

auckland by day

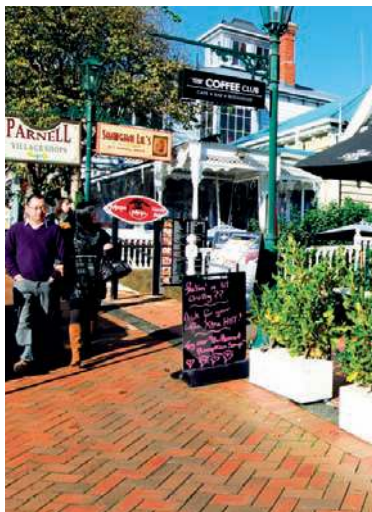
Imogen Rose recommends a quick break in the sunshine in the largest city on New Zealand's North Island



SEE THE SUBURBS: 9AM

Catch the city LINK bus to Parnell, Auckland's oldest suburb, which is distinguished by parks and heritage buildings, and take a stroll through Parnell Rose Gardens. In addition to magnificent roses, the park is home to the oldest manuka tree and the largest pohutukawa tree in Auckland. Along Parnell Road, cool boutiques occupy renovated colonial villas: it's a great place to purchase locally made fashion and gifts.

GO! To find out more about Parnell, go to parnell.net.nz



OUT FOR LUNCH: NOON

There's a wealth of cafés and restaurants in Parnell. Save room for dessert at the Chocolate Boutique Café, which offers over 100 gourmet chocs. Or refresh your palate at Casa Del Gelato, with over 20 ice cream and gelato flavours.

GO! Parnell Chocolate Boutique Café, 323 Parnell Rd;
Casa Del Gelato, 279 Parnell Rd

HEAD TO THE HARBOUR: 2PM

The city LINK will take you from Parnell to Viaduct Harbour, the starting point for adventures such as the Whale and Dolphin Safari cruise. This experience shows off Hauraki Gulf, one of the most biologically diverse marine parks in the world. Over 25 of the southern hemisphere's 37 marine mammals have been identified here. During summer months you are likely to see whales on their migration to the Antarctic.

GO! Auckland Whale and Dolphin Safari, Viaduct Harbour. \$160 per adult; \$105 per child; explorenz.co.nz/Whale-Dolphin-Safari



hot tip!

Auckland Airbus operates airport transfers from the city and Auckland Airport 24 hours a day. Adult passes are \$16 one way or \$28 return; children aged between 5 and 15 travel for \$6 one way or \$12 return. Family passes also available; airbus.co.nz

where to stay

The Heritage Hotel

One of Auckland's most historic landmark buildings, The Heritage Hotel was originally occupied by Farmers department store which, when it opened in 1921, was the largest store in the country. Today the original hardwood floors creak atmospherically, and the splendid art-deco Grand Tearoom is a reminder of its past glory. Curiously, an Australian sulphur-crested cockatoo named Hector was



a popular resident guest at Farmers for over 40 years. The hotel's innovative Raw Bar features dishes using locally grown fresh produce. Book here: heritagehotels.co.nz

coming soon

Think about planning a trip to Auckland in February, when the city hosts the following exciting events:

8 February:

KĀWHIA KAI FESTIVAL

A unique opportunity to experience Māori food and traditions – along with spectacularly fresh, flavoursome food – at this internationally acclaimed event with a lively, welcoming atmosphere; hawhiakafestival.co.nz

13–16 February:

AUCKLAND LANTERN FESTIVAL

See colourful lanterns illuminate Albert Park while catching performances and sampling traditional Chinese food; aucklandnz.com/lantern

15 & 16 February:

NRL AUCKLAND NINES

New Zealand's biggest summer event – a two-day, nine-a-side knockout tournament showcasing the world's greatest rugby league talent live in Auckland; premier.ticketek.co.nz



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