

The humanitarian trail of the Red Cross

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The humanitarian trail of the Red Cross is an adaptation of the historical and thematic trail created for the 33rd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement held in Geneva on 4-12 December 2019. It was produced in collaboration with the ICRC and IFRC and with the cooperation of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, the Société Henry Dunant and the Fondation Genève Tourisme et Congrès.

This new edition was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Fondation pour Genève and the TWKS communication agency.

www.humanitariantrail.ch

Catherine Hubert Girod

Second edition

Produced in collaboration with
the Société Henry Dunant

Geneva, July 2020

The humanitarian trail of the Red Cross

Take a humanitarian journey through the history of the Red Cross as you immerse yourself in the city of Geneva.

Follow the walking trail through the Old Town to discover how a handful of Genevan citizens started the Red Cross story and how it quickly unfolded into humanitarian action and, later, the development of international humanitarian law. The trail features landmarks that are rich in history and symbolism.

To pursue the humanitarian experience and discover the next chapters of the Red Cross story, head towards Geneva's international district to visit the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum. Discover the next chapters of the Red Cross story and the remarkable development of humanitarian action and law, and learn about the emerging challenges faced by the Movement.



This brochure will guide you through the various stops on the trail and an interactive digital map is accessible via mobile and tablet to help you locate the sites. There are also short videos that you can watch along the way to enrich your visit.



Go to the interactive map
<http://bit.ly/HumanitarianTrailMap>

Old Town

1. The charismatic visionary
2. The International Prisoners-of-War Agency
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4. The consolidating jurist
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The charismatic visionary

It all began in 1862 with the promotion of an idea. Three years earlier, a young citizen of Geneva, Henry Dunant, was travelling in northern Italy on business when he came upon the aftermath of a bloody battle. On his return to Geneva, he wrote a book entitled *A Memory of Solferino*, calling for improved care for wounded soldiers in wartime. In less than two years, it had led to the creation of the Red Cross and the signing of the Geneva Convention.

Unfortunately, Dunant was not as successful in his business ventures which ended in bankruptcy in 1867, forcing him to leave his home city never to return and eventually leading to his exclusion from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The bust in front of you by Luc Jaggi was inaugurated in 1980 and represents Dunant in his thirties – a creative communicator and networker who was able to mobilize support for his idea across Europe.

Few will recognize Dunant in his later years as a old man living in a nursing home in Heiden in the canton of Appenzell. He nevertheless managed to resurface in the public conscience, initially thanks to an article written by a journalist. Dunant strived to regain the recognition he felt he deserved and eventually succeeded, obtaining the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.

You will get to know Dunant better as you follow the trail.



► Next stop: turn around and walk to the Musée Rath

The International Prisoners-of-War Agency



You will temporarily fast-forward to a crucial milestone in the Red Cross story: the First World War (1914–1918).

In 1914, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) established the International Prisoners-of-War Agency. It was in the Musée Rath, the first art museum opened to the Swiss public in 1826, that 3,000 volunteers worked tirelessly until the Agency closed in 1923. Its accomplishments were tremendous, considering the logistical and technical challenges it faced: 7 million index cards keeping track of prisoners registered by detaining authorities

and those being searched for by their families, 20 million messages exchanged and 2 million individual parcels distributed. The majority of the volunteers were women, and some would embark on a career with the ICRC, including as delegates.

The ICRC also innovated with visits to prisoners of war and with interventions over the use of weapons that caused extreme suffering such as mustard gas. The restrictions on warfare stipulated in the Geneva Convention of 1864 would subsequently be expanded.



International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum – Permanent exhibition

Surrounded by the 6 million surviving index cards, visitors can appreciate first-hand the immense and meticulous work of the volunteers through four examples of British, French and German detainees.

► Let's now meet two other important characters in this story

Next stop: go to the equestrian statue of General Guillaume Henri Dufour in the middle of the Place de Neuve

The humanitarian general

This statue from 1884 represents General Guillaume Henri Dufour, who was highly respected not only for his military career but also as an engineer and topographer. He served under Napoleon I, was four times appointed commander-in-chief of the Swiss Federal Army and founded the Federal Military Academy in Thun (canton of Bern).

Among the officers trained there was Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte, nephew of the former emperor and future Napoleon III of France (1852–1871). This privileged relationship was significant for the Red Cross story.

Dufour became a national hero after leading the federal army of 100,000 men and ending the civil war that took place in 1847 when the Catholic cantons attempted to form a separate alliance known as the Sonderbund. In addition to his military talent which enabled him to achieve a quick victory in less than a month with fewer than a hundred victims, the General was admired beyond Swiss borders for his consideration of human lives. He had instructed his troops to respect wounded and captured enemy soldiers and to spare and look after children, women and old people.

Follow the trail to find out how the General's experience and prestige helped launch the Red Cross story.



► Next stop: enter the Parc des Bastions and walk down the central path to the bust of Gustave Moynier on your left

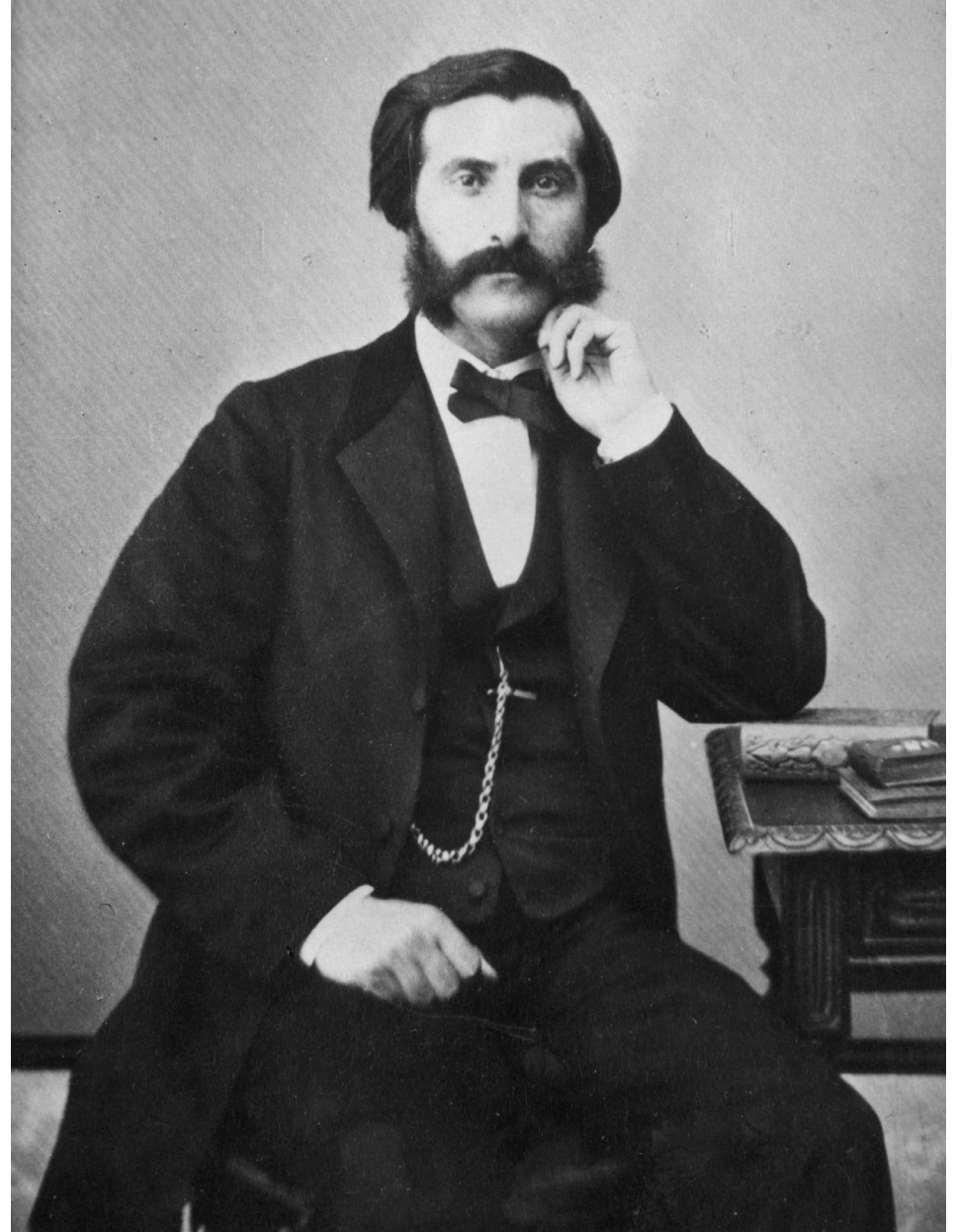
The consolidating jurist



Gustave Moynier was born in 1826 into a prosperous bourgeois family. He studied in Paris where he acquired a strong interest in law, although upon returning to Geneva he realized that his calling was not the practice of law. He became involved in philanthropic organizations, notably serving as president of the Geneva Society for Public Welfare which addressed local social issues. Moynier put all his energy

into these causes and attended charity conferences in European capitals in an attempt to reach beyond Geneva. Upon reading *A Memory of Solferino*, he was immediately convinced by the proposals made by Henry Dunant to ensure aid for wounded soldiers on all sides of the battlefield. The complementary relationship between the two men kick-started a process that would rapidly attract unprecedented interest. However, their relationship quickly deteriorated due to differences in personality and motivation.

Moynier was an efficient organizer with a keen legal mind and is credited with having given a sustainable form to Dunant's ideas and with pioneering international humanitarian law. In recognition of his tremendous contribution as co-founder of the ICRC and its president, a position he held for 46 years (1864–1910), this bust by Otto Bindschedler was inaugurated in 1989.



► You can learn about historical Geneva at the Reformation Wall or head straight to the Palais de l'Athénée (2, rue de l'Athénée)



Historical Geneva: the Reformation Wall

You now have before you the International Monument to the Reformation which commemorates the 400th anniversary of Jean Calvin's birth (1509-1564). Construction started in 1909 and was completed in 1917.

In May 1536, Geneva adopted the Reformation and, three months later, a promising young lawyer and reformer travelling through Geneva was persuaded to stay and help structure the new church. His name was Jean Calvin, and he would transform the city which was to become known as the "Protestant Rome", entirely surrounded by Catholic territory.

Over the next two centuries, the massive arrival of Protestant refugees put a strain on the small republic but, more importantly, it brought new prosperous economic sectors – finance, textile and watchmaking – as well as an extensive Huguenot network. Religiously and culturally, Geneva also became a promotional centre, translating and printing the Bible, teaching its citizens to read and establishing an academy in 1559 to train pastors from different countries. This academy became the University of Geneva in 1873 and is located behind you.



Also in the park: Red Cross Monument

Inaugurated in 1963, this sculpture by Jacques Probst represents an angel protecting a wounded soldier and a refugee mother with her children. It was presented to the city of Geneva by the Geneva Committee for a Henry Dunant Monument in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Red Cross, created at the International Conference of 1863 (see Stop 5).



► Next stop: go to the Palais de l'Athénée (2, rue de l'Athénée)

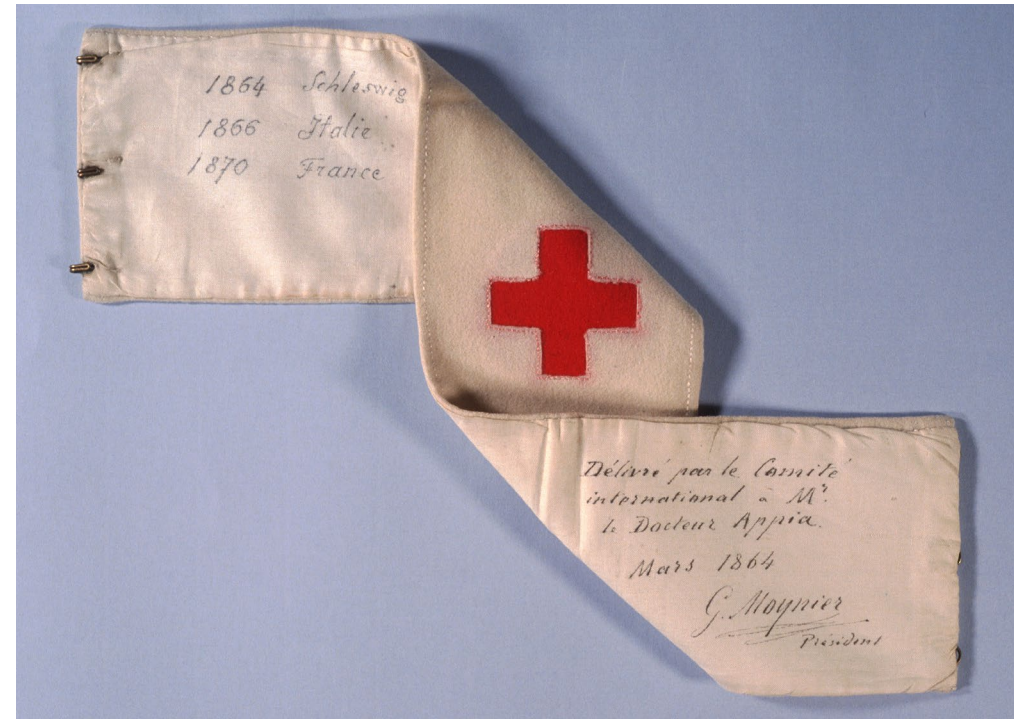
Founding of the Red Cross



Following a vote in 1850, the fortification walls surrounding Geneva were finally demolished and progressively replaced by new constructions, including the Palais de l'Athénée built in 1863 by the banker Jean-Gabriel Eynard. That same year, his widow proposed it as the venue for the international conference.

On 26–29 October 1863, a committee consisting of Henry Dunant, General Dufour and Gustave Moynier, together with two physicians, Louis Appia and Théodore Maunoir (see Stops 12 and 13), convened an international conference. This private initiative was attended by 36 people, including official delegates from 16 countries.

Resolutions were adopted for the implementation of one of Henry Dunant's ideas: the creation of national relief committees that would train volunteers and prepare material during peacetime in order to assist medical services during war. A distinctive sign to wear as an armlet or carry as a flag was chosen: a red cross on a white background.



The first national relief committee was established in December in the Kingdom of Württemberg, with others set up in the following months in Belgium, Prussia, Denmark, France, Italy, Spain and Hesse. In less than five years, 22 societies had been created.

This was the beginning of the body that would later be renamed the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

► Next stop: Chapelle de l'Oratoire
(7, rue Tabazan)

Awakening of humanitarianism

In the 19th century, charity work was very much a part of religious activities in Geneva, notably among patrician families. It also saw the emergence of a renewed spiritual and social movement called the *Réveil* (awakening), and in 1834 its supporters established the Evangelical Society of Geneva in this chapel.

It was here that a young Henry Dunant became very active in this work, which nourished his sense of social responsibility and compassion. In 1852, at the age of 24, he co-founded the Christian Union in Geneva (already operating in London and Paris) and participated in setting up what would become the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations (YMCA). His role as secretary-correspondent enabled him to reach out to an extensive network across Europe, enhancing his skills as a communicator and networker.

In 1859, having heard of the bloodbath at Solferino, the Evangelical Society expressed its concern for the fate of the wounded soldiers, calling on parishioners to send a relief mission. Four volunteers went to Lombardy just as Dunant was returning to Geneva from his own journey there. Although not involved in this endeavour, he saw a clear need to distinguish between religious and secular work.

There was a strong sense of responsibility among members of Geneva's elite, who were actively involved in the official Protestant or Evangelical churches, to aid and protect those in need. And this is certainly a factor that explains why this story unfolded in 19th-century Geneva.



1st World YMCA Conference, Paris, 1855, with Dunant standing 3rd from left.

► Next stop: the printing house of Jules-Guillaume Fick (14, rue Etienne Dumont)

Printing of words that made history



This plaque commemorates the 150th anniversary of the first edition of Henry Dunant's book *A Memory of Solferino*. Here stood the printing house of Jules-Guillaume Fick, Geneva's most prestigious printers specializing in limited luxury editions.

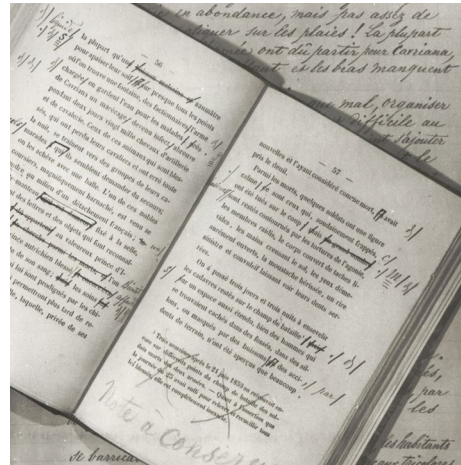
It was also the building where General Dufour lived between 1826 and 1845. Before the book went to print, Dunant had sent the manuscript to the General for his approval.

Dunant had wanted to print this book as a high-quality, large-format publication including a map of the battle of Solferino in three colours!

- Learn more about historical Geneva at Place du Bourg-de-Four or continue to the next stop: Henry Dunant's birth place (12, rue Verdaïne).

This was very costly, and Dunant had to foot the bill himself. The book came out in November 1862 for private distribution only. The first 400 copies with "Not for Sale" on the cover were offered to a select audience in Geneva and to influential personalities across Europe.

The first acknowledgments arrived quickly, and another edition was printed, this time for sale at a price of 5 francs. In February 1863, 3,000 more copies were published but in a different format and for the more affordable price of 1.50 francs. That same year, the book was translated into German, Dutch and Italian.



Historical Geneva: Place du Bourg-de-Four

When the glaciers withdrew from the region 20,000 years ago, they left Lake Geneva with a little island (l'île) on the Rhône River which flows through the lake. There have been wooden bridges since antiquity on this island, the only passage across the Rhône in a long way.

Geneva became an important stop for travellers and a transportation hub for goods, and a major market place was established at this spot – the Place du Bourg-de-Four.



As part of the Roman Empire since 121 BC, the site first appeared in the writings of Julius Caesar as "Genua", meaning "the mouth of the river". Geneva continued to prosper in the Middle Ages, and the commercial area moved down to the three ports – Fusterie, Molard and Longemalle. Four times a year from the 1200s to the 1400s, Geneva became the financial and commercial centre of Europe when it hosted international trade fairs. At these times, the population would double with the massive arrival of French, German, Dutch, Italian and Swiss merchants and bankers as well as craftsmen, artists and visitors coming to the city for the occasion.

After the decline of these fairs when the King of France decided to favour those held in Lyon, Geneva continued to maintain commercial relations with Bern and Fribourg, and new alliances were progressively formed with these Swiss cantons.

The Place du Bourg-de-Four is still an animated and vibrant square and the heart of the Old Town.

- Next stop: Henry Dunant's birthplace (12, rue Verdaïne).

Henry Dunant from youth to adulthood



Jean-Henri Dunant was born on 8 May 1828 into a bourgeois family in this property that they owned. His parents were known for their engagement in social work, and he would often accompany his mother when she visited the poor and ill. His father was particularly concerned with criminals, and during a family trip to the south one summer he visited prisoners in Toulon accompanied by six-year-old Henry – an experience that left a strong impression on the little boy.

As an adolescent, Henry attended secondary school at the Collège de Genève (today Collège Calvin). Although he was strong in religious studies and even won prizes, he was a poor student in other subjects and was finally dismissed at the age of 14. He completed his schooling with a private tutor who lived in this building which still

- Discover historical Geneva at the Old Arsenal or continue to the next stop: Henry Dunant's house (4, rue du Puits-Saint-Pierre)

belonged to the family. At lunchtime, he often went to eat with his Aunt Sophie who was a member of the Evangelical Society in which he became actively involved. Throughout his formative years, he was driven by a motivation and responsibility to bring relief to those in need. As a young adult, for example, he spent his Sunday afternoons reading the Bible with condemned prisoners.

In his early twenties, Dunant was sent by his employer, the Lullin & Sautter Bank, on a trip to Algeria where he decided to launch his own enterprise called Les Moulins de Mons-Djémila. Although his optimism and enthusiasm drew Genevan investors, the business was beset by problems, and it was with the intention of resolving them that Dunant set off to northern Italy in June 1859 for an audience with Napoleon III. He did not succeed and was finally declared bankrupt and convicted by the Geneva Tribunal of Commerce. Instead, this journey channelled his energy in a totally new direction.



Historical Geneva: The Old Arsenal

You are now at the ancient arsenal where you can admire three mosaics depicting the first chapters of Geneva's story: the arrival of Julius Caesar in 58 BC, prosperity thanks to the trade fairs of the Middle Ages and the impact of the Reformation and Huguenot refuge.

Throughout its history, Geneva managed to stay independent and maintain its identity. In 1602, the Duke of Savoy, whose dominions surrounded Geneva, attempted a final attack on the Republic using extended ladders to climb over the walls in the middle of the night. And this is when, according to legend, a local woman known as Mère Royaume courageously threw a cauldron of hot soup out the window onto a passing Savoyard soldier. Every 12 December, Genevans celebrate this victory with the Fête de l'Escalade, enjoying chocolate cauldrons filled with marzipan vegetables with great relish.

Nevertheless, Geneva did lose its independence once – it was annexed by France from 1798 to 1813. After Napoleon Bonaparte's defeat, the victorious Austrian troops stayed for a few months in Geneva and then took the Republic's cannons with them when they left! Geneva managed to negotiate their return, and the five remaining cannons are proudly displayed here.

In 1815, the Republic joined Switzerland and became the 22nd canton of the Confederation. At the same time, Swiss neutrality was officially recognized by the European powers.



- Next stop: 4, rue du Puits-Saint-Pierre where Henry Dunant lived

Birth of an idea



In 1856, Henry Dunant inherited his Aunt Sophie's apartment where he lived until his departure from Geneva in 1867.

On 24 June 1859, Dunant went to Lombardy seeking an audience with Napoleon III to discuss his business ventures in Algeria. Late that afternoon, he arrived in the village of Castiglione where he witnessed with horror the sight of thousands of bloodied and dreadfully wounded soldiers slowly arriving from a battle that had just taken place between the Austrian and Franco-Piedmontese troops. On the battlefield of nearby Solferino, 40,000 men were left dead or left to their fate due to the lack of medical care. Dunant took immediate action to help the villagers attempting to provide care and relief as best they could with no distinction of nationality. But this was not enough for Dunant – how could such abominable suffering be prevented in future battles?

Regarding himself as a man of letters, a man of rigour and precision, he spent a year writing *A Memory of Solferino* in this apartment. Dunant used shock and emotion effectively to communicate his two ideas: to establish relief committees with trained volunteers and to have governments agree to an international principle of caring for all wounded soldiers on the battlefield.

In November 1862, the book was printed and distributed at Dunant's own expense to personalities in Geneva and to leading European figures. It instantly received a very positive response, including from 13 heads of state who expressed their interest. Dunant was elated and immediately started planning how to push forward his ideas, turning first to Paris with its powerful influence. However, events were to take a different turn.



► Next stop: Casino de Saint-Pierre
(3, rue de l'Evêché)

10— Implementing a vision

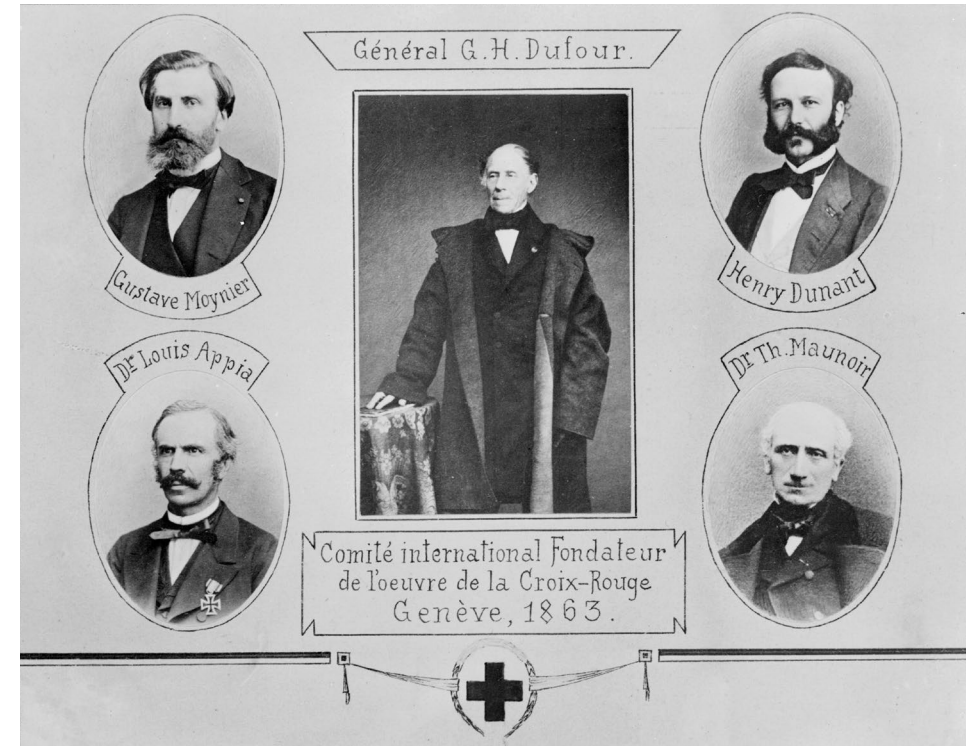


One of the Genevan citizens who received *A Memory of Solferino* was Gustave Moynier, president of the Geneva Society for Public Welfare. He was so enthusiastic that he rushed to Dunant's house to congratulate him on this "brilliant idea".

Moynier had found his philanthropic calling and planned to use the Society to implement Dunant's ideas although he realized there would be some hesitation from members who wanted to focus on traditional social activities. Therefore, at their assembly on 9 February 1863, he skillfully proposed presenting Dunant's ideas at an international Charity Congress to take place in Berlin in September. Reassured, the assembly members appointed a committee to examine the project.

The energizing complementarity between Dunant and Moynier infused enthusiasm into the others to make it a dynamic team. At its first meeting, it spontaneously self-proclaimed itself an "International Permanent Committee". And when the Berlin Congress was suddenly cancelled, it decided to convene its own international conference which took place from 26 to 29 October at the Palais de l'Athénée. This was the beginning of what would become the different National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) based in Geneva (see Stop 5).

And what about Dunant's second idea for governments to commit to this solution? You will soon find out, after meeting the two medical members.



The "Committee of Five" comprising General Dufour (76 years old) as president, Moynier (37) as vice-president and Dunant (35) as secretary, together with two surgeons appointed for their medical expertise, Dr. Théodore Maunoir (56) and Dr. Louis Appia (45)

► Next stop: Office of the League of Red Cross Societies (4, rue du Cloître)

Expansion of the Red Cross Movement



In a devastated post-war Europe with famine and epidemics spreading, National Societies decided to engage in peacetime activities in areas such as public health, hygiene and first aid. In 1919, they founded the League of Red Cross Societies intended to act as a coordinating and support body, and its office was located here until 1922. In 1991, it was renamed the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Originally called relief committees for the war-wounded, they were renamed National Red Cross Societies from 1892. There were also Red Crescent Societies after this alternative symbol was introduced later on. Fifty years after the foundation of the Red Cross, there were already 45 National Societies across Europe and beyond.

During the First World War (1914–1918), the Societies gained tremendous experience and attracted millions of volunteers. Women became especially active, including in tasks that had previously been the preserve of men.

And locally...

The Geneva Red Cross was created in 1864, two years prior to the Swiss Red Cross in Bern. After having fallen into oblivion, the branch was reactivated by Genevan ladies in 1889, notably thanks to the energetic commitment of its president, Alice Favre.



Souscription nationale
pour la
CROIX-ROUGE

Affiches "SONOR" S.A. Genève.

► Next stop: Louis Appia's house
(10, rue Guillaume Farel)

The first humanitarian globalist



Louis Appia was born in Hanau, Germany, in 1818 and arrived in Geneva after studying medicine in Heidelberg and Bonn. A member of the Evangelical Church in Geneva, he was strongly motivated by his faith to improve the plight of vulnerable human beings. He gave lectures promoting public hygiene, childcare, first aid and efforts to combat alcoholism.

When the Italian war broke out in 1859, Appia appealed to the people of Geneva in the *Journal de Genève* 13 May issue, asking for lint and cloth to be sent to Turin for the wounded soldiers from both sides. Nine weeks before Dunant arrived in northern Italy, Appia had already understood the effectiveness of striking a chord with the general public. In early July, he went to Turin and travelled around the region visiting hospitalized wounded soldiers and helped develop military medicine. He also advised Dunant on *A Memory of Solferino*.

It is therefore not surprising that Appia became very active in the International Committee and was sent by the newly established Geneva Red Cross to the Schleswig-Holstein war in the spring of 1864. He and Dutch naval captain Charles van de Velde (delegate at the 1863 Conference) were given the task of acting as neutral observers in both camps – they had just become the first ICRC delegates, creating a new role in conflict zones.



► Continue to Théodore Maunoir's house to meet our least-known character (rue du Soleil-Levant)

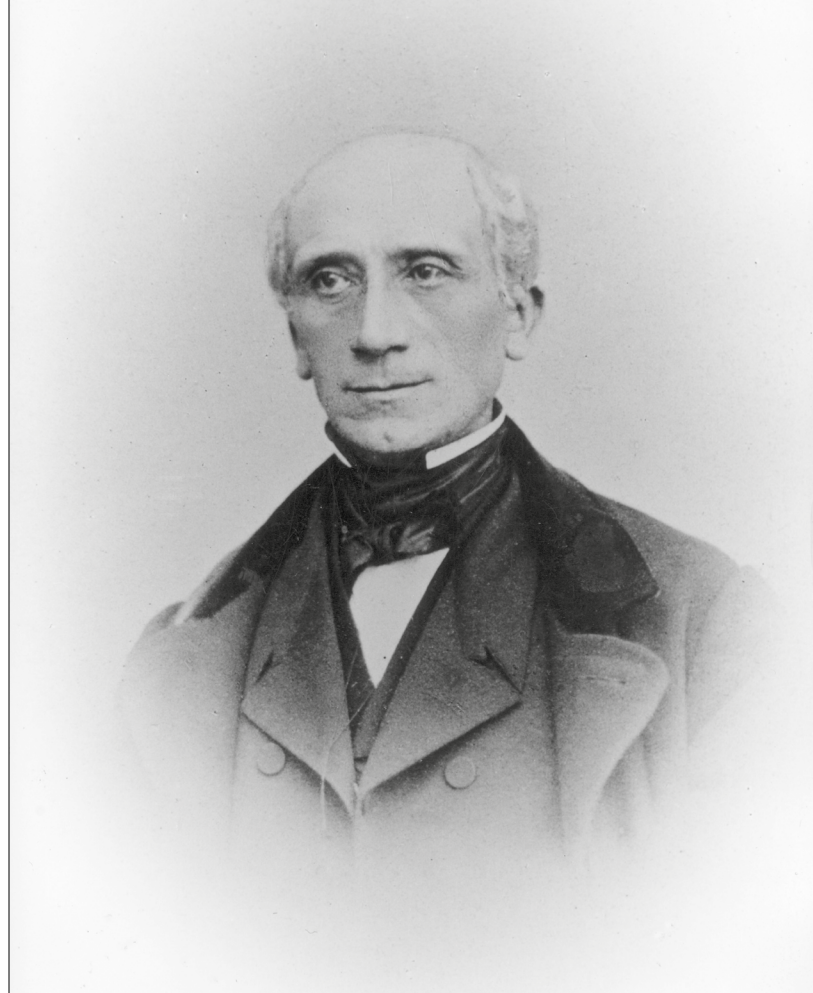
The philanthropic doctor



Théodore Maunoir was born in 1806 into a family of doctors. After studying medicine in Paris, he returned to Geneva when he was 28 and became a surgeon. Thanks to his internship in England and his second wife who was American, he was well acquainted with the English-speaking world. He was particularly interested in medical care and the role of volunteers during the American Civil War.

He played a particularly active part in the discussions during the International Conference of 26–29 October 1863, especially when medical delegates such as the French representative were hostile to the project. By way of example, when asked from what social class the volunteers would be chosen, Maunoir replied: “From all classes, as long as soldiers are also taken from all segments of the population.” This systematic response to the imperial delegate’s objections would direct the course of the debates and result in acknowledgment of the need for civilian support to second the insufficient medical services.

Although he died suddenly just six years after the founding of the Red Cross, Maunoir was nevertheless recognized by the other members of the Committee as having played a significantly influential role.



► Last stop: Salle de l’Alabama,
Hôtel de Ville
(2, rue de l’Hôtel-de-Ville)

Beginning of international humanitarian law



It was in the Alabama Room that the “Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field” was signed by 12 States on 22 August 1864. The original Geneva Convention guaranteed respect for and the neutrality of wounded soldiers on the battlefield as well as ambulances, hospitals and personnel. It also ensured impartial treatment for the wounded on all sides and adopted the distinctive red cross on a white background for personnel and hospitals.

Following the Conference of 1863 that saw the creation of the Red Cross, the members of the International Committee of Geneva immediately set to work disseminating the resolutions as widely as possible with two objectives: to encourage the creation of national committees and to start preparing a diplomatic conference.

The organization and drafting tasks were essentially carried out by Gustave Moynier with the support of General Dufour. Henry Dunant meanwhile put great effort into travelling around to promote the Red Cross and the importance of attending the diplomatic conference scheduled for August 1864.

Why is this called the Alabama Room?

In 1872, the United Kingdom was accused by the United States of having armed the vessel CSS Alabama to destroy the Union merchant ships during the US Civil War. An Arbitration Tribunal ended the dispute with the UK paying heavy compensation. Instead of resulting in war, a dispute between two countries had been resolved in a neutral State. The international conferences that established the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions, and the Arbitration Tribunal mark the beginning of “International Geneva”.



Signing of the Geneva Convention of 1864: Baden, Belgium, Denmark, France, Hesse, Italy, Portugal, Prussia, Spain, Switzerland, The Netherlands and Württemberg on 22 August (joined in December by Norway and Sweden)

This treaty was revised and expanded into the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, adopted today by 194 States. Complemented 30 years later by the Additional Protocols of 1977, these international treaties contain the most important rules limiting the barbarity of war by protecting people who do not take part in the fighting (civilians, medics and aid workers) or combatants who are no longer able to (wounded, sick or captured).



Watch the animated video
Rules of War (in a nutshell)
<http://bit.ly/RulesWar>

This was the story of how the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions came into being in 19th century Geneva, launching modern humanitarian action and law and putting the city on track to realize its international vocation.

To discover the following chapters and continue the humanitarian experience, visit the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum.



Watch the animated video
The Story of an Idea
<http://bit.ly/StoryIdeaVideo>

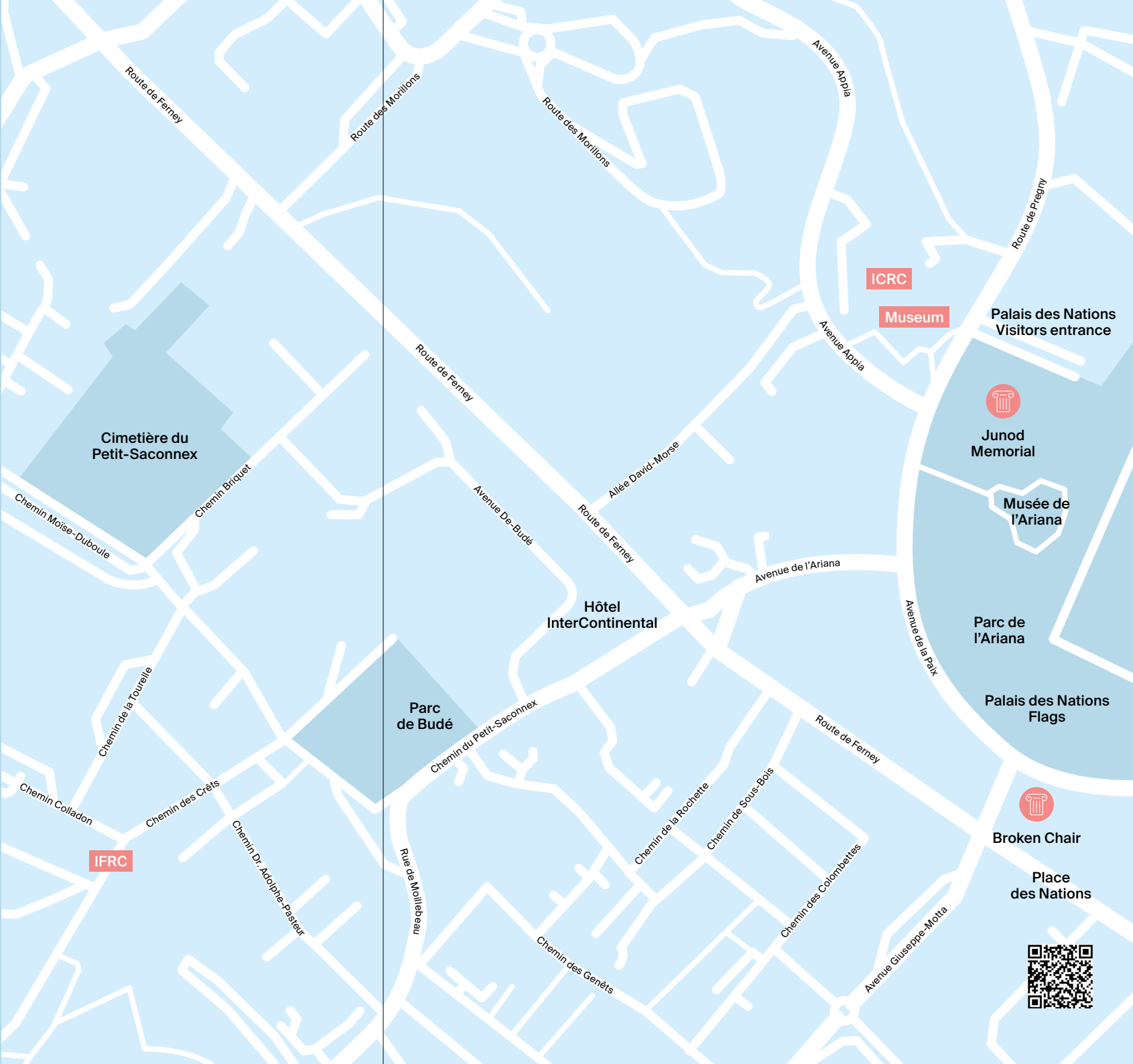
► Head towards Geneva's international district where the Museum, the ICRC and the IFRC are located.

International district

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)



17, Avenue de la Paix International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum

The ICRC, 192 National Societies and their International Federation form the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – a truly global humanitarian network of 14.2 million people (staff and volunteers) ready to help those facing disaster, conflict and health and social problems. The key principles that guide their humanitarian action are those of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

Inaugurated in 1988 and reopened after renovation work in 2013, this museum presents the humanitarian story of the Movement, showing how its activities have evolved and how international law has developed.

Emotion, discovery, reflection, the exhibition “The Humanitarian Adventure” offers you a unique opportunity to enter into the history of humanitarian action, breaking away from traditional museography. Visitors can discover the Geneva Convention of 1864 as well as six million index cards concerning prisoners of war captured in the First World War.



19, Avenue de la Paix

International Committee of the Red Cross – ICRC

Since December 1946, the ICRC headquarters have been located on the premises of the former Carlton Hotel. Created as a boarding school in the 19th century, this building also served as the office of the International Labour Organization (1920–1926).

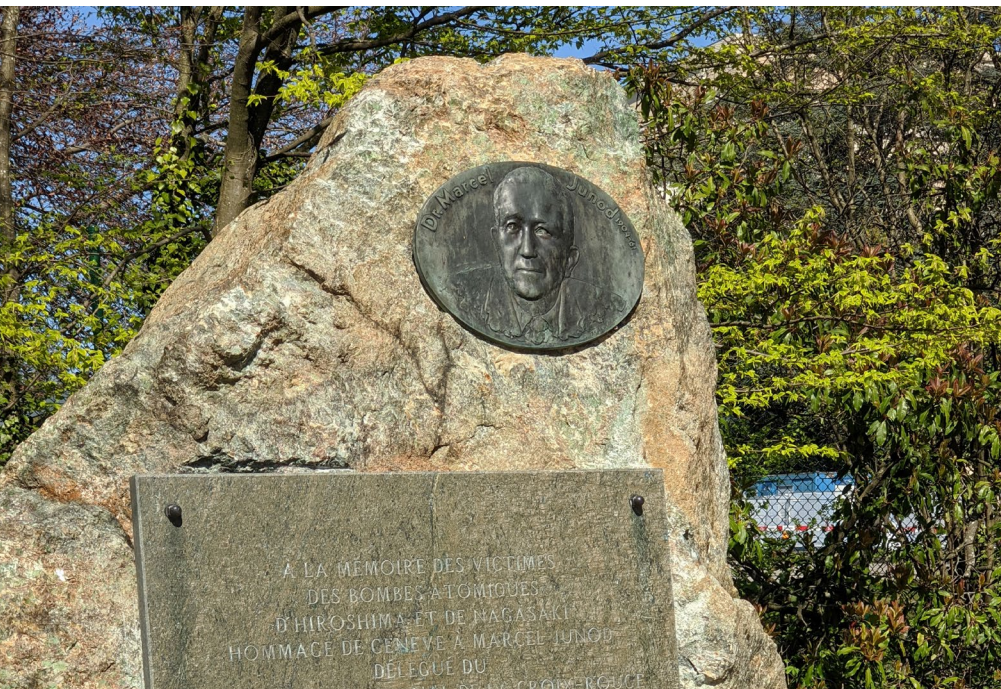
The ICRC directs and coordinates the Movement's international activities during armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

Its mission is to protect and assist victims through direct action in the field as well as by promoting respect for international humanitarian law.

The organization has around 18'000 staff in the field and at ICRC headquarters and is present in over 90 countries. About 30% of its operational activities are carried out in cooperation with National Societies.



Also to discover in the neighbourhood



A memorial in the Parc de l'Ariana

The Marcel Junod Memorial by Japanese sculptor Hisashi Akutagawa was inaugurated in this park on 13 September 2005 in memory of the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. It honours Dr. Marcel Junod (1904–1961) who was sent

by the ICRC to Japan in June 1945 and was the first foreign doctor to arrive in Hiroshima bringing with him all the medication and blood plasma he could mobilize. An identical portrait can be seen on the 1979 monument in the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan.



Watch the short video
Dr. Marcel Junod, Le Troisième Combattant
<https://vimeo.com/374024242>



A chair with an amputated leg on the Place des Nations

Commissioned by Handicap International and created by Genevan artist Daniel Berset in August 1997, the Broken Chair is still here as a reminder of the global effort to ban and eliminate anti-personnel landmines. Launched by five non-governmental organizations (NGO) in 1992, the international campaign brought together governments, the ICRC, the United Nations and some 1,400 NGOs and resulted in the signing of a treaty in Ottawa in December 1997.

With its surgeons and orthopaedists documenting increasing numbers of landmine casualties, the ICRC joined the campaign in 1994 with the active support of National Red Cross and Red Cross Societies which engaged in lobbying their governments and raising public opinion, as well as carrying out mine awareness programmes in affected countries. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines became binding international law on 1 March 1999.



17, Chemin des Crêts

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – IFRC



In 1919, Henry Pomeroy Davison, president of the American Red Cross War Committee, proposed to form a federation of National Societies in order to benefit from their vast reserves of expertise and leverage their potential. The result was the creation of the League of Red Cross Societies on 5 May. The League's objective was to support the Societies and their health activities and coordinate relief work in the wake of epidemic outbreaks and natural disasters.

Renamed the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1991, it now has more than 13.7 million volunteers from 192 National Societies, forming a truly global network capable of providing community-level humanitarian support before, during and after a disaster or crisis. For its 100 year milestone in 2019, the IFRC entirely renovated its headquarters in Geneva.

The Intercultural Integration Centre of the Geneva Red Cross

The centre – located at 50, rue de Carouge – has a library of books in over 280 languages. Its volunteers offer assistance with writing in French to migrants and language courses, as well as help with homework and activities for children.

The Geneva Red Cross also has a presence in the library of the IFRC headquarters, offering a selection of multilingual books and services to the local community.



Practical information

Duration

The full trail in the Old Town takes approximately 90 minutes with a walking time of 30 minutes.

Public transport – TPG

Place de Neuve: 3, 5, 12, 17, 18, 20

Place des Nations: 5, 8, 11, 15, 20, 22 28, F

Museum (Appia stop): 8, 22, 28, F

IFRC (Petit-Saconnex stop): 3, 22

For visitors staying in hotels in Geneva, free transport passes can be obtained at the reception (buses, trams, trains and yellow taxi-boats).

www.tpg.ch

www.mouettesgenevoises.com

Brochures available

At the International Red Cross

and Red Crescent Museum

Avenue de la Paix 17, 1202 Genève

www.redcrossmuseum.ch

At the Geneva Tourisme Office

Rue du Mont-Blanc 18, 1201 Genève

www.geneve.com

Accessibility

The trail in the Old Town is physically accessible to all, although there are some uphill and cobble streets. The Museum is fully accessible by people in wheelchairs and visitors with reduced mobility can take advantage of folding chairs in the exhibition areas.

Grab a bite and relax

Restaurant of the Museum & ICRC and the restaurant *The Continents* at the IFRC. Large choice of restaurants and cafés in the Old Town and around.

To find out more

www.humanitariantrail.ch

humanitariantrail@gmail.com

www.icrc.org

www.ifrc.org

www.croix-rouge-ge.ch

www.shd.ch



The Jet d'eau illuminated in red to commemorate the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Credits & acknowledgements

Production

First edition: December 2019
In English, French, Spanish and Arabic
Concept and author: Catherine Hubert Girod
Production: Corinne Bahizi, Benoît Carpentier,
Xavier Huber, Céline Saugy, Philippe Stoll
Design: TWKS

Second edition: July 2020
In English and French
Adaptation: Catherine Hubert Girod
Design: TWKS
Communication and website: Céline Saugy

Image credits

Genève Tourisme: pages 3, 14
ICRC: pages 7, 8, 9, 11, 17, 20, 22, 24, 27, 30,
33, 35, 41, 47
Ville de Genève / ICRC / Boissonnas, Frédéric:
pages 13, 19
Museum: pages 29, 38 (Alain Germond),
39 (Fred Merz)
IFRC: page 44 (Benjamin Suomela / Finnish
Red Cross)

Video links

ICRC: *Rules of War* (in a nutshell) / *Story
of an Idea* (short version)
Production Images & Son: *Docteur Junod*,
Le Troisième Combattant (trailer)

Acknowledgements

Advice and insights: Roger Durand,
Sylvie Giossi Caverzasio
Photos: Estelle Girod, Benedict Sommer
Distribution and promotion: International Red
Cross and Red Crescent Museum, Fondation
Genève Tourisme et Congrès

