

Various ways of St. James (with brochures available in PDF-format)

- A - Constance - Einsiedeln („Way of Svabia“)
- B - Rorschach - Einsiedeln („Way of St. Gallen“)
- C - Einsiedeln-Flüeli-Ranft - Brünig („Way of Central Switzerland“)
- D - Brünig-Amsoldingen („Way of the Bernese Oberland“)
- E - Amsoldingen-Romont („Way of Berne/Friboug“)
- F - Romont-Lausanne-Genève („Way of Western Switserland“)
- G - Lucerne-Rüeggisberg-Schwarzenburg („Lucerne Way“)
- H - Rankweil - Einsiedeln („Vorarlberg-Appenzell Way“)
- K - Schaffhausen-Tobel („Monastery way“)

Contact address:

Verein Jakobsweg.ch

Postfach 151,

CH-3700 Spiez

Tel 0041 (0)33 655 04 00

Mail: [admin@jakobsweg.ch](mailto:admin@jakobsweg.ch)

Accomodation see: [www.jakobsweg.ch](http://www.jakobsweg.ch)

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### Important pointer

Helpers and association members walked the route themselves to inspect it. As volunteers, they edited the brief route descriptions based on the state as encountered. The accuracy of the contents and specially the correspondence with the official Way of St. James way-posting cannot be guaranteed by the association „jakobsweg.ch » and the authors, also in the sense of a product guarantee. Pilgrims are therefore asked to follow the official Way of St. James way-posts if discrepancies occur, and to notify us.

Many thanks.

Texts : Winfried Erbach, Joe Weber and Klaus Augustiny (manuscript reader).

Translated from German by Hans Bamert

Pictures: Wolfgang Hörer / Winfried Erbach, and several others

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# On the Way of St. James in Switzerland



## (6) Romont - Geneva

„„Route through French Switzerland“ “

Itinerary and directions for pilgrims

## Signalisation - Via Jacobi

Sign in the direction of Santiago de Compostela  
National Way of St-James No. 4 - Via Jacobi



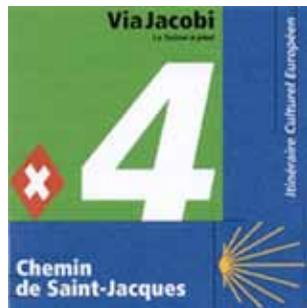
Via Jacobi - shell shows in the left direction



Via Jacobi - shell shows in the right direction



Signpost - Via Jacobi sign on yellow background



Via Jacobi - french sign  
Shell shows in the left direction



Via Jacobi Nr. 44  
shell shows in the right direction



Returning way

## Romont-Geneva - „Route through French Switzerland“

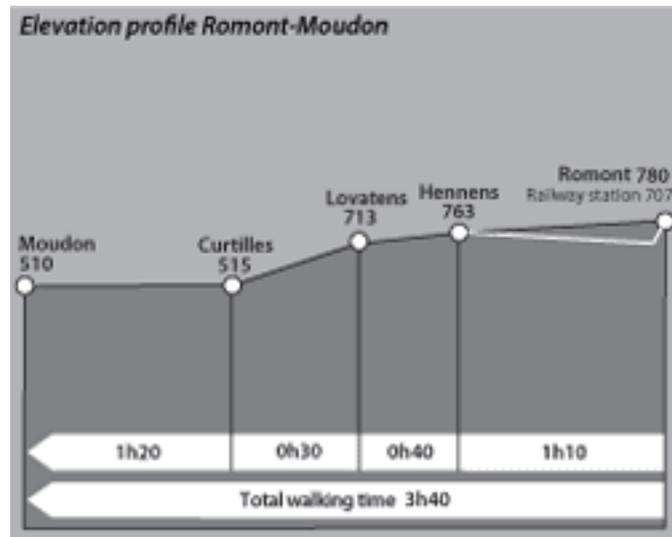
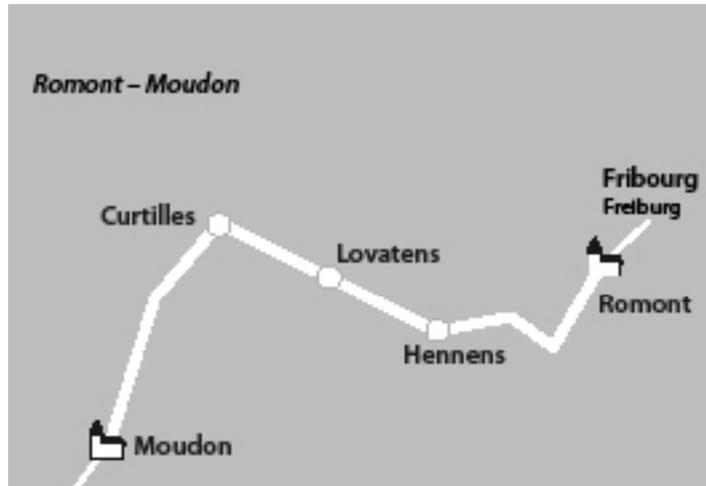
Distance: 132 km, walking time around 32 hours.



The Way of St. James through the French-speaking part of Switzerland leads first through a landscape shaped by agriculture and small-scale industry to Lausanne, then through the wine-growing region along Lake Geneva (“Lac Léman”) to Geneva.

Between Lausanne and Geneva, the historical Way of St. James has disappeared on a number of sections, as in the 18th century the original pilgrim route had been extended and widened for the most part, and had to make way for the “Route Suisse”. Today, the pilgrims walk from village to village using access roads, but also field and forestry roads through fields, meadows, woods, across smaller ravines and along rivers, to Lausanne on the shore of Lake Geneva. Then from Lausanne, the route roughly follows the lakeshore on shore-paths or through vineyards to Geneva, the city of Calvin. Along the way are dreamy farmers’ and winegrowers’ villages and small, picturesque towns with well-preserved historical centres, old churches, lordly mansions and castles of the former landed gentry. Old inns and wine taverns invite the traveller to a cosy rest, all the more since the “cuisine romande” and the local wine are especially recommendable. The two cantonal capitals Lausanne and Geneva have, apart from a bourgeois atmosphere typical of French-speaking Switzerland, also an international character as they attract many tourists from all over the world, and give home to business enterprises and organisations that are known worldwide. On the way along Lake Geneva with a breathtaking view across the lake and to the French Alps, the atmosphere gives the pilgrim a presentiment of the vast distance the goal of the pilgrimage is still away. In this region, the “Romandie”, the pilgrims meet with a friendly and cosmopolitan population that treasures its cultural heritage and also likes to show it. When meeting people, the attitude to life moulded by the reformer Calvin leaks out somewhat and can lead to discussions that can be enriching in an ecumenical sense. A glass of good wine will enhance the flow of such discussions and language problems become solvable.

## Section Romont-Moudon



Topographic maps of the region  
 Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1204, 1205 and 1224  
 Scale 1:50'000: numbers 252, 242

## Romont-Moudon

16 km, walking time 3 hours 40 min.



*Parish church of Romont*



*Romont - famous church windows*



*Château de Romont*



*Hamlet Hennens*

**Romont - Curtilles**

Before we embark on the way, the medieval town of Romont on the castle hill invites us to a round tour. We begin near the reformed chapel where we cast a glance down to the abbey La Fille-Dieu. Then we turn into the Rue de l'Eglise. Across the Place St-Jacques, we come to the collegiate church Notre Dame de l'Assomption. The church was built in 1451 on the foundation walls of a former church burned down in 1434. The gothic glass paintings from the 14th and 15th century, the stone pulpit from 1520 and the carved choir stalls of 1466 (with St. James) are worth seeing.

Only a few steps away, we reach the castle, the outer appearance of which dates from the 16th century. In the inner court is a big water-wheel (1772), and the castle's interior houses a unique museum of glass painting. Opposite the castle, the Café-Restaurant La Croix Blanche - Au Suisse is waiting for us. From the town wall with its towers, we see the Fribourg Alps far away.

We leave Romont heading for the next destination Curtilles which we want to reach via Billens and Lovatens. We follow the Rue du Château and leave Romont near the Tour à Boyer. At the foot of the hill, the Way of St. James follows the main road (Route d'Aruffens) for about 10 minutes. We walk through residential quarters, cross the railway line and come to the roundabout near the electric power station. Here, we turn off to the right and cross the railway line again. Right after the railway line, the route leads in a north-western direction between two factories to the edge of the wood with the resting place and wayside shrine "Vierge des Pauvres". From here, we take a field path up to Billens with its inn and the parish church St-Maurice beside the crossroads (200m to the right). To the left, we take the little-used road as far as the hamlet of Hennens, where we visit the chapel St-Bernard, built in 1653. After the chapel, the route takes us first along the road, then on a field path over the crest of the hill (Champ Liamon 809m) with its transmitting mast. First we climb

up to the wayside cross and the resting place with the stone banks. We enjoy the beautiful outlook to Romont and the Alps. The ridge-way then follows the cantonal border Fribourg / Vaud. In the valley of La Broye is Lucens with the prominent castle, and in the background, we see the heights of the Jura. From the transmitting mast, we follow the Way of St-James fingerposts and, taking to the right, and on the field road used by the farmers, we come down to Lovatens (in Latin: Lovatingis). A man we met told us that a stone had been found here with the inscription "Deae Minervae", pointing to the possibility that a roman route passed here. We head for Curtilles on a field road paved with concrete, pass the schoolhouse, walk down to the cemetery and from there along the wood's edge on the Route de Romont which leads to Curtilles and through this place as far as the crossroads where we turn off to the left to the field road to Prévondens. Curtilles was founded in the 11th century by the bishop of Lausanne.

Note: A visit to the reformed parish church Notre Dame in Curtilles with its frescoes and glass paintings is worth your while (the key is available at the house beside it).

**Curtilles - Moudon**

The field road to Prévondens takes us through asparagus fields and meadows in a great arc past the farmstead Pré Cerjat to the Broye river. On the shore-path bordered with high birch trees, we walk southwards past the shady resting place near the fishpond (Etang de l'Isle à l'Ours), until we cross the Broye at the western edge of the medieval town of Moudon (near the "La Brasserie"). We pass the railway station of Moudon and come to the reformed church St-Etienne, also known as "small cathedral". The well-preserved basilica has, apart from old paintings, also choir stalls carved in the 16th century, and a French organ from 1764. The forecourt with its chestnut trees invites to a rest. The lower town near the Broye river is specially worth seeing. Also worth seeing is the upper town with the Broye tower (12th century), the castle Rochefort (museum, 16th century), the castle Carrouge, and the Château de Billens.



Rest place



Parish church Curtilles

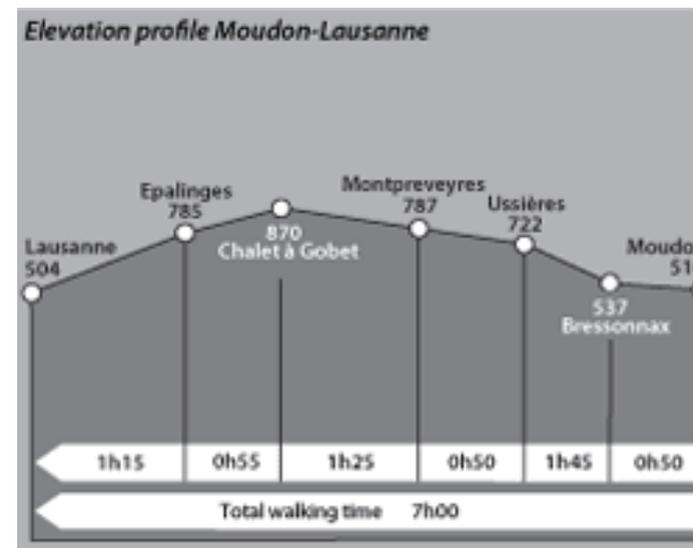
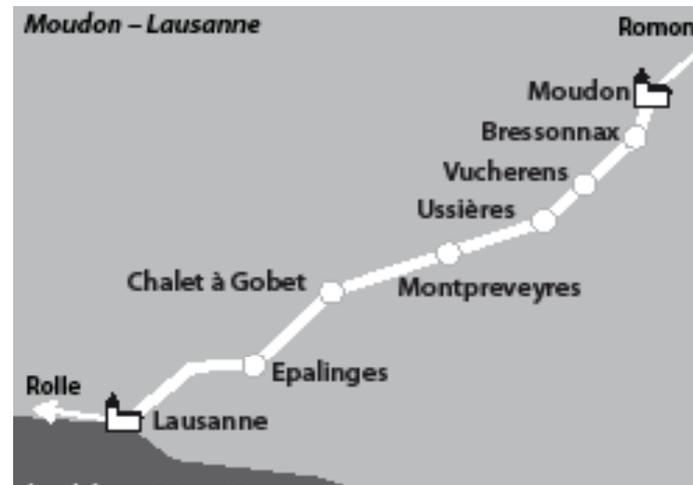


church interior



Moudon

Section Moudon-Lausanne



Topographic maps of the region

Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1223, 1224 and 1243

Scale 1:50'000: numbers 251, 252 and 261

**Moudon – Lausanne**

6 km, walking time 7 hours

**Moudon - Montpreveyres**

Moudon



Bridge over the Carrouge



Chapel in „La-Cure“



Bois du Grand Jorat

11 km, walking time 3 hrs 30 min

The route takes us via Bressonnaz and Vucherens. At the western edge of Moudon, we follow the Rue du Château and in a great arc through the quarter “Le Bourg”, we come again down to the Broye, which we cross. We follow the meandering river until we come to the loop at Bressonnaz where we cross the main road and come to the railway station. From the station southwards across the Broye and after that on an old stone bridge over the rivulet La Carrouge. We follow it a short stretch until the footbridge to the right that takes us across it and to the cantonal road.

The field road immediately branches off to the left, returns to the main road and then changes direction several times until leading through a wood (Bois de Bioley) up to the widely scattered village of Vucherens. There is a small chapel there, built in 1523. From the water reservoir and the mobile phone transmitter mast, we enjoy a striking outlook not only to the Moléson mountain in the Fribourg Alps, but also to the mountains of the canton of Vaud (Rochers de Naye, Tours d’Aï, Tours de Mayen, Dent de Morcles). By good weather, also the French mountain chain south of the lake of Geneva can be seen.

From Vucherens, a field road leads over the crest of the lengthy hill (Champ du Bochet). After about 2 km, above the Bressonne (brook), we descend through a small wood down to the road. We cross the road and the brook, pass the houses of Ecorche Boeuf and come to the crossroads. At first, we follow the road southwards, and after about 200m, we turn off to southwest onto an unpaved road which leads us into the wood “Bois de la Côte”. We cross the wood southwards on a forest road, and after about 20 minutes, we come to a crossroads where 5 small roads converge. Here, we turn off to the right onto a small path that takes us a steep incline down to the Bressonne. We cross it and climb steeply up to the chapel

La-Cure. This neat chapel was built in the ravine by monks in 1438. In 1758, it was rebuilt at the present site. The parish house served formerly as pilgrim’s hostel. We take a small paved road and soon come to the village of Montpreveyres by the main road to Lausanne, and formerly belonging to the bishopric of Lausanne. The place name is derived from the old French term “Mont des Prêtres”.

**Montpreveyres - Lausanne**

14 km, walking time 4 hours

At the village exit, we follow the main road until, after the Hotel des Balances, we can turn off to the left into the wood (Bois du Grand Jorat) where we cross the Bressonne again. In this dense forest, the pilgrim’s hostel Ste-Catherine formerly offered protection and accommodation. After a short climb, we follow the course of the Bressonne through the northern part of the forest until we come to the crossroads, still in the forest. Here, we go first to the right until, at the clearing, we can turn off to the left into a small wood and come to the houses and the inn at Pra Roman. We continue along the edge of the wood in a south-western direction to the road that leads to Chalet-à-Gobet. We follow the road southwards and after about 300m, we turn off into the wood Bois de Peccau which we cross in a western direction. We arrive at the bus stop at the eastern edge of Epalinges (Bus Nr 5 every 10 min on weekdays, every 20 min on Sundays to the station of Lausanne and Métro M2 down to Ouchy on the lake). We pass a residential area southwards to the edge of the wood Bois de la Chapelle and continue along it to the cemetery. Here, we turn off to the right and on the village quarter street, we come to the crossroads at Les Planches. We continue in a north-western direction through residential quarters of Les Croisettes, somewhat above the terminus station of the Métro, and across the Moudon road, we come to the wooded ravine of the rivulet Flon. We follow the course of the water, cross the rivulet several times and on a well-tended forest path, we come to the Vivarium (below the mo-



Les Croisettes near Epalinges



Le Signal



Le Signal - View on Lausanne



Cathedral in Lausanne

torway bridge). From here, we take a forest path up to the Lac de Sauvabelin (and restaurant). We climb the 35m high wooden lookout tower and enjoy a splendid outlook to the lake, the city, the Alps and the Jura. Only a few minutes away is the lookout point Le Signal with its small chapel (and bus stop). After a short descent on a comfortable path along the side of the wood, we come to the old town, to the Palais de Rumine, and further on to the cathedral of Lausanne.

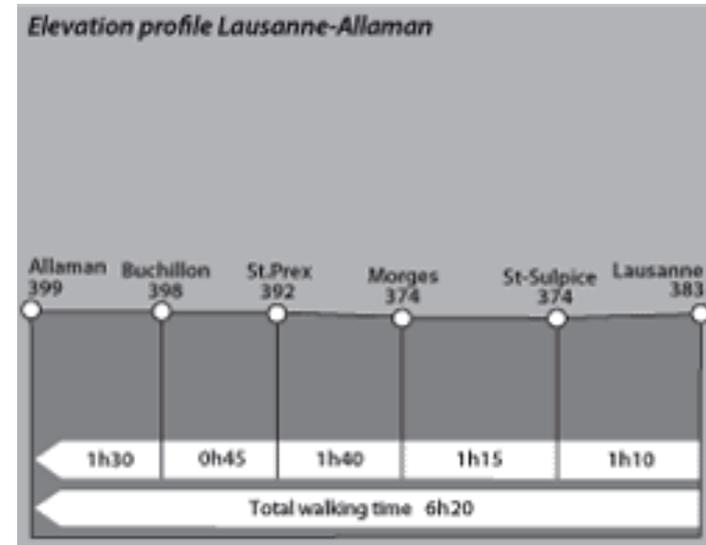
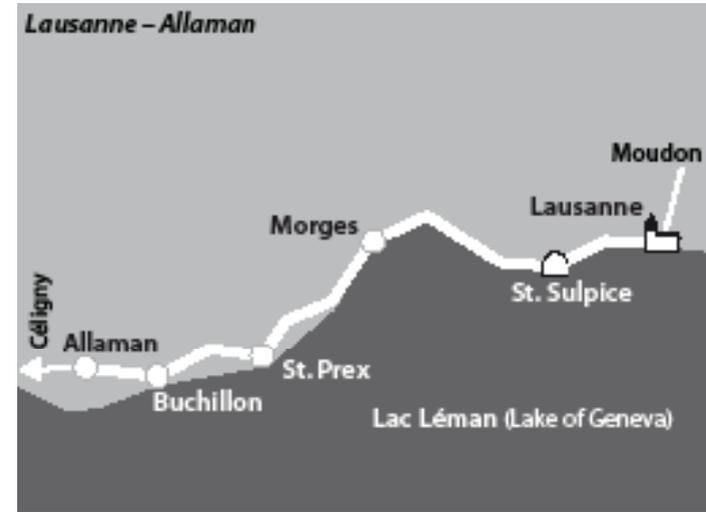
**City of Lausanne**

We begin the city sightseeing tour through Lausanne, the capital of the canton of Vaud, at the Château Ste-Marie, the bishop's seat, built around 1400, north of the cathedral. The residency building was used from 1536 by the bailiffs of the Bernese ruling power, until Napoleon ended this rule in 1798. Today, the castle houses the cantonal administration. Past the Old Academy (16th century), we come to the now reformed cathedral Notre Dame. Its preceding buildings can be traced back to the 6th century. The gothic church construction was completed in 1275. Above the western portal, adorned with statues, is the striking spire, offering us a good view over the city, the lake and the Alps. The triple-nave construction with transept has beautiful glass paintings in windows and rosettes. The south rosette was built in 1240. The carved choir stalls (13th century) is the oldest in Switzerland. On the southern side of the cathedral square is the former residence of the bishop from the 11th century, today housing the historical museum. We descend the Escalier du Marché and come to the Place de la Palude with the city hall (Hôtel de Ville). Past the Fontaine de la Justice in a south-eastern direction, we come to the Place St-François with the reformed church St-François that belonged to a monastery. Its choir stalls date from the 14th century. Near the lake in the city quarter Ouchy, there still stands a tower of the bishop's residence from the 12th century. It was integrated in a hotel in the year 1890.



*Cathedral in Kathedrale*

**Section Lausanne-Morges-Allaman**



Topographic maps of the region  
 Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1242 and 1243  
 Scale 1:50'000: numbers 261

**Lausanne – Allaman**

25 km, walking time 6 hrs 20 min

*Lausanne lake of Geneva**Chapel Maladiers**Roman museum**St. Sulpice - „Priorat“***Lausanne - Morges**

11 km, walking time 3 hrs

Our next goal is Morges that we reach via St-Sulpice. From the Place St-François, the route takes us in a western direction across the busy Rue du Grand Chêne to the Avenue Jules Gonin, which we follow past the Grand-Hotel Palace and the law-court until we come to the Avenue de Tivoli. After a short stretch we turn off to the left to the more quiet Chemin des Croix Rouges, and on this street we proceed to the railway line west of the station. Further on the Avenue Belvédère to the Avenue de Tivoli on which we cross the railway line in order to come to the Avenue de Provence (along the railway line) into the city quarter Malley. Some 200m after the Métro station Provence, the route branches off southwards and we come through the quarter Montoie past the forest cemetery to the big roundabout (in the city quarter Vidy). Through the underpass, we reach the St-Lazarus chapel of Maladière (built 1460).

Here we follow the Way of St. James fingerposts until the park landscape with the ruins of roman times (the name Lausanne derives from the gallo-roman Lousonna). To the west of the ruins, using an underpass, we come to the youth hostel of Lausanne and the Roman museum. To the left, past a camping site and the seat of the IOC, the route takes us to the Plage de Vidy (beach café).

Note: The seat of the International Olympic Committee has been in Lausanne-Vidy since 1915, and since 1986 in the glass palace there.

An optional route leads from Lausanne Ouchy along the lakeshore to the city quarter Vidy.

Along the paved shore-path, we come to the mouth of the Chamberonne (brook). We cross it and, first on an unpaved path, and then on a well-tended shore promenade (with modern sculptures) through the outskirts to the landing pier of St-Sulpice. To the right

stands the former Cluniac priory with the massive rectangular tower from the 11th century. In the interior, remainders of wall paintings from the 14th century are preserved. Behind the church, a path leads us back to the lake. In a small wood, we make a detour to avoid the mouth of the Venoge river, and come on a well-kept shore-path through a fashionable residential district into the small town of Morges, founded in the 13th century by the counts of Savoy. In the bright interior of the reformed parish church (built 1769) is a glass painting portrait of the reformer Zwingli. The castle (built 1286) can be reached either on the beautiful shore promenade, or by detours through the old town with the old fountains, the 16th century town hall, and other remarkable buildings. The castle served the Bernese bailiff starting from 1536, and today is the military museum of the canton of Vaud.

**Morges - Allaman**

12 km, walking time 3 hrs

After a brief rest in the small town of Morges, we head for the next goal which is Allaman. We take the shore-path leading past the castle, making a detour to avoid the mouth of the river Morges. Before the mouth of the rivulet Le Boiron, the path turns to the right, crosses the cantonal road and leads to the railway station of Tolochenaz-gare. First to the left, and then to the right along the railway line, we walk through the vineyards until, shortly before St-Prex, we turn off towards the lake. We cross the railway line and the cantonal road and on the lake-road, we come to the former castle. It sits on a promontory (Pointe du Suchet) of St-Prex, a small town founded in 1234. By the lake, there still stands a dwelling of the former castle, wreathed with ivy. From the town-fountain, a picturesque lane leads to the old town gate (built 1234) with its belfry and a church clock from the 18th century. The reformed church of St-Mary stands above the old town. The present construction was built in the 12th century on the foundations of a predecessor church from the 4th century.

We leave St-Prex through the town gate and walk westwards through a residential quarter. At first, the road leads along the lakeshore, then turns right and through meadows and past

*Castle of Morges**Main street in Morges**St. Prex**Maison Rochefort*

vineyards, comes to the winegrowers' village of Buchillon. At the cemetery by the village church, the route turns off to the right and leads presently in a western direction through the wood (Grands Bois) and along the edge of the wood down to the river Aubonne, after passing a garden restaurant and crossing a street. We cross the Aubonne on a bridge and follow its course through a wood and past the winegrowers' hamlet of La Fresaire until we come down to the mouth of the river Grève. Northwards, we see the winegrowers' village and castle of Allaman, built in the 15th century. Somewhat more to the west stands the reformed church St-Jean from the 14th century, and before it, the medieval Maison Rochefort (wine-growing estate of the city of Lausanne). After the mouth of the Grève, we cross the wood,

Section - Allaman-Rolle-Céligny



Topographic maps of the region  
 Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1242, 1243 and 1261  
 Scale 1:50'000: numbers 260 and 261

**Allaman - Céligny**

27 km, walking time 6 hrs 45 min

**Allaman - Rolle**

5.5 km, walking time 1 hr 30 min

Céligny is our next goal, and we reach it via Rolle, Prangins and Nyon. We begin our stage near the wine-growing estate La Pêcherie which we reach using the access road to the lake. We follow the shore-road westwards past the bathing place to the cantonal road, cross the road and join the Route Vignoble to the right, on which we walk through the vineyards (La Grand'Vigne) up to Perroy. Past the castle Perroy, built in the 16th and 17th century, we come to the church Ste-Marie (built 1481 and reconstructed 1828). From here down to Rolle we use the sidewalk of the access road. In Rolle, we leave the cantonal road and on the well-kept shore promenade, we come to the castle of Rolle. The castle with the four mighty round towers was built in 1264-69 by Peter the Second of Savoy. In 1536, the Bernese burned it down, and in 1558, it was rebuilt. At the end of the Bernese rule, it was bought by the town of Rolle. It served as prison, law-court, archives and registrar's office. Even today, it still is the seat of the district administration. In the south-eastern tower is a library with 13'000 volumes.

**Rolle - Prangins**

14 km, walking time 3 hrs 30 min

We follow the shore promenade and come to the catholic church without spire. The glass paintings in the neo-gothic church were painted in 1929 by Alexander Cingria. Just a few metres from the shore is the island "Isle de la Harpe" with the monument in honour of the emigrant (and tutor of Alexander the First of Russia) Frédéric-César de la Harpe (1754-1838). He was a sympathiser of the French Revolution and one of the co-founders of the new canton of Vaud.

At the end of the shore-path (near the port), we cross the cantonal road and to the right, we follow the Route de Gilly. It leads us through outer quarters along a small wood to the roundabout where we turn off to the left to reach the



Castle of Allaman



Parish church in Perroy



Castle in Rolle



Rolle - on the lake



Castle of Bursinel



Parish church of Bursinel



Parish church of Prangins



Castle of Prangins

railway line. We use the underpass and near the farmstead Pierruet (with pond), we turn off in a south-western direction. The small road leads us past the farmstead La Dolle into a wooded ravine with brook (Flon de Vincy). We cross the ravine and in an arc we come down again to the railway line which we follow as far as the underpass of the closed station of Bursinel. Here we turn off southwards, cross the road and the railway line, and on the access road, we pass the castle and the vineyards and come to the village of Bursinel. The towers of the castle date back to medieval times, the dwellings to the 18th century.

In the cosy wine-cellars of the village, the vine-growers offer us their noble wine for tasting. We traverse the village on the main road and past the church of Bursinel and through a residential quarter, reach Dully. The castle of Dully was built in the 15th century and was altered in 1884. Shortly before the park gate of the castle, our path turns to the right and after a short stretch in a south-western direction, leads into the wooded ravine where, going southwards, we cross the two brooks La Dullive and then Le Lavasson. Then, still in the wood, we follow the bubbling Lavasson south-westwards and, above La Lignière and the vineyards, we come to the houses and the underpass near the station of Gland. We cross the railway line, follow it a short while, and keeping to the right, we come to the industrial quarter and the antitank obstacles at the end of the village. After the crossroads, we cross the rivulet Promenthouse on the road and come to the houses of Pont-Farbel and to the road intersection. Here, we turn off eastwards, walk along the edge of the wood, and come back to the railway line which we cross. A field road parallel to the railway line brings us past the airfield to the first houses of Prangins. After a short stretch, we leave the railway line and, keeping to the left, we come to the reformed church St-Pancrace. Behind vast fruit and vegetable gardens, we perceive the imposing castle of Prangins, built 1730, today housing a national museum of Switzerland. Interesting

exhibitions give the visitors an idea of the development of Switzerland in the 18th and 19th centuries from agrarian country to urban industrial state. From the castle terrace, we have a good outlook down to Lake Geneva.

### Prangins - Céligny

7 km, walking time 1 hr 45 min

We leave the castle of Prangins in a south-western direction through a park-like area, turn off to the railway line on the right, and along the railway line across the rivulet Asse, we come to the station of Nyon.

Note: The Old Town, the lake promenade and the landing pier can also be reached from Prangins directly on the sidewalk of the cantonal road.

Nyon has a very interesting history. Already the Celts settled here in Noviodunum. After the subjugation of the Helvetians, Julius Cesar founded the first Roman town on (today's) Swiss soil): Colonia Julia Equestris, in the year 45 before Christ. After the fall of the Roman Empire and the ravages of war of the migration of peoples (Burgundians), the town fell into decay in the 5th century. In the Middle Ages, Nyon began to flourish again under the rule of the nobles of Prangins (11th and 12th century). In 1293, the region came under Savoy rule, and from 1536, the Bernese bailiff reigned.

A brief round tour through the town is therefore appropriate. From the station to the old town is only a matter of minutes. The "white" castle was built in the 13th century by Louis the First of Savoy. Today it houses a museum for porcelain and local history. From the terrace of the castle, we throw a glance down to the lower town and the lake. To the right of the castle, we come to the Roman Forum with the statue of Cesar. Below is the Roman museum. In an arc to the right, the lane leads to the reformed church Notre Dame (12th to 14th century). In the choir, paintings from the time around 1300 can be seen. Through the Porte Ste-Marie, we come to the three Roman pillars. Below is the port for yachts, further to the left are the Tour de César, the medieval town fortifications and the fountain Maître-Jacques. The amphitheatre, discovered in 1996 is presently being excavated.

The next stretch of road leads us past the station of Nyon and along the railway line to the Rue du Lac on



Castle of Nyon



Roman pillars



Nyon - Church Notre Dame



Bois de Bougy

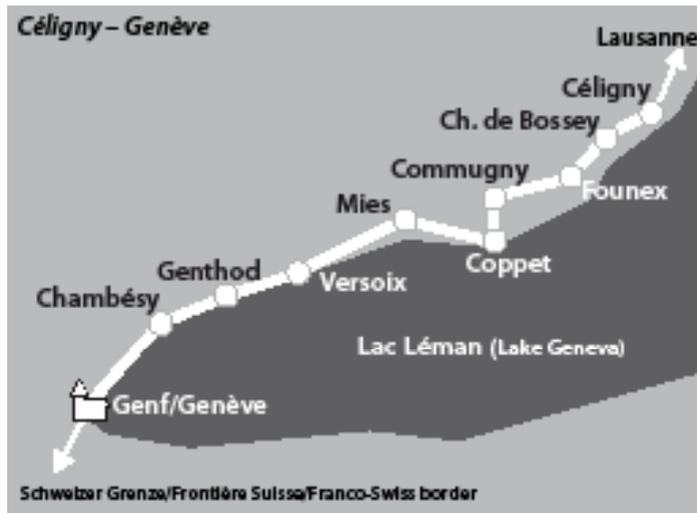


View from the church of Crans

which we cross the railway tracks. Then we turn off to the left to take a town quarter street, cross the trench of the brook Le Boiron on a footpath and climb up the opposite slope. Past the hamlet of Bois Bougy, we come to the rim of the wood Bois Bougy, from where a comfortable hiking path takes us, first along the edge of the wood, then in a southern direction through it. After leaving the wood behind, we are rewarded with a beautiful view over Lake Geneva. Continuing southwards, we come to the edge of a vineyard, where we turn off to the railway line on the left and follow the line south-westwards to the station of Crans-près-Céligny. Here we climb up on the right-hand side past the vineyard and the castle park and, describing an arc, come into the village of Crans (Cranos in Latin). Its coat of arms shows four pilgrim scallops. Heading left, we come to the church, built around 1500. The terrace in front of the church offers a beautiful lookout with banks inviting us to stay a while and rest.

Not far from the church we join the access road that takes us across fields to Céligny. In its centre, we find the small church with the somewhat special belfry in the upper part of the facade. Each of the two bells cast in 1858 weighs 500 kg. The interior (key available at the parish house) surprises us with a beautiful organ. Beside the church is the castle, built 1722.

## Section Céligny - Geneva



Topographic maps of the region  
Scale 1:25'000: numbers 1261 1281 and 1301  
Scale 1:50'000: numbers 260 and 27

## Céligny - Genève

23.5 km, walking time 6 hrs 15 min

### Céligny - Coppet

7 km, walking time 1 hr 50 min

We reach Coppet by way of Founex and Commugny. We follow the main road and after about 100m, we turn off in the direction of the Château de Bossey. Past the cemetery, we come into the wooded trench of the brook Le Brassu, cross it, and describing an arc following the brook and the edge of the wood, we come to the Château de Bossey with the beautiful castle pond. The castle, built 1722, has been owned since 1946 by the ecumenical council of the churches and is meeting place and ecumenical college. We skirt the private property on its left side and come to the former gardener's house. Here we join the tree-hemmed path which takes us through fields and past vineyards, twice changing direction, down in a southern direction to Founex. The vine-growers' village Founex was first mentioned in 1224 as "Fosnay". It was settled already in early times and came under Roman rule. In the 9th century, it came into the possession of the abbey of St-Maurice, together with Commugny. In 1257, the place was sold to Peter of Savoy, and in 1271, both villages were united with Coppet. We traverse Founex and at the road bifurcation after the village exit (near La Sapinière), we take the right-hand fork that takes us in a south-western direction through residential areas (with vineyards and fields) to the church and the cemetery of Commugny (Communiacum in Latin). The precursor church St-Christophe was built in the



Château de Bossey



Founex

we come to the bridge of the rivulet Le Grenier, cross it in order to come to Tannay going

6th century on the site of a former Roman villa. The present church and the parish house were erected in the 18th century. The route leads now eastwards above the rivulet Le Grenier until shortly before the park of the castle of Coppet. After crossing the rivulet, the path turns southwards.

On the access road, past the castle park, we reach the small town of Coppet with the castle built in 1767. It has a museum ("housing conditions in the 18th century"). The Grand Rue shows a row of balcony houses, built in the 16th century. The reformed parish church, built around 1500 as a Dominican monastery, has choir stalls from the 16th century. It can be visited upon request only. Coppet was settled already in the Bronze Age, and later was taken over by the Romans as "Copetum".

(Note: If we want to make a detour around Coppet, we do not turn off in Commugny towards the left to the church, but remain on the road and turn off to a south-western direction shortly after. Along the vineyards,

straight on through residential quarters.)

### **Coppet - Chambésy**

10.5 km, walking time 2 hrs 40 min

On the access road, coming from the western entry to Coppet, we pass the castle park on the left and the railway station on the right and come to the railway line and cross it. After that, we turn off to the access road that brings us southwards to Tannay. Thus we pass the

station and the railway line to the right and come through residential quarters into the centre of Tannay. We proceed westwards through the wooded trench of the Torry brook and come down to Mies. Here, we follow the access road to Versoix. At the houses of La Bécassière, we turn off eastwards onto a path that leads us along the wood's edge in an arc to the railway line. At first, we follow the railway line and the little brook through its wooded trench and on a path hemmed-in by trees, leave the railway line to come to Pont-Céard, a part of Versoix. We cross the main road, proceed in a southern direction through residential quarters and come to the southern edge of the small town of Versoix, meaning to the Versoix trench. Here, we turn to the left and keeping to the Versoix trench, we come to the rail-



Commugny



Parish church of Coppet

way line. We follow it and cross the Versoix brook. After that we keep to the right and take the road which leads across fields into Genthod, a suburb of Geneva. At the crossroads (near the cemetery), we turn off to the left and in an arc, we come to the castle and the church. The route leads us in a south-western direction, above the railway line and along the vineyards, into Bellevue, a part of the city. To the left, we turn off to the railway station Genthod-la-Gare. From here we follow the comfortable path along the railway line, pass Les Tuileries, cross the road and the access road to the motorway, and shortly before the station of Chambésy, we turn off to the right. Slightly ascending, we come up to the village exit of Chambésy where a view worth seeing awaits us. A panorama table shows us the names of all the mountains we see (in good weather): From the Moléson (Fribourg) to the Mont Blanc (France).



Coppet - On the lake



Castle Genthod

### **Chambésy - Geneva (city centre)**

6 km, walking time 1 hr 30 min

We walk on the road past the houses of Les Ormeaux into the place Pregny where we pass the small catholic church. From here, we can see the towers of the Château de Tournay where Voltaire lived from 1758 to 1760. After a short visit of the place we descend in a south-eastern direction past the vast park grounds of the Château de Penthes (today museum of the Foundation of the Swiss living abroad) and crossing the railway line, down to the Rue du Lac. We follow the lake road, passing below the UNO building (Palais des Nations) and past the botanical gardens until we come to the city section Sécheron (not far from the monument of Mahatma Gandhi) where, through the park, we come to the lake promenade. On the way we see a broken wooden chair ("chaise amputée"), a huge, house-high sculpture of the Swiss artist Daniel Berset, sponsored by the organisation Handicap International. On the shore promenade, past the port facilities of Geneva, and also the bathing beach, we come to the mouth of the Rhone (near the Rousseau isle). We follow the shore road of the Rhone for only about 100m, and turn off to the right. The route takes us first northwards up to the station (Place de Cornavin) where we rest a while.

From the station, we go south-westwards past the catholic Eglise de Notre Dame as far as the Rhone isle where we cross the river Rhone. On the isle (L'île), there is a bank building with an integrated tower of the former bishop's residence from the 13th century. From the Place Bel-Air, we climb the Rue de la Cité and via the Grande Rue we come to the precincts of the cathedral St-Pierre. On the way we come by the Maison de Saussure, which is the city hall (Hôtel de Ville), and also the former arsenal from the 16th century. Past the Maison Tavel, we come to the St-Pierre cathedral.

The construction of the today reformed cathedral was started around 1150 in the Roman style on the foundations of a previous church, and was completed towards 1230 in a gothic style. To the right of the entrance, the high-gothic Maccabee chapel was added in 1406. The classicistic entrance portal with the 6 pillars was built in 1752. It reminds us of the Roman temple that once stood here. In the interior of the church is the sepulchre



View on Chambésy



International Red cross headquarter



Palais des nations unies



Rousseau island



Cathedral St. Pierre

of the Duke of Rohan (around 1600 leader of the French protestants), and carved choir stalls from the 15th century. Two magnificent glass rosettes let in the light. A visit to the chapel is worthwhile. The northern tower can be climbed on 150 steps, and offers a beautiful view to the lake, the city and the Alps. In the south tower, below the sentry room, the big bell from 1407 still strikes the hour. In the basement, one can view some old capitals of previous churches.

Geneva was captured by the Romans in the year 120 before Christ. It was christianized in the 4th century, and came under the rule of the kings of Burgundy. After that, the bishops reigned until they were chased away by Calvin. In 1402, Geneva was assaulted by the Savoyards, and became temporarily French in 1798. In 1815, it became part of the Swiss Confederation.

### Geneva city - Swiss border

Walking time 2 hrs 20 min

From the cathedral, we follow the wayposts down to the Place du Bourg-de-Four, the site of the Roman Forum. Then down to the Rue Saint-Léger, and on this street onwards, past the park of the old university to the Place des Philosophes. Further on the Rue Prévost-Martin past the Eglise St-François to the Rue de la Ferme, and from there over the Rue de la Colline to the river Arve. We cross it on the Pont de Carouge (tramway), and leave the city behind. We are now in the small town of Carouge. The route follows the tramway tracks through the Avenue Cardinal-Mermillod and the Rue Ancienne. To the right of the long square with the plane trees stands the catholic church Ste-Croix with the interesting organ, the side chapels and apostle statues. Near the Place du Rondeau, a big round square with the monument "Genève à la Suisse", we leave the tramway tracks and use the sidewalk to go up the Route de Drize. We leave the road, turn off to the right and follow the well-maintained path (Chemin du Bief à Dance) across the brook Drize as far as the road crossing where the Route de Saconnex d'Arve joins, and we follow this road in a southern direction. A short distance before the main crossing in the village of Sa-



Jet d'Eau of Geneva



View from the cathedral tower



Parish church of Ste-Croix

connex d'Arve, we turn off southwards and come to a quiet little road. To the left we see the mountain ridge "Grand Salève", already on French soil, and to the right the tower of the former castle fortress. On the street, we go through the village of Saconnex d'Arve-Dessus with the stone cross and, using the cycling and hiking path, we come to the roundabout of Compesières. On the right-hand side is the castle of Compesières with the church that was transformed into a Commandery by the Knights of St. John in the 14th century. Therein, pilgrims were formerly accommodated and given spiritual advice. Today it houses the communal administration of Bardonnex and a small museum. From opposite the church, the route follows a paved road to Charrot and from there over a road crossing southwards to the brook Arande forming the national border. Here, at an unmanned border crossing point, ends the Swiss Way of St. James.

The first guidepost on French soil bids us welcome and indicates that on the "Chemin de Saint-Jacques - GR 65" until Santiago it is still 1854 km!

Route description for the continuation from Geneva to Le Puy:

We recommend the "Guide Jaune", edited by the Friends of the Way of St. James (Rhône-Alpes), available for 8 € (subject to change).

Contact address in Switzerland:

Deshusses Madeleine  
Chemin des Grands-Buissons 4  
CH-1233 Bernex / GE  
Phone 0041 (0)22 757 12 70

Contact address in France:

Association Rhône-Alpes  
Des Amis de Saint-Jacques  
133 Chemin Rapillard  
F - 38890 Salagnon  
Phone +33 (0) 474 92 40 31  
guides@amis-st-jacques.org



Saconnex d'Arve



View on the Grand Salève



Compesières