

## **GP Auckland Travel Guide**

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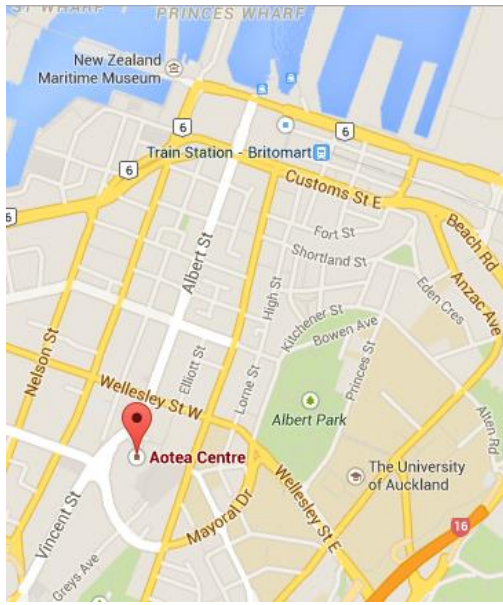
### **Intro:**

Welcome to Auckland, the City of Sails! Located on a unique geological isthmus, the city is New Zealand's largest and most populous city. We hope that this travel guide will be a helpful tool to learn more about this vibrant and multicultural city.

### **Venue:**



The Grand Prix itself will be located in the Aotea Centre, right in the heart of Auckland's CBD.



It is easily accessed from all bus/train/ferry routes, and a 10 minute walk from Britomart - the main transport station in Auckland.

The judge conference will be held in the Pioneer's Women hall, also located in the CBD.



It is located just off High Street, on the corner of Courthouse Lane and Chancery street. It isn't hard to miss if you walk down along High Street.



From High Street, you will be able to see the courtyard and the Pumpkin Patch. Above it is the Pioneer Women's hall. The above picture is a view from Chancery street facing High Street.

### **Getting to the venue**

#### From the airport:

The most convenient and cheapest option is to take the airport bus from the international or domestic terminals and stop at the Auckland Town Hall. For the conference, you can get off at the bus stop by the CTS house at 175 Queen street. You can find more information about the airbus on <http://www.airbus.co.nz/> - Fares are \$16 one way from the airport to town.

#### From around town:

Generally, all forms stop at various points in the central city which will be within a 10 minute walk radius of the GP Venue. You can find detailed trip planners on <https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/> - just enter Aotea Square as your final destination (the centre is right besides the public square).

#### If you prefer driving:

There are several motorway exits you can take to drive into the central CBD. Depending on which direction you come into town from, you can take exits at Fanshawe street, Cook street, Symonds street or Wellesley street. The Civic car park (<https://at.govt.nz/driving-parking/parking-in-auckland/civic-car-park/>) is the recommended car park due to proximity to the event venue.

## **General info:**

New Zealand has a time zone of GMT +12, making it one of the first countries to see the sun rise each day.

In March, the temperature in Auckland generally fluctuates between 15-22C from the morning to evening. The weather is generally fine, although Auckland could have some pretty unpredictable weather patterns, with a day easily alternating between sunshine and downpours of rain.

Traffic in Auckland could easily become heavy during peak hours (7-10am and 4-7pm) so it is advised that you do not travel on the motorway or main roads during these hours.

Emergency number (for fire, police and ambulance): 111

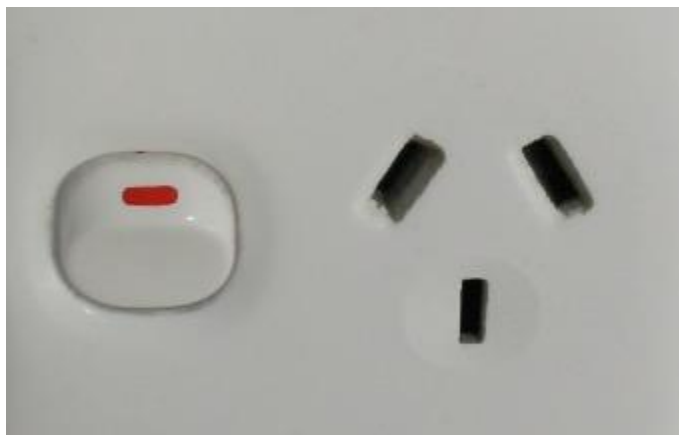
## Currency

The New Zealand Dollar (NZD) is the accepted form of currency in New Zealand. At time of writing, \$1 NZD ~ \$0.75 USD. The currency comes in 10c, 20c, 50c, \$1, \$2 coins, and \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 note denominations.

New Zealand was one of the first countries to adopt electronic cash transactions, commonly termed EFTPOS (known as debit cards). You will be able to easily use credit cards at most establishments and stores, but do note that some smaller establishments may not accept credit cards as a form of electronic transaction as the fees involved are quite higher than EFTPOS transactions.

## Power

New Zealand uses 240V 60Hz AC power shown below.



## Mobile plans

Country code: +64

There are 3 main cellular providers in New Zealand. All of them offers some sort of prepaid travel SIM package in New Zealand. All three providers have stores in the central city and the airport for you to purchase a travel package.

Vodafone: <http://www.vodafone.co.nz/travel-sim/> (\$49NZD for 2GB data, 120 minutes, and 200 texts to a selected list of countries).

2degrees: <http://www.2degreesmobile.co.nz/nzvisitorsim> (free SIM card with 5 Free international minutes, plus various call rates to selected international destinations).

Spark: [http://help.spark.co.nz/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/27734](http://help.spark.co.nz/app/answers/detail/a_id/27734) (Buy a SIM card for \$5NZD, then choose one of their prepaid plans).

## **Transport options around Auckland**

If you are taking public transport, it is advisable that you buy an AT Hop card (<https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/at-hop-card/>) To make your journies faster and cheaper.

### Public transport:

There is a network of buses, trains and ferries connecting different areas of Auckland. The AT Hop card allows you to transfer between these services. Fares start from \$1.90NZD - use the journey planner found at <https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/journey-planner/> to plan your trip. There has been an effort to upgrade buses in Auckland, but some buses will be older and the comfort level will vary depending on which bus you end up taking.

Peak hours (7-9am, 4-6pm) may mean that your bus will be very full and you may be required to stand for most of your journey.

### Sightseeing bus:

There is a tourist bus that travels between major attractions in Central Auckland - see <http://www.explorerbus.co.nz/> for more details.

### Taxis:

Taxis are generally expensive in Auckland, so it is not recommended that you use taxis unless you need one in an emergency.

## Things to do:

Sky Tower (\$28) <https://www.skycityauckland.co.nz/attractions/sky-tower/>



On the pricier side as far as attractions go, the Sky Tower dominates the Auckland skyline. As to be expected, it offers stunning views of Auckland and it's surrounding environs. It is also the highest building in the Southern Hemisphere. For the more adventurous, try doing a bungee jump off the Skytower for \$225 - [www.skyjump.co.nz](http://www.skyjump.co.nz) .

Auckland Zoo (\$28) <http://www.aucklandzoo.co.nz> and MOTAT (\$16) <http://www.motat.org.nz/>



Filled with lots of animals, including the rare Tuatara and Kiwi. A good place to go if you have a whole day to spend. The native birds area is highly recommended as New Zealand is filled with Endemic avian.

If you fancy something more mechanical, pop by MOTAT, right next the zoo to enjoy a few hours tinkering with machines and vehicles!

Auckland Museum (\$25) <http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/>



Full of many interesting exhibits, the Museum is an excellent place to visit if you have any interest in New Zealand's history, or our native people, the Maori. There are often special exhibitions, so do check the website for more details.

Auckland Art Gallery (Free) <http://www.aucklandartgallery.com>



Full of a wide variety of art, an excellent way to pass a few hours, especially since it's only a few minutes walk from the GP venue. The gallery had a makeover just a few years ago, so take some time to enjoy the architectural design that went into it.

Kelly Tarlton's Sealife Aquarium (\$39) <http://www.kellytarltons.co.nz/>



One of Auckland's more unique attractions, highly recommend this to anyone with some extra time in the city. Full of penguins and sharks, a good time for all. One of the most popular tourist attractions - for good reason!

**Food (from cheap to expensive):**

Japanese Dining You (\$5-10) - The Strand Arcade, 223 Queen Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland



One of the cheapest places you can find for a quick meal. The store specializes in curry, with a serving starting at \$5 (with the option to upsize and/or buy sides).



Kiraku Japanese Restaurant (\$10-15) - Mid City, Elliot Street, Auckland CBD, Auckland



Disclaimer: the store is tiny. Known for their gyoza (fried dumplings). Either have them by themselves or grab a bowl of ramen alongside.

Nol Bu Ne Korean Restaurant (\$10-20) - level 2, 10 Wellesley Street East, Auckland 1010



One of the best Korean places to go to in town. They also offer very generous portions, and do try the yoghurt flavoured sochu (alcoholic drink).

Kura/Tanuki/Tanuki's cave (\$20-25) - 315 Queen St, Auckland



These restaurants belong to the same management arm, and specialise in Japanese food. Perfect place to drop in for a drink or two after a long day of judging. Note that Tanuki is closed on Mondays. -[www.sakebars.co.nz](http://www.sakebars.co.nz)

Monsoon Poon (\$25-30) - Lower Hobson St, Auckland 1010



This restaurant specialises in SE Asian food, with a unique interior decoration. Definitely a place to check out. -<http://www.monsoonpoon.co.nz/>

The Occidental (\$20-30) - 6/8 Vulcan Ln, Auckland, 1010 ph 300-6226



One of the best bars to visit in Auckland City. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that you book ahead as the place is almost always packed.

Elliot Stables (\$20-\$50) - 41 Elliot St, Auckland CBD



“Auckland’s best kept dining secret”. The place is home to a variety of food offerings from around the world. Take a seat at one of the numbered tables, find a restaurant you like, and tell them your table number when you make an order. -[www.elliottstables.co.nz/](http://www.elliottstables.co.nz/)

I highly recommend Bonz Cajun Kitchen (lemonade, jerk chicken, best ribs in town) and Ela Cuisine (Fish curry).

Federal Delicatessen (\$30-50) - 86 Federal Street, Auckland



Plenty of NYC style dishes for a large group to share around. Also does lovely poutine. - <http://www.thefed.co.nz/>

Viaduct Harbour Restaurant Area - <http://viaduct.co.nz/dining-out/>

The viaduct area is another vibrant area in the CBD. There are too many restaurants around the area to list, although some restaurants can get really expensive, require bookings and/or have formal dress requirements.

**Card stores in Auckland**

Auckland is home to many, many card stores, most of them at WPN Advanced status or higher. Feel free to drop by one if you need to sling some cardboard.

King of Cards - Queen's Arcade, The Basement, 34 Queen Street, Auckland 1010

One of the original card stores in Auckland. The store is mainly focused on MTG, with some board/tabletop games on the side. Very focused on the casual/EDH playerbase. Seats ~50  
Vagabonds Chancery - 40 Courthouse Lane, Auckland, 1010

Another card store situated in the CBD, and right next to the Judge Conference location. Store does not focus as much on singles, but have a wide range of general things such as board/videogames and anime. Seats ~30

Hobbymaster Ellerslie - Level 2, 321E Great South Road, Ellerslie, Auckland

Recently opened last December, the store can comfortably seat 100+ and also carries a range of hobby-related items from MTG to Yu-Gi-Oh, board-tabletop games and anime merchandise. Probably has one of the most well-stocked range of singles in the area.

Hobbymaster Takapuna - Shop 5, 529 Lake Road, Takapuna, Auckland

The original Hobbymaster store (ex. Vagabonds Takapuna), located just around the corner from the bus station. Much smaller in scale (seats 35-40), and carries a similar range of items as the Ellerslie store.

Redzeed - Shop 4, 453 Lake Road, Takapuna, Auckland (Behind DickSmiths in the alley off Byron ave)

The other store in Takapuna, much bigger (seats 60-70) but harder to find. Carries mainly Magic with a range of other card/board games.

Baydragon Botany - Unit 41, 277 Te Irirangi Dr Flat Bush 2016 (Botany Junction)

A large, spacious card store in East Auckland that can seat ~100 players. Stock is a bit more limited compared to the other stores, but one of the better stores to play at as it has good access to food and natural lighting.

FTW games - 3131A Great North Road, New Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand

More of a space that is opened up to the general public than a fully functioning store, hosting a variety of events. Generally open in evenings and Saturdays. Call 021 0580069 to confirm whether they are open.

**Further questions? Feel free to contact**

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