

AUCKLAND

Auckland is New Zealand's cosmopolitan centre – it's the world's largest Polynesian city, with a large inner city Asian community. But the big attraction is the sea – nowhere is more than 30 minutes from somewhere sandy and gorgeous, and your weekends will be filled with sailing, kayaking, or taking the ferry across to Waiheke Island to drink some of the country's finest wines. In the spring Auckland smells of jasmine and your garden will have a banana tree and a hot pink bougainvillea that will make you feel like you're in a tropical paradise. For the most part the weather is great – try not to move to Auckland in October; the month of rain will have you on the next plane home.

The best thing about Auckland? A firm commitment to work-life balance. You'll work hard in the office, but you'll find a good chunk of your colleagues sneaking off early for mid-week sailing races or to beat the traffic out of town on a Friday afternoon.

Where shall I live?

Transport is everything in Auckland – check the location of motorways and railway lines before choosing your spot. You'll need a car. Famously good leafy suburbs include Mt Eden, Ponsonby, and Parnell – pick the near neighbours: Kingsland, Grey Lynn and Newmarket for a more low-cost option. You could live on the North Shore but given that you'd spend your life in a traffic jam, we counsel against it.

How much will it cost for essentials?

A latte - NZ\$3.50

A glass of wine - NZ\$8.00

A movie NZ - \$14.00

A 2 bedroom apartment NZ - \$300-400 per week

Useful links...

www.auckland.co.nz

<http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/auckland/introduction/welcome/default.asp>

<http://www.expatsfocus.com/expatriate-new-zealand>

To convert your currency:

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

