

# NEW ZEALAND



*The Glass House on Waiheke Island is a small design hotel with exterior walls of glass and only three rooms*

## ADVENTURE ISLAND

New Zealand is green. In the minds of its politicians and its citizens, as well in nature. The clean image of the archipelago, located south-east of Australia, is one of the major fascinations for holidaymakers to this destination. The air is pure, the forests are sound, and if you will follow the cable behind the socket it will never lead you to an atomic power plant in New Zealand.

The few inhabitants would be hard put to pollute New Zealand in any considerable way. Four million citizens share a total area of more than 100,000 square miles (270,000 square kilometres). If all 3.5 million inhabitants of Berlin would move into a deserted Italy, this would result in a similar population density. It is, however, doubtful if the Berliners would take such good care of their country as the New Zealanders do.

The inhabitants of the former British crown

colony regard the country as their property. Many of them even possess a spot of the country. The holiday house is an essential part of the New Zealand soul. Some of them give evidence to long traditions, but most of them are definitely modern, many are even stylish. It does not take much to spend summer holidays in nature: one roof, four walls, and as big a terrace as possible. The architectural realisation is accordingly minimalistic. Pure designs with big glass surfaces and a modern

interior, contrast with the green harmony beyond the front door perfectly.

Two outstanding examples for New Zealand's modern weekend design are open to holidaymakers and are explicitly gay friendly. The "Bay of Many Coves Resort" is located in the isolated Picton Sound. It only can be reached by waterway or a hiking tour. You ferry over from the North Island to the South Island, and then take a water taxi almost to the front door of your private holiday house.

The huge glass walls of the houses can be completely folded away. Wooden walls seem to be massive, but are made of slats that can be opened, thus making you feel like you are living in an open tent or on a bed in nature with a view to the waters of Picton Sound.

[BAYOFMANYCOVESRESORT.CO.NZ](http://BAYOFMANYCOVESRESORT.CO.NZ)

On Waiheke Island, a recreation area in the vicinity of Auckland, you can find the second design object: the Glass House. This former privately held property is located on a steep mountain ridge and offers a spectacular view of New Zealand's biggest metropolis across a narrow waterway. Today the property is a hotel with just three rooms. No more than six guests have the chance to share the large pool, where the terrain slopes vertically into the deep on three sides.

The rooms have magnificent views as well. The name does not promise too much: practically all outside walls of the house are made of glass and one has a stunning view of the island from almost any place within the house.

The ferry takes you to Auckland's inner city port in about half an hour. There is no commute during the night. If you miss the last ferry, you are probably already captivated by the Auckland nightlife. If so, just go with the tide and take the first ferry in the morning to arrive at the Glass House just in time for breakfast that is personally prepared by your host. Breakfast is the ideal time to chat with him about last night scene events.

[THEGLASSHOUSE.CO.NZ](http://THEGLASSHOUSE.CO.NZ) | [GOTOWAIHEKE.CO.NZ](http://GOTOWAIHEKE.CO.NZ)



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\$ 7.04  
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## AUCKLAND | 24 HOURS

### INFO

09:30 a.m.

Breakfast at the **SPQR**: start the day with nice waiters and a flirt – and watch the bustling activities in Auckland's scene street; 150 Ponsonby Road.

11:00 a.m.

How far are you from home? Let the signpost tell you, located on the lookout of the **SKYTOWER**, the television tower that resembles a food processor; [SKYTOWER.CO.NZ](http://SKYTOWER.CO.NZ).

02:00 p.m.

Sightseeing tour for NZD 1.30 (€0.50 / \$0.90). **THE LINK** offers a low-price trip around the town on public transport, through central Auckland, and along all the sights of the city.

05:30 p.m.

Choose some reading material for your holidays at the **OUT!** The gay bookshop is located just under the somewhat run-down Westside Sauna; 39 Anzac Avenue.

07:00 p.m.

Have a light dinner at the **POMA THAI**, the Thai food meeting place of the scene; 107 Ponsonby Road.

09:00 p.m.

Man hunting on the two storeys of the **CENTURIAN**, Auckland's most favoured sauna; 18 Beresford Square, [CENTURIANSAUNA.CO.NZ](http://CENTURIANSAUNA.CO.NZ).

11:00 p.m.

At the **HYDRANT** the long nights of the weekend begin; 1 Williamson Ave. If you have flirted with the object of your desire, you will almost surely see it again at the Flesh.

00:30 a.m.

Party at the **FLESH**; 15–17 O'Connell Street.

The current programme is published in the "express," New Zealand's gay scene magazine; [GAYEXPRESS.CO.NZ](http://GAYEXPRESS.CO.NZ).

02:00 a.m.

Not yet made a find? At the **CRUISE CLUB LATESHIFT**, you get another four hours of successful hunting time on the weekends; 25 Dundonald Street.





Auckland's centre is an inspired example for the successful bonding of modern town planning, high-rise building architecture, and urbanity. In New Zealand's secret capital nobody has to be afraid of deserted business districts in the evenings. In the ground levels of skyscrapers shopping malls are located, and between glass façades you will find historic buildings with small cafés or restaurants. In the small alleys nightlife is going wild every night, thanks to Auckland's young party scene and numerous tourists. They all live in nearby hotels and hostels within walking distance.

**"A VILLAIN IS WHO THINKS BAD ABOUT IT"**

The gay scene of Auckland has now left the centre around the television tower for the most part. It is now located at Ponsonby. The adjacent district has almost become synonymous for gay lifestyle. "A villain is who thinks bad about it" says a French inscription with golden letters on the district's town hall – as if the city founders had had a premonition ... A trip to Ponsonby is worthwhile even before the evening hours. Through narrow side streets with picturesque timber houses, again and again spectacular views open onto Auckland Harbour Bridge on one side and

onto the modern centre on the other. Ponsonby is located on a mountain ridge between. On the open-minded side of the globe the gay scene does not hide away. Since 2005, homo-marriage has had a legal basis. A clear majority of the parliament in New Zealand's capital Wellington voted in favour of the country's social realities and put the so-called Civil Unions into force. These registered partnerships do not discriminate between heterosexual or homosexual couples – to a large extent they extend the same rights as those granted by marriage. Polls showed that about two thirds of the New Zealanders support the law. **AUCKLANDNZ.COM**



**ICE-BREAKER**  
In New Zealand they say, "If you don't like the weather, just wait five minutes." Carping tourists can be calmed down with this saying, at least for a short time. The weather, however, makes demands for suitable outdoor equipment. "Icebreaker" uses Merino wool exclusively for its products. This natural product insulates even when it is wet, and it hardly takes on smells, even after days of wearing. **ICEBREAKER.COM**



**LIVING NATURE**  
120 local organic plants, grown in the wild, comprise the skin care products by Living Nature that claim to be as close to Nature as New Zealand is. Convince yourself of the quality at the Hyatt Regency Spa or at Living Nature on the Internet at **LIVINGNATURE.COM | AUCKLAND.HYATT.COM**

**KIWI-SONGS**  
They say there is no New Zealander who could not perform the Maori war dance. Traditional music plays an astonishingly big role on both islands. 17 years young singer Hayley Westenra has one of the most powerful voices of New Zealand. On her CD "Pure" one can hear traditional Maori music as well as pieces from Antonio Vivaldi or Kate Bush. **UMUSIC.COM**



**FEAR OF DEATH FOR AS LOW AS £35 (\$60)**  
Hands, damp with sweat – breath, flat and fast: nowhere else in the world one can spend more money for just a few minutes of the fear of death. In New Zealand's Queenstown located on the south-western end of the South Island, is an adventure metropolis that has built up quite a reputation. Rafting, speed-boat tours, mountaineering, climbing, and of course bungee jumping. The first commercial jumping station in the world is just a few minutes by car from the city. Every day, up to 150 daring persons hurl themselves off the historic suspension bridge, which dates from the times of the gold rush, and drop down as far as 140 feet (43 metres). A bath towel, tightly wrapped around the legs, and a belt fastened with Velcro is all that is needed to bind the jumper to the elastic cord. Though one also has to climb into a sort of safety belt. "Unnecessary, actually," states the staff before giving the sign for the jump. "But it's good for the subjective feeling of safety."

Queenstown is also where you can book the deepest bungee jump on Earth. A cable railway takes the audacious jumper high above a ravine, and then jump down, head first, 440 feet (134 metres). **AJHACKETT.COM | QUEENSTOWN-NZ.CO.NZ**

**COLD SWEAT INCLUDED**  
After the bungee jump, one might have to change T-shirts if one chooses to be dipped into the water. After a trip on the only climb path on the southern hemisphere, the T-shirt is wet too – from all the strain, or from fear, if the adventure brought about a little bit of vertigo. Unlike the paths in Europe, this path is located on private property. Thus, there are no large crowds. Twelve cliffs, 1,300 feet in altitude (400 metres), 1,000 rungs, and 1,600 feet of cable (500 metres) are at the hikers' disposal. Climbing on this vertical wall and having a fantastic view over Queenstown is a welcome change for holidaymakers who seek an adventure with physical workout. **VIAFERRATA.CO.NZ**

**SKY JUMP**  
Auckland's most famous symbol, the television tower, lures you not only with its panoramic views with a ride into lofty heights. Adventure newbies can train fighting their vertigo on the glass floor. Advanced adventurers leap from the sun deck 630 feet (192 metres) into the deep. This is not a classic bungee jump. The rope that holds you is being let out from a winch and stops you softly at the end of your fall. Nevertheless the effort is the same as with jump on a rubber cord, which naturally can also be booked in Auckland. It is 130 feet (40 metres) from the platform underneath Auckland Harbour Bridge until you hit the water. This adventurous use of the bridge was inspired by Sydney – but the Aucklanders would never admit it. **SKYTOWER.CO.NZ | AJHACKETT.COM**



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