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AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Where Natural Wonders Meet Cultural Immersion

Make this New Zealand city the center point of a stay filled with day trips or more extended sojourns to take in some of the North Island's most incredible experiences.



A Bustling Multicultural Hub

Auckland is the most populous Polynesian city in the world and home to a wide range of ethnicities. You can enjoy world-class shops, museums, and restaurants, such as newcomer **Mr. Morris**, a fine dining experience of diverse cultural influences; **Lucky 8**, with Asian tapas; and **Sumthin Dumplin**, which serves authentic, juicy dumplings. What better home base is there for exploring the awe-inspiring landscapes nearby—or as part of a journey that goes further afield?

Day Trips

Waiheke Island

Board the 35-minute ferry from Auckland to nearby Waiheke Island where you can kayak with Waiheke Adventure Centre or fly over land on 656 feet of "flying fox" zip lines with EcoZip Adventures—an exhilarating experience capped by a calming nature walk. Top it all off with a glass of one of the region's renowned red wines.

Te Henga Walkway

This trail meanders along lofty coastal cliffs with spectacular views of black sand and Tasman Sea surf at Te Henga, also known as Bethell's Beach, about 45 minutes from the city. Choose an easy "tramp" or an intermediate one

to Muriwai Beach where you'll cross the Waitākere River footbridge.

Muriwai Beach

You can drive north 40 minutes from Te Henga to Muriwai Beach, which has a mere 37 miles of New Zealand's 9,300-mile coastline. A massive colony of gannets, giant Australasian seabirds, nest here from August to March. Learn to surf or play a round of golf—especially memorable if it's windy.

Overnight Stays

Matakana

Matakana hosts its popular Village Farmer's Market on Saturdays, well worth the hour-long trip from the city. Linger at the lush, 200-acre Brick Bay Wines, with its

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outdoor sculpture trail and famed restaurant. Nearby, Sculptureum offers six sculpture gardens, six art galleries, a vineyard, two restaurants, and a bar. Drive 10 minutes south to Sandspit, hop on a ferry or water taxi, and enjoy historic Kawau Island.

Lodge sits on a ridge with panoramic views of the Brynderwyn Ranges, gorgeous beaches, and

surrounding islands. The stunning lap pool is nestled into the bush line of the property.

Epic Places to Stay

Up the coastline of Muriwai Beach, 216 Luxury Accommodation Auckland elicits "wows" just 40 minutes from Auckland. Choose among two self-contained suites with private decks and a soothing soundtrack courtesy of the Tasman Sea below. North of Matakana, the stylish, eco-friendly Te Ari

