

# Bush and Beach

Unique. Unforgettable. Authentic.

## Auckland City

Auckland is the largest city in New Zealand with a population of around 1.5 million people (out of a total of 4.5 million in NZ).

## Volcanic History

Auckland is built on over 50 dormant volcanos with one of the oldest being Pukekawa ('hill of bitter memories') which is now, appropriately, home to the Auckland War Museum and Domain. Many of the volcanos give different views of the city such as the 66m (216 ft) high Mount Victoria in Devonport – also known as Takarunga ('the hill that overlooks') – that overlooks Downtown Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf. The most recent volcano is Rangitoto, in the Waitemata Harbour, which erupted around 600 years ago. The largest volcano in the region was out to the west of Auckland, the remains of this volcano form the temperate rainforest-covered Waitakere Ranges which are visible to the west from most of the city.

## Maori History

The Auckland area was known as Tāmaki Makaurau to the Maori who settled the area in around 1350. It was a popular location due to its fertile soil and safe sheltered harbour providing plenty of seafood. When the Maori people arrived the land was covered in temperate rain forest including the massive kauri trees. The Maori tribes used the tops of the volcanos to build their fortified villages known as 'pā' sites and the population of the city before Europeans arrived was estimated at around 20,000.

## European History

In the early to mid 1800's, Europeans started to arrive in Auckland, attracted by the local timber and the large sheltered harbour. Auckland was named by the first Governor of New Zealand (William Hobson) after his superior George Eden, Earl of Auckland. It was the capital city of New Zealand from 1842 to 1865 when the capital was relocated to Wellington because of its more central location. One of the oldest areas settled by the Europeans was Devonport which has been home to the Navy since 1841 and a lot of the 'colonial villa' style houses seen there and in other old areas of Auckland are built from the kauri trees that were popular with the timber traders.

## Sky Tower

The Sky Tower, which opened in 1997, is the tallest free standing structure in the Southern hemisphere. Standing at 328m (1,076ft) it's become an icon of the Auckland skyline. There are viewing platforms and restaurants with spectacular views near the top and true to New Zealand tradition there is also the opportunity to do a 192m jump from the tower attached to a wire!

## City of Sails

Auckland is known as the 'City of Sails' as there are around 135,000 yachts and launches in the Auckland area – that means one in every three households has a boat. There are many marinas around Auckland including Westhaven Marina, which is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, with nearly 2,000 moorings. Auckland was also the host city for two of the America's Cup yacht racing regattas in 2000 and 2003 after New Zealand won the trophy in 1995. The Viaduct Harbour area in downtown Auckland was developed to host the races.

## Downtown Auckland

Before the Europeans arrived the harbour reached three blocks further up the city which means that the area around the waterfront of Auckland is mainly reclaimed land. Downtown Auckland is now home to the ferry terminals and many restaurants and bars. The newest development is the Wynyard Quarter which was developed when New Zealand hosted and won the Rugby World Cup in 2011. This area includes the famous fish market.

## Auckland Harbour and Bridge

The main Auckland harbour is the Waitemata Harbour ('sparkling water'). It's sheltered by Rangitoto Island and its deep waters provide a home for a container terminal, New Zealand's Navy and cruise ships visiting Auckland. At the narrowest point the harbour is crossed by the Harbour Bridge with a main span of 244m (800 ft) and a 43m (141 ft) clearance height under the bridge. It was opened in 1959 with two lanes each way but due to an increase in traffic, extra lanes were soon required. In 1969, the lanes were built in Japan, then shipped to Auckland and clipped onto the side of the bridge. Ever since then they have been affectionately known locally as the 'Nippon Clip-ons'.

## Other Tours with Bush and Beach.....

If you have some free time this afternoon, how about a tour to the **rainforest** and **black sand beaches** or **Kumeu Wine Country** with Bush and Beach? Both tours leave the city at 12.30pm. We also visit the **Hobbiton Movie Set** every day (departing 7.00am). Please see your Bush and Beach guide for more information or if you wish to book.

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**Central Train Station**



**Harbour Bridge**



**City of Sails**



**City from Mt Victoria**



**Wynyard Crossing**



**Sky Tower**



**Rangitoto Island**



**Ferry Building**



**Civic Theatre**



**Auckland Domain**



**Westhaven Marina**



**Auckland Museum**



**Parnell**