

## AUCKLAND GUIDE CONTENTS

**CATEGORIES:** Insider Info

### Get Directions: Curitiba, Brazil

??Kia Ora! Todas as dicas de Auckland estão listadas no post [Best of Auckland](#) e cada uma delas foi colocada no mapa do Google para facilitar a tua viagem.

??Kia Ora! All of Auckland's travel tips are listed on the [Best of Auckland](#) post with each one placed on Google Maps to ease your travel.

## BEST OF AUCKLAND

**CATEGORIES:** Quick Guide

### Get Directions: Auckland, New Zealand

#### TRAVELVINCE AUCKLAND TIPS

- Auckland is not a very big city, making it a nice place to explore on foot. However, know that most of the area is made of old volcanoes, so be ready to climb some very steep hills. I would rent a car to explore [Piha Beach](#) and [Karekare Beach](#). And save at least half a day for [Waiheke Island](#).
- The CBD is the busiest area but I would not stay there ([Viaduct Harbour](#) area is also extremely touristy). Prefer Mount Albert, Ponsonby or Parnell, which are more pleasant and still very much central. Some hotels I would recommend are [Hotel deBrett](#) and [Pullman Auckland](#). I ended up staying at the North Shore, at [VR Takapuna](#) and quite liked it. Since I had a car, it was easy to drive into the city via the Harbour Bridge, with very scenic drives in and out of the city and a great many beaches for jogging.
- If I had had more time I would have stayed at least one night in Waiheke Island, preferably at [Cable Bay Views](#). However, if you, just like me, do not stay there, go early so you can have lunch in one winery and dinner (at sunset) in another. Be ready to walk. At the Queens Wharf, [I bought a combo ticket which included the ferry and the hop-on-hop-off bus on the island](#). It was well worth it. At the end of the tour, I stayed at the [Mudbrick Winery](#) for dinner and took a taxi for the last ferry into Auckland. Other wineries of note are [Tantalus Estate](#) and [Cable Bay Vineyard](#).
- Two of the nicest areas for bars and restaurants are [Vulcan Lane + Britomart](#) and [Ponsonby](#). Vulcan Lane is right by the CBD and you can walk down High Street or O'Connell Street until you reach the cool area of Britomart. Ponsonby is more residential, but Ponsonby Road is a heaven of indie stores, cafés, and restaurants. You will see more tourists at Britomart and more locals in Ponsonby.
- Buy a nice picnic hamper and head to Piha Beach for the day. Stop first at Karekare, with its black sands to see where some of the opening scenes of [The Piano](#) were filmed. Then move over to Piha (the drive is breathtaking) and enjoy the late afternoon sun there. It doesn't take more than 45-50 minutes to drive back to Auckland. Beware that the roads in New Zealand, albeit in very good conditions, were not made for fast driving. A simple 100-kilometre journey takes around 1h30.
- Food in New Zealand is outstanding. Cheese, lamb, fruits, and coffee are to die for. Enjoy eating at nice restaurants. Kiwis are also very friendly and love to chit-chat.
- Both the [Auckland Art Gallery](#) and the [Auckland War Memorial Museum](#) in the beautiful Auckland Domain are well worth a visit. There are very nice photography exhibitions at the War Memorial.
- Shopping: I am not a bit shopping fan but love browsing. There are many beautiful shops along Ponsonby Road and in and around Britomart. If you are a fashion fanatic you must drive to the North Shore to visit [The Department Store](#). By the way, buy some [Whittaker's Chocolate](#) as well (and NZ wines, of course). However, when it comes to books and magazines, I go crazy. Browse little [Unity Books](#) on High Street near Vulcan Lane and the amazing [Mag Nation](#) on Ponsonby Road.
- [Gibb's Farm](#)!!! This incredible sculpture park is a private property and opens once a month by prior arrangement. If you plan well ahead you can score a place in the visitor's list and enjoy superb art! It is one of those places that if you manage to get your name on the list you go ahead and book the trip!

## FAVORITE RESTAURANTS, CAFÉS &amp; BARS IN AUCKLAND

## In and around BRITOMART

[Amano](#) | my favorite, open all day long with in-cre-di-ble food and drinks !!!  
[Ortolana](#) | small and relaxed, voted one of the [world's 100 best by Monocle](#)  
[Federal Delicatessen](#) | NY-style deli to die for!  
[Culprit](#) | because it is such a cool concept!

Taco #3 Confit duck leg tortilla. Iceberg, peanut cracklin', hoisin soured cream, plum sauce.  
A post shared by Culprit. (@culprit.nz) on May 10, 2017 at 7:37pm PDT

[Meat Fish Wine](#) | more on the fancy side for a nice glass of wine and tapas  
[The Occidental](#) | down-to-earth Belgian restaurant with amazing *moules frites*  
[Housebar](#) | for a nice cocktail in cozy surroundings (fireplace in winter)  
[Cassia](#) | for amazing modern Indian food  
[Shaky Isles Coffee](#) | for that perfect flat white  
[The Jefferson](#) | sleek whiskey bar with tasty bites  
[Wine Chambers](#) | if you want to impress and be impressed

## In and around PONSONBY

[Sidard Restaurant](#) | for that high-end gastronomic extravaganza  
[Dizengoff](#) | the place for brunch on weekends  
[Prego](#) | because Italians are everywhere!!!  
[Mr Toms Kitchen and Bar](#) | a very happening corner place  
[Allpress Coffee](#) | try New Zealand's most famous coffee brand  
[Little Bird Organics & the Unbakery](#) | for feel-good food  
[Ponsonby Central](#) | a great food destination with plenty of choices  
[The Blue Breeze Inn](#) | South Pacific food at Ponsonby Central - try the pork buns

## In the OUTSKIRTS

[Deco Eatery](#) | a Turkish delight and a great stop on the way to or from Piha  
[Bestie Cafe](#) | where the Auckland hipsters meet for coffee

For more **up-to-date** Auckland information check these links:

[Paperboy](#)  
[Concrete Playground Auckland](#)  
[Wednesday Edition on Instagram](#)

## CABLE BAY VIEWS

**CATEGORIES:** Great Location, Hotels

**Visit Website:** <https://cablebayviews.co.nz/>

**Get Directions:** Curitiba, Brazil

[View this post on Instagram](#)

Oneroa beach this morning, we are on the right side of winter ? ??

A post shared by [Cable Bay Views \(@cablebayviews\)](#) on Aug 27, 2018 at 5:27pm PDT

## WHITTAKER'S CHOCOLATE

**CATEGORIES:** Coffee & Sweets

**Visit Website:** <https://www.whittakers.co.nz/>  
**Get Directions:** Curitiba, Brazil

[View this post on Instagram](#)

It's all fallen into place beautifully. Salted Maple Cashews in Creamy Milk chocolate.

A post shared by [\\_Whittaker's Chocolate Lovers \(@whittakersnz\)](#) on Mar 21, 2019 at 11:12am PDT

## THE DEPARTMENT STORE

**CATEGORIES:** Fashion & Accessories, Shopping

**Visit Website:** <http://thedepartmentofnews.com/>

**Get Directions:** Curitiba, Brazil

[View this post on Instagram](#)

STORE HOURS at #thedeptstore // Good Friday: Closed Saturday 20th April: 9am – 5pm  
Easter Sunday: Closed Easter Monday: 10am – 4pm ANZAC day: 1pm – 5pm  
A post shared by [The Department Store \(@thedeptstore\)](#) on Apr 17, 2019 at 5:33pm PDT

## VIADUCT HARBOUR

**CATEGORIES:** City Areas, Sights

**Visit Website:** <https://www.newzealand.com/int/article/viaduct-harbour/>

**Get Directions:** Curitiba, Brazil

[View this post on Instagram](#)

She's a cracker.

A post shared by [\\_Viaduct Harbour \(@viaductharbour\)](#) on Jul 2, 2018 at 9:31pm PDT

## UNITY BOOKS

**CATEGORIES:** Books & Magazines, Shopping

**Visit Website:** <http://unitybooks.nz/>

**Get Directions:** Curitiba, Brazil

[View this post on Instagram](#)

What's Auckland been reading this week? Well, here's our top 10! Also – thank you for all the 30th birthday wishes yesterday ?

A post shared by [Unity Books Auckland](#) (@unitybooksauckland) on Feb 20, 2019 at 3:49pm PST

## ORTOLANA

**CATEGORIES:** Eating, Nice Restaurants

**Visit Website:** <https://www.ortolana.co.nz/>

**Get Directions:** Curitiba, Brazil



[View this post on Instagram](#)

Whether inside or out, Ortolana sits under a blanket of lights – the interior sky hand-crafted by Monmouth Glass Studio. #Hipgrouplife #SeasonalProduce #OrtolanaNZ #BritomartNZ  
A post shared by [\\_Ortolana](#) (@ortolana\_) on Sep 11, 2018 at 4:01pm PDT

## AUCKLAND ART GALLERY

**CATEGORIES:** Arts & Culture, Galleries

**Visit Website:** <https://www.aucklandartgallery.com/>

**Get Directions:** Curitiba, Brazil

[View this post on Instagram](#)

CLOSING SOON: 'Groundswell: Avant-Garde Auckland 1971–79', until Sun 31 Mar.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Don't miss the final weeks of this #exhibition, which lets you rediscover a forgotten era of experimental art-making in the 1970s in #Auckland. For the first time in decades a group of artists from this era of experimentation are drawn together to reflect on the avant-garde of a previous generation. \_\_\_\_\_ Join us at @aucklandartgallery on the final weekend of 'Groundswell: Avant-Garde Auckland 1971–79' for a series of free performances and a panel discussion. For more information visit the events section on our website.  
#taketheradicalview #sculpture #aucklandartgallery #paneldiscussion #talks #performances #events

A post shared by [Auckland Art Gallery \(@aucklandartgallery\)](#) on Mar 19, 2019 at 2:00pm PDT

## AMANO

**CATEGORIES:** Casual Dining, Eating

**Visit Website:** <https://www.amano.nz/>

**Get Directions:** Curitiba, Brazil

[View this post on Instagram](#)

Our bakery celebrated its second birthday this week and what a fantastic couple of years it has been. Thank you to our incredible team and to everyone who has supported us!  
#amanonz #bakery #realbread

A post shared by [Amano \(@amano\\_nz\)](#) on May 26, 2018 at 6:27pm PDT

## HOTEL DEBRETT

**CATEGORIES:** Boutique, Hotels

**Visit Website:** <https://www.hoteldebrett.com/>

**Get Directions:** 2 hight street auckland new zealand

[View this post on Instagram](#)

We now have longer days which means DeBrett's Kitchen is basking with natural daylight through its glass roof ceiling. @tinyatlasquarterly #aucklandeats #hoteldebrett #aucklandrestaurants

A post shared by [Hotel DeBrett \(@hoteldebrett\)](#) on Oct 14, 2018 at 6:34pm PDT