

Convocation Convention 2019 – Transport

Arrival and Departure – by Plane, Train and Private Car

Location and getting there

The Chateau de Bossey is outside Céligny, and a 14-minute walk from the nearest public transport, which is a bus either from Nyon or Coppet both of which can be reached by train. A bus stops at the villages between the two. Hence, we provide the following details regarding transport.

Public Transport in General

Geneva claims to be one of the safest cities. However, the Airport and the Main Railway Station (Cornavin) are notorious for pickpockets and bag-snatchers. Remain alert.

Those arriving by public transport are asked to make their way to **Coppet railway station**, where they will be met and shuttled to the Château de Bossey by car.

You MUST inform us that you will be arriving this way, and indicate your expected arrival time on the registration form or as soon as known.

Please e-mail the details of your travel to: helena.mbele-mbong@orange.fr We don't want to leave you shivering at a deserted railway station – there are no railway staff at Coppet.

Trains and rural buses tend to run on an hourly rhythm, until the evening. Times here are given as (e.g.) xx.34, meaning 34 minutes past the hour – all times are INDICATIVE, please CHECK your particular case. Online train timetables are available at cff.ch (FR), sbb.ch (DE) & ffs.ch (IT); and with an app for your phone “SBB Mobile” (EN). Printed departure timetables on the platforms are YELLOW posters (white ones are arrivals).

Taxis are ruinously expensive. If you think you will need one, contact us for advice on minimising the cost. Uber is available, but we have no idea how good service levels may be in the rural area around Bossey.

Arrival by air

If you're arriving on a French domestic flight (all French flights are domestic), be sure to take the exit in the Swiss sector.

If you're spending some time in Geneva before heading out to Bossey, you can get a free ticket from machines in the baggage-claim area; it is valid for the train and buses in the Geneva town area only. This ticket is NOT sufficient to get to Coppet.

After exiting from Customs control, turn left and walk about 150m to the railway ticketing area. The machines take Swiss currency, Maestro and Credit cards (Debit cards on your local bank are unlikely to work). I think the ticket counters with humans will accept euros. Buy a single ticket to Coppet – Fr 6.60 unless you have the Swiss half-price card.

The trains depart from the lower level, and all go to Geneva main railway station. Take any train and alight in Geneva.

Now follow the instruction for arrival by train from the West.

Arrival by train, from the West (i.e. from France):

You will arrive at Geneva main railway station. All passengers from France must exit the platform to pass Customs control on the lower level. If you need an additional ticket to get to Coppet you will find the machines near the station entrances on the lower levels – when exiting the Customs area, the nearest is just outside the doors on your left.

From Geneva main station, fast trains (*regio express*), coded “RE”, run twice an hour (usually at xx.18 and xx.48) and take about 10 minutes to Coppet. The slow trains, coded “S L1/2/3/4”, run up to four times an hour, but take 24 minutes to get to Coppet; only take these if you've just missed the fast train (you'll have a comfortable seat in the warm), usually leaving at xx.00 and xx.30. If the “S” train is replaced by a bus, don't bother; it's very slow.

When you know your exact arrival time in Coppet, please call or SMS us on [phone number to be determined].

At Coppet station follow the signs towards the Buses (in the direction of the lake). You will be greeted near the top of the stairs/ramp of platform 1.

Arrival by train, from the East (e.g. from Germany, Austria or Italy):

You will need to investigate where your train overlaps the local trains. You will probably be able to avoid going all the way to Geneva.

The “RE” train (*regio express*), which covers the Lausanne to Geneva line, usually runs every 30 minutes and stops in Coppet. If you can, change to the “RE” in Morges (departing at xx.04 and xx.34) or Nyon (departing at xx.24 and xx.54); this should normally not involve a change of platform. Changing trains in Lausanne is less convenient (“RE” departures at xx.21 and xx.51).

When you know your exact arrival time in Coppet, please call or SMS us on [phone number to be determined].

At Coppet station follow the signs towards the Buses (in the direction of the lake). You will be greeted near the top of the stairs/ramp of platform 1.

Departure by plane or train

You will be taken to the church by bus on Sunday morning.

Geneva main railway station is a 10-minute walk from the church, with frequent trains to the airport (very roughly every 15 minutes). The ride takes about 8 minutes.

Accessibility

At the airport: you should be able to make special arrangements when booking your flight. For your return trip, you can get to the Departure check-in by returning to the Arrivals area and taking the lift or escalator up one floor.

At the train stations, in addition to the stairs:

- Geneva Airport: lifts/elevators and escalators
- Geneva Main station: lifts/elevators and a ramp; escalators, except from tracks 7 & 8 (France).
- Coppet: only a ramp

Most (all?) long distance trains (including those from Geneva Airport) have steps up from the platform. Wheel-chair access can be arranged with the railway company by “booking” ahead of time, but this could fail if your connection is delayed.

The “RE” trains, and “S L” trains from Geneva main station, are wheel-chair friendly.

The walk from the church to the railway station takes typically 10 minutes and is slightly up-hill.

If you have a mobility concern or an impossible amount of luggage, please contact us for advice about special arrangements.

Arrival by car

If you drive on the Swiss autoroutes/autobahnen/autostrade/motorways, your car must have an appropriate sticker. This costs Fr 40.- valid for the calendar year. If you arrive in Switzerland on an autoroute, one will be forced upon you, otherwise they can be purchased in service stations or post offices. A Swiss rental car should already have one.

Switzerland in general, and Geneva in particular, is littered with radar controls for speed and red lights – be prudent!

There is a village called Bossey (no “e”) in the Geneva region, near the French border – don't get confused!

“Switzerland is a beautiful country. Well, it will be when it's finished.”

Road-works are a constant problem. We will try to update this document with the latest obstructions to your visit as we become aware of them:

- Versoix, Route de Suisse (lake road) one-way, from Geneva towards Lausanne only

The SatNav systems on my phone (including Google) are unrealistically optimistic about the roads around Bossey. Unless you're intent upon an adventure involving an angry farmer (or policeman) and a lot of mud, I'd recommend:

- Take yourself to the Geneva-Lausanne autoroute (A1, E25/E62), exit #10, signed for Coppet and Divonne. This exit can be very congested at peak times; be prepared to use the hard shoulder (break-down lane) when exiting.
- Turn towards Divonne (away from the lake).
- Immediately after the autoroute junction there is another set of traffic lights; get in the right-hand lane and turn right, following signs for St Cergue, Céligny, Chavannes-de-Bogis etc.

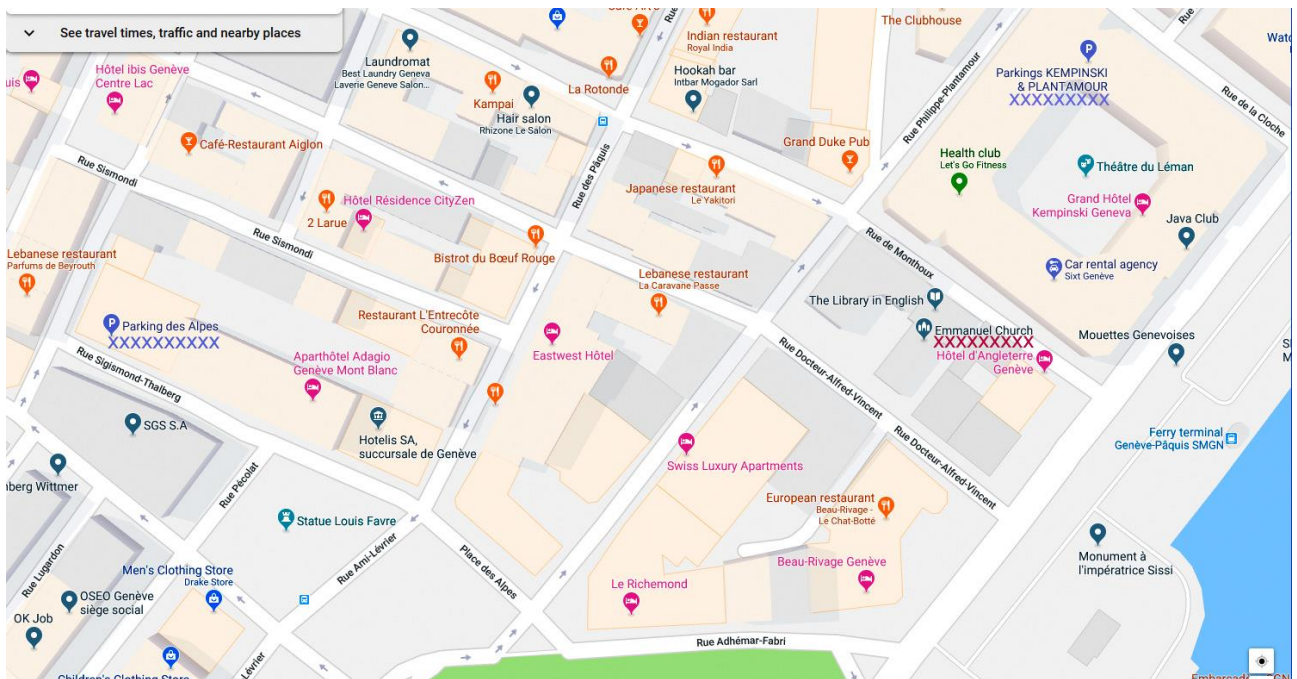
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- A detailed map of the Chateau de Bossey area. The map shows the Rhône river flowing through the center. To the left, the town of Divonne-les-Bains is visible, with the 'Exit Divonne-Coppet' marked. To the right, the town of Coppet is shown, with the 'Chateau de Bossey' marked. The map includes various roads, such as the 'Route de Châtignieraz' and 'Route de Divonne'. Landmarks like 'Petite Coudrie' and 'La Grande Coudrie' are also labeled. The map is color-coded with green for parks and brown for urban areas.

Departure to Geneva (Sunday morning) by car

Be aware that the lake road (“Route de Suisse”) through Versoix is one-way only, the wrong way, preventing you from using this route to the church on Sunday morning.

I'd recommend to retrace your path to the autoroute junction #10, take the autoroute towards Geneva (!) and follow the signs to Genève Lac and Evian where the autoroute splits after 9.7 km – left-hand lane. This joins the lake road (speed traps at 100km/h and 60km/h) and after 2.8 km on the lake road, turn left at some lights (signed for Evian). The Rue de Monthoux is on your right after 1.2 km, immediately after the Kempinsky hotel. The geography of SatNav systems should be reliable in town.

Street parking (if you can find it) is free on Sunday. The nearest paid parking to the church is under the Kempinsky hotel, entrance in Rue de la Cloche; this is not cheap. Otherwise the Parking des Alpes (my preference) on Rue Sigismond-Thalberg is only 5 minute's walk away and a bit cheaper.



Departure from Geneva by car

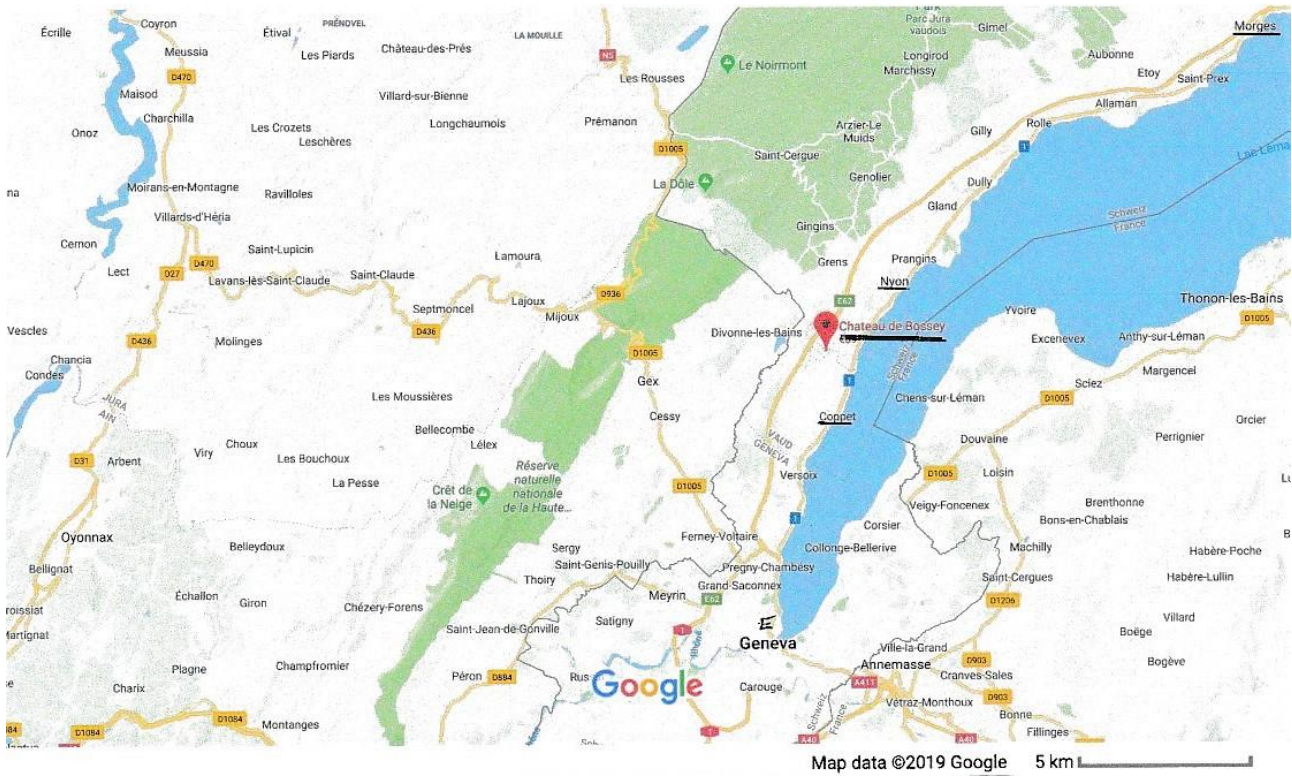
Traffic in Geneva is moderate on an early Sunday afternoon, so it is reasonable to follow your SatNav for a route across town.

Otherwise, get onto the Quai de Mont Blanc (the lake-side road), going North-East. (If you end up facing the wrong way, you can turn right at the lights on Rue Adhémar-Fabri and immediately make a U-turn, or turn right on the Rue des Alpes and make a circuit of the park around the Brunswick Memorial). At the major intersection after the road leaves the lake-side:

- turn right, signed for Lausanne, for routes going East, or
- go straight, signed for the Airport, for routes going West.

Bonne route! – David Pittuck

Chateau de Bossey



Emmanuel Church

