

Auckland

New Zealand

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover

Overview

Auckland, known in Māori as Tāmaki Makaurau, is New Zealand's largest city and the arrival point for most international visitors. It sits on a narrow isthmus between two harbours, with the Pacific-facing Waitematā Harbour to the north and the Tasman Sea's Manukau Harbour to the south. The city is built across roughly 50 extinct volcanic cones, several of which rise right out of the suburbs and give views over the skyline and the water.

Aucklanders call their home the City of Sails, and it has more boats per person than almost anywhere else in the world. A visit here mixes an easy, walkable downtown with beaches, forest-covered ranges, and volcanic islands all within an hour's reach, making it a natural base for exploring the wider North Island.

When to visit

Auckland has a mild, changeable climate with no real extremes. Summer (December to February) is warm and one of the best times to be on the water; winter (June to August) is cooler and wetter, with more days of rain than sun.

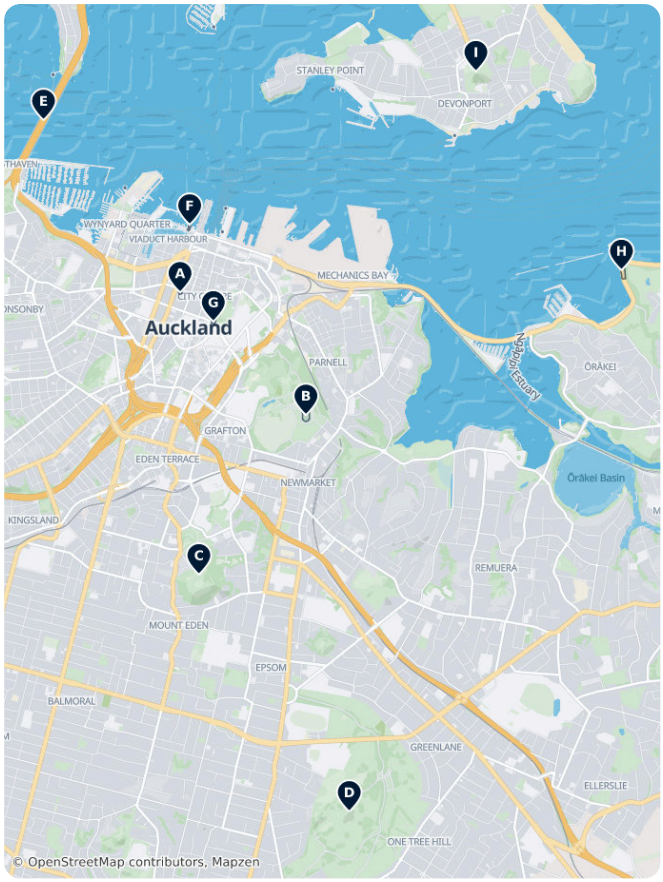
Plan around the Auckland Anniversary Day Regatta in late January, billed as the world's largest one-day yachting regatta and a chance to watch hundreds of boats race across the Waitematā Harbour.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 25°	17° / 14°	UV 10 (Very high)
February	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 26°	17° / 15°	UV 9 (Very high)
March	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 24°	16° / 13°	
April	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 22°	14° / 11°	12 rainy days
May	Good Good for hiking	17° / 20°	12° / 8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
June	Good Good for wildlife watching	15° / 17° Feels like 12°	11° / 6°	13 rainy days · Dry air
July	Fair Fair for hiking	14° / 16° Feels like 10°	9° / 5°	15 rainy days · Dry air
August	Good Good for hiking	14° / 16° Feels like 11°	9° / 6°	15 rainy days · Dry air
September	Good Good for hiking	15° / 18° Feels like 12°	10° / 7°	14 rainy days · Dry air
October	Good Good for hiking	17° / 19° Feels like 13°	12° / 9°	14 rainy days · Dry air
November	Good Good for hiking	18° / 22°	13° / 10°	Dry air · UV 8 (Very high)
December	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 24°	15° / 12°	14 rainy days · UV 9 (Very high)

Best months: January, February, March, December

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights



Ⓐ Sky Tower dominates the skyline at 328 metres and is the second-tallest freestanding structure in the Southern Hemisphere, after Jakarta's Autograph Tower; ride the lift up for harbour views, or take the outdoor SkyWalk for a closer thrill.

Ⓑ Auckland War Memorial Museum sits on a hilltop crater inside a large central park and holds the country's biggest collection of Māori and Pacific taonga, alongside natural history and war exhibits.

Two of Auckland's volcanic cones make for an easy climb with a view. Ⓒ Maungawhau / Mount Eden, the tallest in the city, has a wide crater you can walk around; Ⓓ One Tree Hill Obelisk, set inside a former farm estate, was an important pā site for Māori and today gives a long view over both harbours.

Down on the water, Ⓔ Auckland Harbour Bridge carries eight lanes of traffic across the Waitematā Harbour and is a landmark in its own right.

On the downtown waterfront, Ⓕ New Zealand Maritime Museum covers the country's seafaring history, from Polynesian and Māori voyaging to the America's Cup, and runs short sailings on heritage vessels around the harbour.

Ⓖ Auckland Art Gallery holds New Zealand's largest collection of national and international art, in a building that mixes an 1887 facade with a striking modern extension.

For families, Ⓗ SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium puts you in glass tunnels below sharks and rays, with a colony of Antarctic penguins on site.

Across the harbour by ferry, the seaside suburb of Devonport is worth the short trip for Ⓘ Takarunga / Mount Victoria, an old volcanic cone with a former gun emplacement and views back to the city skyline.

Auckland – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

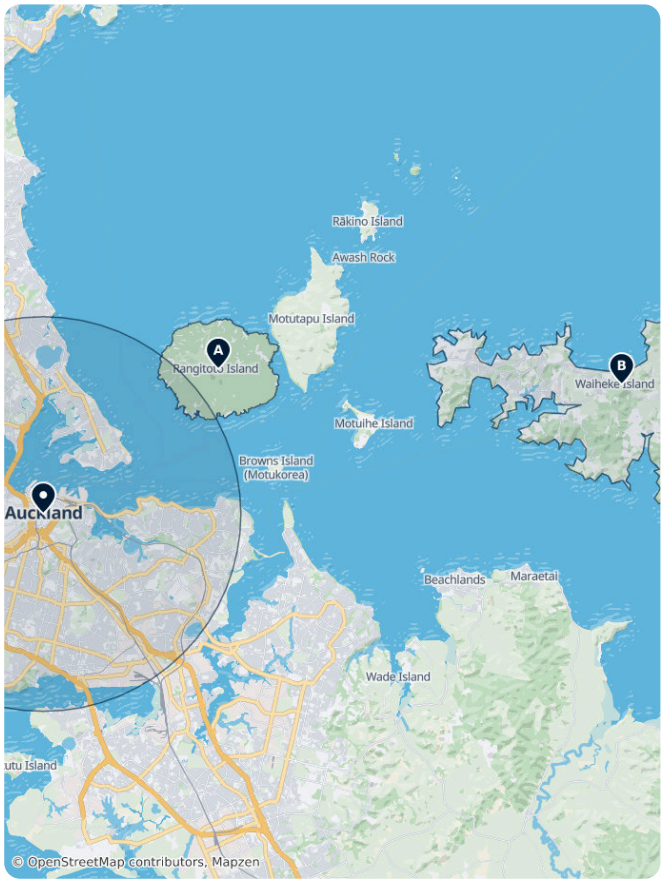
What to experience

A few things that are distinctly Auckland, beyond sightseeing:

- Sail on a genuine America's Cup-class yacht out on the Waitematā Harbour — several operators run short match-racing trips from the Viaduct, linked to Auckland's history hosting the America's Cup.
- Ride a harbour ferry simply for the crossing. Even the short hop to Devonport gives clear views back over the skyline and Rangitoto's cone.
- Watch the sunset over the water from Wynyard Quarter's Silo Park, a former industrial waterfront now lined with bars and food trucks.
- Browse one of the city's weekly night markets for street food from Auckland's large Pacific and Asian communities.

Day trips

Auckland sits close to the Hauraki Gulf's volcanic islands and the wild beaches of the west coast, plus two of the North Island's best-known attractions if you have a full day to spare.



- Rangitoto Island — ≈25 min by ferry from downtown. It is the youngest and largest volcanic cone in the Auckland volcanic field; the walk to the summit takes about an hour and rewards with a view back over the whole city.
- Waiheke Island — ≈40 min by ferry. Vineyards, olive groves, and sandy beaches; many wineries run cellar-door lunches with harbour views.
- South Piha Beach — ≈45 min by car. A black-sand surf beach on the wild west coast, backed by the forest of the Waitākere Ranges.
- Hobbiton Movie Set, near Matamata — ≈2 h by car. The film set built for the Lord of the Rings and Hobbit movies, kept as a walk-through attraction with guided tours.
- Waitomo Glowworm Caves — ≈2 h 30 min by car. Limestone caves lit by thousands of native glowworms, explored partly by boat through the dark.

Where to explore

Auckland's harbour opens onto the Hauraki Gulf, dotted with islands worth building a whole day, or more, around.

- Rangitoto Island and Waiheke Island are the easiest to reach and covered in the day trips above.
- Kawau Island is a quieter option to the north, once home to a 19th-century governor's residence and now known for its walking tracks and blue penguins.
- Great Barrier Island is the wildest of the group, an International Dark Sky Sanctuary reached by ferry or light aircraft, best suited to visitors with a few days to spend rather than a single afternoon.

Getting there

- **By air**: Most international and domestic flights land at Auckland Airport (AKL), New Zealand's main gateway, about 21 km south of the city centre. There is no rail link to the airport; the SkyDrive airport express bus takes roughly 45–60 minutes to downtown, and a taxi or rideshare takes about 30–40 minutes depending on traffic.
- **By train**: The Northern Explorer scenic train runs a few times a week between Auckland and Wellington, taking around 11 hours; it is a scenic ride rather than a fast way to travel.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches leave from Auckland's central bus terminal for destinations across the North Island, including Hamilton, Rotorua, Tauranga, and Wellington.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Auckland Transport runs buses, trains, and ferries across the region. On buses and trains, tap a contactless bank card or phone directly, or use an AT HOP card loaded with credit for the best fares. Ferries are mostly run by private operators with their own tickets, bought online or at the terminal. See Auckland Transport journey planner.
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: Uber and local taxi companies operate throughout the city.
- **On foot / cycling**: The city centre is compact and walkable, though several streets climb steep volcanic slopes. A growing network of protected bike lanes, including the elevated Lightpath, makes short trips by bike practical.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The city centre is compact and walkable, though steep volcanic-slope streets and hilly suburbs make some routes tiring on foot.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

A growing network of protected bike lanes, including the elevated Lightpath, covers the city centre, but coverage thins out in the wider suburbs.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city centre itself — Auckland Transport's buses, trains, and ferries cover downtown and the inner suburbs well. A car becomes useful once you want to reach west coast beaches or explore beyond ferry range.
- **Parking**: Metered street parking and multi-storey car parks are common downtown, typically NZ$4–7 an hour; park-and-ride lots near train stations are a cheaper option if you are commuting in from further out.
- **Restrictions**: Watch for bus lanes and transit lanes on main roads during peak hours — they are enforced by camera and carry fines for driving in them outside the permitted vehicle types.

Food & drink

Auckland's food scene leans heavily on the sea and reflects the city's large Pacific and Asian communities. Look for fresh snapper, oysters, and green-lipped mussels on menus, alongside hāngī-style Māori cooking and dishes from Auckland's Chinese, Korean, Indian, and Pacific Island communities.

For a night out, head to Ponsonby Road for upscale bars and restaurants, or Karangahape Road for a more eclectic, low-key mix of cafes and bars. Near the waterfront, the stalls at the Auckland Fish Market are a good spot for a casual seafood lunch.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Fish and chips
Battered fish with fried chips, a classic seaside takeaway meal.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Meat pie
Savory pastry filled with meat, sold at bakeries and dairies nationwide.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Pavlova
Meringue dessert topped with cream and fruit, also claimed by Australia.

Hokey pokey ice cream
Vanilla ice cream with pieces of honeycomb toffee.

DRINKS

Flat white
Espresso coffee with microfoam milk, said to have originated in New Zealand.

L&P · Lemon & Paeroa
Iconic New Zealand lemon-flavored soft drink.

SIGNATURE DISHES

Hāngī
Traditional Māori method of cooking meat and vegetables in an underground earth oven.

Whitebait fritters
Seasonal specialty made from tiny native fish, popular on the West Coast.

Auckland – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Auckland is a safe city for visitors; violent crime against tourists is rare. The main risks are petty theft — do not leave bags or valuables visible in a parked car, especially at beach car parks and walking trailheads — and sunburn. New Zealand's UV levels are unusually high, and sunburn happens fast even on a cool or cloudy day, so use sunscreen year-round.

If you swim at west coast beaches such as Piha or Muriwai, stay between the red and yellow flags. Rip currents there are strong and have caused fatalities even among confident swimmers.

History

Long before Europeans arrived, the volcanic cones around Auckland were fortified Māori pā, and the wider isthmus was known as Tāmaki Makaurau — roughly, "desired by many" — because its rich volcanic soil and two harbours made it valuable land, contested by successive iwi for generations. Traces of terracing and storage pits are still visible on Maungawhau / Mount Eden and One Tree Hill Obelisk.

European settlement began in 1840, and Auckland served as New Zealand's capital until 1865, when the government moved south to the more central Wellington. The city kept growing regardless, helped by its harbour and, later, its airport, and remains the country's economic centre today. Auckland War Memorial Museum was built after the First World War as both a museum and a memorial, and its cenotaph and hall of remembrance still anchor the country's Anzac Day commemorations each April.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for New Zealand at a glance:

CURRENCY
NZD $

EMERGENCY
111

ELECTRICITY



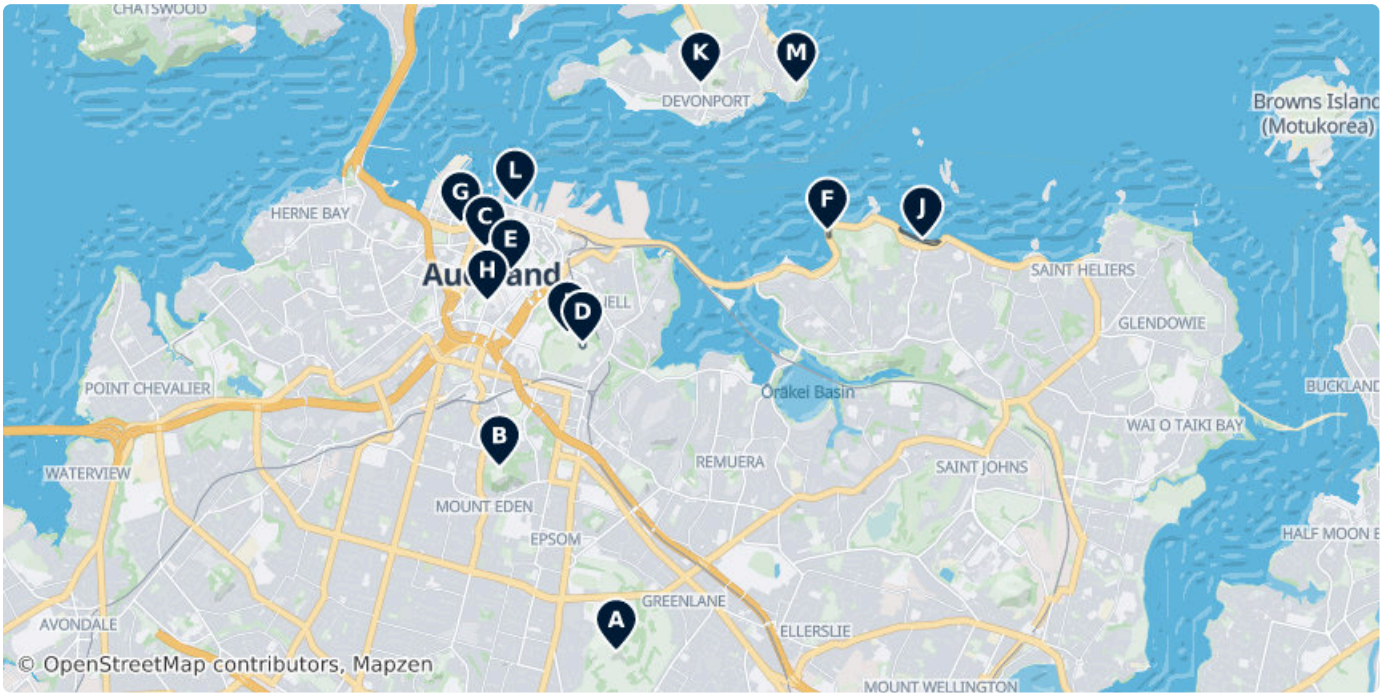
Type I
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
English, Māori

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Auckland's Absolute Essentials

Auckland's landscape is defined by its volcanic history, with landmarks like Maungawhau (Mount Eden) and Maungakiekie (One Tree Hill) offering panoramic views over the Hauraki Gulf. The city center features the 328-meter Sky Tower and the historic Edwardian Ferry Terminal, which serves as a gateway to the seaside village of Devonport. Cultural highlights include the neoclassical Auckland War Memorial Museum in the Pukekawa Domain and the Toi o Tāmaki Art Gallery. Along the coast, the urban waterfront spans from the dining precincts of Viaduct Harbour to the sandy shores of Mission Bay.



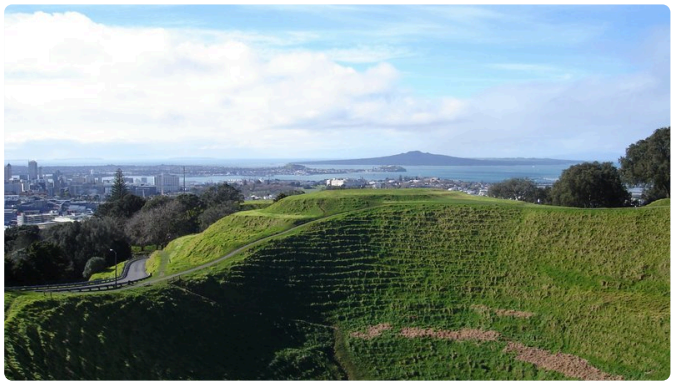


A One Tree Hill

Maungakiekie / One Tree Hill is a 182-metre volcanic peak and Tūpuna Maunga in Auckland, New Zealand.

One Tree Hill, Auckland 1051, New Zealand
(-36.90012, 174.78319)

cornwallpark.co.nz, +64 9 630 8485



B Mount Eden

Maungawhau / Mount Eden is a scoria cone and Tūpuna Maunga in the Mount Eden suburb of Auckland, New Zealand.

(Unnamed Road), Mount Eden 1024, New Zealand
(-36.87654, 174.76451)



C Sky Tower

The Sky Tower is a telecommunications and observation tower in Auckland, New Zealand.

72 Victoria Street West, Auckland 1010, New Zealand (-36.84847, 174.76217)

Mo–Th	09:30–20:00
Fr–Su	09:30–22:00

skycityauckland.co.nz/sky-tower/, +64 9 363 6000



D Auckland War Memorial Museum

The Auckland War Memorial Museum, Tāmaki Paenga Hira or Auckland Museum is one of New Zealand's most important museums and war memorials.

1010 Auckland (-36.86067, 174.77781)

Mo	10:00–17:00
Tu	10:00–20:30
We–Fr	10:00–17:00
Sa–Su	09:00–17:00

aucklandmuseum.com, +64 9 309 0443



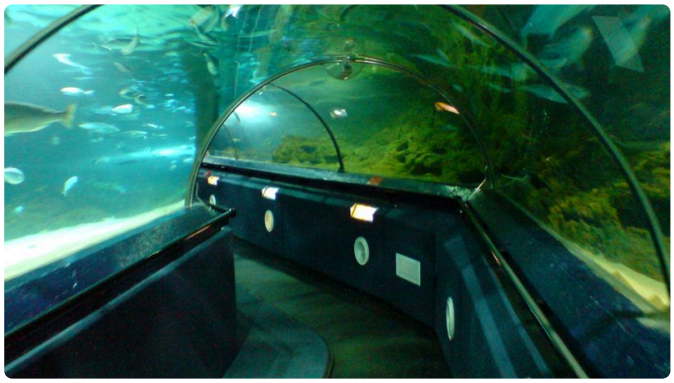
E Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki is the principal public gallery in Auckland, New Zealand.

Kitchener Street 1 (-36.85137, 174.76630)

Mo–Th	10:00–17:00
Fr	10:00–21:00
Sa–Su	10:00–17:00

aucklandartgallery.com, +64 9 379 1349



F Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium

Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium is a public aquarium opened in 1985 in Auckland, New Zealand.

Tamaki Drive 23 (-36.84625, 174.81702)

Mo–Su	09:30–17:00

visitsealife.com/auckland/, +64 9 531 5065



G Viaduct Harbour

Viaduct Harbour, formerly known as Viaduct Basin, is a former commercial harbour on the Auckland waterfront that has been turned into a...

16 Viaduct Harbour Avenue, Auckland 1010, New Zealand
(-36.84533, 174.75826)

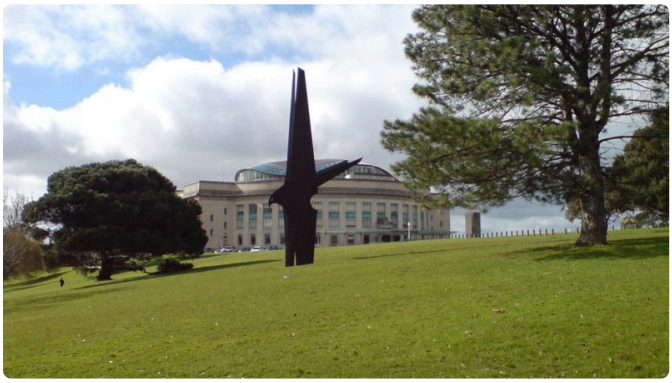
viaduct.co.nz, +64 9373 4141



H Queen Street

Queen Street is the major commercial thoroughfare in the Auckland CBD, Auckland, New Zealand's main population centre.

371 Queen Street, Auckland 1010, New Zealand
(-36.85534, 174.76255)



I Auckland Domain

The Auckland Domain, also known as Pukekawa / Auckland Domain, is a large park in Auckland, New Zealand.

Parnell, Auckland 1010, New Zealand
(-36.85942, 174.77534)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

+64 9301 0101



J Mission Bay Beach

Mission Bay is a seaside suburb of Auckland city, on the North Island of New Zealand.

Urban Partners Ltd, PO Box 99 887, Newmarket, Auckland
(-36.84727, 174.83222)

missionbay.co.nz



K Devonport

Devonport is a harbourside suburb of Auckland, New Zealand. It is located on the North Shore, at the southern end of the Devonport Peninsula...

90 Victoria Road, Devonport 0624, New Zealand
(-36.82744, 174.79670)

devonport.co.nz



L Auckland Ferry Terminal

The Auckland Ferry Terminal, also called the Downtown Ferry Terminal, is the hub of the Auckland ferry network, which connects the Auckland...

1010, Quay Street, Auckland 1010, New Zealand
(-36.84257, 174.76701)

+64 9 366 6400



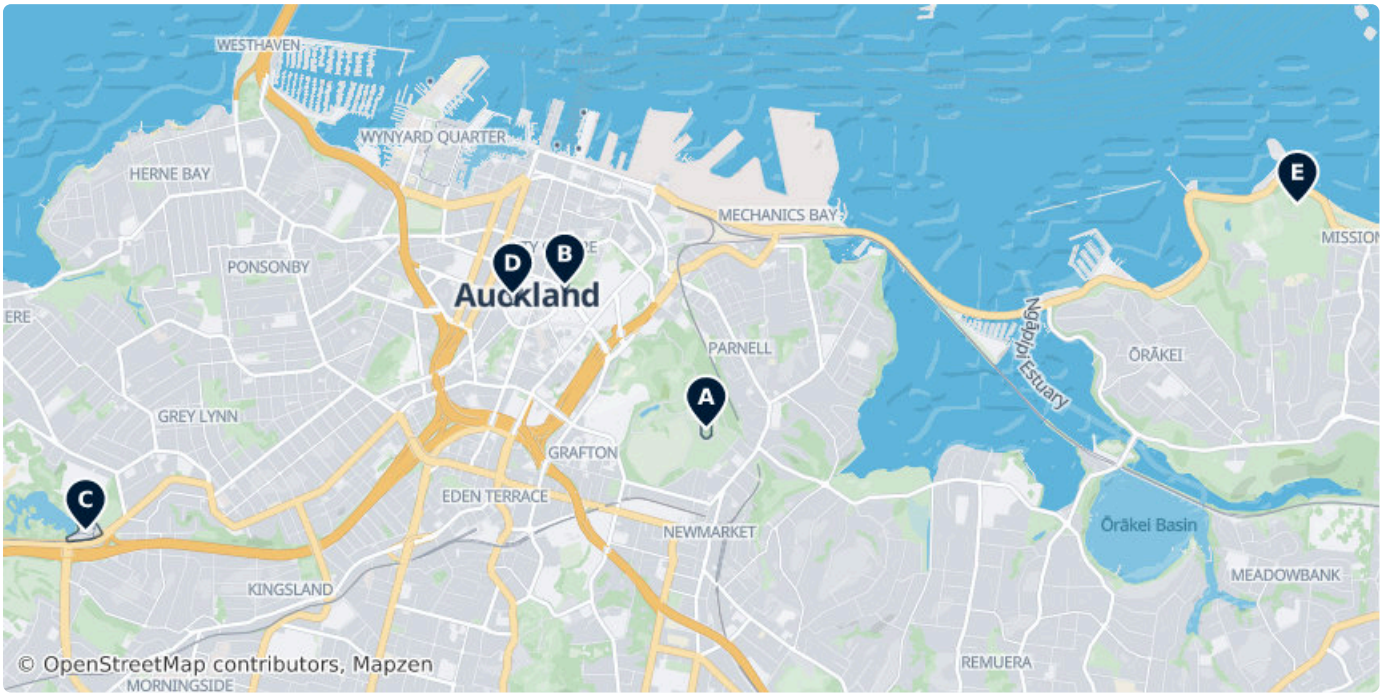
M North Head

North Head is a volcano and Tūpuna Maunga forming a headland at the east end of the Waitematā Harbour in Auckland, New Zealand, in the...

(Unnamed Road), Devonport 0624, New Zealand
(-36.82747, 174.81205)

Museums & Art Galleries

Auckland's cultural landscape is defined by its diverse institutions, ranging from the neoclassical Auckland War Memorial Museum, which serves as a significant military repository, to the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, the city's primary public art space. Technology enthusiasts can explore the extensive science and transport collections at MOTAT in Western Springs. The Aotea Centre hosts major performing arts and events, while the Savage Memorial at Bastion Point offers a coastal site for historical reflection overlooking the Waitematā Harbour.





A Auckland War Memorial Museum

The Auckland War Memorial Museum, Tāmaki Paenga Hira or Auckland Museum is one of New Zealand's most important museums and war memorials.

1010 Auckland (-36.86067, 174.77781)

Mo	10:00–17:00
Tu	10:00–20:30
We–Fr	10:00–17:00
Sa–Su	09:00–17:00

aucklandmuseum.com, +64 9 309 0443



B Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki is the principal public gallery in Auckland, New Zealand.

Kitchener Street 1 (-36.85137, 174.76630)

Mo–Th	10:00–17:00
Fr	10:00–21:00
Sa–Su	10:00–17:00

aucklandartgallery.com, +64 9 379 1349



C Museum of Transport and Technology

The Museum of Transport and Technology is a science and technology museum located in Western Springs, Auckland, New Zealand.

Great North Road 805, 1022 Auckland (-36.86735, 174.72728)

motat.nz, +64 9 815 5800



D Aotea Centre

The Aotea Centre is a performing arts and events centre in Auckland, New Zealand.

Mayoral Drive 50, 1010 Auckland (-36.85197, 174.76204)

aucklandunlimited.com, +64 9 357 3355



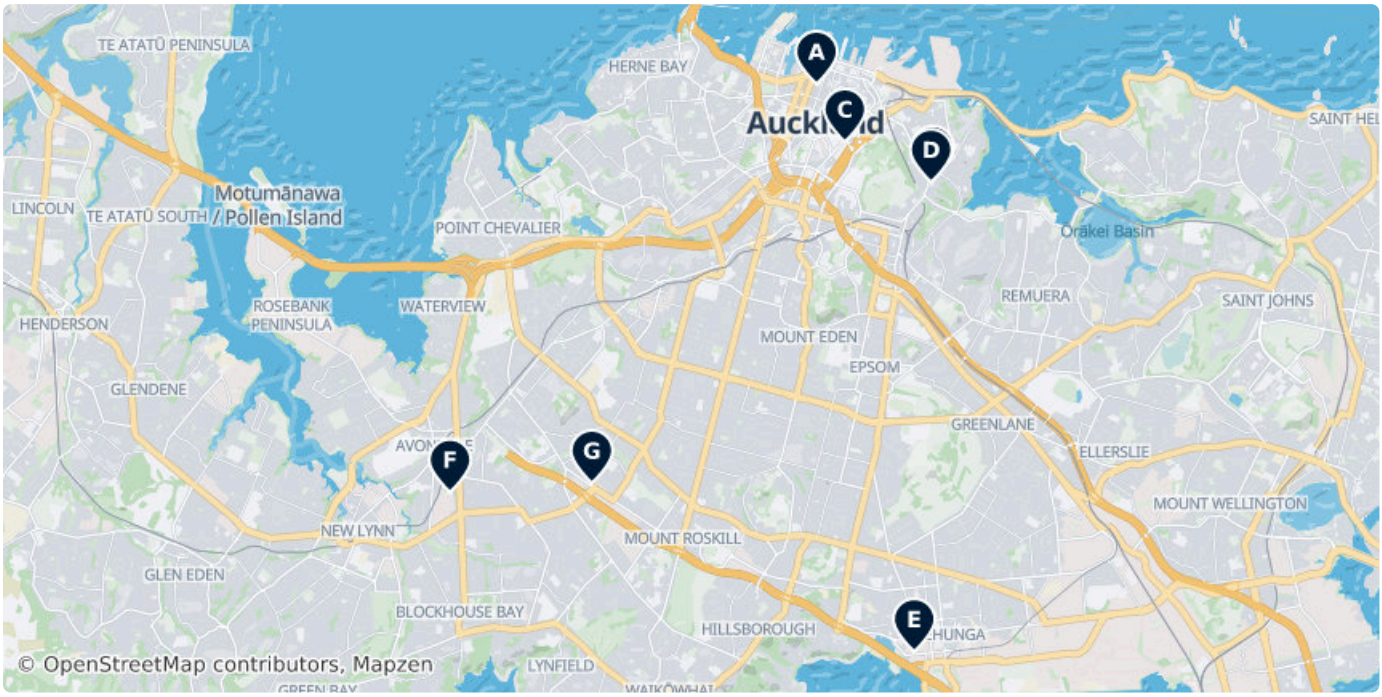
E Savage Memorial

Takaparawhau / Bastion Point is a coastal piece of land in Ōrākei, Auckland, New Zealand, overlooking the Waitematā Harbour.

(Unnamed Road), Orakei 1071, New Zealand (-36.84606, 174.82594)

Historic Churches & Temples

Auckland's spiritual landscape features a mix of historic European architecture and contemporary multicultural sites. The city center holds the 19th-century neo-Gothic Saint Patrick's Cathedral, while Parnell is home to the Holy Trinity Cathedral and the intricately carved wooden Saint Mary's-in-Holy Trinity. Beyond the CBD, the Shri Shirdi Saibaba and Shri Swami Narayan Mandirs reflect the city's Hindu heritage, alongside the Masjid e Umar mosque in Mount Roskill. These sites showcase diverse architectural styles, from traditional Gothic Revival to modern stone and timber designs.





A Saint Patrick's Cathedral

The Cathedral of Saint Patrick and Saint Joseph is an heritage-listed Catholic cathedral church in Auckland CBD, situated on the corner of...

43 Wyndham Street, Auckland 1010, New Zealand (-36.84644, 174.76340)

stpatricks.org.nz, +64 9 303 4509



B Holy Trinity Cathedral

Holy Trinity Cathedral is an Anglican cathedral church situated in Parnell, a residential suburb of Auckland, New Zealand.

Corner St Stephens Avenue & Parnell Road, Auckland 1052, New Zealand (-36.85958, 174.78360)

holy-trinity.org.nz, +64 9 303 9500

C Saint Pauls

Historic Anglican church on Symonds Street, serving as Auckland's oldest parish. The current building, completed in 1895, features Gothic Revival architecture.

(-36.85445, 174.76832)

stpauls.org.nz, +64 09 373 3268

D Saint Mary's-in-Holy Trinity

A significant example of wooden Gothic Revival architecture. Built in 1888 and moved to its current Parnell site in 1982, it serves as the parish church alongside the Holy Trinity Cathedral.

437A Parnell Road, Parnell 1052, New Zealand
(-36.86006, 174.78331)

E Shri Shirdi Saibaba Mandir

Hindu temple in Mount Roskill dedicated to the Indian spiritual master Shirdi Sai Baba, providing a space for prayer, meditation, and community gatherings.

14 Princes Street, Onehunga 1061, New Zealand
(-36.92519, 174.78035)

shirdisaibaba.org.nz

F Shri Swami Narayan Mandir

Hindu temple in Avondale belonging to the Swaminarayan tradition, featuring traditional architectural elements and serving as a center for worship and cultural activities.

21 Barrhead Place, Avondale 0600, New Zealand
(-36.90308, 174.69981)

G Masjid e Umar

A prominent Sunni mosque and Islamic center located in Mount Roskill, featuring traditional architectural elements including a dome and minaret.

(-36.90180, 174.72441)

masjideumar.co.nz

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- One Tree Hill — "The obelisk on One Tree Hill in Auckland, New Zealand. Looking southeast from..." by Uploader., Public domain
- Mount Eden — "Mt Eden Crater, Auckland" by Bhutt, Public domain
- Sky Tower — "Looking up from the base of the Sky Tower in Auckland, New Zealand." by Orderinchaos, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Auckland War Memorial Museum — "Auckland War Memorial Museum, as seen from North" by Daniel Vorndran / DXR, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki — "The Auckland Art Gallery in the Auckland CBD, Auckland City, New Zealand. New..." by Uploader., Public domain
- Kelly Tarlton's Sea Life Aquarium — "The tunnels at Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World in Auckland City, New Zealand..." by Uploader., Public domain
- Viaduct Harbour — "Viaduct Basin in Auckland City, New Zealand. View south-westwards over the..." by Ingolfson, Public domain
- Queen Street — "Queen Street, Auckland, New Zealand" by ChewyPineapple, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Auckland Domain — "The rear of the Auckland Museum in Auckland City, New Zealand, seen from the..." by Uploader., Public domain
- Mission Bay Beach — "Mission Bay" by Akos Kokai, CC BY 2.0
- Devonport — "Devonport, the Auckland waterfront and the Waitemata Harbour from atop Mt..." by Follash, Public domain
- Auckland Ferry Terminal — "Auckland Ferry Terminal as seen from the harbour" by Alexander Klink, CC BY 3.0
- North Head — "North Head at the entrance to the Watemata Harbour" by Follash, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Auckland War Memorial Museum — "Auckland War Memorial Museum, as seen from North" by Daniel Vorndran / DXR, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki — "The Auckland Art Gallery in the Auckland CBD, Auckland City, New Zealand. New..." by Uploader., Public domain
- Museum of Transport and Technology — "New Zealand 9 269", CC-BY-SA-3.0
- Aotea Centre — "Aotea Centre in Auckland, New Zealand. Looking northwest over the remodelled..." by Uploader., Public domain
- Savage Memorial — "The Michael Joseph Savage Memorial (a former Prime Minister of New Zealand)..." by Uploader., Public domain
- Saint Patrick's Cathedral — "Cathedral of St Patrick and St Joseph, Auckland, New Zealand." by Jason Pratt, CC BY 2.0
- Holy Trinity Cathedral — "St Stephen's Chapel, Auckland. New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register..." by Kaihsu Tai, GFDL

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 6, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.