Auckland: the ultimate short break

Auckland is a place where bigcity style and stunning natural beauty go hand in hand.

Expect breathtaking scenery, world-class food and wine, sparkling harbours, beautiful beaches, enchanting islands and great shopping. With so many experiences so close by it's easy to hop from one adventure to the next. Here's just a taste of what you'll find in New Zealand's largest city.

The wild west coast

Just 40 minutes' drive from the CBD, Auckland's west coast is famous for its spectacular scenery, lush native rainforest, stunning waterfalls and wild black-sand surf beaches. The Waitakere Ranges are one big playground for outdoor enthusiasts, with surfing, swimming, walking, horse riding, mountain biking and even canyoning all at your fingertips. It's also home to Auckland's oldest wine-growing region, Kumeu, which you can explore on a guided food and wine tour.

Island escapes

Right on the city's doorstep, the beautiful islands of the Hauraki Gulf are easy to explore – the most visited of which are just a short ferry ride away. Walk to the summit of Rangitoto Island, Auckland's youngest and largest volcanic cone, for stunning 360-degree views, explore an open wildlife sanctuary at Tiritiri Matangi Island or Rotoroa Island, join a fishing charter to discover the gulf, or indulge in the wineries and explore the walking trails, beaches and art galleries on Waiheke Island.

Matakana

A favourite with locals, the Matakana region is a delicious blend of boutique vineyards, a brewery, chic cafes, art studios and a renowned artisan farmers' market. Just a 50 minute drive from the CBD, combine a trip here with a visit to one of the nearby golden-sand beaches such as Tawharanui or Pakiri and you've got the perfect day trip.

A day in the city

If its urban experiences you're looking for, make the most of the diverse cuisine, art, entertainment and events on offer in the vibrant city centre. Explore the shops, cafes, museum and galleries by day, then dive into dinner, drinks and nightlife in Auckland's buzzing dining and entertainment precincts. Some key spots not to miss include Britomart and High Street for shopping, Wynyard Quarter and Viaduct Harbour for waterside dining, and the casual bites and street vendor-style eateries at trendy precincts such as City Works Depot and Ponsonby Central.







Tantalise your taste buds

Discover three of the city's most vibrant inner city foodie locations: the eclectic cafes and restaurants of the Britomart precinct, award-winning dining at Viaduct Harbour and the new eateries and bars of the revitalised Wynyard Quarter.

Enjoy sightseeing with great food as your local guide shares insights into the food, culture and sights of each precinct, meeting passionate food producers along the way.

Staying in the heart of Auckland's CBD, the Stamford Plaza is just a few minutes walk from the lively Viaduct Harbour restaurant precinct and waterfront.

Your stay includes 3 nights at the 5-star Stamford Plaza in an Executive Room with return private airport transfers and an Auckland City Tastes Tour.

Prices start from \$745* for 3 nights.

*Valid for travel selected dates 1 May to 28 Sep 17.

Cruise Auckland's harbour

Head out on a dinner cruise on Auckland's Hauraki Gulf to experience tasty New Zealand cuisine on the magnificent harbour as you watch the sun set and the lights of the city come alive.

Inspired by New Zealand's landscape and culture and boasting panoramic views of the Waitemata Harbour, the beautifully designed Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour is a true landmark destination. Located on the busy waterfront, the hotel is just a short walk to buzzing dining and entertainment precincts.

Stay 3 nights at the 5-star Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour in a Luxury Room Internal Water Views with return private airport transfers and a *Pride of Auckland* dinner cruise included.

Prices start from \$759* for 3 nights.

*Valid for travel selected dates 1 May to 6 Jun, 8 to 22 Jun, 25 Jun to 6 Jul and 9 Jul to 14 Sep 17.

Explore picturesque Matakana

Escape the city and experience the food, wine and arts of the Matakana Coast on a guided tour.

A highlight of the tour is a visit to Brick Bay Winery for a wine tasting and sculpture trail walk, showcasing around 45 carefully chosen sculptures in a beautiful natural environment. On your return to Brick Bay's Glass House, sample their hand crafted wines followed by a delicious lunch made from many locally-sourced ingredients as you reflect on your experience of 'art and wine entwined' at Brick Bay.

Your 5-star stay includes 3 nights at the Pullman Auckland in a Superior Residence Room with return private airport transfers and a Great Tastes of Matakana Tour.

As a bonus, this stay includes 1 free night.

Prices start from \$815^{*} for 3 nights.

*Valid for travel selected dates 1 May to 6 Jun, 8 to 22 Jun, 25 Jun to 6 Jul and 9 Jul to 14 Sep 17.



Make tracks in the Waitakere Ranges

Explore the Waitakere Ranges and enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of the Auckland isthmus.

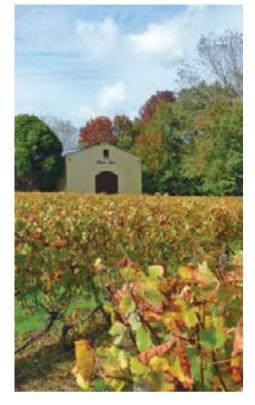
The coast and rainforest tour takes you through the regenerating rainforest, where giant tree ferns grow alongside picturesque streams. Unwind by a cascading waterfall or swim beneath it. Stroll along the soft black sand of a west coast beach, feel the clear ocean breeze and enjoy a kiwi-style picnic lunch.

Stay at the Crowne Plaza Auckland, located in the heart of city. The hotel is superbly positioned in the entertainment and shopping hub of central Auckland and is only a short stroll to Queen Street, the Sky Tower, the Viaduct and Wynyard Quarter.

Your stay at the 4½-star Crowne Plaza Auckland includes 3 nights in a Deluxe Room with return private airport transfers and a Coast and Rainforest Walk.

Prices start from \$885* for 3 nights.

*Valid for travel select dates 1 May to 5 Jun, 9 to 22 Jun, 26 Jun to 6 Jul, 10 Jul to 15 Sep and 17 to 30 Sep 17.



Visit Kumeu Wine Country

Leave the bustle of central Auckland behind and travel northwest to Kumeu Wine Country.

With wineries dating back to the 1930s, this heritage wine region is home to some of New Zealand's most renowned wines. Enjoy a Mediterranean-style lunch with a New Zealand twist at Soljans Winery restaurant and sample world-renowned wines at Soljans Vineyard, Matua Valley Wines and West Brook Winery. The tour also includes a very special stop where you will discover one of the few mainland gannet nesting sites in the world, situated on the clifftops overlooking the Tasman Sea.

Stay in an iconic building in the heart of the city at Heritage Auckland.

Your stay includes 3 nights at the 4½-star Heritage Hotel Auckland in a Deluxe Room with breakfast daily, wi-fi[^], return private airport transfers and a Taste of Kumeu Wine Lunch.

Prices start from \$899* for 3 nights.

*Valid for travel select dates 1 to 31 May and 11 Jul to 30 Sep 17. ^1GB per room, per day.



Auckland from above

Take an exhilarating scenic seaplane flight over Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf.

Departing from Auckland's vibrant Wynyard Quarter waterfront precinct, cruise into Auckland Harbour ready for take-off, enjoying views of yachts and the city skyline from the water and the air.

Fly past Devonport, Lake Pukupe, Rangitoto – Auckland's youngest volcano, Rakino Island, Motutapu Island, the top of Waiheke Island, Motuihe Island, Browns Island and Mechanics Bay.

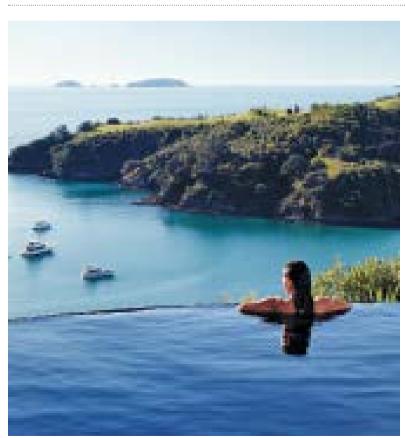
After your adventure, enjoy an indulgent, restful and stylish stay at the SKYCITY Grand Hotel. You'll want for nothing in one of the 312 superbly appointed guest rooms.

Stay 3 nights at the 5-star SKYCITY Grand Hotel in a Premium Luxury Harbour View Room with free wi-fi, return private airport transfers and a Rangitoto Circuit Scenic Flight included.

Prices start from \$939* for 3 nights.

*Valid for travel select dates 13 to 31 May and 25 Jul to 30 Sep 17.





Soak up the views from a volcano

Take a ferry to Rangitoto Island and hop aboard a road train and learn about Rangitoto's fiery past.

Enjoy a two-hour guided tour around Rangitoto, Auckland's youngest and largest volcano. Journey through the largest Pohutukawa forest in the world, a treasured fern glen and rugged lava terrain as you make your way to the base of the summit of Rangitoto. From there it's a 900-metre walk along a scenic boardwalk to the summit where you will be rewarded with 360-degree views of Auckland city and the islands of the Hauraki Gulf.

With Auckland's signature attractions right on its doorstep, the Hilton Auckland is the ideal location for any traveller. It offers sweeping views across Auckland's harbour from it's restaurant, Bellini Bar and the underwater viewing window in the outdoor heated lap-pool.

Your 5-star stay includes 3 nights at the Hilton Auckland in a Deluxe Harbour View Room with free wi-fi, return private airport transfers and a Rangitoto Volcanic Explorer Tour.

Prices start from \$955* for 3 nights.

*Valid for travel selected dates 1 to 31 May, 10 Jul to 15 Sep and 17 to 30 Sep 17.

Experience the best of both worlds

Combine two nights in the city with two nights on Waiheke Island for the ultimate Auckland short break.

Stay at the Sebel Auckland Viaduct Harbour then hop on a ferry over to Waiheke Island to experience the ultimate in 5-star luxury at the multi-award-winning Delamore Lodge, which boasts breathtaking views of the Hauraki Gulf. A trip to Waiheke isn't complete until you sample the amazing food and wine on a small group tour. Enjoy succulent fresh oysters, award-winning olive oil and other locallyproduced specialty foods, accompanied by wines from some of the island's top boutique vineyards on a gourmet tour of the island.

Your stay combines 2 nights at the 4½-star Sebel Auckland Viaduct Harbour in a City View Studio Suite with 2 nights at the 5-star Delamore Lodge on Waiheke Island in an Awatea Suite where you will enjoy breakfast, pre-dinner drinks and hors d'oeuvres daily as well as tea, coffee, freshly baked treats and juices throughout the day. Also included are a Gourmet's Food and Wine Tour and return airport and ferry transfers.

Prices start from \$1679* for 4 nights.

*Valid for travel selected dates 1 May to 6 Jun, 8 to 22 Jun, 25 Jun to 6 Jul and 9 Jul to 14 Sep 17.