Although Auckland is a small city on the world scale, it certainly punches above its weight in the hospitality industry. After travelling such a long way to Auckland, we strongly recommend that you take some time to explore some of the brilliant cafes, bars, and restaurants in the ‘City of Sails’. All members of the conference organising committee have recommended their favourite cafes (Auckland is known for superb coffee!) and restaurants in the city. Perhaps you’ll make a reservation for your free night during the conference? Maybe you’ll extend your stay to try all of the restaurants? Additionally, the organising committee have recommended their favourite activity to do in Auckland. Exploring a new city is always best when armed with recommendations from locals, so we hope that you will enjoy these top Auckland tips.
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Kingi
Newish place in the Britomart Hotel. Walking distance from Movenpick and Hilton.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Prego, Ponsonby
Italian. Neighbourhood restaurant, well established, great service, great pizza, good value. Walk ins only.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Westhaven Marina
Good for a run or walk. Lots of boats to see. Easy walk. Good at sunrise or sunset.

Dear Coasties in Orewa, Hibiscus Coast.
Delicious food in a hugely popular cafe very close to the beach. A great range of cabinet food, as well as an excellent menu.

I really enjoy the atmosphere and live music at Danny Doolan's. Have often intended to start off an evening at Danny Doolans, with the intention of moving on to other places, but ending up staying for the whole evening.

My favourite thing to do is to walk, both on beaches and through forests. Any of the North Shore beaches are great to visit, with good paths between them, and for something a little more remote, I'd suggest Wenderholm Regional Park which is 40 mins north of the city.
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Biskit Café & Kitchen (Parnell)
Fantastically fresh and Pacific and Asian fusion menu and a choice Kiwi cuppa coffee! Service is excellent and attentive, great way to meet locals of Parnell. Would normally have either Eggs Benedict or the deliciously squeaky Haloumi Salad.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Hello Beasty (Viaduct Harbour)
Buzzy atmosphere with an incredible contemporary New Zealand Fusion sharing style menu. Although it’s hard to share when it’s this good! Anything and everything on the menu is a culinary delight. The KFC (Korean Fried Cauliflower) is a surprisingly delicious treat, but the Slow-cooked Coastal Lamb shoulder is a show stopper.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Walk, walk, walk.
Pick a few highlights to give yourself a goal and just walk everywhere. Auckland is filled with secret delights and sometimes the best of these are only accessible on foot. What better way to get to know your host city than get out and walk, stop, eat, drink, talk...rinse and repeat?
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Miann Britomart
If you’re a hot-chocolate drinker, then Miann in Britomart is THE best. My favourite is the salted caramel hot chocolate. I tend to go here in the evening as opposed to the day, as the desserts are heaven. You cannot go past the tiramisu cup where you can eat the (chocolate) cup and lid too. Or if you’re feeling indecisive, then there’s a dessert platter, with smaller versions of a few menu items. No need to book here, just turn-up.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
MoVida
At the top of the Seafarers Building in Britomart - a slice of Melbourne in Auckland. Go not only for the delicious tapas but the harbour views too. I love the calamari and the croquettes - the menu changes with the seasons, however Sangria cocktails are good no matter what time of year. Best to book a table by the window.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Beaches
Love the beach and the contrast in Auckland between the East Coast and the West Coast, is something to behold. Even on a wind-swept winter day, walks along our stunning coastlines are hard to beat. My favourite coastal walks/runs include the Takapuna to Milford track in the East and Piha or Karekare in the West. If you’re heading out West, ensure you stop in Titirangi for a coffee at 'Deco' en-route and 'Takapuna Beach Cafe' is a great reward, after your East Coast sojourn.

Kelly Easton
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Mezze Bar (Durham Street East, CBD)
If you’re in the mood for a coffee, wanting to treat yourself, or if it’s time for tapas, Mezze Bar is a fantastic local spot in the heart of the city. It is a favourite of locals and the perfect oasis from the city outside with its home away from home ambience. I suggest treating yourself and ordering the lemon tart – its delish!

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Satya Chai Lounge is an experience for all the senses, where you are instantly visually transported. From the décor to a range of delicious, tapas style, Indian cuisine you will be left having truly had an experience. I suggest ordering the Dahi Puri, Curryflower, Chicken 65 and LambNukkad – you won’t be disappointed

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Auckland Art Gallery
Become immersed in the art of Aotearoa and experience the beauty of the Auckland Art Gallery’s private collection.

Andrea Dawber

Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Honey Café, Takapuna.
Great atmosphere and delicious food - caters to all dietary requirements too! Smashed avocado on toast is my go to.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Botswana Butchery
A delicious steak restaurant on the Viaduct. A perfect date night spot. Their French onion soup and eye fillet steak are mouth-watering good.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Orewa Beach
Walking along Orewa beach. Beautiful beach with soft, white sand, calm waters and more than enough space for the kids to play.

Shereen Le Fleming
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Amano Bakery (Britomart)
For a true NZ coffee, I highly recommend the bakery at Amano. A buzzing restaurant by night, Amano also has a bakery during the day. The coffee they use is Allpress (a NZ brand). I suggest you grab a flat white and a pastry to devour as you wander through the Britomart precinct.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Bar Celeste, Karangahape Road.
This hole-in-the-wall restaurant has a seasonal menu that changes constantly throughout the year. One of my favourite features is their ‘carte blanche’ menu whereby the chef curates a selection of dishes for you. The last time I went, two standout dishes were: the hanger steak and the fresh NZ oysters.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Harbour Bridge and Marina walk
One of my favourite walking routes on a crisp winter’s day is a walk along the marina. I recommend starting at Buoy Café (141-151 Westhaven Drive) and grabbing a coffee to go. Then, walk 1.7km to Victoria Park. The walk takes you along the marina and provides a stunning vantage point to observe all the yachts. After all, Auckland is known as ‘the city of sails’!
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Chuffed
On High Street is a hidden gem. The entrance looks like you are going into an office building but down the corridor and through the door, you will find yourself in a hipster paradise with outdoor (covered) courtyard. Great for a coffee and some morning tea. They also have a great brunch/lunch menu and their juices are delicious.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Ahi, Commercial Bay
There is more to Commercial Bay than the food court and Ahi is a must for a very special New Zealand dinner. They price themselves on serving delicious dishes made with New Zealand produce. Try the oysters and the lamb backstrap.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Auckland Art Gallery
I love to go to Auckland Art gallery. The exhibitions change regularly but the building itself is also well worth a visit. The newer architectural designed building leads through to the older buildings and you are greeted at the front by a beautiful glass waka.
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Dear Coasties
Delicious coffee, excellent service.
Sweetcorn fritters are the best in town.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Coast Bar
Good vibe, awesome views.
One of the platters to share - delicious.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Red Beach
When the tide is low, to go for a walk along Red Beach. Very interesting rock formations, caves at one end and rock pools at the other. Late afternoon walk at Shakespeare Reginal Park, from the picture frame up to the lock out. Very peaceful, good time to catch your thoughts.

Penny Weakley

Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Franc’s by Takapuna Beach.
So nice to eat and Eggs Benedict then go for a stroll along the beach post meal

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
The bar at Q Theatre
Pre- or post-show as there is a real buzz of anticipation or response from a show, which is great to experience

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Game Over Albany
The electric go-karts at Game Over in Albany - just exhilarating, giggly fun! Great with the partner or kids

Nick Brown
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Takapuna Beach Café
Or TBC for local slang has a great view of the beach, it has great coffee and breakfast orders AND there are so many cute dogs around. I love going to TBC and sometimes I can get a coffee and a beach walk in before school starts. I would order the Eggs Benedict and a Oat Flat White.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Lilian
I am a self diagnosed foodie so this is really tough! First choice: Lilian is a great option for dinner in Grey Lynn, a short Uber from the city. Lilian is a great place for sharing food. I always get the wood fried bread add confit tomato and stracciatella, you cannot go past it. The lamb ribs, baby cos and chorizo pizza are delish!

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
The Beerspot
My favourite activity always involves a walk and the beach (any on the North Shore), but if you are not up for a winter adventure, I would recommend going to Beer Spot (located in Northcote, close to Westlake Boys). They have 40+ craft beers on tap and a few other drinks on offer.
**Favourite Auckland Cafe:**
Daily Bread
I really like daily bread in Ponsonby because I’m addicted to their cinnamon and brown butter doughnuts.
Dizengoff on Ponsonby road is also a cult classic for a weekend brunch spot.

**Favourite Auckland Restaurant:**
Ahi
My favourite restaurant is Ahi in the heart of downtown Auckland Commercial Bay. It is authentic NZ fine dining with unique distinctly ‘kiwi’ flavour combinations. Fine dining quality meets laid-back sophistication in an unrivalled location.
I recommend the kawakawa sourdough, scampi corn dog, lamb backstrap and naked mallow puff while enjoying a central Otago Pinot Gris!

**Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:**
Cheltenham Beach
One of my favourite places in Auckland is to sit on Cheltenham Beach in Devonport with my Dog, if you go early you can often have the entire beach to yourself and it is a magical view looking at Rangitoto. The Auckland Art Gallery is a nice place to unwind or go to a weekend farmers market. Matakana village farmers market or Smales farm Market collaborative in Takapuna are good spots to sample local produce, plants, olive oils, and yummy deli products.
Favourite Auckland Cafe: Oliver’s Café
My favourite cafe is my local Oliver’s Cafe. I normally order the smashed avo. I love going there with family, it has a lovely atmosphere and great outlook.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant: White and Wongs
At White and Wongs I will always get the beef bun. But everything here is amazing.

Al Forno
My favourite thing to order at Al Forno is Pollo Galliano.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland: Riverhead Tavern and Hallertau
One of my favourite things to do is head to Riverhead Tavern or Hallertau for lunch. You can drive or try the Red Boats which leaves from Auckland City.

Favourite Auckland Cafe: Sierra in Devonport.
Friendliest staff. Great for a $12.00 breakfast including a long black.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant: Fish Kitchen
Lovely setting on Devonport Wharf. Fish and chips!!

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland: Devonport Waterfront
Walking the Devonport waterfront. Nice views!

Helen Jorgensen

Tony Buckingham
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Auckland Art Gallery Café
Set inside the stunning Auckland Art Gallery is a great modern cafe in the heart of Auckland’s CBD. An excellent place for coffee or lunch whilst viewing the various exhibitions on show. Seasonal menu with a great selection. I enjoy the delicious soups and salads. Just inside the entrance is a great shop stocked with locally made, innovatively designed and exclusive items.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Café Hanoi
Stunning and authentic food in a great location in Britomart. The ‘Signature Menu’ is a lovely way to share their best dishes with friends.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Waitemata Golf Club and Narrow Neck Beach
Playing golf at Waitemata Golf Club in Devonport
Swimming at Narrow Neck Beach in Devonport
Walking from Narrow Neck beach to Takapuna along the beach at low tide.

Emma Bond
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Odette's Eatery
Great spot for breakfast/brunch. Brilliant coffee and food. Great space in the center of the city which has been adapted from the old council works building to include great eateries and other businesses. Awesome vibe!

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Amano
Great central city restaurant that is an absolute crowd pleaser. It is an Italian cafe/deli each morning and then one of Auckland's best and most popular restaurants at night. Beautiful, award winning space inside with it occupying the key ground floor space in one of Auckland's heritage buildings. Good food, great reputation, amazing space, no brainer.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Te Henga
Te Henga is highly recommended. This is a long day walk, but if time is limited, even the short walk to the Gannet Colony, a walk through Woodhill Forrest or a walk along one of the west coast beaches is excellent.

Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Takapuna Beach Cafe
Opportunity to go for a walk on the beach

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Oyster and Chop
Great marina views, beautiful food

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Auckland Zoo

Paul Fordham

Brad Cachopa
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Takapuna Beach Cafe
Great service, delicious food and gorgeous views. The rosti eggs benedict with bacon is my favourite. They also have a gelato service to the side of the main cafe if you don't have time to go in for a meal.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Elliot Stables
An upmarket food court, so everyone can order whatever they're in the mood for on the night. For a more flash meal it's Botswana Butchery - the braised beef cheek is my go-to along with a Pink Juniper cocktail; yum! And if you can find it... Caretaker is a very cool cocktail bar with a speakeasy vibe. Highly recommend the experience, where the staff will ask you a few questions.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Rangitoto Island
Take the ferry across Waitemata harbour to Rangitoto and walk to the top. It's an easy, well-maintained track up a dormant volcano. You get amazing views of the city from the top. There are also some caves to explore if you have the time. As an outdoor activity, it should be planned for a day with good weather.

Becky O'Gram
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Takapuna Beach Cafe
The best thing there isn't actually the food on the menu but the awesome gelato options and the incredible location. If it’s good weather, take your gelato along Takapuna beach. Hold onto that waffle cone while you dodge equally excited dogs and children.

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
The Fed Deli
Brilliant bespoke deli designed like a classic American diner. Created by one of NZ’s top chefs, Al Brown. The chicken salad sandwich with a side of poutine, topped off with some pecan pie is the way to go. The Americans amongst us will feel homesick as soon as they take a step through the door.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Academy Cinemas
The best spot in downtown Auckland for 'Art House' cinema. After the film go to the nearby Sumthin Dumplin for some savoury treats. Before the film, make sure to take a walk along High Street and pop into Unity Books and grab something for the flight home.
Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Orbit 360° Dining
I try different meals all the time

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Wild Fire
Great food ... Plenty to eat

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Salsa/ Bachata Dj & Dance? Dance lessons
Viva Latino - Dance Studios Newton street

Favourite Auckland Cafe:
Lieutenant Coffee
Level 1 Commercial Bay. Great place to grab a coffee or something else to eat while you’re wandering around the Commercial Bay dining precinct. Lieutenant Coffee Bar & Eatery

Favourite Auckland Restaurant:
Caretaker
Great place to go if you don't usually go to bars and don’t entirely know what you want. Mixologist comes to your table and asks about the types of flavors you like... goes away and comes back with a personalized Cocktail which is always something brilliant.

Favourite Activity to do in Auckland:
Rangitoto Island
If it’s a fine day, pack a picnic lunch, catch a ferry across to Rangitoto Island and walk to the summit. Not only is it an amazing, daytime activity, it’s a trip that Aucklanders talk about doing their whole lives, but very few actually get around to it. The No. 1 best view of Auckland... even better than the Sky Tower.