



SMART MOVE

**YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING AND WORKING
IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

| [Why Auckland](#)

| [Living in Auckland](#)

| [Need to know](#)

CONTENTS

01 WHY AUCKLAND?	3
A city of opportunity	4
The Auckland economy	5
02 LIVING IN AUCKLAND	6
People and culture	7
Things to do	8
Getting around	9
SUCCESS STORY: MARC FORRESTER	10
Support services and networks	11

03 NEED TO KNOW	12
Find a job	13
Work visas	13
Education	14
Healthcare	15
SUCCESS STORY: LAVANYA BOMMINI	16
Housing	17
Cost of living	18
Taxes	18
Climate	19
Connected to the world	19



01 **WHY AUCKLAND?**

When you start a new job in Auckland, you start a new way of life. One that offers both an amazing lifestyle and diverse possibilities for your career.



3RD

MOST LIVEABLE CITY
IN THE WORLD

Mercer Quality
Living Survey 2019

A CITY OF OPPORTUNITY

From outstanding career opportunities to an exceptional lifestyle, here's why working in Auckland is a smart move.

WELCOMING AND SAFE

New Zealanders are well known for their friendly and welcoming nature. The traditional Māori spirit of manaakitanga (hospitality, kindness and generosity) remains just as significant today. We value human rights, are nuclear-free and politically stable.

AN INTERNATIONAL CITY

We're a relatively young city, but we're making our mark on the world – and you can too. Innovative companies and startups are stepping onto the global stage and dedicated innovation hubs are expanding across the city. Auckland is the nation's economic powerhouse and New Zealand's largest city, home to about a third of the country's population. We're a global city, with easy access to key international markets, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

With many large-scale projects and new companies springing up throughout Auckland, there's never been a more exciting time to work here. Our population, economy and key industry sectors are all growing rapidly, which means more career opportunities than ever before. We're big enough to be connected to other global business hubs around the world,

but small enough that making connections is easy, and career progression can be significantly faster than larger cities. It's about more than a job; you'll be helping to build and shape a city.

CITY STYLE, NATURAL BEAUTY

Auckland combines all the energy and excitement of city life with spectacular natural beauty in every direction. World-class food, wine, coffee, designer shopping and a thriving arts and culture scene is matched with beautiful harbours, islands, beaches, forests and volcanic cones that offer countless adventure activities to enjoy, from sailing and surfing to mountain biking and hiking. And it's all so close. We're encircled by three natural harbours, giving our region hundreds of beaches within easy reach of the city centre.

BALANCED LIFESTYLE

Our great lifestyle is one of the main reasons people are drawn to Auckland. We believe in hard work, but we know life outside is important too – whether that means quality time with family and friends, joining a social sports team or making the most of the superb dining, shopping, entertainment, nightlife and outdoor activities at your fingertips. With more free time you could be starting your day paddle

boarding or jogging along the waterfront then relaxing after work with dinner and drinks, a bush walk or fish and chips on the beach.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

If you already have children or you're planning for the future, Auckland is a wonderful place to raise a family. It's safe, stable and culturally diverse, with excellent public healthcare, a lifestyle where children can enjoy our natural playground, and a world-class education system.

A CITY OF DIVERSITY

Auckland is the fourth most diverse city in the world – more than 220 different ethnic communities call our city home and over a third of all people living here were born overseas. The majority of New Zealand's indigenous Māori population lives in Auckland, and we're also the world's largest Polynesian city. Our huge mix of cultures not only makes for diverse cuisine, art, music and language, it also makes it easy for new migrants to connect with people with similar backgrounds.

An aerial photograph of Auckland, New Zealand, showing the harbor, the Auckland Harbour Bridge, and the city skyline. The water is a deep blue, and the city is densely packed with buildings. The bridge spans the harbor, connecting the city to the surrounding areas.

THE AUCKLAND ECONOMY

Auckland is the economic powerhouse of New Zealand, home to a third of the population and contributing 38% of the nation's GDP.

WE'RE A GROWING ECONOMY

Auckland's economy has seen five years of consecutive growth, with an average growth rate of 3.9% per annum since 2013.

WE'RE A GROWING CITY

Auckland has a population of 1.7 million, 34% of New Zealand's population. It is forecast to reach 2 million by 2029.

WE CONTRIBUTE OVER A THIRD OF NEW ZEALAND'S GDP

Auckland's GDP is \$93.4b in 2018 - 38% of the New Zealand economy.

WE'RE GLOBALLY CONNECTED

Auckland is internationally connected, serving as a gateway to New Zealand and markets in the Asia-Pacific region, and offers a competitive and stable business environment and business-friendly government services. We're just one direct flight away from major cities in Australia, Asia and the western coast of the US.

WE'RE DIVERSE AND INNOVATIVE

Auckland has moved toward a more service oriented and innovation oriented economy. A strong and increasingly specialised manufacturing core is supported by a talented and globally focused service sector.

Find out more about Auckland as an innovation city [here](#).



7TH

MOST INNOVATIVE CITY
IN SOUTH EAST ASIA
AND OCEANIA

Global Innovation Index 2018



02 **LIVING IN AUCKLAND**

When you arrive in Auckland, you'll find a city rich in diverse cultures, friendly people and a huge range of things to see and do.



39%

OF AUCKLANDERS
WERE BORN OVERSEAS

2015 World Migration Report,
International Organisation
for Migration

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Our sense of hospitality and many diverse cultures make Auckland an exciting and welcoming place to live.

220+

DIFFERENT ETHNIC COMMUNITIES
CALL AUCKLAND HOME

2015 World Migration Report,
International Organisation for Migration

New Zealanders are known for their warm nature and hospitality – and Auckland is no different. Kiwis (as New Zealanders are often called) love travelling, so we understand the importance of welcoming new people to our own land.

OUR DIVERSE CULTURES

We're the fourth most culturally diverse city in the world – more diverse than Sydney, London, Los Angeles and New York – and over a third of all Aucklanders were born overseas. This diversity is reflected in our art, music, cuisine, festivals and cultural experiences, as well as in our workplaces, schools and universities.

Our Māori heritage gives us a unique place in the world, and our city is home to 220 plus, different ethnic groups. Auckland is strongly influenced by Pacific pride and passion – we are the world's largest Polynesian community – and nearly a quarter of people living here are of Asian descent.

SETTLING IN

In the 2018 Expat Insider survey, 97% respondents ranked New Zealand highly for 'personal safety' and 'peacefulness'.

We are by far New Zealand's largest city, but there's a real sense of community here. We often socialise with colleagues outside of work, joining a social sports team is a popular way to make friends and every area of Auckland has different events, places and programmes where people come together, whether it's a favourite local restaurant or helping out in the community as a volunteer.

OUR LANGUAGES

New Zealand has three official languages – English, Māori and New Zealand Sign Language, with English the most commonly spoken.

There are many classes and programmes across the Auckland region for people who want to improve their English or learn Te Reo Māori.



THINGS TO DO

From fine food and wine to rainforest walks, thriving nightlife to native wildlife, there's so much to see and do in Auckland when the working day is done.



DINING >

Restaurants, cafés, bars and cuisine from around the world



WINE REGIONS >

Rolling vineyards, award-winning vintages and an island of wine



WALKS AND HIKING >

Hidden waterfalls, untouched native forest and coastal climbs



BEACHES >

Sheltered golden bays and wild black-sand surf beaches



WATER ACTIVITIES >

We're surrounded by sea, and we make the most of it



EVENTS AND FESTIVALS >

Concerts, international sports, cultural festivals and free events



ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES >

Mountain biking, indoor skiing, kayaking, abseiling and more



SHOPPING >

From designer boutiques and luxury labels to local farmers' markets



ARTS, CULTURE AND HISTORY >

Galleries, museums and heritage experiences



HAURAKI GULF ISLANDS >

Discover the beautiful islands right on our doorstep



THINGS TO DO AT NIGHT >

Cosy cocktail bars, local pubs, lively clubs and gigs galore



GETTING AROUND

Getting around is easy and affordable, whether you're driving, catching public transport or cycling.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT – TRAIN, BUS AND FERRY

Our public transport network is a great way to get around the city and throughout the region. As well as inner city buses, you can travel by train or bus from your suburb to most major work hubs, plus schools, beaches, entertainment precincts and attractions in Auckland.

Britomart in downtown Auckland is the main transport hub and is where many buses and trains start and end. Ferries also arrive and depart from downtown Auckland, just two minutes' walk from Britomart. A number of bus and train stations and some ferry departure points also have park and ride facilities.



Find public transport services, maps and timetables.

CYCLING

For a great way to get outdoors and improve your health and wellbeing, try cycling or walking. A number of cycle paths have popped up over Auckland in the last few years to make commuting on bike or foot even easier and more new cycle ways are planned in the near future.

DRIVING

You can legally drive in Auckland and New Zealand for up to 12 months per visit, with either a current driver's licence from your home country or an International Driving Permit (IDP). Make sure you have these organised before you arrive in New Zealand. You will need to convert to a New Zealand licence after 12 months.

[More about driving in New Zealand >>](#)



SUCCESS STORY

MARC FORRESTER
SITE ENGINEER – CONSTRUCTION SECTOR
26 YEARS OLD, FROM SOUTH AFRICA

WHY AUCKLAND?

I chose to come to Auckland for a number of reasons – the abundance of work and the opportunities available and I have family here already. I also feel very safe here and I think it's a great place to raise your family.

Diverse cultures

Auckland is very cosmopolitan and the beauty is that everyone from all over the world fits into the Kiwi way of life. It's just a really easy place to come if you're a foreigner.

Work/life balance

It's fantastic. The work/life balance for me has been absolutely unbelievable. There's a whole different culture and the whole family aspect of life here is rated very highly. A typical weekend for me is full of playing sport and sometimes I'm able to jump off work early (during the week) and go for a surf.

Career development

I'm a passionate career person. I've really enjoyed the roles I've been given. I've been

able to get a lot more opportunity than I would have had in South Africa to really grow into my career.

Future opportunities in the construction sector

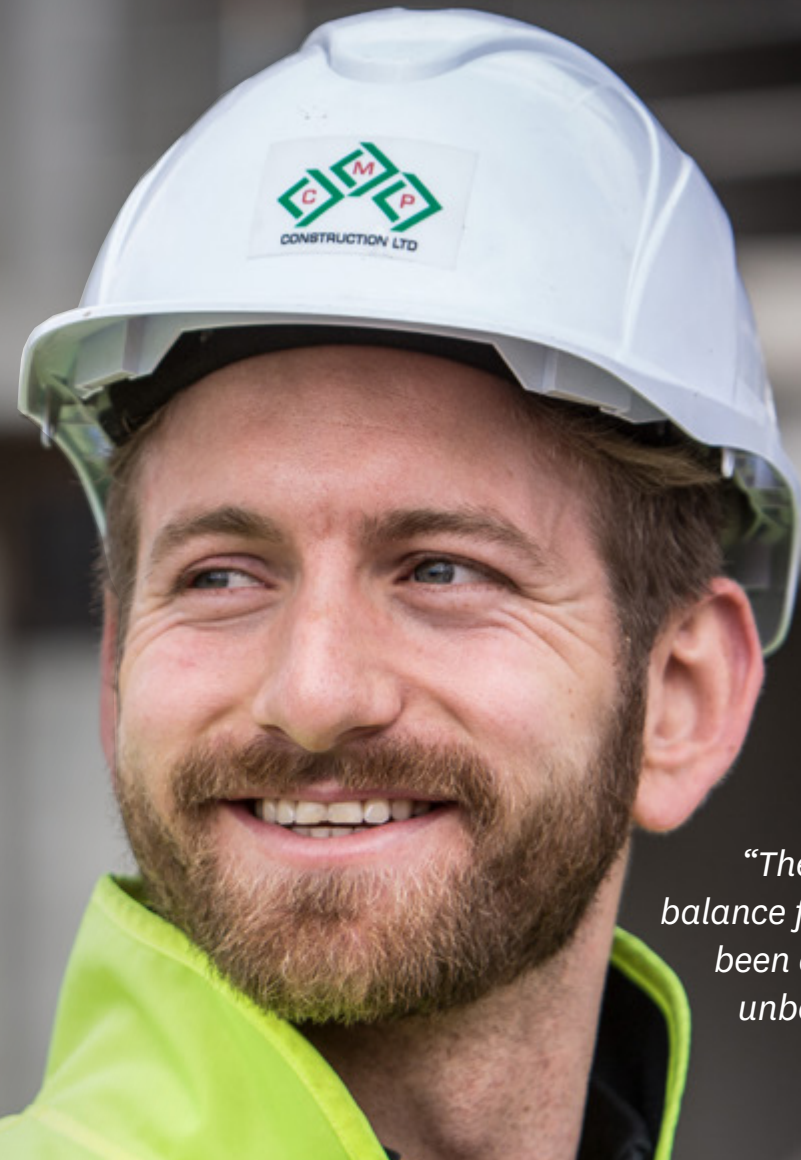
I think it's looking very bright. The number of big projects that have been announced in Auckland over the last couple of years has been amazing and with the current housing boom I think there will be a lot in terms of building apartment blocks, plus a lot of infrastructure development coming up. It gives immigrants like myself an opportunity to really excel in what we do and maybe take a giant career leap forward.

Where's home?

I live in Takapuna. It's such a fantastic beach and the scenery around there is absolutely beautiful so most of my weekdays are definitely spent at the beach after work just relaxing with my flat mates.



[Watch Marc's video](#)



“The work/life balance for me has been absolutely unbelievable.”



MY FAVOURITE THINGS ABOUT AUCKLAND

- The number one has to be the sunsets over the city from Mt Victoria (one of Auckland's dormant volcanic cones).
- Surfing out west at Muriwai Beach.
- How friendly everyone is – people in Auckland are some of the friendliest people I have ever met.

- The proximity to everything, and to the water especially. Auckland is spread out, but everywhere is close to water and I think that's a major attraction for the city.
- The amount of sports and community things you can get involved in; that's a really big drawcard and can help your integration into the community.



SUPPORT SERVICES AND NETWORKS

Settling into a new country can feel overwhelming, but there are plenty of support services and networks that can help make it easier.

A.R.M.S. – Auckland Regional Migrant Services Charitable Trust

Provides information about life in Auckland, helps people find jobs and learn English, and runs settlement programmes and workshops.

Hearts and Minds

Specific services for Auckland's North Shore, Rodney and Waitakere to help you settle into your new community.

CNSST Foundation

Offers a range of services and support for Asian new settlers.

New Zealand Newcomers Network

Find local support groups for getting connected with your new community.

Citizens Advice Bureau

Advice, information and help for all citizens, including a specific service for new migrants.

Auckland Libraries

Auckland libraries throughout the region are a great local resource too, with regular free events, books available in more than 30 languages, reading groups, classes and special assistance for people who have English as a second language.



For more support services and networks visit [New Zealand Now.](#)

2ND

MOST PEACEFUL COUNTRY
IN THE WORLD

Global Peace Index 2018

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a white top, is smiling and looking towards a man whose back is to the camera. They are in an office environment with computer monitors visible in the background. A dark grey semi-transparent box with an orange underline is positioned on the right side of the image, containing the section header and a paragraph of text.

03 **NEED TO KNOW**

From work visas to healthcare and education, here's the key information you should know before you move.

FIND A JOB

GENERAL INFORMATION

[New Zealand Now](#)

General information about finding work in New Zealand, including tips on CVs and job interviews.

[LookSee](#)

Connecting global top talent to Auckland and New Zealand-based companies with in-demand jobs.

[Working in New Zealand](#)

Search for jobs and employers.

[New Kiwis](#)

Free guidance on how to find work in your industry.

KEY JOB SEARCH SITES

[Seek](#)

[Trade Me](#)

AUCKLAND-BASED RECRUITMENT AGENCIES

[Madison](#)

[Robert Walters](#)

[Hays](#)

[Sheffield](#)

[Presto Resourcing](#)

[OCG](#)

[Hudson](#)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT JOBS

[Auckland Council Careers](#)

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Building networks and making connections is important when you're working in Auckland.

Some of the best ways to do this include joining industry associations, attending local networking events, and using professional online profiles such as LinkedIn to broaden your network of contacts. You'll find it easier to make connections here than in many other cities, and it's common for businesses – particularly in the tech sector – to collaborate.

KEY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

ICT/IT – [New Zealand Technology Industry Association](#)

Marine – [NZ Marine](#)

Construction – [Civil Contractors New Zealand](#)

Medical – [Medical Council of New Zealand](#)

WORK VISAS

Visa eligibility is based on factors such as whether your skills match a shortage in New Zealand, how long you want to stay, and your age, work experience and qualifications.

Find out what work visas you're eligible for at [Immigration New Zealand](#). You can also find information on visas if you're looking to start a business or invest.

Tips before applying for a visa:

- Find out if your job skills are in demand at [Immigration New Zealand](#).
- Provide all the information required – incomplete paperwork will cause delays.
- If you're not sure of the visa application process, consider using a [licensed immigration advisor](#).

- If you want to visit Auckland for a holiday first to see what our city is like, you might need a visitor visa. However, travellers from more than fifty countries do not require a visa for a stay of less than three months – check your passport and visa requirements with [Immigration New Zealand](#).

Are you an overseas student wanting to work in Auckland? Find out more about working while you study at [Immigration New Zealand](#).





EDUCATION

Auckland offers a world-class education where students of all ages can learn in a supportive environment. Our qualifications are recognised around the world and can open up excellent and diverse career opportunities.

We've got more than 400 schools and tertiary institutes, as well as vocational training establishments and three universities – in fact Auckland ranks among the top 20 cities in the world for students to get a university education.

SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES AND TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS

Looking for schools for your children, partner, family members – or yourself? Find out more and search at aucklandnz.com/study.

THE BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY

Wanting the best for your children or future family is often the reason behind moving to a new country. Our high quality of life and education are two of the reasons many overseas-based New Zealanders come home to have children.

More than 220 different ethnic communities live in Auckland too, so it's often easier for children of any age to fit in and make new friends more quickly.

Young kids? There are more than 1200 early childhood education options for children under five years old, including playgroups and kindergartens across the region.

Auckland is the most educated city in New Zealand, with 41% of adults holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

23RD

BEST STUDENT CITY
IN THE WORLD

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)
Best Student Cities 2018





HEALTHCARE

Healthcare in Auckland is not only first-rate, it's free or low cost for citizens, residents and some work visa holders.

PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

If you're a New Zealand citizen or resident, or hold a work visa that's valid for two years or more from when you first arrive, you qualify for free or subsidised care in the public health system. If you have children aged 17 years or under they may also be eligible for publicly funded healthcare.

If you're on a work visa that's for less than two years, you'll need to pay for your healthcare as you require it. Most costs of injuries from accidents are covered by our accident compensation scheme, ACC.

Check details first on the [Ministry of Health eligibility page](#).

PRIVATE HEALTHCARE

For private healthcare, New Zealand residents can choose to take out medical insurance; non-residents should get medical insurance from their home country.

FINDING A DOCTOR

Doctors, or GPs (General Practitioners), are your first point of contact if you're unwell. They often work from local medical centres and it's usually easy to get an appointment when you need it. There's a number of after-hours clinics across the greater Auckland region that deal with accidents and emergencies, as well as providing medical care outside of normal working hours.

ACC – ACCIDENT COMPENSATION CORPORATION

If you have an accident in New Zealand – in or out of work – you may be eligible for subsidised healthcare and rehabilitation costs through the Accident Compensation Corporation, known as ACC.

ACC is a compensation scheme that covers you for most costs if you're injured in an accident. It provides no-fault insurance cover to everyone in New Zealand for injuries resulting

from accidents, such as car crashes, falling at home, breaking your arm skiing or being injured at work. Under ACC, you don't have the right to sue anyone for injuries from an accident.

Find out more from [ACC](#) about what costs are covered and what happens if you injure yourself.



For more information on healthcare in Auckland, including dentists, private hospitals and after-hours clinics, visit [New Zealand Now](#).



“The work/life balance for me has been absolutely unbelievable.”

SUCCESS STORY

LAVANYA BOMMINI
SOFTWARE DEVELOPER – IT SECTOR
26 YEARS OLD, FROM INDIA

WHY AUCKLAND?

My husband was here and we thought Auckland would be the best place to settle down – and because it’s beautiful. It’s diverse too and everyone is friendly, so I don’t feel alone.

Diverse cultures

I see every nation here. In my company there are Chinese, Russians – you name it – there are people from every corner of the world.

Balanced lifestyle

There are many flexible working arrangement options, like working from home, working four days a week, or however many days you want, or what time you want. I start the day early and come home early, which means I have a good amount of time to spend with my husband, cooking, anything!

Our favourite weekend pastime is to dine somewhere that is different and try different cuisines. There are so many options in Auckland. If it’s a long weekend we go travelling around places like Rotorua, or

just relax.

Self-discovery

It’s just amazing to have the chance to find yourself and discover what you can do. You can explore more things that you love here. You can just be in peace with yourself – that’s the best part of New Zealand.

Working in Auckland’s IT sector

There are new challenges every day and good startups coming up. If you have any ideas they are very much welcomed. The best part is that the CEO or COO just sits beside you, not in a separate office. I find it really comforting that they don’t see themselves as different from me. I can talk to them anytime, and learn about the things going on around the firm.

Career development

We have IT guilds and some seminars, you go around and talk to people about technologies. Here I see my career in IT becoming more of a team lead and driving the technical projects.

MY FAVOURITE THINGS ABOUT AUCKLAND

- The events – food festivals, arts, movies in the park – the amount of events that happen all the time in the city is amazing.
- The food – there are so many different cuisines to try.



[Watch Lavanya’s video](#)





HOUSING

Choose housing to suit your lifestyle, from inner-city apartments and townhouses to suburban family homes with gardens for the kids to run around in.

Whether you're renting or buying, do your research first to ensure you have all the information you need to make the right decision.

BUYING A HOME

If you're coming from overseas and securing a good salary, what you can buy here will compare well with other cities. Be prepared to look hard and act quickly, as Auckland is a hot market.

Find a house

trademe.co.nz

realestate.co.nz

Browse housing and property information

govt.nz

Search and compare average house prices

qv.co.nz

RENTING A HOUSE OR ROOM

You might prefer to rent a home, flat or apartment in Auckland, whether on your own or with others (we call them flatmates). Even if you're planning to buy a home, you might like to rent while you get to know the city better.

Average costs of renting in Auckland

As of January 2019, the average weekly rent for a one to two bedroom property in Auckland was NZ\$460.

The average weekly rent for all property sizes in Auckland was NZ\$555 in the same period.*

*Source: Trade Me Limited. 2019. Rental Price Index. Trademe.co.nz

Information on rent costs and advice

[Market rents](#)

[Information for tenants](#)

Find a house

trademe.co.nz

realestate.co.nz

Find flatmates

trademe.co.nz

roomtogo.co.nz

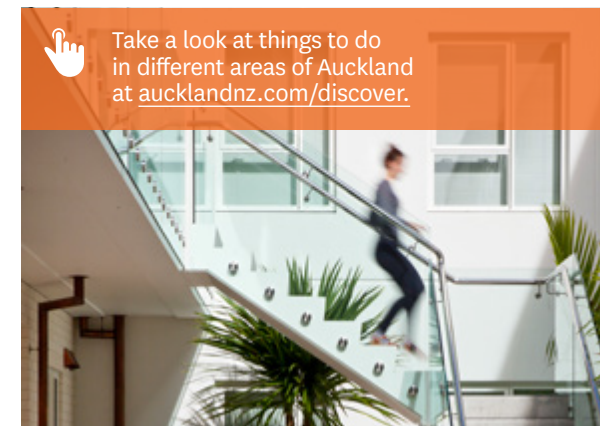
nzflatmates.co.nz

AUCKLAND SUBURBS

As well as being one of the main factors in the cost of renting or buying a house, the suburb you live in will affect the time of your commute, public transport options, and accessibility to schools, shops, restaurants and beaches. Do your research first and weigh up what's important for you and your lifestyle.

Search suburbs at

hometopia.co.nz





COST OF LIVING

Living costs are at a level you would expect from a rapidly growing, vibrant and cosmopolitan hub that's one of the most liveable cities in the world.

You'll find some items and services cheaper and some more expensive than at home. However in general, Auckland ranks very well against other major cities, with a cost of living significantly lower than London, Sydney, Melbourne, Hong Kong, Singapore, Guangzhou and New York.*

*Source: Mercer Cost of Living Survey 2019

COMMON LIVING COSTS

Find out about cost of living, financial planning, taxes and other money matters at [New Zealand Now](#).

Find out about common living costs in Auckland, from coffee and clothing to accommodation and groceries, at [Expatistan Cost of Living Index](#). The list is regularly updated.

FINDING CHEAPER OPTIONS

Auckland's cost of living compared to other cities depends on a number of factors, including the area you choose to live in and the lifestyle you would like.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public transport is cheaper for all travellers when buying a monthly pass and using our AT Hop card, which gives you integrated ticketing between trains, buses and ferries and discounted fares.

ACCOMMODATION AND HOUSING

The cost of renting or buying a house varies significantly across different areas of Auckland. With easy public transport, living in suburbs slightly further away from the CBD can make renting or buying much more affordable.

TAXES

INCOME TAX

Wages or salaries are usually paid directly into employees' bank accounts and are taxed at set rates depending on your income level.

The New Zealand tax system is a relatively favourable tax environment for your earnings and assets. The US-based Tax Foundation ranked New Zealand's overall tax system as third in the developed world for its competitiveness (2018), and third for its individual/personal taxes.

Find out more about [taxes in New Zealand](#).

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

New Zealand has a 15% tax added to most goods and services (GST), including most imported goods and certain imported services.



CONNECTED TO THE WORLD

150⁺
DAILY
INTERNATIONAL
FLIGHTS

CLIMATE

Auckland enjoys a temperate climate without extremes of temperature. We enjoy more than 2000 hours of bright sunshine a year and when it rains, it keeps our native forests lush and green.

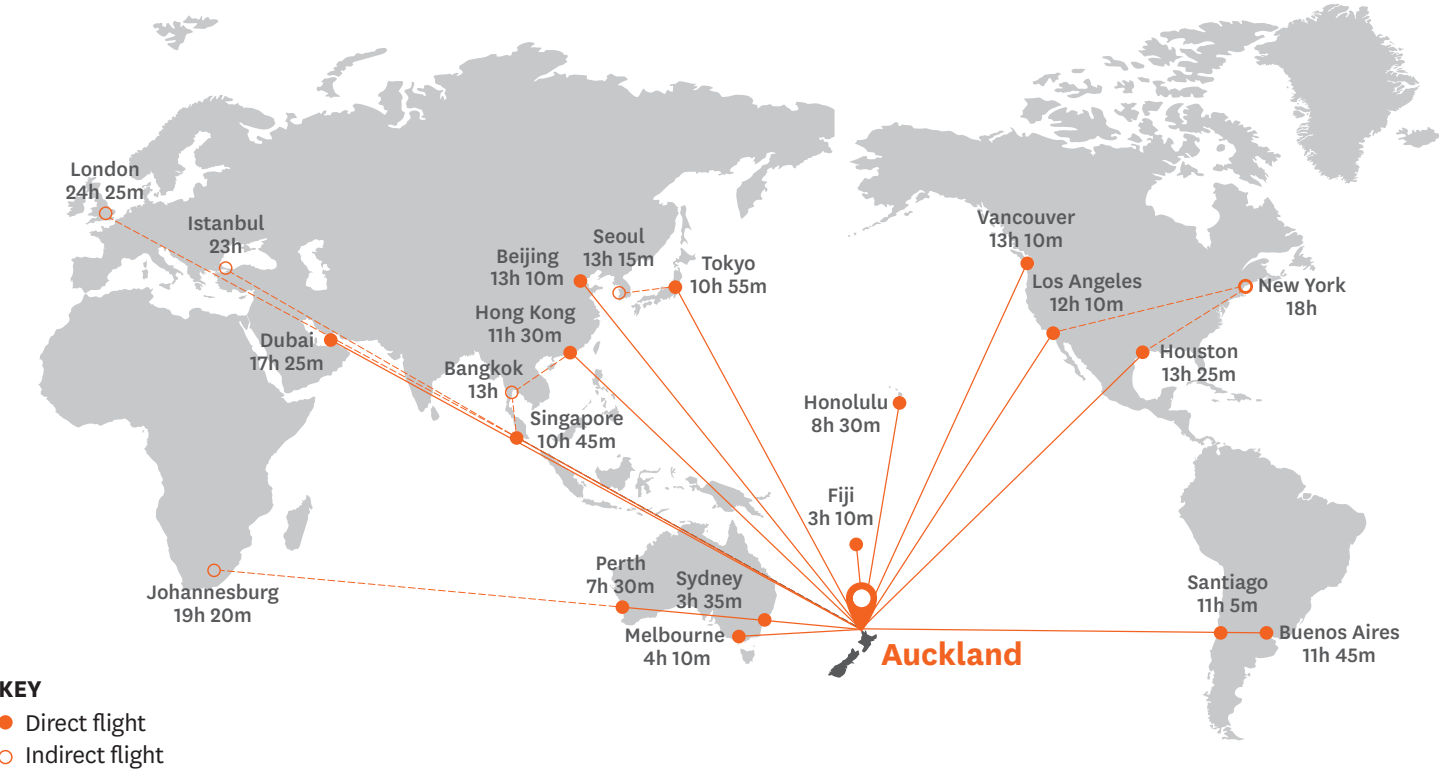
Seasons

Summer, December – February
Autumn/Fall, March – May
Winter, June – August
Spring, September – November

Mean daily temperature

Summer – 23° Celsius (74° Fahrenheit)
Winter – 14° Celsius (57° Fahrenheit)

Approximate flight times.





MAKE THE SMART MOVE.

Visit aucklandnz.com