

Whenever I go to a conference I find that we spend a lot of time trying to work out where to go, others agreed. So we thought we'd compile a starting guide so you can have a better time in Auckland.

I asked around for 'top tips' of where to go when in the city, what to do and how to get there and here are some of the suggestions from the University of Auckland folks.

Disclaimer: we are kiwi's so we can't guarantee our version of a good time will be the same as yours, but we are experienced going-outers and there's a little bit of something for everyone in Auckland so we hope this helps start you off.

### **General sites on what to do in Auckland:**

<http://www.biglittlecity.co.nz/>

<http://www.biglittlecity.co.nz/InsidersGuide> (slightly more 'off the path' guide)

<http://www.britomart.org/> (food, shopping, cool little places)

### **Transport:**

Buses & trains: <http://www.maxx.co.nz>

### **Nearest supermarket?**

*New World College Hill*

2 College Hill

Freemans Bay

<http://www.newworld.co.nz/victoria-park>

*Foodtown*

76 Quay Street

<http://www.localstore.co.nz/store/90383/foodtown/auckland-central/>

### **Places to eat near the conference venue:**

*Depot*

Federal St

<http://www.eatatdepot.co.nz/>

Great spot, no bookings and fills up fast. Mid-price range.

*Bellota*

Federal St

<http://www.skycityauckland.co.nz/Restaurants/Bellota.html>

Excellent tapas (sorry Spaniards, it's NZ so probably not just like home), mid-high prices but a great spot and excellent food.

*Mezze Bar*

9 Durham Street

<http://www.mezzebar.co.nz/>

A lovely spot for a glass of wine, delicious tapas snacks and meals. Get's busy so book ahead.

*Café Melba (Lunch only)*

33 Vulcan Lane, CBD

<http://www.cafemelba.co.nz/>

09 377 0091

A very nice Melbourne style café. Very good for lunch.

Hours- Monday to Friday 7.00am to 4.30pm, Saturday and Sunday 8.00am to 4.30pm

**Budget dining**

There are plenty of fast-food options on Queen Street in particular but we have some excellent Asian food here so give it a whirl.

*Food Alley Asian Foodcourt*

9 - 11 Albert Street, CBD

review - [http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-2755142-food\\_alley\\_auckland-i](http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-2755142-food_alley_auckland-i))

The décor is super basic, but the food is super cheap, diverse & tasty. It spans two floors, with a great range of Japanese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Indian and other yummy things. Open to around 10pm. Best of all the alcohol is dirt cheap.

*Mercury Plaza*

Mercury Lane, off Karangahape Rd,

Website <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mercury-Plaza/192096263015>

Brief description Awesome Asian food court

*Yakitori downstairs in Tanuki's Cave*

319 Queen Street

<http://www.sakebars.co.nz/cave.html>

Japanese food on a stick, Asahi beer, in the basement, very cosy!

*Corner Pancake*

Corner of High St and Wellesley St, CBD

Takeaway Korean pancakes, a quick and really cheap snack. Nowhere to sit, but very popular and tasty!

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 11.30am-7pm, Sat 12pm-6pm

*Genzui Ramen Bar*

128 Albert Street (Next to the Crown Plaza foyer)

Delicious Japanese food that's really affordable. Most meals are around \$10. Don't try eat it all or you may explode.

*Saigonz*

40 Beach Road, CBD

[www.saigonz.co.nz](http://www.saigonz.co.nz)

09 302 3361

Tasty and inexpensive Vietnamese food. All the classics like pho and summer rolls, plus some rice and curry dishes.

Open Mon-Wed, Sun 10am-9pm; Thu-Sat 10am-10pm

### *Zap Thai*

10 Commerce St, CBD

[www.zapthai.co.nz](http://www.zapthai.co.nz)

(09) 379 - 5902

Tasty thai classics – red and green curries, tom yum soup

11.00am to 09.00pm Open Seven Days

### **Good price, handy for a crowd:**

*Monsoon Poon*

<http://www.monsoonpoon.co.nz/welcome.htm>

Corner of Customs Street West

and Lower Hobson Street - behind viaduct

09 379 9311

Mixture of Asian regional foods so something for everyone's palate in a funky setting.

Opening hours: Monday to Thursday - 11am til 11pm

Friday - 11am til Midnight

Saturday - 5pm til Midnight

Sunday - 5pm til chef sleepy

### *Tanuki Sake Bar*

319 Queen Street

<http://www.sakebars.co.nz/tanuki/>

Good sushi made fresh on site, great sake and a relaxed atmosphere

### *La Zeppa*

33 Drake St, Freemans Bay

<http://www.lazeppa.co.nz/>

09 379-8167

### **Fine dining**

The Grove: <http://www.thegroverestaurant.co.nz/>

The French Café: <http://www.thefrenchcafe.co.nz/>

Dine: <http://www.skycityauckland.co.nz/Restaurants/dine.html>

Kitchen – Hotel deBrett: <http://www.hoteldebrett.com/kitchen/>

## **Beer? Wine?**

### *Wine Loft*

67 Shortland Street

<http://www.wineloft.co.nz/>

Great wine, food's okay, but great wine.

### *Wine Hot*

605 New North Rd, Morningside

09 815 9463

<http://winehot.co.nz/>

Excellent wine list and next door to a fantastic sushi place (Sake Bar 601 -

<http://www.menus.co.nz/listing/4y00f6/sake-bar-601/>)

### *Galbraiths Ale House*

2 Mt Eden Rd

09 379 3557

<http://www.alehouse.co.nz/>

Excellent brew house, with excellent beers like 'Bitter and Twisted', good pub food, nice atmosphere and only a gentle stroll back down the hill to help work off the ale before tomorrow's session of talks. Love this place! Also opposite and unlikely looking but excellent pizza place 'Al Volo Pizza' <http://www.alvolo.co.nz/>.

## **Out for some music?**

[www.cheeseontoast.co.nz](http://www.cheeseontoast.co.nz/) (gig guide)

<http://www.mukuna.co.nz/> (gig guide)

### *The Wine Cellar*

St Kevins Arcade, 183 Karangahape Road

09 377-8293

<http://www.mukuna.co.nz/auckland/newton/wine-cellar.htm>

<http://www.wherescool.com/spots/wine-cellar-auckland/>

Quaint little bar that is a very nice place to have a couple of wines (or feijoa cider if you're keen). Prices are reasonable. It also doubles as a fantastic gig venue for music of the sit-down variety (folk, ambient, acoustic singer/songwriter) for both local and international artists. One of my favourite places in Auckland.

### *Dogs Bollix*

2 Newton Rd (just off the top of Karangahape Rd)

<http://www.dogsbollix.co.nz/>

Folk music with a quirky edge usually. Good for a laugh.

*The Kings Arms Tavern*

59 France Street South, Newton

09 373 3240

<http://kingsarms.co.nz/>

Great rock venue, a little bit feral but with some stunningly good bands, check out their site for who's playing.

*Kiwi Music Bar*

322 Queen Street

09 309 7717

[http://www.biglittlecity.co.nz/Nightlife/Live\\_music/Kiwi Music Bar](http://www.biglittlecity.co.nz/Nightlife/Live_music/Kiwi_Music_Bar)

Close to the conference venue, with very! cheap beer and good pizza. Alternative, low budget stylish and "kiwi as" :)