DIDAY THE MODERN 18th Century 19th Century LANDSCAPE **SWISS** 11 22 23 BATHERS PAINTING 18th Century 21 12 FÉLIX ITALIAN PAINTING VALLOTTON 13 DONATION IN PURSUIT NAPOLEON OF AN IDEAL ITALIAN GENEVAN 16 **MODERNITIES PAINTING** ANTONIO CANOVA **OLD MASTERS** Around 1800 HODLER, AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT 15th - 17th Century C

Claude Monet, *Peonies*, 1887 © MAH, photo: Y. Siza, inv. 1985-29

ARCHAEOLOGY LEVEL -1

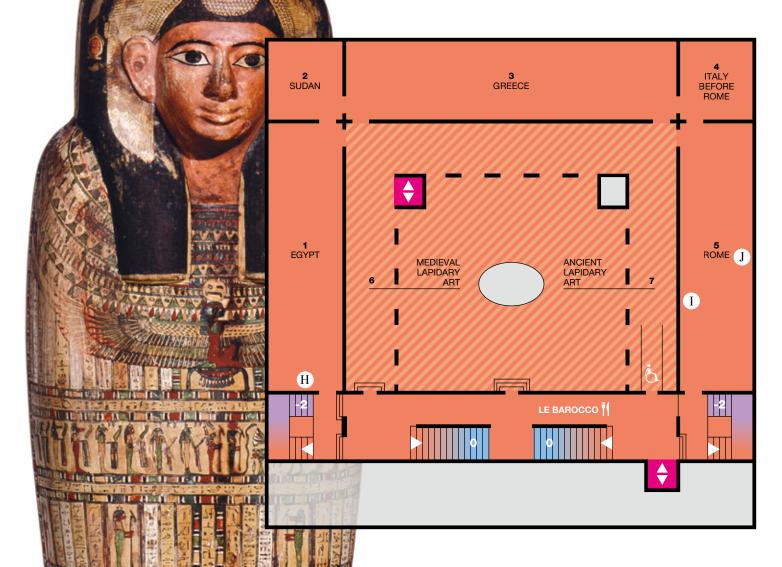
The Antiquities collection contains more than 70,000 objects. Assembled for the most part in the 19th century under the instigation of collectors, they testify to the Genevan taste for ancient civilisations.

The pieces are displayed in chronological order, leading the visitor from Pharaonic Egypt to the Roman Empire via Ancient Greece and the peoples of the Italian peninsula before the Roman expansion.

The Musée d'art et d'histoire can lay claim to having the largest **Egyptian Antiquities collection** in Switzerland. The flagship of the Greek collection is unquestionably the Italiote funerary vases collection from the Greek colonies of Southern Italy but the superb group of Roman sculpted portraits is not to be missed either in the Roman Antiquities room.

Coffin of Lady Tjesmoutpert, Late Third Intermediate Period, circa 800-700 B.C., Thebes © MAH, photo: Y. Siza, inv. D 60





REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY LEVEL -2

The Regional Archaeology room presents the archaeological discoveries made in the Geneva region over more than a century. The chronological arrangement guides the viewer from the first signs of human occupation, around 13,000 B.C., towards the year 1000 approximately of the modern era. The objects are contextualised by photographs and reconstitutions of the sites.

This room contains one of the museum's treasures, the **oak statue**, nearly three metres high, of an Allobrogian (Genevan Gaul) chieftain. Found on the site of the ancient Gallo-Roman port and miraculously conserved by wet earth, this over two-thousand-year-old statue bears witness to the meeting of the Celtic and Roman cultures.



Fragment of a statue of an idealised young man, first half of the 1st century A.D., discovered in Geneva © MAH, photo: P.-A. Ferrazzini, inv. C 2104

SALES OUTLET

The Musées d'art et d'histoire's exhibition catalogues as well as stationery and children's games related to the collections are on sale at the museum main entrance.

The area is accessible during the museum's opening hours.

Information: T +41 (0)22 418 26 10

RESTAURANT LE BAROCCO

Le Barocco draws its recipes from local Genevan traditions and specialises in handmade pastries. During the summer months, an outdoor terrace welcomes customers in the museum's inner courtyard. The restaurant is only accessible during the museum's opening hours.

Information and reservations: T +41 (0)22 418 26 82



AUDIOGUIDES

Audioguides in French, English and German are available at the museum entrance. The visitor can choose between a general tour or a Fine Arts itinerary. Duration: 1.5 hours / Rental: CHF 5.-

VIDEOGUIDES

A videoguide in French sign language is available at the reception. This tablet computer is lent free of charge with an ID deposit.

ROOM INFORMATION SHEETS

Information sheets are available in most of the museum rooms, in several languages.



GENERAL INFORMATION

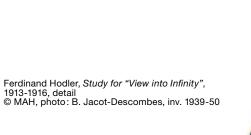
Musée d'art et d'histoire Rue Charles-Galland 2 | CH-1206 Geneva T +41 (0)22 418 26 00 (Monday to Friday) F +41 (0)22 418 26 01 mah@ville-ge.ch Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed on Monday

Cultural Outreach

Programme of events – Reservations T +41 (0)22 418 25 00 Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon adp-mah@ville-ge.ch

Handicapped access: Boulevard Jaques-Dalcroze 9 Public transport: Bus lines 1-3-7-8-36, Tram no. 12 Saint-Antoine parking nearby

Entry free of charge for permanent collections Admission charged for temporary exhibitions Entry free of charge up to age 18 and on the first Sunday of every month





THE MUSÉES D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE

Of a multidisciplinary nature, the Geneva Musées d'art et d'histoire extend an invitation to take a voyage back through time. They comprise a network of several different sites that constitute the largest museum group in Switzerland.

- Musée d'art et d'histoire
- 2 Cabinet d'arts graphiques du Musée d'art et d'histoire
- 2 Bibliothèque d'art et d'archéologie du Musée d'art et d'histoire
- Maison Tavel
- Musée Rath



Cover:
Félix Vallotton, Back from the Sea, 1924, details

MUSEES D'ART
ET D'HISTOIRE
DE GENEVE