nileGUIDE
ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP

Chris Gin

Brewpubs in Auckland

Auckland, 1 Day

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: Bars in Auckland's Central Business District (CBD) that brew their own beers either in-house or through local breweries. All have a pretty good atmosphere and you can also get tasty food.

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Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Auckland

Galbraith's Alehouse
Great brewpub

Shakespeare Tavern & Brewery
New Zealand's first microbrewery

Northern Steamship Co Macs Brewbar
Quirky pub behind Britomart

Brew on Quay
Brewpub near Britomart

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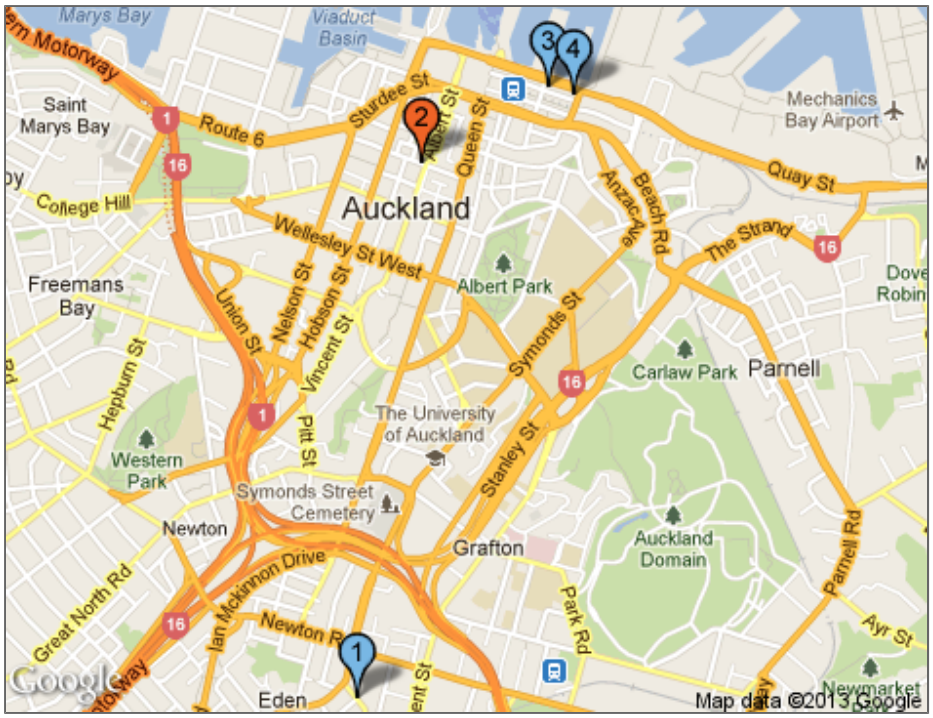
Day 1 - Auckland



QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: 64 9 412 8595
fax: 64 9 412 7487
http://www.alehouse.co.nz/

location:
2 Mt. Eden Road
Auckland 1023

hours:
Mon-Sat noon to 11pm, Sun noon to 10pm

1 Galbraith's Alehouse

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
The in-house brews are really nice and there is always something special up on the board next to the bar that is worth a try.

DESCRIPTION: A great local pub which a good selection of beers many of which are brewed on-site. It gets full in the evenings and the atmosphere is friendly and lively. The food is also really good but there isn't always a vegetarian option. There is a small beergarden out the back but mind those stairs after you've had a few!
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beer iPhone pic by apol3 on Flickr

contact:
tel: +64 9 373 5396
fax: +64 9 373 5397
http://www.shakespearehotel.co.nz/

location:
61 Albert Street
Auckland 1010

hours:

2 Shakespeare Tavern & Brewery

DESCRIPTION: A basic and unpretentious little place with good beer, the Shakespeare has been around for yonks and has always been a place for those interested in good beer. It's located on Albert Street, which is situated behind all the main CBD action of Queen Street, but if you are headed to Food Alley for some cheap and tasty Asian food, this place is right up the road. Or, you could start here and then head downhill to eventually get to the Waterfront bars.
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by Marie

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Mo to Su from 11:30 AM to 01:00 AM

contact:
tel: (09) 529 7729,(09) 374 3952
fax: (09) 374 3953
http://www.macs.co.nz/brewbars/brewbar/northern_steamship/

location:
122 Quay Street
Auckland Auckland

3 Northern Steamship Co Macs Brewbar

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
A nice place to go before or after a gig at the Vector Arena.

DESCRIPTION: A fun pub with interesting decor. Featuring Mac's Beers, a New Zealand brewer, you kind of know what youa re getting. The food is pretty good, too, with sandwiches, bagels, salads and mains including vegetarian options. This place is very near Brew on Quay, so if you are on a bit of a crawl, make this one of your stops. It's also close to the Vector Arena.
There is occasional live music and DJs at the weekend.
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beer iPhone pic by apol3 on Flickr

contact:
tel: (09) 302 2085
fax: (09) 302 2086
http:// http://www.brewonquay.co.nz/

location:
102 Quay Street
Auckland Central Auckland 1010

4 Brew on Quay

DESCRIPTION: The bar's big draw is their rooftop area as well as the fact that it is right next to Vector arena, a popular concert venue. They don't brew onsite, but feature many New Zealand brews as well as international ones. The house beer, Brew's Brew is brewed for them at Lion breweries.
There's a good selection of pub grub including brunch offerings. For vegetarians there is a mushroom risotto and some items on the starters menu.
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Auckland Snapshot

Local Info

As New Zealand writer Kevin Ireland once observed, Auckland has a weight problem:"It is one of the biggest cities in the world. Its swollen bulk hangs out over the constricting belt of its isthmus and bulges further than the eye can see. Its head cannot locate its toes."

Over a quarter of the nation's inhabitants live in the Auckland region. Since the Maori alighted from theirwaka(canoes) to occupy the densely forested land, a steady stream of migrants have followed; Europeans, Asians and Polynesians have all made the journey to create the largest Polynesian enclave in the world. More than 50 volcanoes have erupted in Auckland, permanently scarring its landscape. The last, 600 years ago, gave birth to Rangitoto Island. Today, the buzz, aggression and vitality of the city echoes this turbulent past.

Central Business District

The main artery, Queen Street, studded with retail and commercial buildings, flows from Newton to Downtown, with the shadow of the Sky Tower reflected in every gleaming, glass tower. Take a cultural stopover at the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, the Auckland Town Hall, the Aotea Centre or the Civic.

The main fashion hub is located nearby on High Street, and is home to some of the world's hottest new labels: World Deluxe Store, Karen Walker and Zambesi. Queen Street eventually converges with the waterfront and the revamped Viaduct Harbour Marina.

A passion for uprooting the past(Auckland was once dubbed the"City of Cranes") began withPakeha(European settlers) removing entire volcanic cones in order to revamp the waterfront. Now it is an essential playground for all. Millions have been spent beautifying Viaduct Harbour Marina, a perfect backdrop for the New Zealand National Maritime Museum, Waitemata Plaza, the Ferry Building and a bevy of restaurants and nightspots.

On the inner city fringe lies the infamous Karangahape Road, although its garish sex parlors now compete with many exotic shops and restaurants. On the fringe is Grafton, location of Auckland Hospital, the ice-cream colored Starship Children's Hospital and Auckland's major recreational park—the Auckland Domain, with its sports fields, Wintergardens, duck ponds and the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

South of the Domain, you can fully appreciate the city from the summit of Mount Eden(Maungawhau). Try one of the trendy village cafés nestled at its base. Another volcanic vantage point, offering views to both the Waitemata and Manukau harbors, is One Tree Hill(Maungakiekie). Stargazers will enjoy the Auckland Observatory and Star Dome situated in surrounding Cornwall Park.

West of downtown, you'll find Ponsonby--The Strip, a cluster of popular restaurants. Although competition has become fierce with the new waterfront restaurants and bars, many remain loyal to Ponsonby icons such as Prego, S.P.Q.R. and other institutions like the Hero Parade, Auckland's own gay pride Mardi Gras, voted best annual event byMetro Magazine.

Newmarket and Parnell

Heading east, but still hovering on the fringes of the city, are the suburbs of Newmarket and Parnell. Newmarket is a fashion addict's delight, and perhaps a smarter, slicker version of Parnell, once the domain of yuppie excess. A more sober past is reflected in historic buildings such as Kinder House and Whitby Lodge, which sit alongside a lively mix of shops and restaurants. Further east along Tamaki Drive is Auckland's own Riviera of crescent beaches, stretching from Okahu Bay and Bastion Point to Mission Bay, Kohimarama and Saint Heliers Beach. Along the drive you will find Kelly Tarlton's Antarctic Encounter& Underwater World, more street cafés and seaside playgrounds.

South Auckland

Manukau City, with 50 different ethnic communities, is proudly multi-cultural. It shows off its Polynesian flair in a cornucopia of markets, festivals, community churches and some of the region's most diverse shopping, including Otara Market. For an adrenaline rush, there is Rainbow's End theme park.

West Auckland

West Auckland offers rugged scenic beauty and, as home to the Dalmatian population, has a unique cultural heritage. To fully appreciate its natural attractions, drive 45 minutes west from the city to the black sand and surf beaches at Piha Beach, Karekare Beach and Muriwai Beach. Also check out the nearby Gannet Colony. For outdoor enthusiasts there are over 140 bushwalks in the Waitakere Ranges, trails for bikes and four wheel drive vehicles, and horse riding opportunities.

There are a number of established family wineries here also, notably Delegat's and Corbans, near Henderson and Matua Valley, House of Nobilo and Coopers Creek, near Kumeu. Several of the wineries have excellent restaurants--the Hunting Lodge at Matua Valley and Allely House at Selaks are both worth the drive to enjoy their beautiful settings.

The North Shore

Across the Harbour Bridge lies North Shore City and miles of superb beaches. Seaside suburbs with relaxed shopping centers and restaurants wind their way north, with a major highlight being the historic village of Devonport accessible by boat from the Ferry Building. To view some expensive real estate, walk along Takapuna Beach and continue on to Milford Beach along the sea wall at low tide.

Beyond the confines of the city lie the 47 islands of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park, including Rangitoto Island, Motutapu and Waiheke Island, which attracts many visitors to its idyllic bays and beaches, galleries, vineyards and restaurants, and the annual Montana Waiheke Island of Jazz Festival.
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History

Long long ago, Maui, a mischievous demigod, went fishing one day with his brothers, deep in the southern ocean. Using his grandmother's jawbone for a hook, he caught a huge fish and hauled it out of the sea. His brothers were jealous and fought over the fish. The fish became the North Island of New Zealand, and the landforms were created by their actions, the sea flowing into the gaps left by the hungry brothers. The resulting narrow Auckland isthmus was surrounded by water, between the Pacific Ocean and the Tasman Sea.

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Theiwi, or tribes, of the Auckland area descend from those who arrived in the originalwaka(canoes) from Hawaii about 800 years ago. They brought with them the dog and native rat and food plants such as taro, gourd, yam and kumara. Their descendants include Tainui, Hauraki and Kawerauiwi, and Ngati Whatua from the north, considered to be the officialtangata whenua,(people of the land), of Auckland today.

Auckland is built on an active field of 48 volcanoes, dating back 150,000 years. The youngest, Rangitoto Island, blew up just 600 years ago, and stands like a guardian over the city. The isthmus, Tamaki Makaurau, was fertile with plants, trees, fish and bird life and blessed with a mild climate. Early coastal settlements show evidence of fishing and seasonal food gathering. Later, large-scale agriculture was practiced and archaeological sites frequently show seashell middens and terraces used for housing and gardens.

There are still manytapu(sacred) places, associated with important events, ancestors and graves of these early inhabitants. The volcanic cones offer the greatest evidence of old Maori settlements and were probably developed as fortifiedpa during the 17th century, when inter-tribal conflict escalated. The volcanoes remain the most distinctive feature of Auckland's landscape and, like most landforms, had great symbolic and spiritual importance to the Maori.

Early European visitors included Captain Cook, missionary Samuel Marsden, British naval boats seeking timber for masts and spars, and whalers and sealers provisioning their ships. They brought iron tools, alcohol and tobacco, serious diseases and, most significantly, muskets! As well as Christianity, the missionaries introduced farm animals, the plow, fruit trees, cereal and vegetable crops. Traditional Maori ways of life were changed forever.

In 1840 many local chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi with Britain. There have been problems in defining its true meaning ever since, resulting in frequent land disputes. However, it is an important document, embodying the ideal"We are One People".

Auckland became the capital of the new colony in 1840 on land purchased from Ngati Whatua. Farming developed along with copper mining and timber, and Maori communities participated widely in agriculture and trade. Relations with European settlers were friendly during the 1840s-50s, despite the military settlements at Onehunga, Otahuhu, Panmure, Howick and Albert barracks. The Land Wars of the 1860s decimated the South Auckland tribes, and much of their land and that of Tainui was confiscated.

In 1865 the country's capital was transferred to Wellington. Auckland grew to become New Zealand's main industrial center and port over the next 30 years. From 1870 immigration from Britain increased, and gum digging, brick making, flour milling, brewing and boat building were added to the local trades. The introduction of refrigeration in the late 1880s had a major impact on the entire country. Now it was possible to transport fresh food to Britain and much produce passed through the port of Auckland.

Through the 1880s Auckland had 8,000 inhabitants and 20,000 people lived on the isthmus. Many large buildings were built, such as the Customhouse, the City Library and Art Gallery. Fortifications at Takapuna, Bastion Point, North Head and Mt Victoria were built to defend the city in case of attack.

By the 1890s Auckland was described as a"sophisticated cosmopolitan center." Venues such as the Domain were developed for sport, and new leisure activities included steamer excursions to beaches like Devonport and the Gulf Islands, horse racing, walking, cycling and brass band concerts. After the hard early pioneering days, people could now discover and enjoy the attractions of the Auckland region.

During the early 1900s, the Ferry Building, the Post Office, the Town Hall and the Parnell Baths were all examples of new building thought suitable for a sophisticated and civilized city. Grafton Bridge was built and internationally acclaimed as the first reinforced concrete arch in the Southern Hemisphere. The Maori population, however, was decreasing.

The War Memorial Museum honors the thousands of young New Zealanders killed and wounded in the First World War and others. During the Second World War, large coastal gun batteries, such as those along Tamaki Drive, were installed around the city.

Auckland's population reached 630,000 by 1970, due to both urban migration and immigration—mostly from Britain and Holland in the 1950s and the Pacific Islands in the 1960s. Motorways were built in the 50s and the Harbour Bridge opened in 1959, drawing the North Shore into the growing metropolis.

Auckland has seen its share of debate and political action, from Flower Power and anti-Vietnam War rallies to Peace Squadron anti-nuclear flotillas on the Waitemata Harbour and enormous protests against the 1981 Springbok Tour. Bastion Point was the focus of a long Ngati Whatua occupation in the 1980s and national attempts to resolve Maori land issues continue today. In 1985 French secret agents sank the Greenpeace boatRainbow Warrior in the harbor.

Auckland's population reached one million in 1996. Waves of new immigrants have recently made Auckland their home and more and more people try to cram onto the narrow isthmus each year. From the different languages spoken in the street, and the variety of ethnic food now available, you would never guess Auckland was a small place, right down-under in the South Pacific. Tourism is vital, and an exciting variety of activities and experiences await visitors to this vibrant, multi-cultural city. ©

Hotel Insights

Auckland accommodation choices can basically be divided into three main locations; the airport, the city centre and the suburbs. Unless you are headed straight out to other areas of New Zealand for the first part of your visit, it’s best to avoid the airport hotels as there is a minimum 30 minute drive into the city with limited public transport options. Auckland’s CBD(Central Business district) is easily walkable so for accessibility to restaurants, bars and many of the activities on offer, staying in the city centre puts you in amongst it all. Quirky B& Bs and homestays are often located in the suburbs and beyond. Longer-term visitors, such as those on working holiday visas, also often prefer the quiet “backpackers”(NZ speak for hostels) in the suburbs. If you do elect to stay in one of the suburbs, there is a bus system to get you in to and out of the city centre but you may need to consider taking taxis after hours.

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Restaurants Insights

As an island nation, and a remote one at that, seafood from the clean waters of the Pacific is what it's all about down here. For the poshest nosh, head down to the Viaduct on the waterfront where you can look at the sea while you indulge in some Pacific rim cuisine. Prices are generally mid-range and up although you can get some reasonably priced fish and chips in one of the pubs if that's all you're after. Another thing not to be missed is Asian food. Geographically New Zealand is much closer to Asia than Europe and that is reflected in how Kiwis eat. Grab your chopsticks and head in to an Asian foodcourt. A far cry from the usual offerings of fast food, these foodcourts are reminiscent of those in Singapore, Malaysia or Hong Kong. Prices are low to mid-range and everything is cooked fresh to order. If you're brave, you can even ask for extra chilli. All along Queen Street you can find the usual fast food outlets with kebab and sushi take away places in between. But don't forget to try at least one traditional New Zealand pie while you are here. Standard choices are steak and cheese, steak and mushroom, chicken and mushroom, and smoked fish, but be on the lookout for specialties such as silverbeet and cheese.

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Nightlife Insights

Nightlife in New Zealand is of the laid back variety. Kiwis often entertain at home or at the beach with barbecues in the summer and bring-a-dish type affairs in the winter. But that's not to say there aren't plenty of bars and clubs in Auckland. The Viaduct Harbour, also referred to as "the Waterfront" is packed full of restaurants, bars and clubs. Occasionally they may have a dress code, but in general it's a pretty relaxed atmosphere. K' Road(Karangahape Road), at the top of Queen Street is considered the alternative area and there are bars and clubs in every nook and cranny both on and off the main thoroughfare. Other areas to consider are Ponsonby and Parnell. These areas have more of a focus on bar-restaurants rather than clubs, but both are compact and walkable once you get there. From the city centre you just hop on a Link bus. You will see posters up all over the place announcing gigs and performances. Because venues are spread far and wide, just pick the thing that interests you and ask around for how to get there. In the city centre you can find the Vector Arena, The Edge, and The Civic which host larger concerts and events, plays and special film screenings.

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Things to Do Insights

With Auckland being one of the biggest cities in the world, land-wise, your choices of things to do run from urban to rural. Learn about the history of this young country through the museums or take in some Maori culture at a culltural performance. Fling yourself off of something on a bungy like the Harbour Bridge or the Sky Tower or get back to the land on a farmstay or at one of the black sand beaches. Of course there's always sport and if you are lucky enough to see the All Blacks play rugby or the Black Caps play cricket you'll have some exciting memories to take home with you. If you are looking for some high-quality hiking gear you'll find yourself in merino wool and Gortex heaven in the many outdoor shops. Art? Galleries are dotted about the city but pay particular attention to the areas of Ponsonby, Parnell or Waiheke Island which is just a short ferry ride away. And while you are out there don't forget to sample some of New Zealand's finest wines. Have you been considering a tattoo and think this might be the time? You're in luck! Head up to Karangahape Road, known locally as "K' Road" where you can choose from Maori designs or anything else your little travelling heart desires. In the summertime grab a blanket and head out to one of the many free festivals such as Symphony in the Park, Pasifika, or the Grey Lynn festival. Each has its own character or cultural flavour. For a rest you can indulge in some good, strong coffee and cakes in the local café scene or enjoy some fish and chips on the beach. Be prepared to fend off the seagulls though!

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Travel Tips

Getting There

By Air

Auckland Airport(+64 9 275 0789/ http://www.auckland-airport.co.nz/) is New Zealand's largest and busiest airport and is located 21 km(14 mi) from downtown Auckland. The airport provides direct service and connections to domestic and international destinations from the following airlines:

Air New Zealand(+64 9 336 2400/ http://www.airnz.co.nz/) Air Pacific(+64 9 379 2404 8482/ http://www.airpacific.com/) Asiana Airlines(+64 9 256 6681/ http://us.flyasiana.com/) Cathay Pacific Airways(+64 9 379 0861/ http://www.cathaypacific.com/) Emirates(+64 9 377 6004/ http://www.emirates.com/) EVA Air(+64 9 358 8300/ http://www.evaair.com/) Freedom Air(0800 600 500(from NZ only)/ http://www.freedomair.co.nz/) Garuda Indonesia(+64 9 366 1862/ http://www.garuda.com/) Korean Air(+64 9 914 2000/ http://www.koreanair.com/) Lan Chile(+64 9 309 8673/ http://www.lanchile.com/) Malaysia Airlines(+64 9 373 2741/ http://www.malaysiaairlines.com/) Polynesian Airlines(+64 9 309 5396/ http://www.polynesianairlines.co.nz/) Qantas Airways(+64 9 357 8900/ http://www.qantas.com.au/) Royal Brunei Airlines(+64 9 302 1524/ http://www.bruneiair.com/) Singapore Airlines(+64 9 303 2129/ http://www.singaporeair.com/) Thai Airways International(+64 9 377 3886/ http://www.thaiair.com/)

From the Airport

Bus: Airbus(+64 9 375 4730/http://www.airbus.co.nz/) offers service to and from the airport and Auckland City every 20 minutes during the day and every 30 minutes after 6p.

Taxis& Shuttles: Taxis and shuttle buses are located at the western side of the International Terminal and in front of the Domestic Terminals. A taxi from the airport to the city center of Auckland is approximately NZD40.

Rental Car Companies: ACE Rental(+64 9 256 9944/ http://www.acerentals.co.nz/) ARF Rental(+64 9 256 9430/ http://www.hirecar.co.nz/) Avis(+64 9 256 8366/ http://www.avis.com/) Budget(+64 9 256 8451/ http://www.budget.co.nz/) Hertz(+64 9 256 8690/ http://www.hertz.com/) Maui Campervans and Motorhomes(+64 9 275 4748/ http://www.maui-rentals.com/)

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By Train

Tranz Scenic(+64 4 495 0775/ http://www.tranzscenic.co.nz/) is New Zealand's only passenger rail service. The Overlander route offers service to Auckland from Wellington.

By Bus

InterCity Coachlines(+64 9 913 6100/ http://www.intercitycoach.co.nz/) offers frequent daily coach service throughout all of New Zealand. The bus stops are located at the Sky City Coach Terminal on 102 Hobson Street and outside the main doors of the Auckland International Airport. Northliner Express(+64 9 307 5873/ http://www.northliner.co.nz/) has frequent routes throughout the Northland area with the Auckland stop located at 172 Quay Street.

Getting Around

Public Transport

The Link(+64 9 366 6400 or+64 9 309 6269/ http://www.stagecoach.co.nz/) provides bus service between central Auckland locations including Downtown, University, Victoria Park, Sky City, Queen Street and more. Rideline(+64 9 366 6400/ http://www.rideline.co.nz/) provides public transportation throughout the Auckland region via bus, ferry and train.

Ferry

Kawau Kat Cruises(+64 9 425 8006/ http://www.kawaukat.co.nz/) offers daily Harbour cruises as well as ferry service to Waiheke Island and Ragitoto Island in Auckland.

Car and Motorcycle Companies

A 2 B Rentals Ltd(+64 9 377 0825/ http://www.a2brentals.co.nz/) ACE Tourist Rentals(0 800 50 22 77(NZ only)/ http://www.acerentals.co.nz/) Adventure NZ Motorcycle Tours& Rentals(+64 21 969 071/ http://www.GoTourNZ.com/) Alternative Rental Cars(+64 9 373 3822/ http://www.hireacar.co.nz/) Apex Car Rentals(0800 737 009(NZ only)/ http://www.apexrentals.co.nz/) Asian Rental Car Co(+64 9 570 6284/ http://www.asian-rentalcars.co.nz/) Avis(0800 655 111(NZ only)/ http://www.avis.co.nz/) Bargain Rental Cars(+64 9 444 4573/ http://www.bargainrentals.co.nz/) Hertz(+64 9 367 6350/ http://www.hertz.co.nz)
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Fun Facts

1. Big fact: Auckland is the largest Polynesian city in the world.

2. Interesting fact: The Maori name for Auckland is Tamaki Makaurau.

3. Historical fact: Auckland was the capital of New Zealand for 25 years from 1842-1865.

4. Fun fact: It only takes four hours to walk from the Pacific Ocean to the Tasman Sea on the Coast-to-Coast Walkway.

5. Weird fact: You can still use pigeon post on Great Barrier Island.

6. Tall fact: The Sky Tower is the tallest structure in the Southern Hemisphere at 328 metres.

7. Nickname fact: Due to one in three Aucklanders having a boat, the city's nickname is the City of Sails.

8. Association with Japan fact: The outer lanes on the Harbour Bridge were not part of the original structure. Japanese engineers invented a way to clip them on when the bridge needed widening. Some refer to the lanes as the"Nippon Clip ons"

9. Superfluous bridge fact: The Harbour Bridge has 8 lanes but the central barrier is moveable, by a really cool machine, so that the lanes can be situated as 3/5, 5/3, or 4/4, depending on traffic flows.

10. Volcano fact: There are about 50 volcanoes around Auckland.

11. Baby volcano fact: Rangitoto, the volcano you can see out in the harbour is only about 600 or 700 years old. This means that some of the early Maori in New Zealand viewed its birth.

12. Super fact: Controversially, Auckland has recently engulfed other nearby areas to become what is known as a"Super City". Len Brown was elected mayor and residents are divided as to how, or if, the Super City will pan out. Alternatively, they were thinking of calling it the"World's Most Awesome City". Just kidding. We do like it though.
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