

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 11-15 January 2016

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

Welcome to Geneva !

To guide you throughout the meeting, we have assembled the information below.

Visa information

Participants requiring a Schengen visa for Switzerland are strongly advised to contact the nearest Swiss diplomatic representation **as soon as possible, particularly in this year-end period**, in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Notification to the Parties [No. 2015/053](#) of 14 September 2015 will serve as the invitation letter, to be attached to the visa application.

For information on visa requirements, Swiss representations abroad and visa application forms, please go to the official website of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs:

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/fdfa/entry-switzerland-residence/visa-requirements-application-form.html>

Arriving in Switzerland (Geneva Cointrin International Airport/GVA)

Geneva is serviced by the Geneva Cointrin International Airport (GVA), which is about 5 kilometres from central Geneva. Some hotels offer free shuttle service from the airport, so kindly request this information when making your reservation. There are direct connections to the city centre by taxi, train and bus, as follows:

Taxi

Taxis are readily available at the Geneva Airport. The trip to central Geneva takes approx. 15 min. Fares range from CHF 35-/CHF40 (approx.)

Train

The airport railway station has direct access to the airport check-in and arrival levels. All trains from the airport stop at the Geneva-Cornavin station in the city centre and the journey takes about 7 min (every 12 min). For information about the Swiss railway system and prices, please go to:

[http://www.sbb.ch/en/home.marketingurl_\\$\\$\\$\\$en\\$\\$\\$index.html](http://www.sbb.ch/en/home.marketingurl_$$$$en$$$index.html)

Bus

There are a number of bus lines that service the GVA Airport. The frequency and fares are as follows:

- a) **To Geneva Railway Station:** Bus number 10 departs approx. every 10 min;
- b) **To Geneva Place des Nations** (United Nations' Building): Bus number 5 departs approx. every 10 min.

The CICG is located just off the Place des Nations.

You can pick up a free ticket for public transportation at the airport from the machine in the baggage collection area. With this "Unireso" ticket offered by the Geneva Cointrin International Airport, you can use public transport in Geneva for free for a period of 80 min.

If you are staying in a hotel in Geneva for the duration of your stay, **Geneva public transport (TPG) networks are FREE**. Just ask for the TPG pass in the establishment where you stay. A map of the urban transport connections is available at: http://www.tpg.ch/documents/10162/12466871/tpg_plan_urbain_dec-14.pdf

Meeting facilities

The 66th meeting of the Standing Committee will be held at the **Centre International de Conférence Genève (CICG)** from **Monday 11 through Friday 15 January 2016**.

Venue

Centre International de Conférences Genève
17 rue de Varembe
CH-1211 Genève 20
T + 41 22 791 91 11
F + 41 22 791 90 64
info@cicg.ch

Information on internet connections, bars & restaurants, smoking areas, parking, etc. is available at:
<http://cicg.ch/en/>

Information on transportation to the venue is available at:
http://cicg.ch/content/pdf/cicg_plan_acces.pdf

Opening and registration

The registration desk will open at 08.00 a.m. on **Monday 11 January 2016**. It is located at the entrance of Room 1, Level 1.

Badges will be distributed to all registered participants. Participants are requested to wear them at all times. **Last minute registrants from Parties are kindly requested to send to nadia.berny@cites.org or bring with them an electronic passport-size photo to be inserted on their badges at the venue.**

Working languages of the meeting

The meeting will be held in CITES' official languages: English, French and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation is available in the Plenary hall in all three official languages.

Hotel information

Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel reservations. Hotel staff speak French, German and Italian. English is widely spoken in hotels and restaurants.

A list of hotel rooms at United Nations preferential rates is available at:
http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/Hotel/hotel-list-preferential-rates-2015.pdf

Information on other hotel and tourist information in the vicinity of the meeting can be found at:
<http://www.geneva.info/>

Other practical information

Weather and time zone information is available at:
<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/switzerland/geneva>

Electrical plug/outlet and voltage information for Switzerland is available at:
http://www.adaptelec.com/index.php?main_page=document_general_info&products_id=313

Currency

The currency in Switzerland is the Swiss Franc (CHF).
The current exchange rate as at 1 December 2015 is US\$1= CHF1.03
The current exchange rate as at 1 December 2015 is €1= CHF 1.09
Rates are subject to change.

Disclaimer

The CITES Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical, accident and travel insurances for the period of participation prior to departure.