

Auckland Travel Guide

Auckland: The City of Sails
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Things to do in Auckland

Landmarks & Monuments

Iconic structures that define Auckland's skyline and heritage, offering panoramic views and fascinating insights into the city's history and culture.



Must See Book Ahead
Sky Tower
1-2 hours Book Ahead



Auckland's most iconic landmark at **328 meters**, Sky Tower offers **360-degree views** of the city, harbors, and surrounding countryside. Features an observation deck, fine dining restaurant, and thrilling Skyjump and SkyWalk activities. Perfect for photography and understanding the city's geography. The tower's distinctive design makes it a symbol of modern Auckland.



Must See
Auckland Harbour Bridge
30 minutes to 2 hours No Booking Needed



An iconic **1,080-meter** bridge connecting central Auckland to the North Shore. The bridge offers stunning vistas, especially at sunset. Experience the **Bridge Climb** adventure for an adrenaline-pumping ascent with panoramic views. The surrounding walkways provide excellent photo opportunities and are popular with joggers and cyclists.



Must See
One Tree Hill / Maungakiekie
1-2 hours No Booking Needed



An ancient volcanic cone with significant **Māori heritage**, offering the best free panoramic views of Auckland. The summit features a historic obelisk and Māori monument. Surrounded by parkland with walking trails, it's perfect for sunset viewing, picnicking, and understanding Auckland's volcanic landscape. Sacred to the Tainui and Ngāti Whātua iwi.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Visit One Tree Hill at sunset for magical golden hour photography
- Sky Tower booking can be combined with dining for a special experience
- Bridge Climb requires moderate fitness; book in advance



- Bring layers as hilltops can be windy



Museums & Galleries

World-class collections spanning art, history, natural sciences, and cultural artifacts, showcasing New Zealand's heritage and contemporary creativity.



Must See

Auckland Museum

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

One of the **Southern Hemisphere's finest museums** featuring extensive **Māori and Pacific collections**, Egyptian mummies, and natural history exhibits. The iconic War Memorial building displays taonga (treasured artifacts), ancestral canoes, and rotating exhibitions. Excellent for understanding New Zealand's cultural diversity and natural heritage.



Top Pick

Art Gallery

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

New Zealand's premier art institution showcasing **contemporary and classical works** including paintings, sculptures, and multimedia installations. Features both national treasures and international pieces. The modern wing highlights cutting-edge contemporary art, while traditional galleries display European masters and NZ historical art.



Top Pick

MOTAT - Museum of Transport & Technology

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **hands-on museum** featuring vintage aircraft, trains, trams, and vehicles. Explore the history of transportation in New Zealand with interactive exhibits and working historic vehicles. The aviation hall and restored tram rides are particularly popular. Great for families and technology enthusiasts interested in industrial heritage.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Many museums offer free or donation entry on first hours
- Plan visits during quiet weekday mornings for better experience
- Check for special exhibitions when visiting
- Most venues have cafes and facilities



Parks & Gardens

Lush green spaces offering recreation, relaxation, and stunning natural scenery throughout the city and surrounding regions.



Must See

Auckland Domain

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Auckland's oldest and **largest public park** featuring rolling lawns, historic trees, and the volcanic crater Maungawhau. Home to summer concerts, picnicking areas, and walking trails. The park offers peaceful escapes with views over the city and harbors. Perfect for jogging, cycling, or leisurely strolls through heritage gardens.



Top Pick

Cornwall Park

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A sprawling **historic estate** with the symmetrical One Tree Hill at its center, featuring gardens, sports fields, and heritage buildings. The park includes the charming farmer's market on Sundays and is popular for weddings and family picnics. Tree-lined walkways and varied landscapes provide excellent walking experiences and photo opportunities year-round.



Top Pick

Botanic Gardens

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Beautifully curated **35-hectare gardens** showcasing native plants, exotic species, and seasonal displays. The gardens feature themed areas, walking paths, ponds, and quiet contemplation spaces. Ideal for nature photography, peaceful walks, and learning about New Zealand's unique flora. The native forest area particularly showcases NZ botanical heritage.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Parks are free and accessible throughout the day
- Bring picnic supplies or use on-site cafes
- Visit gardens in spring for flowering displays
- Best for walking early morning or late afternoon



Neighborhoods & Districts

Distinctive areas with unique character, offering shopping, dining, entertainment, and local cultural experiences throughout Auckland.



Top Pick

Parnell

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Auckland's **most charming heritage neighborhood** featuring Victorian and Edwardian buildings, boutique shops, cafes, and fine dining. The tree-lined Parnell Road is perfect for leisurely strolling, shopping for local crafts and art. Historic gardens and galleries complement trendy restaurants and bars. The area captures old Auckland charm with modern amenities.



Top Pick

Mission Bay

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **vibrant waterfront precinct** with a sandy beach, promenade, boutique shopping, and excellent restaurants with harbor views. The bay offers water activities, beach cafes, and stunning sunset views toward Rangitoto Island. Perfect for evening strolls, weekend recreation, and experiencing Auckland's beach culture in an urban setting.



Top Pick

Ponsonby

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **trendy and artistic neighborhood** known for independent boutiques, street art, craft breweries, and innovative restaurants. The area has a bohemian vibe with vintage shops, design studios, and live music venues. Ponsonby Road is the main strip with excellent nightlife, weekend markets, and cultural events throughout the year.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Each neighborhood has distinct character - plan a walking route
- Weekend markets offer local crafts and food
- Neighborhoods are best explored on foot
- Reserve tables at popular restaurants in advance



Beaches & Coastal Areas

Auckland's stunning coastal areas offering swimming, water sports, relaxation, and some of the city's most iconic views.



Must See Book Ahead

Rangitoto Island

4-5 hours Book Ahead



Map

A **dormant volcanic island** 30 minutes by ferry from the city, offering scenic walking trails, volcanic landscapes, and panoramic views of Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf. The summit walk takes approximately 1.5 hours and provides 360-degree vistas. The island is a popular day trip with picnic areas and unique botanical features shaped by volcanic conditions.



Top Pick

Piha Beach

2-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A dramatic **black sand beach** on Auckland's west coast, famous for powerful waves and rugged beauty. Popular with surfers and photographers, especially for golden hour photography. Features the iconic Lion Rock formation. The beach has cafes and is surrounded by native forest providing shelter and scenic walking trails along the cliffs.



Top Pick

Muriwai Beach

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **scenic west coast beach** featuring powerful ocean swells, dramatic black cliffs, and a gannet colony accessible via walking trails. The beach is excellent for watching surfers, sunsets, and seasonal bird watching. Located 40km west, it offers a wild coastline experience with stunning natural features and is popular for adventure photography.

Tips for Beaches & Coastal Areas

- Check beach conditions and safety alerts before visiting
- West coast beaches have strong currents - swim between flags
- Best visit for photography is late afternoon/golden hour
- Some beaches have changing facilities and cafes



Tours & Activities

Guided experiences and adventurous activities offering unique perspectives and memorable interactions with Auckland's attractions and natural features.



[Top Pick](#) [Book Ahead](#)

Waitemata Harbour Cruises

1-3 hours [Book Ahead](#)

Scenic boat tours exploring Auckland's twin harbors with views of the Harbour Bridge, historic waterfront, and volcanic cones. Options range from dinner cruises to casual daytime sailing experiences. Learn about Māori maritime heritage and the city's maritime history. Excellent for sunset viewing and photography with constantly changing perspectives of iconic landmarks.



[Top Pick](#) [Book Ahead](#)

Waitomo Caves Day Trip

6-7 hours [Book Ahead](#)

A **popular half-day excursion** featuring underground caves illuminated by thousands of glowworms. Located 2 hours south, the caves showcase stunning natural formations and underground streams. Tours include boat rides through underground rivers and educational information about geological formations. An unforgettable natural wonder offering unique photography opportunities.



[Top Pick](#) [Book Ahead](#)

Wine Tour - Waiheke Island

6-8 hours [Book Ahead](#)

An **elegant day excursion** to Waiheke Island featuring world-class boutique wineries with harbor views, art installations, and gourmet dining. A 40-minute ferry provides scenic harbor passage. Wineries offer tastings of award-winning wines in beautiful estates. Combines wine appreciation, fine dining, art galleries, and stunning island landscapes.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book popular tours in advance during peak season
- Wear comfortable shoes for walking and exploration
- Bring sun protection and water for outdoor activities
- Most tours provide transportation from central Auckland



Religious Sites

Sacred spaces and heritage buildings reflecting Auckland's spiritual diversity and colonial history.



Top Pick

Holy Trinity Cathedral

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Auckland's **Anglican cathedral** featuring stunning Gothic Revival architecture with wooden interior crafted from native New Zealand timber. The cathedral showcases beautiful stained glass windows and intricate woodwork. Built in the late 19th century, it's an architectural and spiritual landmark. Interior offers peaceful contemplation with exceptional design details.



Top Pick

St. Matthew's in the City

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

A **modern Anglican church** known for contemporary architecture and innovative community programs. Features striking modern design with spacious interiors and excellent acoustics for concerts. Often hosts cultural events, art installations, and performances. The church bridges traditional spirituality with contemporary creative expression.



Notable

Historic Cemeteries

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Auckland's **heritage cemeteries** like Symonds Street and Waikumete showcase Victorian monuments, historic graves, and peaceful landscapes. These open-air museums reveal the city's 19th-century history through epitaphs and architectural styles. Walking tours reveal stories of early settlers, notable residents, and cultural heritage. Peaceful green spaces for contemplation.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Respect the sacred nature of places of worship
- Check service times if planning to attend worship
- Cemeteries offer quiet, reflective walks through history
- Many churches offer architectural tours



Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Auckland, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Must See

Tempero★★★★★ 4.9 (619)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Tempero is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.9★ from 619 reviews. Located at 352 Karangahape Road, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 5:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 5:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Must See

Tala★★★★★ 4.9 (283)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Tala is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.9★ from 283 reviews. Located at 235 Parnell Road, Parnell, Auckland 1052, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 5:30 – 9:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

Onslow★★★★★ 4.8 (1,523)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Onslow is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.8★ from 1523 reviews. Located at 9 Princes Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 5:00 PM

Must See

Milenta★★★★★ 4.8 (437)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Milenta is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.8★ from 437 reviews. Located at 210/218 Victoria Street West, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Must See

Paris Butter★★★★★ 4.8 (490)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Paris Butter is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.8★ from 490 reviews. Located at 166 Jervois Road, Herne Bay, Auckland 1011, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:30 – 8:30 PM
- Wednesday: 5:30 – 8:30 PM
- Thursday: 5:30 – 8:30 PM
- Friday: 5:30 – 8:30 PM
- Saturday: 5:30 – 8:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

Lillius Restaurant★★★★★ 4.8 (252)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Lillius Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.8★ from 252 reviews. Located at 19 Khyber Pass Road, Grafton, Auckland 1023, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 5:30 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 5:30 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 5:30 – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM, 5:30 – 10:30 PM

Must See

alma★★★★★ 4.7 (553)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

alma is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.7★ from 553 reviews. Located at 130 Quay Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM

Must See

Culprit.★★★★★ 4.7 (710)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Culprit. is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.7★ from 710 reviews. Located at Level 1/12 Wyndham Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Friday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Saturday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

Atelier★★★★★ 4.7 (394)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Atelier is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.7★ from 394 reviews. Located at 292 Karangahape Road, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 4:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 4:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 4:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 4:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 4:00 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 5:00 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 5:00 – 10:00 PM

Must See

Hello Beasty★★★★★ 4.7 (1,612)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Hello Beasty is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.7★ from 1612 reviews. Located at 95-97 Customs Street West, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM

Must See

Otto Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (1,412)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Otto Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.7★ from 1412 reviews. Located at 375 Karangahape Road, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: 4:30 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 4:30 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 4:30 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

Mr. Morris★★★★★ 4.7 (502)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Mr. Morris is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.7★ from 502 reviews. Located at Britomart, Corner of Galway & Commerce Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Wednesday: 5:30 – 9:30 PM
- Thursday: Closed
- Friday: Closed
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: Closed

Must See

The French Cafe★★★★★ 4.7 (733)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The French Cafe is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.7★ from 733 reviews. Located at 210 Symonds Street, Eden Terrace, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:30 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 5:30 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 5:30 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 5:30 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 5:30 – 11:00 PM

Must See

Ahi.★★★★★ 4.6 (1,393)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Ahi. is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.6★ from 1393 reviews. Located at Commercial Bay Level 2/7 Queen Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM



Must See

Amano★★★★★ 4.6 (5,026)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Amano is a highly-rated restaurant in Auckland, rated 4.6★ from 5026 reviews. Located at 66 - 68, Tyler Street, Britomart Place, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Beach Bars

Real, highly-rated Beach Bars in Auckland, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Must See

Truth or Dare Bar★★★★★ 4.9 (161)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Truth or Dare Bar | Auckland is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.9★ from 161 reviews. Located at Snickel Lane 9/23 Customs Street East, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 4:00 PM – 12:30 AM
- Tuesday: 4:00 PM – 12:30 AM
- Wednesday: 4:00 PM – 12:30 AM
- Thursday: 4:00 PM – 12:30 AM
- Friday: 4:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 4:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: Closed

Must See

Panacea★★★★★ 4.9 (314)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Panacea is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.9★ from 314 reviews. Located at 23 O'Connell Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 4:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 4:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: Closed



Must See

First Mates, Last Laugh★★★★★ 4.8 (1,464)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

First Mates, Last Laugh is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.8★ from 1464 reviews. Located at 121 Westhaven Drive, Westhaven, Marina 1011, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Must See

The Conservatory★★★★★ 4.6 (2,447)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The Conservatory is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.6★ from 2447 reviews. Located at E1/17 Jellicoe Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 9:30 PM

Must See

Moretons Bar & Restaurant★★★★★ 4.6 (1,912)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Moretons Bar & Restaurant is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.6★ from 1912 reviews. Located at 425 Tamaki Drive, St Heliers, Auckland 1071, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM



Must See

The Nightcar★★★★★ 4.6 (254)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The Nightcar is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.6★ from 254 reviews. Located at 44 Queen Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 5:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 5:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 5:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 5:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: Closed

Top Pick

The Churchill Auckland★★★★★ 4.5 (481)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The Churchill Auckland is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.5★ from 481 reviews. Located at 396 Queen Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 4:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 4:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 4:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: Closed

Top Pick

Rosie's Red-Hot Cantina - Auckland Viaduct★★★★★ 4.5 (1,079)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Rosie's Red-Hot Cantina - Auckland Viaduct is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.5★ from 1079 reviews. Located at 204 Quay Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 4:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 4:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM



Top Pick

Rodd & Gunn, The Lodge Commercial Bay★★★★★ 4.5 (399)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Rodd & Gunn, The Lodge Commercial Bay is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.5★ from 399 reviews. Located at Commercial Bay, 7 Queen Street, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Top Pick

Parasol and Swing Company★★★★☆ 4.4 (688)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Parasol and Swing Company is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.4★ from 688 reviews. Located at 7/204 Quay Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 4:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 4:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 4:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 12:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM – 3:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:00 PM – 1:00 AM

Top Pick

Dr Rudi's Rooftop Brewing Co.★★★★☆ 4.3 (3,846)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Dr Rudi's Rooftop Brewing Co. is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.3★ from 3846 reviews. Located at Level 2/204 Quay Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 3:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM



Top Pick

Queens Rooftop & Wineshop★★★★☆ 4.3 (673)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Queens Rooftop & Wineshop is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.3★ from 673 reviews. Located at Level 21/1 Queen Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Top Pick

The Lula Inn★★★★☆ 4.3 (2,576)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The Lula Inn is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.3★ from 2576 reviews. Located at 149 Quay Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 9:00 PM

Top Pick

Sunset★★★★☆ 4.2 (260)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Sunset is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.2★ from 260 reviews. Located at 10th Floor/63-67 Nelson Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 4:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 4:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 4:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 2:00 – 8:00 PM



Top Pick

Rooftop At QT★★★★☆ 4.2 (318)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Rooftop At QT is a highly-rated beach bar in Auckland, rated 4.2★ from 318 reviews. Located at 4 Viaduct Harbour Avenue, Westhaven, Auckland 1010, New Zealand.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 3:00 – 9:30 PM
- Tuesday: 3:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 3:00 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 3:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 PM – 12:30 AM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 9:30 PM

Practical Information

Best Time to Visit

Summer (December-February) offers warm weather (20-25°C), perfect for beaches and outdoor activities, but expect crowds and higher prices. **Autumn (March-May)** provides mild temperatures (15-20°C), fewer crowds, and stunning fall colors. **Winter (June-August)** brings cooler weather (10-15°C) with less rainfall, ideal for hiking. **Spring (September-November)** features wildflower displays, moderate temperatures, and manageable crowds.

Peak season: December-February with school holidays. **Shoulder season:** March-May and September-November offer the best balance of weather and accessibility. **Off-season:** June-August is cooler but quieter with deals on accommodation.

Transportation

Public Transport: Auckland's integrated transport system includes buses, trains, and ferries. The Hop Card (contactless payment system) provides access to all services with discounted fares. Buses are extensive and reliable; trains connect central areas efficiently. Ferries to islands are scenic and frequent.

Taxis & Ride-share: Uber and local taxi services are readily available. Taxis are metered and generally reliable, particularly for late-night travel.

Car Rental: Recommended for exploring beyond central Auckland. International driving permits accepted; driving is on the left. Roads are well-maintained with clear signage. Parking is available throughout the city, though central areas can be congested.

Cycling: Auckland has expanding cycle lanes and is increasingly bike-friendly. Bike rentals and e-scooters are available throughout the city.

Airport Transfer: Domestic airport is 23km south. Shuttle services, taxis, and car rentals available. Public bus connections exist but direct transfer services are more convenient.

➔ Airport Transfer

Auckland Airport (AKL) to city center:

- **SkyBus Express:** Direct coach to the CBD in around 45 to 60 minutes, NZD 18 one way for adults
- **Public Bus (Route 380):** Regular AT bus connecting to the city and eastern suburbs in about 50 minutes, NZD 5 to 7 with an AT HOP card



- **Taxi:** Metered ride to the city center in 30 to 45 minutes depending on traffic, roughly NZD 75 to 95
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked door-to-door shuttle or car service in about 40 minutes, from NZD 45 shared or NZD 100 for a private vehicle

Shopping & Markets

Major Shopping Districts: Queen Street is the main retail hub with international brands and department stores. The Britomart precinct offers designer boutiques and upscale shopping in heritage buildings. K Road features independent retailers, vintage shops, and bohemian boutiques.

Local Markets: **Ponsonby Sunday Markets** (weekends) feature crafts, food, and vintage goods. **Parnell's Village Markets** offer local art and designer items. **Avondale Sunday Markets** provide multicultural food and produce. **Otara Market** (Saturdays) showcases Pacific Island culture with crafts, food, and entertainment.

Malls: Westfield Newmarket and Sylvia Park are major shopping centers with diverse retailers. Aotea Centre hosts cultural shopping and performances.

NZ Souvenirs: Look for locally-made items: Māori art, jade (pounamu), wool products, local wines, and specialty foods. Pacific Island crafts and textiles are excellent purchases supporting local artisans.

Annual Events & Festivals

January: Auckland Anniversary Day (around January 28-29) features parades and celebrations. **Pecha Kucha Night** showcases creative presentations and art.

February: Auckland Festival presents world-class performances in theatre, dance, music, and visual arts across multiple venues. **Summer in the Parks** series offers free outdoor concerts and performances.

May-June: New Zealand International Film Festival screens independent and international cinema. **Auckland Writers Festival** features author talks and literary discussions.

August: Matariki Festival celebrates the Māori New Year with cultural performances, food, and community events.

October-November: Lanterns Festival lights up Auckland Domain with interactive light installations and cultural performances. **Jazz Festival** features international and local jazz musicians.

December: Summer concert series in parks and venues; **Boxing Day** (December 26) features beach events and celebrations.

Sample 5-Day Auckland Itinerary

Day 1 - City Icons: Start with Sky Tower observation deck for city orientation. Descend and explore surrounding CBD. Lunch in Britomart precinct. Afternoon stroll through Parnell village. Evening sunset at Mission Bay waterfront. Dinner with harbor views.

Day 2 - Nature & Culture: Early morning hike One Tree Hill for 360-degree views and breakfast picnic. Visit Auckland Museum (2-3 hours) for Māori collections. Afternoon exploring Auckland Domain gardens and walking trails. Evening exploring Ponsonby's trendy restaurants and craft breweries.

Day 3 - Island Adventure: Ferry to Rangitoto Island. Summit walk (1.5 hours) with panoramic views. Picnic lunch and exploration of volcanic landscape. Return ferry and evening relaxation. Alternative: Wine tour to Waiheke Island with winery tastings and art galleries.

Day 4 - Beaches & Arts: Visit Art Gallery collections (1.5-2 hours). Lunch in Parnell. Afternoon at Piha or Muriwai Beach for dramatic coastline scenery and photography. Sunset viewing at black sand beach. Return for dinner in central Auckland.

Day 5 - Local Experience: Weekend market visits (Ponsonby or Otara). Leisurely brunch at local café. Explore neighborhood shopping and independent boutiques. Harbour cruise or waterfront walk. Final evening enjoying local



cuisine and night views of illuminated landmarks.

Best Photography Locations

Golden Hour Magic (4-6 PM): **Sky Tower** glows beautifully at sunset with city lights emerging. **Mission Bay** reflects golden light with Rangitoto Island silhouetted backdrop. **Piha Beach** features dramatic black sand and golden-hour backlighting of Lion Rock. **Waitemata Harbour Bridge** offers stunning reflections in evening light.

Sunrise (6-8 AM): **Piha and Muriwai Beaches** capture golden light over dramatic seascapes. **One Tree Hill** provides city awakening with moody skies. **Harbour Bridge** silhouettes against dawn colors.

Blue Hour (twilight): **Sky Tower** illuminated against deep blue sky creates iconic shots. **Waitemata Harbour** with city lights reflecting in water. **Mission Bay** promenade with glowing waterfront establishments.

Daytime Highlights: **Rangitoto Island** creates dramatic volcanic landscape photos. **Botanic Gardens** offer peaceful botanical compositions. **Parnell village** captures heritage architecture. **Street art in Ponsonby** provides colorful urban photography.

Electricity & Power

Voltage: New Zealand operates on **230V AC, 50Hz** electrical supply, slightly higher than North American standard (110V).

Plug Types: New Zealand uses the **I-type plug** (also called Australasian or Type I), featuring three flat rectangular pins in a triangular configuration. This is unique to Australia and New Zealand.

Adapters: Visitors from North America, Europe, and Asia will need appropriate adapters. Multi-adapters covering Type I plugs are readily available at airport shops, electronics stores, and supermarkets. Most accommodations provide standard NZ outlets.

USB Charging: Many hotels, cafes, and shopping centers now provide USB charging points. Portable power banks are recommended for extended outings.

Converter/Transformer: If bringing high-power devices (hair dryers, electric shavers), a voltage converter may be necessary unless devices are dual-voltage (check labeling). Most modern electronics automatically handle 230V.

Food & Dining

Must-Try Local Dishes: **Fish & Chips** - excellent fresh fish in crispy batter, a beach staple. **Meat Pies** - hearty pastries with meat filling, ubiquitous in bakeries. **Pavlova** - meringue dessert with cream and fresh berries. **Anzac Biscuits** - traditional oat cookies.

Seafood Specialties: **Green-lipped Mussels** - local delicacy served steamed or in pasta. **Snapper** - popular white fish. **Crayfish** (spiny lobster) - premium seasonal offering. **Bluff Oysters** - prized regional oysters.

Modern Auckland Cuisine: The city has world-class restaurants blending NZ ingredients with contemporary techniques. Focus on local produce, wines, and fusion cooking. Waitemata Harbour area offers fine dining with views.

Dining Tips: Restaurants typically open from 6-7 PM for dinner. Lunch service is usually 12-3 PM. Tipping is not obligatory (15% for excellent service). Most restaurants accommodate dietary requirements. BYO wines policies are common in casual venues. Book popular restaurants in advance, especially weekends.

Local Beverages: New Zealand produces excellent wines - Sauvignon Blancs, Pinot Noirs, and craft beers. Coffee culture is strong; flat whites are iconic. Craft beer scene is thriving with local breweries throughout the city.



Tourist Passes

Hop Card (Public Transport)

A **rechargeable contactless card** providing discounted fares on all Auckland buses, trains, and ferries. Offers significant savings compared to cash fares (typically 50% discount). Available at transportation centers and convenience stores. Can be topped up at ticket machines and retailers. Essential for frequent public transport users exploring the city and nearby regions.



www.at.govt.nz

Auckland Museum 24-Hour Pass

Provides unlimited access to **all museum exhibitions and displays** for 24 hours from first entry. Includes entry to special exhibitions at no additional cost. Offers excellent value for thorough exploration of Māori collections, Pacific artifacts, and rotating exhibits. Best for visitors planning extended museum visits.



www.aucklandmuseum.com

DoC (Department of Conservation) Pass

Provides access to **national parks and reserves** around Auckland including walking tracks, day-use areas, and campgrounds. The **Backcountry Pass** covers numerous conservation areas and offers excellent value for outdoor enthusiasts. Essential for hikers and nature explorers visiting regional tracks and protected areas.



www.doc.govt.nz

