



Auckland City

Auckland is the largest city in New Zealand with a population of around 1.7 million people (out of a total of 5.2 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 Takarunga (Mount Victoria) and 50m (160 ft) high Maungauika (North Head) in Devonport, which overlook Downtown Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf. The most recent volcano is Rangitoto, in the Waitematā 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 rainforest-covered Waitakere Ranges which are visible to the west from most of the city.

Māori History

The Auckland area was known as Tāmaki Makaurau to Māori who settled the area in around 1350. It was a popular location due to its fertile soil to grow crops and safe sheltered harbours providing plenty of seafood (kaimoana). When Māori people arrived the land was covered in temperate rain forest including the massive kauri trees. The Māori 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. 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.



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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 has 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 four 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 the America's Cup yacht racing regattas in 2000 and 2003 after New Zealand won the trophy in 1995. New Zealand regained the trophy in 2017 and hosted and won the regatta again in 2021.

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 terminal and restaurants and bars. The Viaduct Harbour area was developed for the Americas Cup in 2000 while the Wynyard Quarter was developed when New Zealand hosted and won the Rugby World Cup in 2011.

Auckland Harbour and Bridge

The main Auckland harbour is the Waitematā Harbour. It is 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 extra 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'.

Do you have more free time in Auckland?



How about a nature tour to the rainforest and black sand beaches of west Auckland or a wine tour to Kumeu Wine Country? These run every afternoon

We also visit Hobbiton Movie Set (with the option of adding Waitomo glow worm caves) every day - departing at 6.45am.

See the brochures in the vehicle, ask your guide for more details or go to our website:

www.bushandbeach.co.nz



Central Train Station



Harbour Bridge



City of Sails



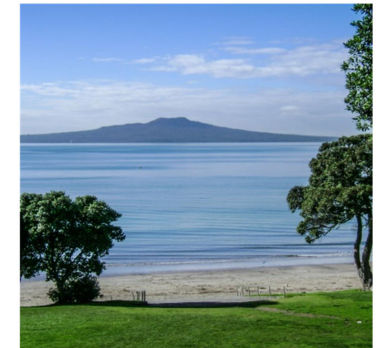
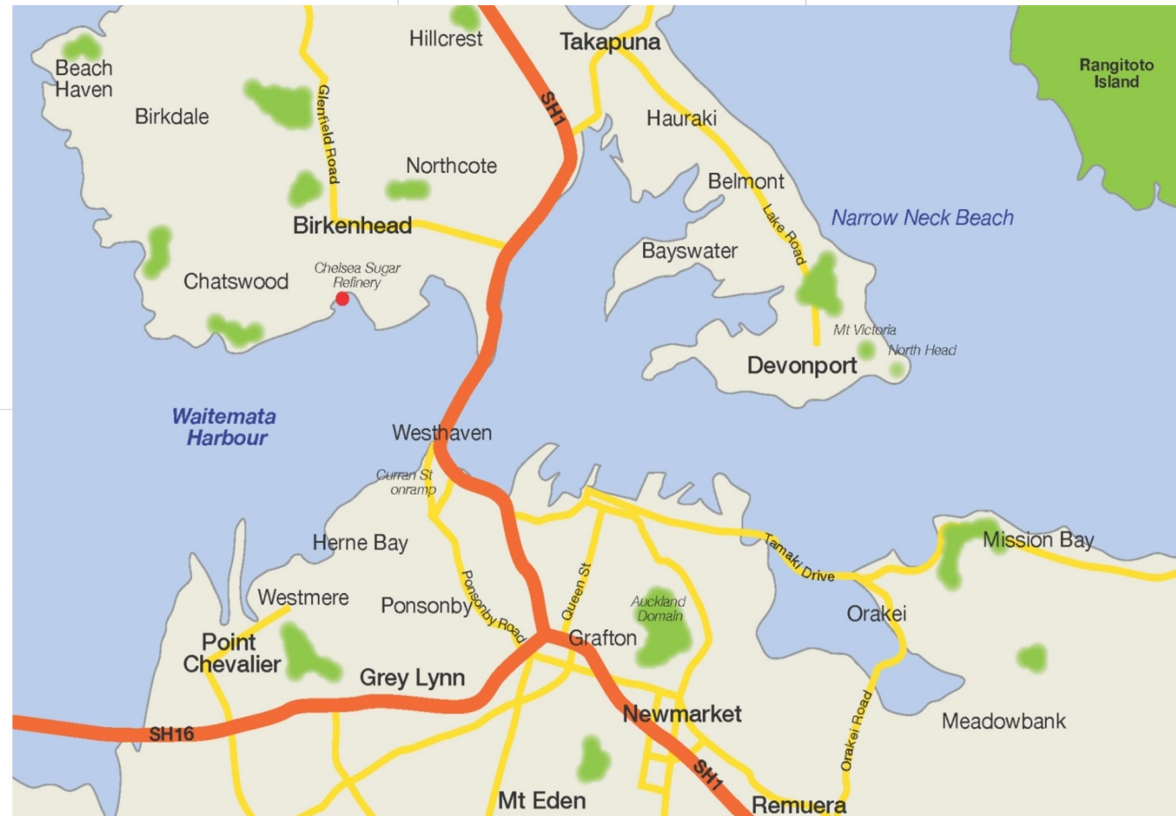
City from Devonport



Viaduct Harbour



Sky Tower



Rangitoto Island



Ferry Building



Civic Theatre



Auckland Domain



Westhaven Marina



Auckland Museum



Parnell