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

Map

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

Map

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

Map

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

- Auckland Museum admission is free for Auckland residents, by donation for other New Zealand residents, and ticketed for international visitors.
- 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 remnant of the ancient volcano Pukekawa. 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 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 **64-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** about 25 minutes by ferry, 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** a cathedral with a contemporary nave alongside an older neo-Gothic chancel 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.

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★).

Tempero★★★★★ 4.9 (619)

1-2 hours

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

Tala★★★★★ 4.9 (283)

1-2 hours

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

Onslow★★★★★ 4.8 (1,523)

1-2 hours

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

Milenta★★★★★ 4.8 (437)

1-2 hours

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

Paris Butter★★★★★ 4.8 (490)

1-2 hours

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

Lillius Restaurant★★★★★ 4.8 (252)

1-2 hours

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

alma★★★★★ 4.7 (553)

1-2 hours

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

Culprit.★★★★★ 4.7 (710)

1-2 hours

Map

Culprit. 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

Atelier★★★★★ 4.7 (394)

1-2 hours

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

Hello Beasty★★★★★ 4.7 (1,612)

1-2 hours

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

Otto Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (1,412)

1-2 hours

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

Mr. Morris★★★★★ 4.7 (502)

1-2 hours

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

The French Cafe★★★★★ 4.7 (733)

1-2 hours

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

Ahi.★★★★★ 4.6 (1,393)

1-2 hours

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

Amano★★★★★ 4.6 (5,026)

1-2 hours

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★).

Truth or Dare Bar★★★★★ 4.9 (161)

1-2 hours

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

Panacea★★★★★ 4.9 (314)

1-2 hours

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

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

1-2 hours

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

The Conservatory★★★★★ 4.6 (2,447)

1-2 hours

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

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

1-2 hours

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

The Nightcar★★★★★ 4.6 (254)

1-2 hours

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

The Churchill Auckland★★★★★ 4.5 (481)

1-2 hours

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

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

1-2 hours

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

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

1-2 hours

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

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

1-2 hours

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

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

1-2 hours

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

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

1-2 hours

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

The Lula Inn★★★★☆ 4.3 (2,576)

1-2 hours

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

Sunset★★★★☆ 4.2 (260)

1-2 hours

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

Rooftop At QT★★★★☆ 4.2 (318)

1-2 hours

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: Auckland Airport is about 21 km south of the city centre. 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 centre via AirportLink and the Puhinui train connection; allow about 45–50 minutes.

- **AirportLink bus to Puhinui, then train to the city; Route 38 serves Onehunga via Māngere Town Centre, The city-centre airport trip is currently listed by AT at $6; check Journey Planner for the fare**

that applies to your route and payment method.

- **Taxi:** Metered ride to the city center in 30 to 45 minutes depending on traffic, roughly a fare to check
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked door-to-door shuttle or car service in about 40 minutes, from a fare to check or a fare to check

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 is observed on the Monday closest to 29 January; in 2026 it was Monday 26 January. Pecha Kucha Night showcases creative presentations and art.

February: Auckland Festival is no longer the current event name; check Auckland Arts Festival dates and programme. 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.

Matariki Festival dates vary; Auckland’s 2026 festival ran 4–19 July. celebrates the Māori New Year with cultural performances, food, and community events.

The BNZ Auckland Lantern Festival is held at Manukau Sports Bowl; the 2026 event ran 26 February–1 March. 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. AT says HOP fares are 20% below buying train and ferry tickets before boarding; additional concessions depend on eligibility. 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