

Moving to Auckland

New Zealand's cosmopolitan city offers plenty of attractive work and lifestyle opportunities for potential migrants, writes **Mary O'Brien**

Auckland is ranked fourth in the world for liveability and with only 1.5 million people living there, it makes this vibrant city the envy of many larger ones.

Of the 221 worldwide cities surveyed last year in Mercer's Quality of Living Survey, Auckland came up trumps on safety, education, culture, healthcare, environment, economic and political stability.

Brits will love the casual lifestyle that Auckland offers

It also offers its residents more safety, with low crime rates, in a beautiful environment.

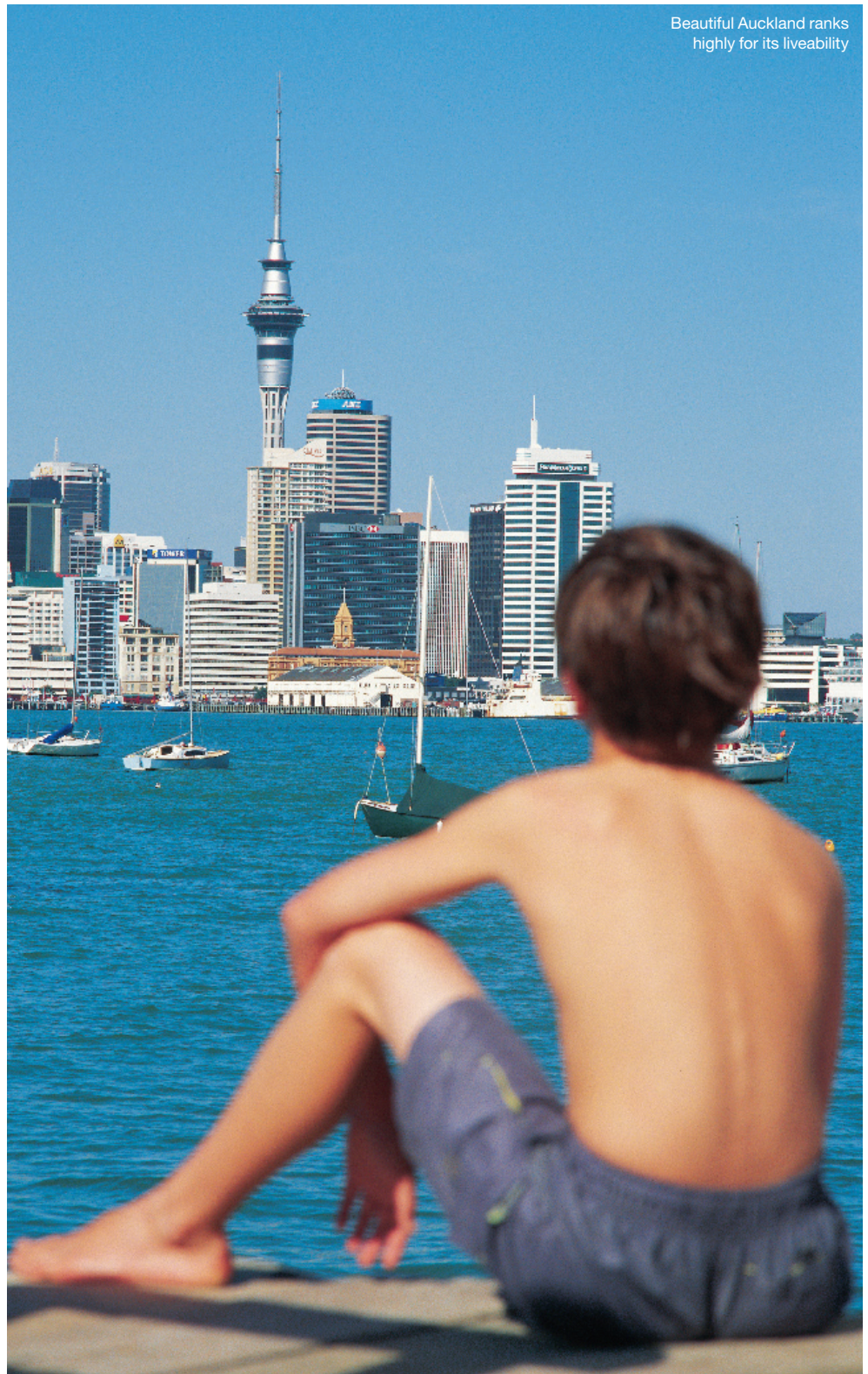
Auckland is a multi-cultural city with the largest Polynesian population in the world. Many cultures are encouraged to maintain their heritage and religion here. The city celebrates Maori culture, art and music.

Brits will love the casual lifestyle Auckland offers. Auckland has a comfortable climate with temperatures averaging between 20 to 25 degrees Celsius during the summer and 10 to 15 degrees Celsius during the winter.

Most people prefer to make the most of the good weather and enjoy a relaxed, outdoors lifestyle. There are plenty of opportunities to get involved with sport, from swimming and boating, to fishing in rivers and walking in the mountains or bush.

AN EDUCATION

Once you have an idea of where you wish to live in Auckland, >>





then finding a school for your children will be the next priority. Many people from overseas come to Auckland especially for the high quality education.

Schools in New Zealand generally offer great security with easy accessibility. Education in Auckland is of a very high standard and is compulsory between the ages of five and 15-years-old.

On average, Primary School is for children aged from five to 11, Intermediate School between the ages of 11 and 12 and High School between the ages of 13 and 17.

After High School, there is a choice between studying at university for a degree or to study for a trade and obtain an apprenticeship through UNITEC, a New Zealand technical institute.

School starts on or around 1 February and ends on the first week in December with Christmas summer holidays being the long break in the academic year.

Most kids in New Zealand live within walking distance of their local school. In Auckland, the area where you live, the School Zone, depicts which school you can attend and can make a difference to

the cost of your rent or value of your property. Auckland has top quality medical facilities too, with compulsory medical inoculations required for children.

When you arrive in New Zealand and have found a suburb in which you plan to live, then registering with the local doctor should be your next step.

Education in Auckland is of a very high standard

There are both Public and Private Hospitals in New Zealand. Public Hospitals, like the NHS in the UK, are free but with long waiting lists sometimes required, so most people take out private medical insurance when they arrive for this reason.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Around 31 per cent of all New Zealand businesses are based in Auckland. This reflects in its growing population, and as a result, the city has more than half the >>

Above A wild New Zealand beach is a great place to toss a rugby ball around

Right Children can benefit from the city's great schools and active lifestyle



Property hunting

Here's a quick guide to the Auckland housing market...

In New Zealand there is no stamp duty and the legal and registration fees can amount to around NZ\$1,500 (£787). Many Auckland houses cater for the average family with one or two kids with good-sized outdoor living areas, and sometimes including a swimming pool.

Here is a quick guide to the main areas to live in Auckland...

- **North Shore** (population 295,170) is located to the north of the harbour bridge. It has expensive houses with an average house price of NZ\$568,750 (£298,584) and average rent of NZ\$450 (£236) per week.
- **Central Auckland** (population 404,658) is expensive for houses, with prices averaging at NZ\$635,000 (£333,359) and rent NZ\$600 (£314) per week.
- **West Auckland** (population 186,444) has an average house price of NZ\$400,000 (£209,985) and rent of NZ\$375 (£196) per week. It is more affordable, but you may have to travel longer distances to get to work. There is less motorway infrastructure but beautiful bush ranges (Waitakere Ranges) and beaches.
- **Eastern Suburbs** (population 316,334) is very expensive with proximity to beaches. The average property price is NZ\$765,000 (£401,600) and the average rent is NZ\$518 (£271) per week.
- **South Auckland** (population 417,166) has a lot of industry so it may be handy to work. Property here is not as expensive as the rest of Auckland with an average house price of NZ\$460,000 (£241,505) and average rent of NZ\$360 (£189) per week.

Websites to look at for houses for sale or rent are www.realestate.co.nz and www.trademe.co.nz. For real estate market reports visit www.reinz.co.nz (Real Estate Institute of New Zealand) and www.qv.co.nz (Quotable Value). For rental statistics visit www.dbh.govt.nz/market-rent to find out about fair value rents.

Images: Tourism New Zealand



Aucklanders love boating in the city's beautiful harbour

Relocation checklist

You're destined for NZ, but before you leave, don't forget the following...

- Check good shipping agents to enquire about transportation of your goods.
- Take personally your personal valuable paperwork like CVs, school reports, medical reports and reference letters.
- Contact a reputable NZ Mortgage Broker before you leave to get an indication of your New Zealand property affordability.
- Open up a New Zealand bank account. You can deposit money into that account from the UK if the exchange rate is good.
- Check quarantine regulations for your pet with New Zealand Immigration. In June 2011 New Zealand changed its regulations to 10 days quarantine on arrival. Before departure, pets require an Export Permit from Animal Health in UK and an Import Permit.
- Arrange to rent a furnished unit for your first four weeks in Auckland while you search for long-term accommodation.
- Research into schools in the areas you are interested in living.
- Arrange car hire for your first few days in the city, then purchase a car quickly soon after arrival as it is the best way to become familiar with Auckland.



It's easy to enjoy an active, outdoors lifestyle here

Auckland's income level is seven per cent higher than the rest of NZ

country's labourforce living there, who are employed in the property, business services, manufacturing, retail and wholesale trades.

Employees in Auckland generally work hard, but they also enjoy a relaxed lifestyle.


Auckland's income level is around seven per cent higher than the rest of New Zealand, although the cost of living is also a bit higher than the rest of the country.

Economists have even described Auckland as 'The Super City' because its strong employment and population growth has encouraged retail spending.

Higher and lower skilled jobs attract a big demand in Auckland. There has been a decrease in apprenticeships recently, with more demand for skilled and trainee workers with good educational pathways. For job and salary

information visit www.career.govt.nz, and go to www.workandincome.govt.nz/find-a-job for all Auckland regions.

Immigration New Zealand's website at www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant is also useful. The jobs most in demand at the moment are in construction, engineering, education, health and social services and oil and gas.

For an indication of typical salaries for jobs visit www.newzealandnow.govt.nz. 

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