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WHY AUCKLAND

When you start a new job in Auckland, you start a new way of life. One that offers both an amazing lifestyle and diverse possibilities for your career.
From outstanding career opportunities to an exceptional lifestyle, here’s why working in Auckland is a smart move.

**WELCOMING AND SAFE**

New Zealanders are well known for their friendly and welcoming nature. The traditional Māori spirit of manaakitanga (hospitality, kindness and generosity) remains just as significant today. Safety is another major draw card – we value human rights, are nuclear-free, politically stable, and have extremely strict gun control laws.

**AN INTERNATIONAL CITY**

We’re a relatively young city, but we’re making our mark on the world – and you can too. Innovative companies and startups are stepping onto the global stage and dedicated innovation hubs are expanding across the city. Auckland is the nation’s economic powerhouse and New Zealand’s largest city, home to about a third of the country’s population. We’re a global city, with easy access to key international markets, particularly in the Asia Pacific region.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

With many large-scale projects and new companies springing up throughout Auckland, there’s never been a more exciting time to work here. Our population, economy and key industry sectors are all growing rapidly, which means more career opportunities than ever before. We’re big enough to be connected to other global business hubs around the world, but small enough that making connections is easy, and career progression can be significantly faster than larger cities. It’s about more than a job; you’ll be helping to build and shape a city.

**CITY STYLE, NATURAL BEAUTY**

Auckland combines all the energy and excitement of city life with spectacular natural beauty in every direction. World-class food, wine, coffee, designer shopping and a thriving arts and culture scene is matched with beautiful harbours, islands, beaches, forests and volcanic cones that offer countless adventure activities to enjoy, from sailing and surfing to mountain biking and hiking. And it’s all so close. We’re encircled by three natural harbours, giving our region hundreds of beaches within easy reach of the city centre.

**BALANCED LIFESTYLE**

Our great lifestyle is one of the main reasons people are drawn to Auckland. We believe in hard work, but we know life outside is important too – whether that means quality time with family and friends, joining a social sports team or making the most of the superb dining, shopping, entertainment, nightlife and outdoor activities at your fingertips. With more free time you could be starting your day paddle boarding or jogging along the waterfront then relaxing after work with dinner and drinks, a bush walk or fish and chips on the beach.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY**

If you already have children or you’re planning for the future, Auckland is a wonderful place to raise a family. It’s safe, stable and culturally diverse, with excellent public healthcare, a lifestyle where children can enjoy our natural playground, and a world-class education system.

**A CITY OF DIVERSITY**

Auckland is the fourth most diverse city in the world – more than 200 different ethnic communities call our city home and about a third of all people living here were born overseas. The majority of New Zealand’s indigenous Māori population lives in Auckland, and we’re also the world’s largest Polynesian city. Our huge mix of cultures not only makes for diverse cuisine, art, music and language, it also makes it easy for new migrants to connect with people with similar backgrounds.
Auckland is the economic powerhouse of New Zealand, home to a third of the population and contributing over 36% of the nation’s GDP.

WE’RE A GROWING ECONOMY
Auckland’s economy has seen five years of consecutive growth, with an average growth rate of 3.3% per annum since 2010.

WE’RE A GROWING CITY
Auckland has a population of almost 1.6 million, an increase of almost 10% since 2010. It is forecast to reach 2 million by 2025.

WE CONTRIBUTE OVER A THIRD OF NEW ZEALAND’S GDP
Auckland’s GDP was NZ$80bn in 2015 – 36.7% of the New Zealand economy.

WE’RE GLOBALLY CONNECTED
Auckland is internationally connected, serving as a gateway to New Zealand and markets in the Asia-Pacific region, and offers a competitive and stable business environment and business-friendly government services. We’re just one direct flight away from major cities in Australia, Asia and the western coast of the US.

WE’RE DIVERSE AND INNOVATIVE
Auckland has moved toward a more service oriented and innovation oriented economy. A strong and increasingly specialised manufacturing core is supported by a talented and globally focused service sector.

Find out more about Auckland as an innovation city [here](#).
When you arrive in Auckland, you’ll find a city rich in diverse cultures, friendly people and a huge range of things to see and do.
Our sense of hospitality and many diverse cultures make Auckland an exciting and welcoming place to live.

New Zealanders are known for their warm nature and hospitality – and Auckland is no different. Kiwis (as New Zealanders are often called) love travelling, so we understand the importance of welcoming new people to our own land.

**OUR DIVERSE CULTURES**

We’re the fourth most culturally diverse city in the world – more diverse than Sydney, London, Los Angeles and New York – and over a third of all Aucklanders were born overseas. This diversity is reflected in our art, music, cuisine, festivals and cultural experiences, as well as in our workplaces, schools and universities.

Our Māori heritage gives us a unique place in the world, and our city is home to more than 200 different ethnic groups. Auckland is strongly influenced by Pacific pride and passion – we are the world’s largest Polynesian community – and nearly a quarter of people living here are of Asian descent.

**SETTLING IN**

In the 2015 Expat Insider survey, 94% of respondents said they found New Zealand people ‘friendly’ or ‘very friendly’ – one of the reasons we scored so highly (second of 64 countries) for ‘ease of settling in’.

We are by far New Zealand’s largest city, but there’s a real sense of community here. We often socialise with colleagues outside of work, joining a social sports team is a popular way to make friends and every area of Auckland has different events, places and programmes where people come together, whether it’s a favourite local restaurant or helping out in the community as a volunteer.

**OUR LANGUAGES**

New Zealand has three official languages – English, Māori and New Zealand Sign Language, with English the most commonly spoken.

There are many classes and programmes across the Auckland region for people who want to improve their English or learn Te Reo Māori.

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**39% OF AUCLANDERS WERE BORN OVERSEAS**

2015 World Migration Report, International Organisation for Migration

**200+ DIFFERENT ETHNIC COMMUNITIES CALL AUCKLAND HOME**

2015 World Migration Report, International Organisation for Migration
From fine food and wine to rainforest walks, thriving nightlife to native wildlife, there’s so much to see and do in Auckland when the working day is done.

**THINGS TO DO**

**DINING >** Restaurants, cafés, bars and cuisine from around the world

**WINE REGIONS >** Rolling vineyards, award-winning vintages and an island of wine

**WALKS AND HIKING >** Hidden waterfalls, untouched native forest and coastal climbs

**WINE REGIONS >** Rolling vineyards, award-winning vintages and an island of wine

**WALKS AND HIKING >** Hidden waterfalls, untouched native forest and coastal climbs

**WATER ACTIVITIES >** We’re surrounded by sea, and we make the most of it

**EVENTS AND FESTIVALS >** Concerts, international sports, cultural festivals and free events

**BEACHES >** Sheltered golden bays and wild black-sand surf beaches

**WATER ACTIVITIES >** We’re surrounded by sea, and we make the most of it

**EVENTS AND FESTIVALS >** Concerts, international sports, cultural festivals and free events

**SHIPPING >** From designer boutiques and luxury labels to local farmers’ markets

**ARTS, CULTURE AND HISTORY >** Galleries, museums and heritage experiences

**HAURAKI GULF ISLANDS >** Discover the beautiful islands right on our doorstep

**ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES >** Mountain biking, indoor skiing, kayaking, abseiling and more

**THINGS TO DO AT NIGHT >** Cosy cocktail bars, local pubs, lively clubs and gigs galore
Getting around is easy and affordable, whether you’re driving, catching public transport or cycling.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT – TRAIN, BUS AND FERRY**
Our public transport network is a great way to get around the city and throughout the region. As well as inner city buses, you can travel by train or bus from your suburb to most major work hubs, plus schools, beaches, entertainment precincts and attractions in Auckland.

Britomart in downtown Auckland is the main transport hub and is where many buses and trains start and end. Ferries also arrive and depart from downtown Auckland, just two minutes’ walk from Britomart. A number of bus and train stations and some ferry departure points also have park and ride facilities.

Find public transport services, maps and timetables.

**CYCLING**
For a great way to get outdoors and improve your health and wellbeing, try cycling or walking. A number of cycle paths have popped up over Auckland in the last few years to make commuting on bike or foot even easier and more new cycle ways are planned in the near future.

**DRIVING**
You can legally drive in Auckland and New Zealand for up to 12 months per visit, with either a current driver’s licence from your home country or an International Driving Permit (IDP). Make sure you have these organised before you arrive in New Zealand. You will need to convert to a New Zealand licence after 12 months.

More about driving in New Zealand >>
WHY AUCKLAND?
I chose to come to Auckland for a number of reasons – the abundance of work and the opportunities available and I have family here already. I also feel very safe here and I think it’s a great place to raise your family.

Diverse cultures
Auckland is very cosmopolitan and the beauty is that everyone from all over the world fits into the Kiwi way of life. It’s just a really easy place to come if you’re a foreigner.

Work/life balance
It’s fantastic. The work/life balance for me has been absolutely unbelievable. There’s a whole different culture and the whole family aspect of life here is rated very highly. A typical weekend for me is full of playing sport and sometimes I’m able to jump off work early (during the week) and go for a surf.

Career development
I’m a passionate career person. I’ve really enjoyed the roles I’ve been given. I’ve been able to get a lot more opportunity than I would have had in South Africa to really grow into my career.

Future opportunities in the construction sector
I think it’s looking very bright. The number of big projects that have been announced in Auckland over the last couple of years has been amazing and with the current housing boom I think there will be a lot in terms of building apartment blocks, plus a lot of infrastructure development coming up. It gives immigrants like myself an opportunity to really excel in what we do and maybe take a giant career leap forward.

Where’s home?
I live in Takapuna. It’s such a fantastic beach and the scenery around there is absolutely beautiful so most of my weekdays are definitely spent at the beach after work just relaxing with my flat mates.

“...
settling into a new country can feel overwhelming, but there are plenty of support services and networks that can help make it easier.

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**A.R.M.S. – Auckland Regional Migrant Services Charitable Trust**
Provides information about life in Auckland, helps people find jobs and learn English, and runs settlement programmes and workshops.

**Raeburn House**
Specific services for Auckland’s North Shore to help you settle into your new community.

**Chinese New Settlers Services Trust**
Offers bilingual programmes for new Chinese and Korean residents.

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**New Zealand Newcomers Network**
Find local support groups for getting connected with your new community.

**Citizens Advice Bureau**
Advice, information and help for all citizens, including a specific service for new migrants.

**Auckland Libraries**
Auckland libraries throughout the region are a great local resource too, with regular free events, books available in more than 30 languages, reading groups, classes and special assistance for people who have English as a second language.

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For more support services and networks visit New Zealand Now.
NEED TO KNOW

From work visas to healthcare and education, here’s the key information you should know before you move.
WORK VISAS

Visa eligibility is based on factors such as whether your skills match a shortage in New Zealand, how long you want to stay, and your age, work experience and qualifications.

Tips before applying for a visa:
- Find out if your job skills are in demand at Immigration New Zealand. You can also find information on visas if you’re looking to start a business or invest.
- If you want to visit Auckland for a holiday first to see what our city is like, you might need a visitor visa. However, travellers from more than 50 countries do not require a visa for a stay of less than three months – check your passport and visa requirements with Immigration New Zealand.
- Provide all the information required – incomplete paperwork will cause delays.
- If you’re not sure of the visa application process, consider using a licensed immigration advisor.

Are you an overseas student wanting to work in Auckland? Find out more about working while you study at Immigration New Zealand.
Auckland offers a world-class education where students of all ages can learn in a supportive environment. Our qualifications are recognised around the world and can open up excellent and diverse career opportunities.

**SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES AND TRAINING ESTABLISHMENTS**
Looking for schools for your children, partner, family members – or yourself? Find out more and search at aucklandnz.com/study.

**THE BEST FOR YOUR FAMILY**
Wanting the best for your children or future family is often the reason behind moving to a new country. Our high quality of life and education are two of the reasons many overseas-based New Zealanders come home to have children.

More than 200 different ethnic communities live in Auckland too, so it’s often easier for children of any age to fit in and make new friends more quickly.

Young kids? There are more than 1200 early childhood education options for children under five years old, including playgroups and kindergartens across the region.

Auckland is the most educated city in New Zealand, with 37% of adults holding a bachelor’s degree or higher.

**Auckland is the 18th BEST STUDENT CITY IN THE WORLD**
Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Best Student Cities 2015/16
Healthcare in Auckland is not only first-rate, it’s free or low cost for citizens, residents and some work visa holders.

PUBLIC HEALTHCARE
If you’re a New Zealand citizen or resident, or hold a work visa that’s valid for two years or more from when you first arrive, you qualify for free or subsidised care in the public health system. If you have children aged 17 years or under they may also be eligible for publicly funded healthcare.

If you’re on a work visa that’s for less than two years, you’ll need to pay for your healthcare as you require it. Most costs of injuries from accidents are covered by our accident compensation scheme, ACC. Check details first on the Ministry of Health eligibility page.

PRIVATE HEALTHCARE
For private healthcare, New Zealand residents can choose to take out medical insurance; non-residents should get medical insurance from their home country.

FINDING A DOCTOR
Doctors, or GPs (General Practitioners), are your first point of contact if you’re unwell. They often work from local medical centres and it’s usually easy to get an appointment when you need it. There’s a number of after-hours clinics across the greater Auckland region that deal with accidents and emergencies, as well as providing medical care outside of normal working hours.

ACC – ACCIDENT COMPENSATION CORPORATION
If you have an accident in New Zealand – in or out of work – you may be eligible for subsidised healthcare and rehabilitation costs through the Accident Compensation Corporation, known as ACC.

ACC is a compensation scheme that covers you for most costs if you’re injured in an accident. It provides no-fault insurance cover to everyone in New Zealand for injuries resulting from accidents, such as car crashes, falling at home, breaking your arm skiing or being injured at work. Under ACC, you don’t have the right to sue anyone for injuries from an accident.

Find out more from ACC about what costs are covered and what happens if you injure yourself.

For more information on healthcare in Auckland, including dentists, private hospitals and after-hours clinics, visit New Zealand Now.
WHY AUCKLAND?
My husband was here and we thought Auckland would be the best place to settle down – and because it’s beautiful. It’s diverse too and everyone is friendly, so I don’t feel alone.

Diverse cultures
I see every nation here. In my company there are Chinese, Russians – you name it – there are people from every corner of the world.

Balanced lifestyle
There are many flexible working arrangement options, like working from home, working four days a week, or however many days you want, or what time you want. I start the day early and come home early, which means I have a good amount of time to spend with my husband, cooking, anything!

Our favourite weekend pastime is to dine somewhere that is different and try different cuisines. There are so many options in Auckland. If it’s a long weekend we go travelling around places like Rotorua, or just relax.

Self-discovery
It’s just amazing to have the chance to find yourself and discover what you can do. You can explore more things that you love here. You can just be in peace with yourself – that’s the best part of New Zealand.

Working in Auckland’s IT sector
There are new challenges every day and good startups coming up. If you have any ideas they are very much welcomed. The best part is that the CEO or COO just sits beside you, not in a separate office. I find it really comforting that they don’t see themselves as different from me. I can talk to them anytime, and learn about the things going on around the firm.

Career development
We have IT guilds and some seminars, you go around and talk to people about technologies. Here I see my career in IT becoming more of a team lead and driving the technical projects.

LAVANYA BOMMINI
SOFTWARE DEVELOPER – IT SECTOR
26 YEARS OLD, FROM INDIA

“\nThe work/life balance for me has been absolutely unbelievable.\n”

MY FAVOURITE THINGS ABOUT AUCKLAND
- The events – food festivals, arts, movies in the park – the amount of events that happen all the time in the city is amazing.
- The food – there are so many different cuisines to try.

Watch Lavanya’s video
Choose housing to suit your lifestyle, from inner-city apartments and townhouses to suburban family homes with gardens for the kids to run around in.

**BUYING A HOME**
If you’re coming from overseas and securing a good salary, what you can buy here will compare well with other cities. Be prepared to look hard and act quickly, as Auckland is a hot market.

- **Find a house**
  - trademe.co.nz
  - realestate.co.nz

- **Browse housing and property information**
  - gvt.nz

- **Search and compare average house prices**
  - qv.co.nz

**RENTING A HOUSE OR ROOM**
You might prefer to rent a home, flat or apartment in Auckland, whether on your own or with others (we call them flatmates). Even if you’re planning to buy a home, you might like to rent while you get to know the city better.

**Average costs of renting in Auckland**
As of July 2016, the average weekly rent for a one to two bedroom property in Auckland was NZ$420. The average weekly rent for all property sizes in Auckland was NZ$510 in the same period.*


- **Information on rent costs and advice**
  - Market rents
  - Information for tenants

- **Find a house**
  - trademe.co.nz
  - realestate.co.nz

- **Find flatmates**
  - trademe.co.nz
  - easyroommate.co.nz
  - nzflatmates.co.nz

**AUCKLAND SUBURBS**
As well as being one of the main factors in the cost of renting or buying a house, the suburb you live in will affect the time of your commute, public transport options, and accessibility to schools, shops, restaurants and beaches. Do your research first and weigh up what’s important for you and your lifestyle.

- **Search suburbs at**
  - hometopia.co.nz

Whether you’re renting or buying, do your research first to ensure you have all the information you need to make the right decision.

*Take a look at things to do in different areas of Auckland at aucklandnz.com/discover.*
COST OF LIVING

Living costs are at a level you would expect from a rapidly growing, vibrant and cosmopolitan hub that’s one of the most liveable cities in the world.

You’ll find some items and services cheaper and some more expensive than at home. However in general, Auckland ranks very well against other major cities, with a cost of living significantly lower than London, Sydney, Melbourne, Hong Kong, Singapore, Guangzhou and New York.*

COMMON LIVING COSTS

Find out about cost of living, financial planning, taxes and other money matters at New Zealand Now.

Find out about common living costs in Auckland, from coffee and clothing to accommodation and groceries, at Expatistan Cost of Living Index. The list is regularly updated.

FINDING CHEAPER OPTIONS

Auckland’s cost of living compared to other cities depends on a number of factors, including the area you choose to live in and the lifestyle you would like.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public transport is cheaper for all travellers when buying a monthly pass and using our AT Hop card, which gives you integrated ticketing between trains, buses and ferries and discounted fares.

ACCOMMODATION AND HOUSING

The cost of renting or buying a house varies significantly across different areas of Auckland. With easy public transport, living in suburbs slightly further away from the CBD can make renting or buying much more affordable.

INCOME TAX

Wages or salaries are usually paid directly into employees’ bank accounts and are taxed at set rates depending on your income level.

The New Zealand tax system is a relatively favourable tax environment for your earnings and assets. The US-based Tax Foundation ranked New Zealand’s overall tax system as second in the developed world for its competitiveness (2015), and top for its individual/personal taxes.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

New Zealand has a 15% tax added to most goods and services (GST), including most imported goods and certain imported services.

*Source: Mercer Cost of Living Survey 2015
Auckland enjoys a temperate climate without extremes of temperature. We enjoy more than 2000 hours of bright sunshine a year and when it rains, it keeps our native forests lush and green.

**Seasons**
- Summer, December – February
- Autumn/Fall, March – May
- Winter, June – August
- Spring, September – November

**Mean daily temperature**
- Summer – 23° Celsius (74° Fahrenheit)
- Winter – 14° Celsius (57° Fahrenheit)
MAKE THE SMART MOVE.
Visit aucklandnz.com/business/work