



15 REASONS TO GO TO

AUOK



Drop anchor in
the City of Sails for
great food, fashion,
ancient culture
and modern art

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LAND



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Deep and meaningful

A city is just another city until its layers are revealed. Get beneath Auckland's surface with the lively, authentic Potiki Urban Maori Experience. Directors Melissa and Bianca, ABOVE, run high-end customised tours in either culture, art and outdoor, or adventure activities. Gain insight into Maori legends and traditions, and how these are incorporated into everyday city life. +64 9 845 5932, potikiadventures.com.

12 Thread connection

When New Zealand designers started out in and around High Street with just a few handcrafted clothes on the racks in the 1980s, they not only established their labels but a boutique shopping destination in the heart of the city. Many others followed and you can now shop here for some of the country's best designer threads, including Karen Walker, Zambesi, Mala Brajkovic, Kate Sylvester, Workshop, World, LEFT, and Untouched World.

13 Cop it suite

You can't get much closer to the harbour action than at the Hilton Auckland, a giant ocean-liner of a building on the Princes Wharf. This sleek hotel includes the appropriately named White restaurant, the Bellini Bar, 160 rooms and six suites, all with their own deck or balcony, and 35 apartments. If your budget will allow, go for the spectacular penthouse suite, BELOW, and its 180-degree views. Princes Wharf, 147 Quay St, +64 9 978 2016, hilton.co.nz.



14 Then and now

Auckland's War Memorial Museum, ABOVE, located in the city's oldest park, has the world's finest collection of Maori and Pacific artefacts and taonga (Maori treasures). Domain Dr, The Domain, +64 9 309 0443, aucklandmuseum.com. In contrast, Aveia Gallery displays contemporary Pacific art that explores cultural diversity and ethnic fusion. +64 9 307 2310, aveia.co.nz.

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Smooth landing

Waiheke Island, a favourite weekend getaway for many Aucklanders, is a seductive mix of unspoilt scenery, top-class wineries and surprisingly good restaurants. And though the island pace is wonderfully relaxed, there are also jet-set accommodation options. Check out Waiheke Landing, a beautiful, modern house perched on a steep hillside with its own private rocky cove, RIGHT. It sleeps eight in total comfort - you won't want to leave. 91 Great Barrier Rd, Waiheke Island, essencenz.com. VE+T