POST OFFICE & TELEPHONE FACILITIES The Post NOTES Office is located at Auckland City Post Shop in the Citibank Building at 23 Customs Street, a 10-12 minute walk from the wharf.

There are phone booths situated on the wharf, which accept credit cards and New Zealand calling cards. The Visitors Information Centre sells phone cards. Dial the following access numbers to place a call with your personal calling card:

AT&T: 000.911 MCI: 000.912 SPRINT: 000.999

TOURIST INFORMATION The Visitors Information Centre is located at the Ground Floor, 21 Pitt Street, Auckland.

TRANSPORTATION All Auckland taxi drivers are required to belong to a registered taxi company. This means you can expect a vehicle that meets a defined standard of cleanliness, safety and comfort. Prices don't vary much between the companies. Taxis can be flagged down, ordered by phone or picked up at a Taxi stand. Exploring Auckland by bus is convenient, economical and fun. The all day Bus About pass is a great value for intrepid explorers and the free buzz-a-bus telephone timetable service offers superb advice in an instant. The Link bus service runs both ways in a circuit around the attractions of the inner city rim. These distinctive white buses charge a single fare regardless of your destination on the circuit. Another bus option is the double-decker Auckland Explorer Bus, offering all day sightseeing with commentary. It visits Victoria Park Market, Kelly Tarlton's, the Auckland Museum, Parnell, the American Express New Zealand Cup Village and Sky City Casino. For a set fee you can hop on and off the Explorer Bus as many times as you want in one day.

USEFUL WORDS & PHRASES The language spoken is English; however, Maori greetings are finding increased popularity. Here are a few phrases:

Hello • Kia ora Good bye • Haere ra Welcome • Haere mai! Very well, thank you, ok • Kei te pai Thank you • Ka pai How are you? • Kei te pehea koe? Woman • wahine Ocean • wainui

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GENERAL INFORMATION Wellington may be New Zealand's capital but Auckland is the most important city and is the country's major gateway for ship and air traffic moving between Oceania and North or South America. Auckland is also designated as the largest city in the country with nearly 1.3 million residents. Built atop a cluster of extinct volcanoes, the municipality is located on a constricted isthmus that helps the landscape blend nicely with the city's modern skyline.

Auckland has a reputation of being old-fashioned and traditional which visitors find refreshing. The polite manner of the local people and the cleanliness of the streets are what help to keep visitors returning year after year. Auckland were hosts to the "Americas Cup," the most revered trophy in the sport of yachting. With Team New Zealand's' win over Italy's Prada Challenge in March of 2000, this country became the first to successfully defend the Cup outside the U.S. The Cup activity around Auckland's waterfront has transformed the area into one of the most fashionable eating areas in the city, which was already renowned for its International restaurants.





Auckland

NEW ZEALAND

HISTORY Two distinct phases can describe New Zealand's history: the pre-European phase and the phase since Europeans arrived in the area. New Zealand's original inhabitants were known as the Moriori, an early wave of migrants from Polynesia around 800 AD. The reasons for those first long ocean voyages in dugout canoes are still unknown but they found large temperate islands with abundant sea life to sustain their groups.

As more tribes migrated to the islands, the volcanic cones surrounding the region were speckled with pas (fortified settlements). In 1840 when the earliest Europeans arrived in the region, the area was almost deserted due to the tribal wars and epidemics that had plagued the settlements. The capital of New Zealand has been moved several times in its history. The 1840 Treaty of Waitangi had New Zealand's first Governor, Captain William Hobson, moving the capital south to a more central location. The new site was selected because of its good harbor and excellent planting soil. The new capital was named after the Governor's former commander, Lord Auckland, who was a famed British hero and then, the current Viceroy of India. Auckland experienced many set backs and failures in its early days. So many that the settlement only held the title of capital for 25 years before it was moved further south to Wellington in 1865. Later in the century Auckland was resuscitated with a gold rush in Thames and a significant increase in the area's agricultural production. Wellington may have stolen the title of capital from Auckland but today she holds the title of the fastest growing city in New Zealand. Auckland is also the main industrial and commercial center dominating the country.









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POINTS OF INTEREST

1 Auckland Museum Located in the Auckland Domain offers an excellent display of Maori artifacts and culture including an 82 foot (25 meter) long war canoe. The museum also houses a fine collection of South Pacific items and New Zealand wildlife including a giant Moa model and exhibits from around the world.

2 Auckland Art Gallery Located at Wellesley and Lorne Streets and Wellesly and Kitchener Streets is New Zealand's first permanent art gallery opened in 1888. The country's most

significant collections of New Zealand and European art, over 10,000 works, are housed in the gallery's two buildings.

3 Sky Tower Located on the corner of Victoria and Federal Streets. At 1,176 feet (328 meters), the Sky Tower is the tallest structure in the southern hemisphere. Three observation levels (including and outdoor deck) offer superb panoramic views of Auckland cityscape and beyond. "Orbit" is the brasseriestyle revolving restaurant in the tower. Sky City is designed to be a New Zealand experience. Its indigenous theme is carried throughout the complex with commissioned works representing

different aspects of New Zealand's heritage, drawing on Maori legend and early settlement. Murals and sculptures by leading New Zealand contemporary artists have a spectacular visual and physical presence.

Hobson Wharf Maritime Museum Located harborside at the Viaduct Basin, on the corner of Quay and Hobson Streets. This museum on the downtown waterfront is dedicated to one of New Zealand's national obsession – sailing. This extensive museum is a must for lovers of the sea and explores 1,000 years of the seafaring history of this Pacific island nation.

Beyond Auckland

Auckland Zoological Park One of New Zealand's leading family attractions set in stunning park-like surroundings. Spend a day exploring native New Zealand bush, African grasslands or a subtropical rainforest. Over 1,500 native and exotic animals including kiwi, tuatara, elephants, rhino, giraffe, monkeys and lions

Kelly Tarlton's Antarctic Encounter and Underwater World Kelly Tarlton's is a unique aquarium housed in old stormwater holding tanks. An acrylic tunnel runs through the aquarium and you travel through on a moving footpath, with the fish swimming all around you. You can step off at any time to take a better look and the whole place is designed to recreate the experience of scuba diving around the coast of New Zealand. Located at 23 Tamaki Drive, 3.75 miles (6 km) from downtown.

Rainbow's End Amusement Park This large amusement park on the Great South Road at Manukau.

Rangitoto Volcanic Islands Rangitoto is just 6 miles (10 km) northeast of the city. The youngest of the 50 or so volcanic cones in the Auckland region, Rangitoto rose from the sea only about 600 years ago, in a series of volcanic explosions. Rangitoto is a good place for a picnic. It has lots of pleasant walks, a saltwater swimming pool, BBQs near the wharf and a great view from the summit of the 853 foot (260 meter) cone. Lava caves are another attraction. The hike from the wharf to the summit takes about an hour. Up at the top a loop walk goes around the crater's rim. The walk to the lava caves branches off the summit walk and takes 15 minutes one way. A tractor train tour also meets the ferry and goes to the summit for a charge.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Auckland and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure, Shore Excursion TV Channel or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Tipping: Tips or gratuities are not normally expected for normal service in New Zealand. However, you may wish to show your appreciation by tipping for extra

service or kindness.

Local Cuisine: The cuisine style known as "Pacific Rim" dips into the culinary heritage of the many different cultures within the Oceania region. You can expect some of the finest dining experiences imaginable – fresh local seafood, lamb, beef, venison and wild pork, enhanced with flavors borrowed from Europe, the Mediterranean, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Polynesia, China and Vietnam.

Local drink: New Zealand boasts a vibrant spirits industry and samples of the country's renowned vintages are widely available at restaurants and pubs. Almost all the beer is now brewed by only two companies, New Zealand Breweries and DB Breweries. Steinlager, the various types of DB (Bitter, Export etc) and Lion Red are probably the most popular beers. There are a few small breweries where beer is made and consumed on the premises. As the ancestral home of New Zealand winemaking, some of New Zealand's top wine brands are based in Auckland. Buttery Chardonnays, zesty Sauvignon Blancs, spicy Gewurztraminers, robust Cabernet Sauvignons and tasty Pinot Noirs. Many wineries have established International reputations, particularly for their whites. A notable wine-producing area near Auckland is Henderson. Winery visits and tours are popular and of course there is thewine tasting. New Zealand wine takes top billing in most Auckland restaurants, because it compliments the Pacific Rim style of food so perfectly. An unusual New Zealand specialty is kiwi fruit wine. There are lots of different varieties and even a liqueur. You may not like it, but New Zealand's the best place to try it.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Typical souvenirs found throughout New Zealand are greenstone jewelry, paua shell jewelry, sheepskins and hand-knitted pull overs.

Queen Street is the location for a downtown shopping center.

Parnell Village Charming and picturesque Parnel Village is a hub of quality shops and restaurants – one mile (1.62 km) of the best Auckland has to offer. Rustic courtyards paved with tawny bricks lead to gracious old buildings adorned with wood and wrought iron lacework. Exclusive specialty and designer boutiques, galleries, fine jewelry, craftshops, deli-style cafés, and bustling pubs outside Auckland.

Newmarket, Broadway Modern style shops featuring fashion.

Queens Arcade At the corner of Queen and Customs Street.

Victoria Park Market Shop in this bargain hunter's Mecca set in historic brick buildings.

LOCAL CURRENCY The currency is the New Zealand Dollar. Foreign exchange rates fluctuate. There is also a slight variation for cash or traveler's checks.