

The Hotel Britomart



Five Neighbourhoods

Your guide to our favourite
parts of Auckland



Our guide to five great Auckland Neighbourhoods

Here at The Hotel Britomart, we love our city, and we want you to enjoy all the best things Auckland has to offer while you're here.

We've put together this guide to help you find some of our favourite things downtown and in four fantastic neighbourhoods.

Steps through Myers Park, the green stretch that connects Queen Street with Karangahape Road.

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Waterfront

The city is finally embracing its beautiful harbour, with spectacular results. Take a walk through one of our favourite parts of town.

GETTING THERE

Walk – you're already almost on the waterfront, and these attractions are all west of the hotel (left as you're facing the water). There are also e-scooters everywhere, and The Hotel Britomart has its own bikes you can borrow.

WHAT TO DO & SEE

Just two blocks from The Hotel Britomart, **Commercial Bay** features more than 120 stores and eateries over three levels. There's too much available to detail it all here, but we particularly like the coffee at **Kōkako**, the sea view while we're wolfing down one of the creations at **Burger Burger**, and the modern Korean food at **Gochu**.

After all that food, you might like some art. **The Lighthouse** at the very end of Queens Wharf is a house-shaped sculpture by artist **Michael Parekōwhai** that comments on issues from the country's housing shortage to the impact of colonial exploration, all served with a big surprise inside. The view from the end of the wharf is great too.

More food: **Euro** (Shed 22, Princes Wharf) is a stalwart of the Auckland restaurant biz where old-school waiters can tell what you want before even you do. In Viaduct Harbour, **Soul Bar and Bistro** (Lower Hobson St and Customs St West), has a sunny, flower-filled terrace and views of yachts. Upstairs, **Dr Rudi's Rooftop Brewing Co** brews its beer on site and has plenty of spots from which to enjoy the sunshine.

Stroll across Te Wero Island and over the pedestrian bridge to North Wharf, one of the city's favourite promenades. Some of our favourite places to eat and drink include the **Auckland Fish Market** (22–32 Jellicoe St), a fresh food-court-style setup with something to suit most tastes. **Baduzzi** (10–26 Jellicoe St) is efficient, delicious and pleasingly carb-heavy. Nearby you'll find one of our favourite cafes, **Williams Eatery** (85 Daldy St), with pleasing Scandi design, friendly waitstaff, and elevated café classics. Leave space for some of the divine French baking at **La Petite Fourchette** (85 Daldy St), just a few doors down.

North Wharf is one of the city's favourite harbourside promenades, and full of good spots to pause, eat and drink.



Queen Street & Surrounds



High Street is the anchor of a charming network of laneways in the central city.

A guide to the highlights of the city's main street and the lovely laneways and other attractions that surround it.

GETTING THERE

The furthest point in this little section of our guide is 20 minutes' walk away, so staying on foot is probably easiest.

WHAT TO DO & SEE

Yes, it's a tourist trap, but the view is undeniably good from the **Sky Tower** (Victoria St West, the big pointy thing). Just beside the Sky Tower you'll find easy-going New Zealand fare at **Depot** (86 Federal St), and deli classics at next-door **Federal Delicatessen**. Just down the street, **Masu** (90 Federal St) makes superb Japanese food.

Across the other side of Queen St, **Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki** (Wellesley St East) offers a rich collection of art from many eras, with a strong recent focus on modern Māori and Pacific art. The building won World Building of the Year in 2013.

Behind the art gallery is Albert Park, a tranquil Victorian green space. From here, wander Princes St to admire architecture from the last century or so, including merchant houses from the late 1800s, the 1926 **Old Arts Building** by Roy Lippincott (22 Princes St), Gummer and Ford's lovely 1964 **Maclaurin Chapel** (18 Princes St), and **Old Government House**, the seat of power in colonial New Zealand from 1856-1865 before the capital moved to Wellington.

Back down the hill, High St anchors a charming network of lanes featuring **Unity Books** (19 High St), awarded best bookshop in the world at the 2020 London Book Fair, skincare brand **Aēsop** (35 High St), and the charming **Freyberg Place**, a public square beside the modernist Ellen Melville Centre.

High St's secretive coffee spots include **Eighthirty** (down the back of 35 High St) and **Chuffed** (down the back at 45 High St). Nearby **Mezze Bar** (9 Durham St East) is an all-day city institution worth dropping by at any time of day.

More food: try **O'Connell St Bistro** (3 O'Connell St), or all-day fare at **Hugo's Bistro** (67 Shortland St). For dinner, we love the food at **Culprit** (Level 1/12 Wyndham St), the Middle Eastern menu at **Ima** (53 Fort St) and the modern Indian cuisine at **Cassia** (5 Fort Lane).

Auckland is full of excellent, regionally specific Chinese joints. Check out **Sunnytown** (10-14 Lorne St) for savoury bao buns and congee; or Auckland's worst-kept secret, **Eden Noodles** (18-26 Wellesley St East).

Next Page: Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, designed by FJMT.



Ponsonby

Intimate in scale and full of surprises, this special strip has eating and shopping gems aplenty.

GETTING THERE

Rideshare will cost you about \$12. Bus — Catch the green Inner Link bus going west from Customs St East and hop off at either Three Lamps or Ponsonby Central. Walk — If you've got strong legs and a spare 45 minutes, it's more than possible to walk via College Hill. Bike — If you're cycling, take the protected path up Nelson St and over the Hopetoun St bridge to Ponsonby.

WHAT TO DO & SEE

Charming Western Park is made up of nearly eight acres of ambling pathways flanked by mature trees. **Objectspace Gallery** (13 Rose Rd) is a public gallery focused on craft, design and architecture. Otherwise, one of the best things to do is wander the length of Ponsonby Rd itself, a 1.7km strip of cafes, restaurants, bars and boutiques.

Ponsonby does a good line in small, design-oriented stores. We love **Everyday Needs'** (270 Ponsonby Rd) curated collection of homewares, the artisanal fragrances at **Curionoir** (74 Ponsonby Rd), and the beautiful objects from New Zealand and Japan at **Public Record** (76 Ponsonby Rd).

You can also pick up some threads from underwear specialist **Lonely** (7/130 Ponsonby Rd), fashion designers **Tanya Carlson** (120 Ponsonby Rd) or **Widdess** (143 Ponsonby Rd). There's also **The Women's Bookshop** (105 Ponsonby Rd), an indie store mixing local writing with international releases.

Get coffee from industry stalwarts **Allpress** (266 Ponsonby Rd) or a silky flat white at **Bambina** (268 Ponsonby Rd). There are fresh spins on a classic brunch at **Orphans Kitchen** (183 Ponsonby Rd), and a cluster of crowd-pleasing eateries at **Ponsonby Central** (cnr Richmond and Ponsonby Rds), including **Dante's Pizzeria**, **Burger Burger**, and **Ola's Arepas**. Along the road, the ramen is excellent at **Ramen Takara** (272 Ponsonby Rd), while Japanese cuisine fuses with Peruvian in inky, moody **Azabu** (26 Ponsonby Rd). Thai classics are done brilliantly in a beautiful room at **Saan** (160 Ponsonby Rd), while **Khu Khu Eatery** (171A Ponsonby Rd) is a little space doing excellent vegan Thai dishes. For dessert, **Duck Island Ice Cream** (1/182 Ponsonby Rd) does dairy and vegan ice creams that you won't forget.

A series of shops designed by RTA Studio on Ponsonby's Mackelvie Street.



Karangahape Road



St Kevin's Arcade is home to Bestie Café, Lovebucket's fried chicken, Lebanese food at Gemmayze Street, and excellent live music.

Named for the Māori tohunga Hape, who is reputed to have performed a karanga in this place after riding to Aotearoa on a stingray, Karangahape Road is a much-loved hub of food, drink and good times.

GETTING THERE

Bus — The red CityLink runs from the bottom of Queen St up to Karangahape Rd. **Walk** — Either stroll all the way up Queen St, or divert at Mayoral Drive through leafy Myers Park. **Bike** — The hill is steep! But there is a protected cycleway up Nelson St – if you take Te Ara i Whiti, the pink cycle path from there, it's just a quick diversion left at the end of it to Karangahape Rd.

Rideshare will cost you about 8 dollars.

WHAT TO DO & SEE

If you're keen on looking at art, start at **Artspace Aotearoa** (292 Karangahape Rd), a public gallery focused on emerging artists; just upstairs, **Tautai** (Level 1, 300 Karangahape Rd) shows the work of Pacific artists. Check out the dealer galleries: **Michael Lett** (312 Karangahape Rd, entrance on East St); **Ivan Anthony**, (upstairs at 312C Karangahape Rd, entrance on East St), **Melanie Roger Gallery**, (444 Karangahape Rd), and **Mokopōpaki**, (454 Karangahape Rd).

Visit coffee experts Albert Yen and Josh Harvey at **Daily Daily** (452 Karangahape Rd); **Bestie** (St Kevin's Arcade, 183 Karangahape Rd) is a café in a beautiful arcade with views over sun-drenched Myers Park. And **Fort Greene** (327 Karangahape Rd) does coffee, sourdough and sublime sandwiches.

Fashion-forward op-shoppers should check out **Lost and Led Astray's** (482 Karangahape Rd) curated collection in sizes 12-24 and **Crushes'** (225 Karangahape Rd) kitschy knick-knacks and vintage clothes. **Strange Goods** (281 Karangahape Rd) have great books and ephemera, and humble braggers can rejoice at the vinyl selection at **Flying Out Records** (80 Pitt St).

A good place to ease into the evening: **Madame George** (490 Karangahape Rd) offers cocktails including our favourite pisco sours. **Cotto** (375 Karangahape Rd) has a fabulous pasta-focused menu, and Italian flavours also dominate across the road at **Coco's Cantina** (376 Karangahape Rd). **Apero** (280 Karangahape Rd), is an intimate wine bar, and low-fi **Celeste** (146b Karangahape Rd) does excellent wine and food. Try your luck for a place at **Clay's** (366 Karangahape Rd) long wooden table for wine and a sourdough pizza. Or visit **Gemmayze Street** (St Kevin's Arcade, 183 Karangahape Rd) for its impeccable Lebanese fare.

Karangahape Rd is also Auckland's live music epicentre thanks to **Whammy Bar** and neighbouring **Wine Cellar** (St Kevin's Arcade, 183 Karangahape Rd). Check their Facebook pages for gig details.

Devonport

Sleepy Devonport – famously the one-time stomping ground of New Zealand music icon Lorde – is known for its scenic seaside charm and naval history.

GETTING THERE

Nab a seat on the passenger ferry. It runs from the ferry terminal at the bottom of Queen St between downtown Auckland and Devonport roughly every hour during the week, and slightly less frequently on the weekends and public holidays. You can whip over the Auckland Harbour Bridge on a bus. Any of the following will get you there: 13, 815, 779, 803 or 804. All run frequently.

WHAT TO DO & SEE

Introduce yourself to the military history of North Head at Maungauika (North Head Historic Reserve), a now-disused defence base. To walk from one end to the other will take roughly an hour. You'll arrive near **Torpedo Bay Navy Museum** (64 King Edward Parade), which collects and preserves New Zealand Navy memorabilia, weaponry and other historically significant artifacts. There's also the **Devonport Museum** (33 Vauxhall Rd),

which specialises in artefacts pertaining to the history of Devonport. Catch a glimpse back towards the central city from the top of **Takarunga/Mt Victoria** (off Victoria Rd), a leisurely – albeit steep – walk from Kerr St. Dating back to 1912, the **Vic Theatre** (48 Victoria Rd) is a lovely art deco building and worth a stop if only to admire the refurbished white stone façade. There are blockbuster and independent films to see too, if the mood strikes.

Stop for coffee and lunch at **Lily Eatery** (12 Wynyard St), try the all-day offerings at **Vondel** (8 Victoria Rd), enjoy an ice cream from **Cheltenham Milk Bar** (64 Vauxhall Rd) or an afternoon beer at **Tiny Triumphs** (5 Clarence St). For dinner, try rustic Mediterranean fare at **Vic Road Kitchen** (57-59 Victoria Rd), or fish and chips (and more) from **Fish Kitchen** (1/1 Queens Pd).

A view of the city skyline from Devonport's harbourside promenade, King Edward Parade.



Looking across the
Waitematā Harbour
towards Rangitoto
from Devonport's
Maungauika.



4:0 Waiheke Island



Island Gelato's iced treats rival the vineyards as one of Waiheke Island's most popular attractions.

Not so much a suburb but an idyllic island escape, Waiheke Island is worth a whole day of your time (or more if you can spare it). Just a 40-minute ferry ride from downtown, it's known for its friendly locals, secluded beaches and, perhaps most importantly, wine.

GETTING THERE

There's something special about riding on the top deck of the ferry to Waiheke Island. It leaves from the Downtown Ferry Terminal – you can find the full timetable at fullers.co.nz. Or you can treat yourself to a chartered helicopter if you're feeling especially flush – check out the options at inflightexperiences.co.nz. Waiheke Island is big, so it's important to think through your transport options when you're there, whether it's hiring a car, scooter or taking a bicycle, or using the local bus system.

WHAT TO DO & SEE

You'd be hard-pressed to have a conversation about Waiheke Island in Auckland without someone uttering the word "wine." The island is big – 92 square kilometres – and peppered with vineyards. At the far (eastern) end of the island, **Man O War** (725 Man O War Rd) does great wine and is the prettiest place on the entire island for a picnic lunch. **Hay Paddock** (1 Gordons Rd) does the most elegant syrah, while **Kennedy Point Vineyard** (44 Donald Bruce Rd, Surfdale) is Waiheke's only certified organic vineyard, and serves local Te Matuku oysters by the dozen. **Tantalus Estate** (70-72 Onetangi Rd, Onetangi) features some lovely Rhone Valley varietals. Hidden in plain sight below it is **Alibi Brewers Lounge**, the Estate's brewery and speakeasy bar.

If the weather's good, we suggest you intersperse your drinking with a visit to the beach. Waiheke has plenty of unforgettable strips of sand, including safe and easy swimming in the wide-open spaces of **Onetangi**, or a slightly more intimate seascape at **Palm Beach** and neighbouring **Little Palm** (Little Palm is clothing-optional). There's also lovely **Sandy Bay**, which has some shady spots under the gnarled Pohutukawa trees.

There are also plenty of good places to eat. Position yourself amongst the olive grove at **Casita Miro** (3 Brown Rd, Onetangi), or take a pew in the dining room overlooking the sea at **Three Seven Two** (21 The Strand, Onetangi), with its seasonally driven menu. Auckland chef Josh Emmett recently took over **The Oyster Inn** (124 Oceanview Rd, Oneroa) and devised a menu worth celebrating.

Then, there are the countless food trucks that patrol the place looking for hungry punters. One of the first, now semi-permanent, is **Dragonfired Pizza** (1 Goodwin Ave, Oneroa) overlooking Palm Beach. For a sweet treat, only the fanciest flavours make the cut at **Island Gelato** (124 Oceanview Rd, Oneroa).

5:1

5:2

Parnell & Newmarket



Out the back of Parnell's Holy Trinity Cathedral is the Bishop Selwyn Chapel, designed by Fearon Hay Architects.

Parnell and Newmarket have gone through something of a rebirth in recent years, emerging as high-end shopping and eating destinations happily divided by the lavish greenery of the Auckland Domain.

GETTING THERE

Eastbound green Link buses depart every 15 minutes or so from Customs St East, just a block from the hotel. And trains from Britomart Transport Centre go direct to Newmarket Station. Rideshare will be around \$15. Cycle on the bike path that runs adjacent to the harbour as far as the port and then up Gladstone Rd to Parnell.

WHAT TO DO AND SEE

Tāmaki Paenga Hira/The Auckland Museum (Auckland Domain) is a majestic building with a host of treasures inside – an essential stop on any Auckland itinerary. Nearby, it's almost compulsory to visit the Victorian splendour of the **Winter Gardens**. If the weather's good, we recommend the cruise-ship stylings of the delightfully modernist **Parnell Baths** (25 Judges Bay Rd), a set of outdoor salt-water pools that appear to float on the harbour.

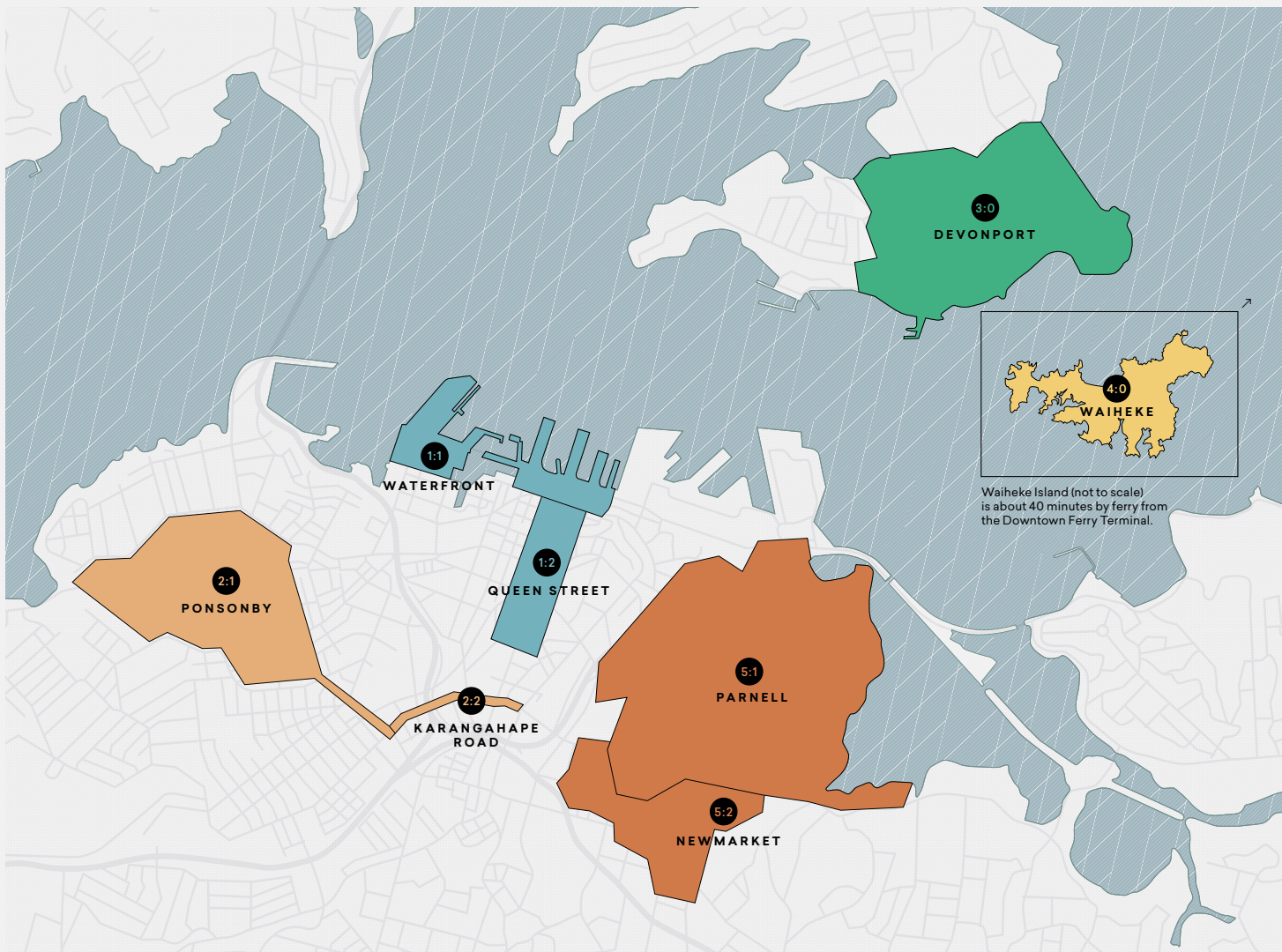
Parnell Rd still has its cottage-like charms, but the real retail action has shifted to Newmarket, where stores like **Muse Boutique** (11b Teed St) will keep you looking effortlessly stylish, as will **Twenty-Seven Names** (Osbourne Lane), a New Zealand design house with a reputation for distinctive prints and contemporary style. There's also **Kowtow** (6 York St) who specialise in environmentally and socially conscious clothing. For

nice homewares and a small selection of fashion, go no further than **Simon James Concept Store** (2 Kent St).

There's a whole range of eateries atop the **Westfield** mall (277 Broadway), the best of which is Nic Watt's fusion joint **Inca**. Foodies in the know tend to head for the cheap and cheerful Malaysian flavours of **Selera** (487 Khyber Pass Rd) for a perfect bowl of laksa – or, if they're aiming higher, the excellent bistro fare at **Cibo** (91 St Georges Bay Rd). If you're over this way in the daytime, it's worth visiting the cluster of shops and eateries down the hill in Faraday St, including **Red Rabbit Coffee Co** (7 Faraday St) and **Simon + Lee** (115 St Georges Bay Rd), which blends café classics with Korean cuisine. But if you eat at only one restaurant in this part of town, it should be **Pasture** (235 Parnell Rd), an experimental six-seater serving a mind-bending, seasonally dictated degustation menu.



Newmarket's Westfield Mall has plenty of shopping, and restaurants on its roof.





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