

ROLLE



PERLE DU LÉMAN

Between lake and vineyards,
in the heart of the Lake Geneva region.



ROLLE TOURISME

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Rolle, a small town of 6,000 inhabitants, nestles picturesquely on the shores of Lake Geneva. Located half way between Geneva and Lausanne, it is bordered by a renowned vineyard and stunning properties.



When you arrive in Rolle the most striking feature is its large medieval castle, flanked by four towers. Standing right by the water's edge it invites us to take a lakeside walk. The embankment with its floral border runs beside the narrow private gardens of houses on the Grand Rue and brings us face to face with the famous island of La Harpe: its name, engraved on an obelisk, bears witness to an illustrious citizen of Rolle who was a tutor to the Russian court and a key player in the independence of the canton of Vaud.



Groups of ducks and swans lead a contented life on these calm waters, making way only to let large paddle boats or canoes go by. The embankment leads us to the "Casino", a small theatre in the Italian style which presents a variety of shows and also boasts a restaurant with a very charming terrace. The walk by the lake continues to the end of a long jetty protecting the harbour and the sailing club. It passes in front of the beautiful mansion of Le Courtil, which is now a centre for training and seminars.



Rolle has retained its long footprint of bygone years, bisected by a main thoroughfare: the Grand-Rue. The serried ranks of its old, brightly-coloured houses give it a unique charm, enhanced by pretty boutiques, numerous antique dealers, some tempting sweet shops, and of course the charming Hostellerie du Château. These buildings date from the 18th and 19th centuries, except for the fortified house at No 50, named Allinges, which dates back to the 16th century.

To the east of the town, a small fishing port is tucked away in the wooded area of "Bois des Vernes" and there is a campsite ideally located on the shore of the lake just a few steps from the public beach.

Rolle is home to the prestigious and internationally renowned Le Rosey Institute, an educational establishment attended by many crowned heads and celebrities.

Visitors to Rolle who have strolled along its embankment or through the nearby vineyards will have only one wish: to return and enjoy once again its tranquillity and beautiful natural setting.

ROLLE

PERLE DU LÉMAN



1319: Foundation of the medieval town.

Despite the presence of a large lakeside dwelling, the old town of Rolle has retained a timeless quality. It was created virtually from nothing in 1319 by Louis II of Savoy, the Baron of Vaud, probably to strengthen the defences of the castle which had been built at least 40 years previously. Over the next century, the House of Savoy left its mark throughout the Vaud region and even beyond the borders of present canton of Vaud.



15th century: The Bernese period

After the decisive victories of Grandson and Morat in 1476 against the Duke of Burgundy, the Confederates reached the pinnacle of their military glory. For the Dukes of Savoy, these defeats of their main ally were a setback and dealt a fatal blow to their possessions north of Geneva; for the people of Vaud, they were the forerunner of desolation and ruin. For the inhabitants of Berne and Fribourg however, they paved the way for a settlement of the region which lasted more than 300 years.



1798: The Vaud revolution

In the manner of the old cantons, at the end of the 18th century Berne failed to grasp the urgency of reforms needed to retain the loyalty of its subjects. Following a petition delivered by La Harpe to the French government, the latter promised protection to the people of Vaud (18 December 1797). News soon spread to the Vaud region causing great excitement, even though the edict issued by the Directory made no mention of independence but simply a measure of internal autonomy.



The intransigence of Berne pushed things to the extreme. On 24 January 1798, convinced of the protection of the French army assembled in Gex under the command of General Ménard, patriots proclaimed the independence of Vaud and the advent of a (short-lived) Leman Republic, as a jubilant population celebrated its freedom.



19th century: The port of Rolle

In the early 19th century, most transport was by lake. In Rolle, boats brought stone from Meillerie and departed with barrels of wine, cheese and Jura timber. To protect boats from the wind, traders in Rolle decided in 1835 to build a dam on a sandy shoal, where the remains of oak piles revealed the existence of an ancient lakeside dwelling. In 1837, the dam became an island.

Amédée de la Harpe (1754-1796)

Following the events of August 4 1789 abolishing privileges in France, Amédée de la Harpe, the Lord of Uttins, waived his rights to all services without compensation.

He was one of the main organisers of the great freedom banquets that were held under various pretexts to circumvent the prohibition of public debate promulgated by Berne.

A prominent general under Bonaparte, he died accidentally at Cologno during the Italian campaign.



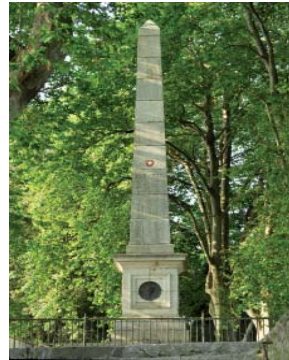
Frédéric-César de La Harpe (1754-1838)

In 1784, Empress Catherine of Russia recruited this Republican to educate her grandchildren Alexander and Constantine. La Harpe described himself not as a simple tutor but as a "guide to princes", accompanying them on the path to enlightenment. For eleven years he taught the future Tsar Alexander liberal principles, and a sense of justice and its role in the happiness of his peoples. He is one the founding fathers of modern Switzerland.



An island and a monument

In 1838, following the death of Frédéric-César de La Harpe, the people of Rolle decided to give his name to the island. In memory of the great patriot, and thanks to the tenacious efforts of a brave committee, the town of Rolle erected on the island an obelisk 13 metres high, designed by architect Henri Fraise and decorated with four medallions by the sculptor Pradier. Donations came from all over Europe to cover part of the costs. The monument was inaugurated on 26 September 1844 in the presence of delegates from the cantons of Aargau and Ticino, who praised La Harpe's intervention on behalf of their independence in 1815 at the Congress of Vienna.



Rolle Castle (13th century)

Among the many châteaux built on the shores of Lake Geneva throughout the Middle Ages, Rolle Castle is one of the most mysterious, at least as regards its origin and the history of its construction. Like its counterpart in Morges, it stands close to the water and in earlier years was protected on the town side by ditches. Stripped of its outer fortifications, it is now an irregular four-square edifice flanked at each corner by a tower.



The castle was without doubt founded by the House of Savoy, probably in the latter part of the 13th century. Mentioned for the first time in decrees dating from 1291, the fortress at Rolle was at that time in the possession of Count Amadeus V of Savoy, who then granted its title to Sallenove of Aymon. In 1295, the fief passed to the knight Jean de Greilly, whose descendants lived in Rolle until the 15th century.

Rolle Castle was bought in 1558 by a wealthy Bernese patrician, John Steiger, whose coat of arms still adorns the facade overlooking the courtyard. The Steiger family kept the castle and the resulting manorial rights until 1798. Today, the carefully restored rooms of this building are used by the town of Rolle as administrative offices and for staging exhibitions.

www.chateauderolle.ch



Rolle Church (18th century)

The church in Rolle has a Gothic bell tower whose Romanesque influence can still be seen today. The nave dates back to the 18th century. It was rebuilt between 1789-1790. The building was made over to the Protestant religion in 1536 and became a parish church in 1621. The pulpit dates from 1790. Organ builders Kuhn from Männedorf built the organ in 1963-1964. The superb stained-glass windows in the choir next to the pulpit date from the end of the 19th century. The stained-glass in the nave dates from 1920 (by A. Guignard & J. Schmidt, Lausanne).



Rolle Casino (1875)

The Casino is a large building with beautiful hipped roof finials that have retained many of the original arched dormers. Its architecture is relatively sober, made entirely of cement (an innovation at the time) and combines various stylistic trends. It now houses a magnificent theatre in the Italian style and a restaurant with a charming terrace.



Maison d'Allinges (16th century)

With the exception of the castle, relatively few medieval remains have been preserved in Rolle. However, those which have survived to the present day are of very good quality. The best known building of this period is without doubt the Troillet Allinges house, which can be dated by its 16th century late Gothic style. It was once a fortified house located somewhat unusually within the town itself. The latter, as we have seen, appears to have been poorly protected. On the side of the Grand-Rue, a gatehouse battlement defends the carriage entrance.



www.tourisme-rolle.ch

Guided Tours of Rolle

Step back into eight centuries of history since the creation of the castle and birth of the town. Meet the people who made the region's history.

2nd and 4th Sundays of the month
April to October
Duration 1 hour 30 minutes – 2 hours

Registration / Information
contact Rolle Tourism
+41(0)21 825 15 35





Excursions and Nature

Aubonne Valley Arboretum

On a one-and-a-half-hour walk along easy footpaths, discover a multitude of forest and orchard trees. More than 3,000 species and varieties of trees and shrubs from all continents, acclimatized to our latitudes, await the visitor to the Arboretum. Open all year round. Free admission.

Wood museum

The Wood Museum illustrates how this material is used in everyday life. It presents traditional skills and a large number of old objects and tools. Open Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays afternoon and public holidays from April to October. Tel. 021 808 51 83 - www.arboretum.ch

Parc Pré Vert du Signal de Bougy

Offering a panoramic view of Lake Geneva, this large green space is great for relaxation and family walks and has a self-service restaurant, picnic area, outdoor games for all ages, farm animals, mini-golf, rest area, and an 18-hole golf course. Open every day from February to November.

Tel 058 568 31 50 - www.signaldebougy.ch

Adventure Park

This forest adventure park has fourteen courses of increasing difficulty and will immerse you in the excitement of sporting challenges. Children's activities from the age of 4. Open from April to October.

Tel. 021 808 08 08 - www.parc-aventure.ch

Vaud Jura Park

The Vaud Jura Park is a nature reserve created in 1973 which comprises around 530 square kilometres of stunning scenery and charming Jura villages. It was listed as a park of national importance in 2012. Here you will find a wide selection of excursions and accommodation in the heart of a tranquil and preserved region.

Tel. 022 366 51 70 - www.parcjuravaudois.ch

Rolle Campsite

In the heart of the La Côte region, the campsite is situated right by the side of the lake and extends over a wooded area of 1,5 hectares. 150 spaces are available to visitors.

This idyllic site is located less than half a mile from the town centre and offers a relaxed, family atmosphere, a wide range of activities, and the tranquillity of a traffic-free environment.

With its modern facilities including a shop, a snack bar, a magnificent terrace and newly renovated showers and toilets with washing machines and baby changing area, you can be sure of a comfortable and pleasant stay.

Table-tennis, pétanque and a children's playground are just some of the activities available. Boats can be moored at the campsite jetties. Various activities are organised throughout the season.

Camping de Rolle Aux Vernes

Tel. 021 825 12 39 Fax: 021 825 12 39

www.campingrolle.ch



Seasonal events



April to October

« A Coffre Ouvert »
flea market

May

Spring Fair
Large Market, local produce
Flea market, antiques

June

Rolle Festival
Seiji Ozawa International Academy
seminar and concert
Open air films

July

Summer exhibition at the Castle

August

1st August National Holiday
Guinguette des Petits Pêcheurs
"Evening Week" Regattas,
Rolle Sailing Club
Biennial Dinghy Festival

September

Country Market
Local produce

December

Advent Christmas Festival
Christmas activities

Throughout the year

Markets
Tuesday and Friday mornings

Rolle Casino Theatre

Located in a beautiful setting by the waters of Lake of Geneva, Rolle Casino Theatre has an auditorium able to seat 250 people. It offers an eclectic artistic programme which includes theatre, music, comedy, contemporary circus, children's shows, etc.

Casino-Théâtre
Place du Port 15
www.theatre-rolle.ch
Tel. +41 (0)21 825 12 40



Getting Around

By train

0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19 min)

www.cff.ch

By boat

0848 811 848

www.cgn.ch

By bus

0900 40 20 40 (CHF 1.- min)

www.carpostal.ch

Publicar

0800 60 30 60

Rolle Green Bus

0848 40 20 40

www.mobilis-vaud.ch

www.carpostal.ch

Mobility car sharing

0848 824 812

www.mobility.ch

Marina

Situated to the west of the town, the harbour has 18 visitor berths.

Harbourmaster: 021 825 28 60

from April to October

Sailing Club

Officially established on 21 July 1880 as the Rolle Navigational Society, Rolle Sailing Club today has nearly 400 members.

There are many competitions during the summer season, the most festive of which is the "Evening Week" event which takes place at the beginning of August.

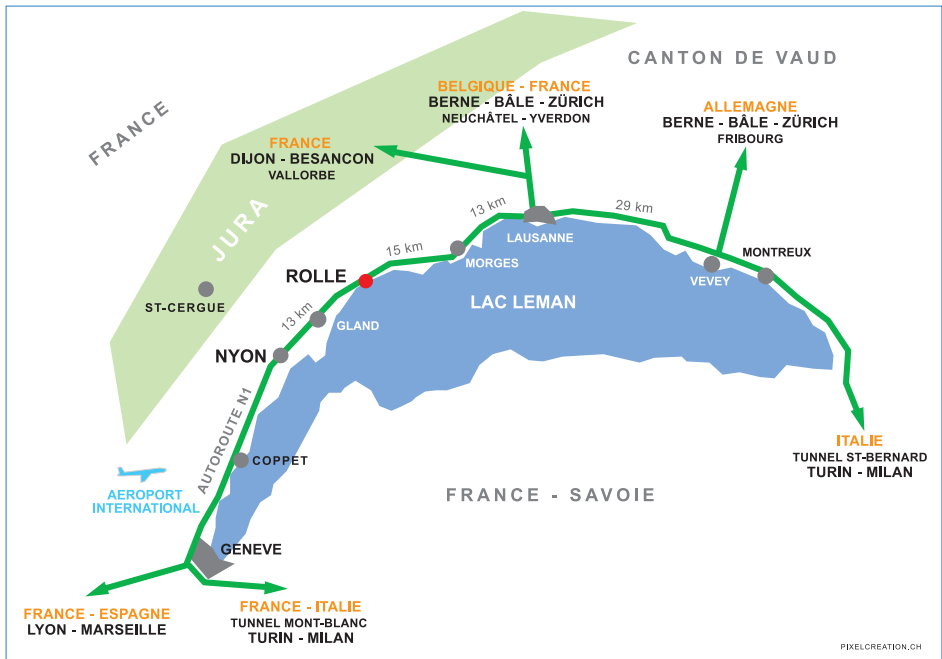
www.snrolloise.ch



ROLLE

PERLE DU LÉMAN

Getting to Rolle and connections



By train

Direct trains to Nyon and Morges.
Regional between Nyon and Morges

By car

From Geneva :

A1 motorway to Lausanne, exit 13

From Lausanne :

A1 motorway to Geneva, exit 13

Rolle Tourisme

Grand-Rue 1 bis, 1180 Rolle

www.tourisme-rolle.ch

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