

New Zealand Waitangi Day Special

A multitude of wild and scenic experiences await

Auckland, also known by the Maori name Tamaki Makaurau, is New Zealand's largest city by population. Located on an isthmus between Waitemata and Manukau harbors, the city is home to about 1.4 million residents, including a significant Asian population and the world's largest Polynesian population, mostly Pacific Islanders and Maori people.

Art and culture are central to Auckland's urban life. Two institutions of note are the Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, dedicated to showcasing Maori and Pacific artists, the growing Asian community and

collecting historic New Zealand artworks; and the venerable Auckland War Memorial Museum, which holds major social and military history collections while also telling the stories of the people who witnessed that history being made.

The iconic Sky Tower, jutting 328 meters into Auckland's skyline, provides panoramic views of the city, while its Skywalk and Skyjump activities attract the adrenaline junkies. Since New Zealand is often recognized for providing daredevil attractions in the mountains, finding them in the cities should be no surprise. Those who prefer indoor activities can enjoy several dining options in the tower, including Auckland's only revolving restaurant.

Outside the city, New Zealand's natural beauty is not far away. Haruaki Gulf has rugged beaches and abundant wildlife, both visible on whale and dolphin safaris. The seaside village of Piha is a popular swimming and surfing spot, bookended by scenic cliffs and centered on the island known as Lion Rock. Further south is the dramatic Karekare, the black sand beach made famous by the film "The Piano."

Southeast of Auckland, in the heart of the North Island, is Rotorua, famed for its many geysers and other geothermal phe-

nomena. Japan's *onsen* (hot springs) culture is evoked by the region's mountainous geography and geothermal springs, a connection the volcanically blessed area shares with its sister city Beppu in Oita Prefecture.

On the southern shore of Lake Rotorua, one of a multitude of lakes in the region, is a prominent battle site from the New Zealand Wars of the 1860s. Today it is a major tourist destination, its bubbling mud pools and hot springs popular in all seasons, with mountain biking, hiking and trout fishing popular in summer, and winter sports rounding out the colder months.

The chance to experience Maori culture also brings people to Rotorua, which is place of great significance and central to many New Zealand myths and legends. The town also features a thermally heated central alfresco dining zone, making outdoor dining possible year-round. Thrill-seekers are also well catered to with the highest commercially rafted waterfall in the world, as well as bungee jumping, zip lining and zorbing.

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This content references excerpts from the official New Zealand government tourism website. For more information, please visit <https://www.newzealand.com/int>.



Geothermal activity in Rotorua GETTY IMAGES



Wynard Crossing is a bridge for pedestrians and cyclists. GETTY IMAGES



A fisherman stands on the black sand of Karekare Beach at sunset. GETTY IMAGES

Congratulations
on Waitangi Day



Congratulations
on the Anniversary of
Waitangi Day

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