

GENEVA SAILING SCHOOL



SAILING LESSONS FOR GENEVA PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Our sailing school's mission is to promote sailing and make it accessible to the people of Geneva. For several years, we have been committed to opening this activity up to as many people as possible, particularly children and young people.

With this in mind, we have developed a comprehensive educational programme specifically designed for school classes in Geneva. The programme combines hands-on sailing instruction with environmental awareness, while helping students develop essential social skills such as mutual support, cooperation and self-confidence.

As too few children today have the opportunity to sail, we offer reduced rates to social and educational organisations, without any subsidies or external funding. This approach reflects our commitment to removing the financial barriers that still limit access to a sport so deeply rooted in Geneva's tradition.

We have worked with several private schools for a number of years and wish to extend this opportunity to students in the public system as well. The programme has already been offered to several public school classes and has received very positive feedback. Some students told us they had never been to the lakeshore, let alone sailed. For many, this experience was a memorable and empowering discovery that opened up new horizons.

Our school has a fleet specially suited to school groups, with constant attention paid to safety during every activity. Our instructors are experienced and trained in teaching and supervising young people.

The Department of Public Education (DIP) has expressed its willingness to continue working with us and to enable more classes to take part. It is prepared to handle the logistical coordination with schools, ensuring smooth, well-structured implementation over the long term. However, unlike other disciplines, sailing is not among the activities for which the DIP provides increased funding to reach a large number of students.

It is therefore to secure the future of this programme that we are seeking your financial support. Your contribution would allow more children to enjoy this experience, strengthening their connection with the natural environment and passing on a valuable cultural heritage.

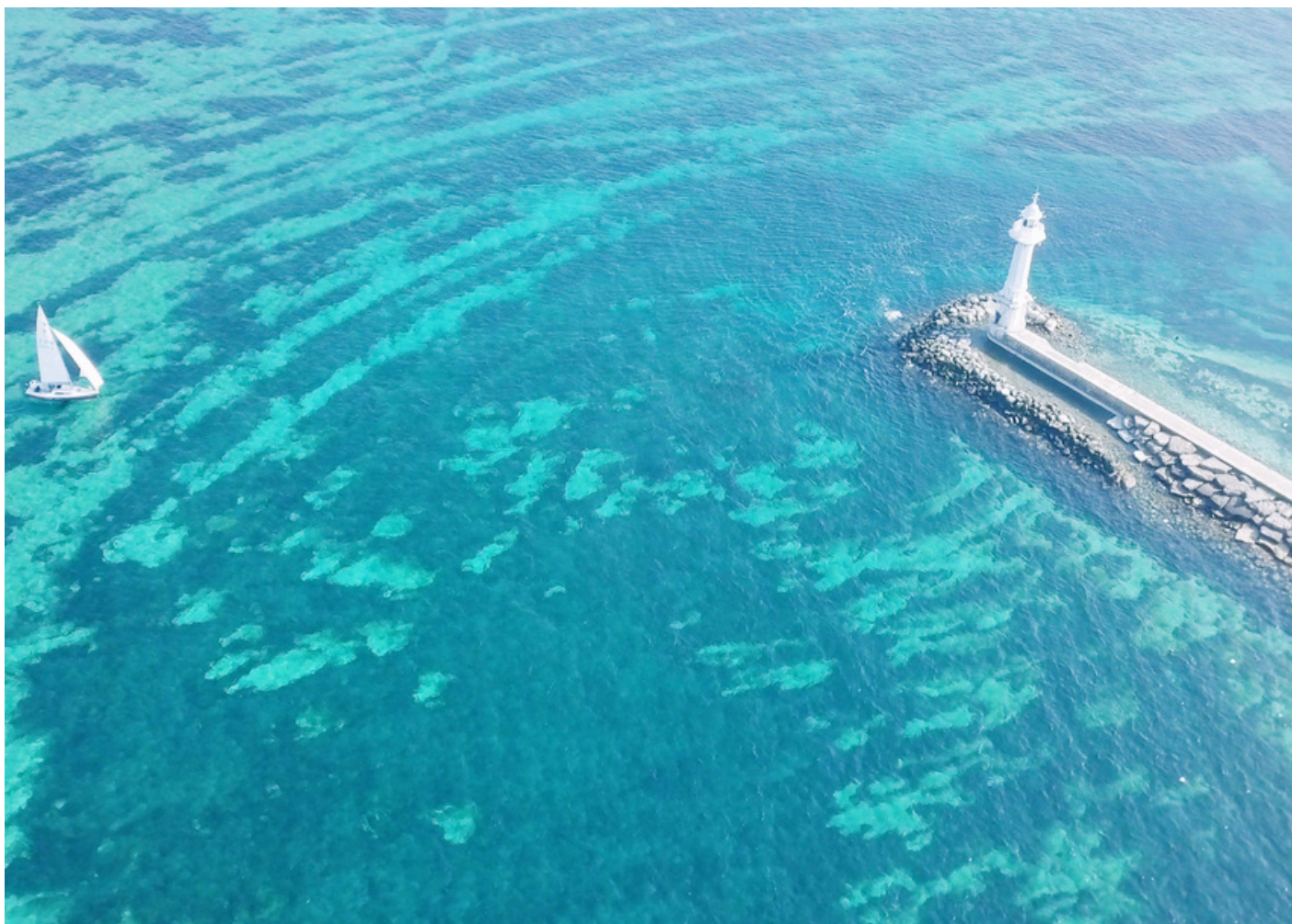
Please find enclosed all the information about this project and our school.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or require further details.

Yours faithfully,

Alice Sauthier and the Geneva Sailing School team

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Our SCHOOL, its MISSION, VALUES and VISION

Geneva Sailing School is located at the Port des Pâquis. Its mission is to make sailing accessible to as many people as possible and to share this passion in a professional and reassuring setting for all levels.

We offer lessons for children and adults, solidarity programmes for local social organisations, licence preparation courses and many other activities that support our commitment to making sailing accessible.

Respect for the lake and its ecosystem is also at the heart of our teaching, for example in the products we use to clean and maintain our boats.

We pay particular attention to gender balance, notably through our weekly women's crew lessons and by encouraging female leadership, both among our students and by training new female instructors. Finally, we stand out as the first sailing school in Switzerland founded by a woman, driven by a resolutely inclusive mission.

By working with local associations, we help keep Geneva's sailing tradition alive while turning every outing into a genuine tool for education and social connection.



We have developed an educational programme tailored to school classes and designed for young people. Sailing together from an early age encourages cooperation and builds independence. As a crew, children learn to read the wind and manoeuvre in a safe environment. They take the helm and hoist the sails, but above all, they learn to live together and to look after one another and the environment. Our team of certified instructors shares this passion with enthusiasm, in a practice centred on respect, solidarity and protecting the lake. Below are the schools we have worked with.

Partner Schools

- DIP - including specialised classes of the OMP
- Weekly lessons included in the school curriculum with the school *La Découverte*
- One-week camp with the secondary school *La Golette* - DIP
- New partnership with the secondary school *La Découverte* to prepare teenagers for their sailing licence as part of their school curriculum
- Easter and summer camps with *the Institut International de Lancy*
- Summer camps with the *École Montessori La Marelle*, *École Montessori-International* and autumn camp with the *École Montessori Grand-Saconnex*
- Partnership with GE-Découvre le mercredi, a State of Geneva programme
- Partnership in development with the GIAP and the Pâquis after-school programmes
- Weekly lessons for the *École des Lumières*
- Occasional outings with the Office médico-pédagogique - *ECPS Bertrand*

The DIP Department of Public Education, Training and Youth provides all young people with quality education and supports their well-rounded development. As sailing is part of Geneva's heritage, we work to give children from all social backgrounds access to sailing during their school years. This is why we are particularly proud of this new partnership, which allows us to offer 20 two-hour introductory sailing outings to public school classes, including some specialised classes, for 360 children per year in 2025 and 2026, and hopefully in 2027 thanks to your support.



SKILLS DEVELOPED

Sailing Skills

- Prepare the boat independently
- Take part in leaving and returning to port
- Hoist and lower the sails
- Know the 5 knots (figure-eight, bowline, clove hitch, round turn and two half hitches, cleat hitch)
- Understand the points of sail (upwind, downwind)
- Know how to trim the sails for each point of sail
- Know the steps for tacking and gybing
- Be able to take on any role during these manoeuvres
- Be able to hold a course

Environment

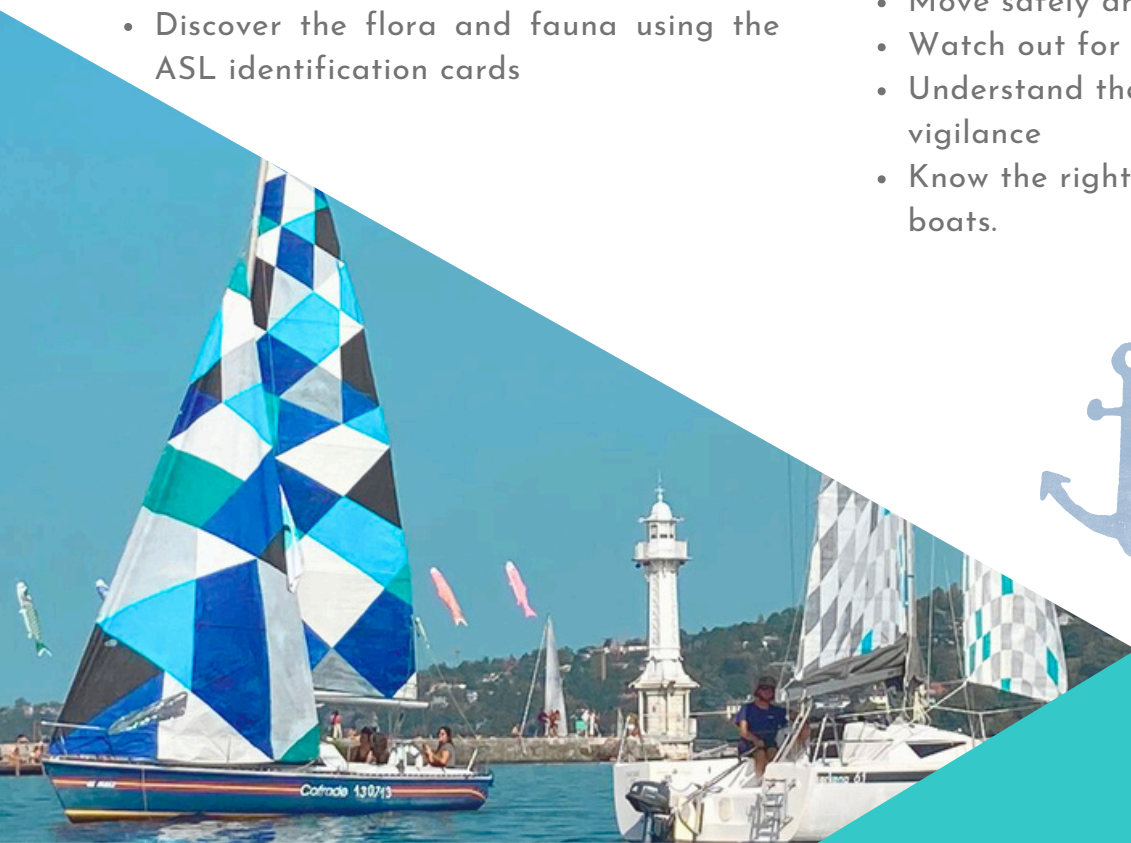
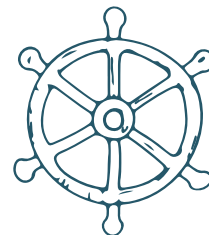
- Discover the lake's key figures
- Identify the surrounding mountains
- Identify the lake's 2 main winds: the Bise and the Vent
- Discover the flora and fauna using the ASL identification cards

Teamwork Skills

- Practise sharing tasks and rotating roles from week to week
- Look after one's own safety and that of others
- Work together to carry out tasks (hoisting, manoeuvring)
- Listen to and follow the helmsperson's instructions
- Communicate intentions and actions clearly
- Gain self-confidence on board and at the helm

Safety and Regulations

- Make sure to wear a life jacket and check those of others
- Move safely around the boat
- Watch out for the boom at all times
- Understand the importance of constant vigilance
- Know the right-of-way rules with other boats.



Market rates: 250 to 300 CHF per hour per boat.

Our reduced rates for social and educational organisations: 100 CHF per hour per boat.

The rate for one class: 1,000 CHF for a 2-hour lesson with 5 boats. For a class of 25 students, the cost per student is 40 CHF per lesson, i.e. 20 CHF per hour of sailing.

Our goal: Courses of 2 hours for 50 classes per year = 50,000 CHF / year

For this project, the volume of lessons amounts to 500 boat-hours, invoiced at 50,000 CHF, i.e. 100 CHF per hour per boat. At the market rate of 250 CHF per hour per boat, the same volume would amount to 125,000 CHF. Our school therefore forgoes 75,000 CHF per year in support of this social cohesion project. These activities are offered on a non-profit basis, and the rates charged cover only the actual costs incurred.





Beyond learning to sail, we are committed to instilling in our students a genuine culture of prevention and respect for the environment.

Through our partnership with the Ligue genevoise contre le cancer (Geneva Cancer League), children attending our summer camps learn, in a fun way, the importance of sun protection. The League also trains our instructors so that they can pass on these essential messages to all our students.

We also work with the Association pour la sauvegarde du Léman (ASL), which trains our teaching team and provides fun tools and educational materials. These sessions help children and adults alike to better understand the richness and fragility of the lake and to adopt respectful habits that protect its ecosystem.

In parallel, we work with the Sauvetage de Genève (Geneva Lake Rescue) to raise children's awareness of safety on the lake and introduce them to the vital role of lifeguards. These exchanges strengthen the preventive dimension of our activities and highlight the importance of vigilance and solidarity on the water.

Through these partnerships, we want sailing to be experienced not only as a sport, but also as a holistic experience of responsibility, respect and awareness of the natural environment.

TESTIMONIALS from our STUDENTS

"The *Geneva Sailing School* must continue to exist as an inclusive sailing school in Geneva, as it is the only school that works proactively with educational and social institutions to give the entire population access to sailing without discrimination.

For my children and me, sailing with this school means discovering the lake, a sense of freedom, confidence and learning through enjoyment.

Best regards"

Ayari Félix Beltrametti

City of Geneva, Project Officer,

Department of Schools and Childhood Institutions

"I would like to thank *Geneva Sailing School* for the sailing lessons. I was able to regain my self-confidence during a difficult period of my life thanks to its highly professional and skilled instructors. Sailing also allows me to switch off from the mental load of being a mother, in a warm and joyful atmosphere. Starting with women-only lessons makes it possible to feel confident without judgement. I look forward to continuing with this school to improve my skills!"

Güner Sengul

Environmental Engineer - Project Manager - Grand Genève

My daughter told me:

"Sailing was so much fun, we learned lots of things while having a great time. I want to get my licence at 14 with this school!"

Lily-Rose, 11 years old.



In Switzerland, the world of sailing is still too often perceived as closed and elitist. Our goal is to change this image and make sailing accessible to as many people as possible, especially children, low-income families and people who never imagined they could take part in this privileged activity. That is why we have introduced a solidarity rate and built partnerships with local social associations, giving everyone the chance to discover the lake and the city from a different perspective. Beyond learning, as the feedback from participants shows, we see every day how sailing is a tool for well-being, self-confidence and social connection. Below is a list of the organisations we work with, along with an overview of the projects that are particularly close to our hearts.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| • FASe | • CPV |
| • Centre d'appui scolaire (CAS) | • Fondation Au Coeur des Grottes |
| • Les EPIS - Train Bleu | • 3 Chênes Accueil |
| • GE - Découvre le mercredi | • Villa YoYo |
| • ACCESS 06 | • <i>Outdoors Initiative</i> de l'IHEID |
| • Foyer de la Servette - Astural | • Asso. des Collaborateurs du réseau Santé-Social Genevois |
| • Rose Transat | • Healing Joy |
| • GIAP - Parascolaires | • Super Licorne |
| • SGIAP - Résidence Cèdre | • Association Équinoxe |
| • Hospice Général | |

The EPIS (Établissements publics pour l'intégration, public institutions for integration) welcome and house people with disabilities in day centres and residences, with qualified professional support.

Since 2022, we have been working with the Résidence Train Bleu, which welcomes people with psychiatric disabilities, for weekly sailing sessions between May and September. These sessions have given participants unique moments on the lake while learning to helm and understand the winds. At the request of the participants and the organisation, we increased the number of outings this year. In 2027, the number of lessons will grow further, and we also plan to organise a multi-day sailing cruise around the lake.

GE - Découvre le mercredi enables young people aged 4 to 16 to try nearly 230 introductory activities launched by the Office Cantonal de la Culture et du Sport. This partnership began in 2022 with weekly lessons in spring and autumn and has continued ever since, with a programme of lessons already scheduled for 2027.

R'Ose Transat is an association that supports women affected by breast cancer, whether in treatment or in remission, through sailing lessons. Since 2024, we have been running weekly lessons with them throughout the season. This partnership has been a success and will continue in 2027.

The association 3ChêneAccueil works in the Trois-Chêne area to build connections between refugees and local residents through a range of activities (sports, cultural, social, etc.). Each year, we welcome around 12 asylum-seeking families aboard our sailboats for introductory and discovery outings.

The Foyer de la Servette Astural accommodates adolescent girls in conflict with their family, school, social rules or the law. It provides support with everyday tasks as well as close collaboration with families. For the second year in a row, we were delighted to organise an introductory sailing outing for around ten young people.



The Fondation Au Cœur des Grottes accommodates women who are victims of violence and human trafficking. It provides shelter and psychosocial support to women, with or without their children.

Every year, we organise an introductory sailing outing for the shelter's residents. These outings offer a safe and caring space, while creating a moment of relaxation and escape on Lake Geneva.

Following the success of these outings, from 2027 we will provide ongoing training with weekly outings, aiming for the sailing licence and a weekend on the lake at the end of the season.





PRESS COVERAGE

Tribune de Genève | Tuesday 26 April 2022

Elle veut démocratiser la pratique de la voile à Genève

Alice Sauthier, 29 ans, a ouvert au printemps 2021 la Geneva Sailing School et fondé l'association Anyone Can Sail. Son but: rendre inclusive la découverte de la navigation.

Samuel Golly/Large Network

Après douze années de voyages, dont au moins six passées dans les Caraïbes sur son voilier, Alice veut casser les préjugés autour de la voile à Genève. «En France, et particulièrement en Bretagne, la voile est très populaire, grâce à une histoire et à des figures remarquables. Ici, la pratique reste encore trop élitiste et machiste. Je suis encore étonnée de voir des hommes circuler en équipage féminin. «Les réactions m'ont surprise au début, mais c'est nécessaire pour permettre aux femmes d'expérimenter ce sport en toute tranquillité, et de pouvoir se sentir légitimes.»

Avec son association Anyone Can Sail cofondée avec Alyzée Fontana, Alice Sauthier veut aussi ouvrir ce sport à des personnes qui en sont généralement financièrement et socialement exclues. L'idée est de travailler avec tous types d'organisations et d'associations d'entraide pour proposer à leurs bénéficiaires des cours collectifs à des tarifs très préférentiels. «L'an dernier, nous avons ainsi pu initier des personnes migrantes soutenues par l'association Super Licorne,



Alice Sauthier (à dr.) et Alyzée Fontana fourmillent d'idées pour dynamiser la pratique de la voile. LAURENT DURAUD

Où la rencontrer

Le Jardin botanique «Un lieu ressourceur qui me fait voyager à travers ses plantes exotiques et lointaines.»

Les Bains des Pâquis «Un rendez-vous intergénérationnel qui reste populaire, accessible à tous et toutes, toujours chaleureux.»

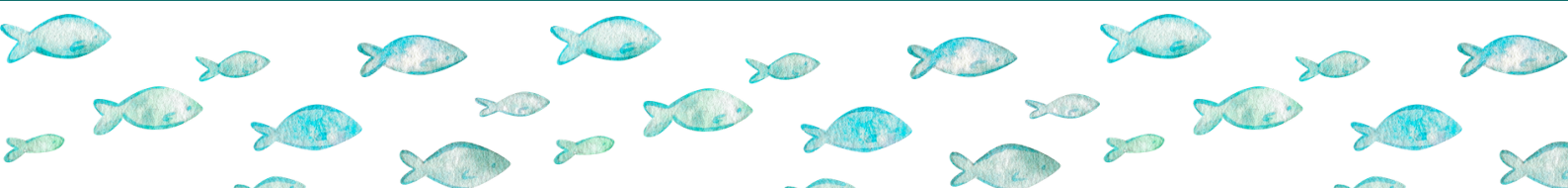
Le parc La Grange «J'y ai passé beaucoup de temps, dès mon enfance. C'est un havre de paix, un endroit magique à Genève.»

ou encore des jeunes en difficulté grâce à plusieurs foyers.» Au-delà d'une introduction, Alice veut aussi pouvoir accompagner les bénéficiaires les plus motivés vers l'obtention du permis - ce qui leur ouvrirait un nouvel horizon professionnel. Sa façon d'apprendre la voile tranche aussi avec les habitudes d'autres écoles et clubs. «À Genève, la majorité des cours proposés sont axés vers la régate - la course de bateau, c'est une pratique difficile et visant la performance. J'essaie de privilégier un rapport différent à la voile, en mobilisant l'imaginaire des pirates et

celui de la vie en mer.» Le projet a initialement été financé, grâce à l'aide de ses amis et de sa famille. «Maintenant, je veux développer l'association et l'école, diversifier encore plus nos cours, construire un réseau fort avec d'autres organisations, et idéalement acheter un nouveau bateau. Anyone Can Sail est ouverte à des membres qui la soutiennent avec une cotisation de 100 fr. par an, en échange de sorties sur le lac.»

Sur internet

<https://genevasailingschool.ch>





THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

