



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Chris Gin

First day in Auckland

Auckland, 1 Day

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Guide Description













AUTHOR NOTE: Start off with the Auckland Museum in the morning, which is packed with information about the history and environment of New Zealand. Follow this up with a wander up Queen Street, taking your pick from the wide array of cafes for a lunch break. Then to the Auckland Art Gallery for the best of what NZ's artists have to offer. After this a trip to Mission Bay is in order to relax at the beach and watch the people of Auckland go by. Nearby Bastion Point provides a fabulous viewpoint of the city and Hauraki Gulf. Finish up with dinner at Cin Cin by the waterfront in the city, and follow up with a drink at Rakino's.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Auckland

DAY NOTE: This trip will give you a taste of what Auckland is all about, without having to travel out of the central city itself.

	Kiwi International Queen Street Hotel and Hostel Casino fun nearby
	Rakinos Popular inner city café and bar
	Cin Cin on Quay Quality by the quay
	Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki Comprehensive art collection
	Historic Ferry Building (The) Quayside landmark
	Mission Bay Easily accesible city beach with cafes and ice cream shops
	Bastion Point Look out over the Gulf
	Auckland War Memorial Museum National treasures
	The Link Bus Top way to get around town
	Auckland Domain Main reserve in city

Day 1 - Auckland

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: This trip will give you a taste of what Auckland is all about, without having to travel out of the central city itself.

contact:
tel: 64 9 3764 9 87
www.kiwihotel.co.nz

1 Kiwi International Queen Street Hotel and Hostel

Hotels.com

location:
411 Queen Street
Auckland 68241

DESCRIPTION: Located in Auckland's city center, this hotel is one km from Aotea Square and less than two km from Sky City Casino. Guestrooms feature available wireless Internet access, as well as clock radios, coffeemakers, and hair dryers. In addition to a 24-hour front desk, Kiwi International offers complimentary parking, a bar, and a game room.

contact:
tel: 64 093583535

2 Rakinos

location:
35 High Street
Auckland Auckland

DESCRIPTION: Rakinos has the best of all worlds - great food, lively atmosphere and handy location.

contact:
tel: 64 9 307 6966
fax: 64 9 307 6523
http://www.cincin.co.nz/

3 Cin Cin on Quay

location:
Auckland Ferry Building
Auckland 1001

hours:
Daily 10a-late

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
this ia a primo spot to stop for a drink before catching the ferry to Waiheke or Devonport

DESCRIPTION: Superbly renovated and refashioned, this is one of the oldest established restaurants in the city, yet still one of the most popular. Set in the historic Ferry Building and overlooking the water, Cin Cin has high ceilings, granite, and luxurious table settings. There is a strong emphasis on the sea, with Italian and Asian flavors through pasta, risotto and noodles. Wood-fired pizzas are thrown in for good measure. The wine list is extensive. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: +64 9 307 7700
http://www.aucklandartgallery.com/

4 Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki

location:
2 Lorne Street
Auckland 1001

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
After your visit to the gallery, don't miss a walk in Albert Park which is right behind the main building. It's a steep hill but it's worth it.

DESCRIPTION: The gallery is housed in historical buildings on two sides of the road. It contains a sizeable collection of European, New Zealand and Pacific art including a good amount of Maori art and portraiture. The gallery has historical



editor

and modern works and always has some sort of special exhibition on details of which can be found on the website. There is also a nice cafe. Currently only part of the gallery is open as the bigger historical building is undergoing refurbishment. When facing the main building, right behind you you'll see a red building. Head a little to the right of it and you'll see the entrance which look like the above photo.
© NileGuide

contact:
tel: +64 9 979 7060 (Tourist Information)
<http://www.historic.org.nz/Registrar/ListingDetail.asp>

location:
99 Quay Street
Auckland 1001

5 Historic Ferry Building (The)

DESCRIPTION: The Ferry Building, in Edwardian Baroque style, was first opened in 1912 on land reclaimed from the harbour. Construction is of sandstone and brick with a Coromandel granite base. In recent years it has been elegantly refurbished for retail, restaurant (Harbourside and Cin Cin can be found here) and office use, but still maintains its original function as the terminal for ferries to the North Shore and the Hauraki Gulf islands. Admission is free. © wcities.com



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contact:
tel: +64 9 979 7070 (Tourist Information)
<http://www.newzealand.com/travel/sights-activities/scenic-highlights/coastal-highlights/coastal-highlights-home.cfm>

location:
Tamaki Drive
Mission Bay 1005

6 Mission Bay

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Don't rely on parking in the car park. It is always full. After you pass Kelly Tarlton's when driving along Tamaki Drive from the city, go past the next bend and then start looking for a spot along the road to park in.

DESCRIPTION: Mission Bay is the name of a suburb 7 kilometers to the east of the Auckland CBD. Do yourself a favor and take the drive from the city down Tamaki Drive and watch the water on your left as you wind around. Getting stuck in traffic is not as bad a thing as normal here as you can see the Hauraki Gulf through the Pohutukawa trees that line the road out. The feature of Mission Bay is the public beach. It has recently been re-sanded (a long story) and is back to its old self. A fantastic place to laze away the day. The surf is not the best (head to the west coast for that), but the water is always refreshing and the people watching is superb. If cooling off in the water is not good enough for you, take the 20 meter (approx) walk to the main shops at Mission Bay and have an ice cream or something of the colder variety (I recommend an ice cold Steinlager Pure). The main feature of Mission Bay is the Trevor Moss Davis Memorial Fountain (no this isn't the opening to Married With Children, but it could be...). It is constructed of Sicilian marble and provides a water dance at night with a light show accompaniment. During the day, you are



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as likely to see kids swimming in the fountain as in the surf. © NileGuide

contact:
tel: +64 9 367 6009 (Tourist Information)

location:
Tamaki Drive
Auckland 1005

7 Bastion Point

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The place is truly breathtaking on a fine day. The combination of the vivid floral colors and the ridiculously blue water of the Waitamata are a photographer's (amateur or professional) dream.

DESCRIPTION: Bastion Point and the Savage Memorial gardens are some of the most peaceful surroundings in Auckland. Amazing views over the Waitamata Harbour and the beautiful gardens dedicated to the first Labour Prime Minister are what people see now. It wasn't always this peaceful. The area was originally built by the Crown on confiscated lands for the purpose of a military outpost. This land was used for the military for approximately 50 years, but then was discarded for that purpose post WWII. Instead of returning it to the original owners, the Crown decided to give the land to Auckland City to use as a park much in the manner that you see now on a visit. This was all well and good until the mid-70's when they announced that they would open the area to private development. This led to a 507 day illegal occupation to prevent the confiscation. Upwards of 800 police ended up raiding the occupation and dismissing them, a watershed point in the Maori protest movement. Eventually the land was returned to the original tribe as a part of the Waitangi settlement. © NileGuide



contact:
tel: +64 (0)9 309 0443
<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/>

location:
Domain Drive
Auckland 1142

8 Auckland War Memorial Museum

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The Auckland War Memorial Museum often has wonderful special exhibitions. Ring ahead, check the Nile Guide Local Flavor blog or ask at tourist info to find out what's on when.

DESCRIPTION: Sitting high atop the Auckland Domain is the Auckland War Memorial Museum originally constructed in 1852 and remodeled several times since then. The link to the war is obvious on approach with the names and scenes from some great battles New Zealanders have participated on the building facade and the "court of honor" in the front. However, the museum is more than that, providing the largest collection of Maori and Pacific Island artefacts in New Zealand. There is an original Maori war canoe (waka) from 1830 (the last one used) proudly displayed and numerous other important works. The museum provides a new lesson in what a "donation" really is as there is a little bit of pressure to pay out. It is all in a good cause, of course as you'll see once you enter. There are always rotating exhibitions and the museum has upped its profile



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internationally in hopes of attracting more important travelling exhibitions. While you're there, check out the Maori cultural performance. It's an entertaining look at New Zealand's first people and their customs (the Haka is always a crowd pleaser). © NileGuide

contact:
tel: +64 9 379 2020
<http://www.stagecoach.co.nz/>

location:
Stagecoach Auckland
Auckland 1034

hours:
6a-7p & 7p-11:30p M-F, 7a-6p
Sa, 7a-11:30p Su

The Link Bus

DESCRIPTION: The Link Bus is a cost effective and easy way to get around. It is a regular service used by locals and visitors alike, running in a loop (both directions) around the perimeter of the inner city from mid-Queen Street to Ponsonby, Karangahape Road, Newmarket, Parnell and back to the city centre. You cannot get lost at the end of the line - just get back on a Link Bus and end up back where you started! © wcities.com



by France Gypsy on Flickr

contact:
tel: +64 9 379 2020 (Tourist
Information)
[http://www.aucklandcity.govt.
nz/whatson/places/parks/dom
ain.asp#getting](http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/places/parks/domain.asp#getting)

location:
Park Road
Auckland 1001

9 Auckland Domain

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
There is a good, measured track around the Domain which is perfect for anyone looking for a peaceful place to go for a run.

DESCRIPTION: Just a short walk east from the city centre, Auckland Domain is New Zealand's oldest municipal park. Founded in 1840 by Governor Hobson, the Domain features the Auckland War Memorial Museum, an outdoor fernery and botanic Wintergardens, a band rotunda (watch for free concerts on summer weekends), sculptures, lawn bowls, kiosk and more. The Domain is the location of the huge concerts such as Coca Cola Christmas in the Park when 300,000 people jam in for a night of music and fireworks. © wcities.com



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My List

contact:
tel: +64 9 979 7070
<http://www.akcity.govt.nz>

location:
33 Victoria Street East
Auckland 1001

1 Albert Park

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Great place to bring your sandwiches or frisbee and spend the afternoon.

DESCRIPTION: High up green space in the city that is popular with university students, family and businesspeople having lunch in the sun. There are a few war memorials dotted about, a rotunda and a fountain that is the main feature. In the summer there are often events going on the biggest of which is the Lantern Festival.

© NileGuide



by Marie on Nile Guide

contact:
tel: +64 9 979 7070 (Tourist Information)
<http://www.highstreet.co.nz>

location:
High Street
Auckland 1001

hours:
24 hrs

2 High Street

DESCRIPTION: From Queen Street walk up Vulcan Lane to enter Auckland's "fashion central". The narrow and sometimes cobbled streets and alleyways are home to some of New Zealand's top designer labels including Kate Sylvester, Karen Walker, Zambesi and World. Bring all of your credit cards and check out top international labels such as Versace, in the new and very chic Chancery pedestrian mall. Chanel-suited women trot alongside grey office workers and designer dressed-down students - there's a bustling sidewalk café or restaurant to match all styles. Cross Victoria Street onto Lorne Street, for a more Bohemian flavour, including cool second-hand book stores and New Zealand-made arts and crafts. Turn left at the end of Lorne Street, past the New Gallery and the Auckland Art Gallery. Head back along Kitchener Street to complete a loop of Auckland's finest exhibiting art galleries. It must be time for that coffee back on High Street! © wcities.com

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 their waka (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 with Pakeha (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 by Metro 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.

©

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.

Auckland Snapshot continued

Theiwi, or tribes, of the Auckland area descend from those who arrived in the original waka (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 Kawerau iwi, and Ngati Whatua from the north, considered to be the official tangata 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 many tapu (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 fortified pa 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 boat Rainbow 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.

Auckland Snapshot continued

© NileGuide

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.

© NileGuide

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 cultural 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/>)

Auckland Snapshot continued

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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