

# Albany

One of the city's fastest growing areas in terms of population as well as in commercial and residential development is Albany. This area is unique as it is a place where quiet country lanes contrast with new modern motorways that serve to link the lands both north and south.

Because Albany is growing so quickly in terms of living and working, there is an exciting mix of fashion, food and lifestyle on offer.

Home to the largest shopping mall in New Zealand – Westfield Albany- with over 150 specialty stores and the Sky City multiplex cinemas, Albany truly is a shoppers dream.

Nearby to the shopping mall, you will find

the fabulous North Harbour Stadium with its stunning arc-shaped roof - a local landmark which will be hosting 3 prestigious Rugby World Cup matches in 2011.

Alongside the new innovations is Old Albany, a quaint little village at that retains a quiet charm found mostly in rural settings. Needless to say with so much on offer, Albany is well worth a visit.

## Hot Spots

**North Harbour Stadium** Enjoy world class sport, concerts, and entertainment on a large scale at this versatile and stunning stadium.

• Located on Oteha Valley Rd in Albany, this amazing structure is a must-see for sports lovers.

**Westfield Shopping Mall** Visit New Zealand's largest indoor shopping centre with everything a shopping enthusiast could need.

• Located adjacent to State Highway 1, Westfield Albany provides convenient and easy access for both north and southbound shoppers.

**Albany Village** Visit old Albany village and take in the aura of days gone by while enjoying a meal at any one of the cafes or restaurants.

• Albany Village is easily located off SH17 and Oteha Valley Road.

# Birkenhead

Reaching Birkenhead is easy. Whether you travel 5 minutes over the Harbour Bridge by car or enjoy a relaxed a 10 minute ferry ride from Downtown Auckland, Birkenhead is the ideal spot for the easy-going traveller to revel in some of New Zealand's best preserved heritage.

Ferries arrive at the Birkenhead Street wharf - one of the oldest streets in the area, which leads directly to the local shops and the Birkenhead Shopping Centre. Many of the buildings are historic with good examples of early architecture in Queen Street (Northcote), Hinemoa Street and Palmerston Road (Birkenhead).

For some of the most stunning views in Auckland make sure you visit Birkenhead Point. Ferries run regularly throughout the day and are an easy and affordable way to travel to this stunning location.

If you are looking to do something outdoors, Birkenhead boasts many wonderful walks along beaches and through local reserves. The Chelsea Sugar Refinery in Colonial Road is well worth a visit as is the adjoining Chelsea Estate Heritage Park. Drive down to the water's edge and enjoy this unique setting before heading back to the main street and sitting back and enjoying a cappuccino at one of the many local restaurants and cafés.

## Hot Spots

**Chelsea Estate Heritage Park:** This newly opened public park is a stunning place to walk, tramp or sit and enjoy the view across the Harbour to downtown Auckland.

• *The main entrance to this amazing Heritage Park is Colonial Rd. in Birkenhead.*

**Birkenhead Wharf** Take a short ferry ride from downtown Auckland to this hub of Birkenhead and enjoy a leisurely stroll to shops and cafes on Hinemoa Street.

• *Follow Hinemoa Street to the water and you will find yourself at Birkenhead Wharf.*

**Little Shoal Bay** Experience one of the most spectacular unobstructed views of Auckland from this quaint park. Enjoy sunset with a picnic and a bottle of wine.

• *From Hinemoa Street in Birkenhead, turn left onto Maritime Terrace Road and head down the hill to this picturesque bay and park.*

# Devonport

A popular destination for visitors, this delightful seaside enclave is located at the very southern point of North Shore City. Devonport is only a 15-minute ferry ride from downtown Auckland and provides some of the best views of Auckland and the surrounding region.

Situated on a peninsula surrounded by the beautiful sparkling waters of the Waitemata Harbour, Devonport has a village-like atmosphere and is easy to explore on foot. World class cafés, art galleries, elegant villas and interesting boutique shops are all on offer here.

Enjoy a stroll up the main road and take a

load off at the Esplanade Hotel, a heritage site which boasts an amazing restaurant as well as a classy bar and cafe with fantastic seating both indoors and out. With monthly craft markets as well as a number of annual events including a popular food, wine and music festival, Devonport is truly a place to go to get away from the rush of city life.

## Hot Spots

**North Head** Take a 15 minute stroll from the ferry terminal and be transported back in time while viewing the tunnels and guns at North Head – marvel at the history in this stunning location.

From Devonport, follow King Edward Parade along the waterfront and you will see signs to North Head. Vehicle access is via Takarunga Road.

**Navy Museum** The New Zealand Royal Navy is based in Devonport which means no visit to the North Shore would be complete without exploring this fascinating museum.

The Navy Museum is situated in Spring Street, Devonport, Auckland, in the heart of one of New Zealand's most picturesque and accessible Naval heritage areas.

**Devonport Chocolates** This shop is a chocolate lover's heaven. Watch chocolate being made in the factory through a glass panel while you decide on which tempting treats to sample and take home.

Devonport Chocolates is located at 17 Wynyard Street Devonport, Auckland 0624

# East Coast Bays

Whether you're into swimming, strolling, sunbathing or sailing, make sure you visit East Coast Bays.

This pristine length of beautiful coastline allows North Shore City residents and visitors unparalleled access to a bevy of maritime activities. From Long Bay southwards, there are beaches, coves, and inlets for playing, exploring, wading in rock pools and much more.

With spectacular sunrises over Rangitoto Island, it is the ambience of the natural

beauty that lends a magical quality to this dreamy coastline. The beaches are sandy and safe for swimming and the small town feel of each bay makes both locals and visitors feel welcome year round.

While visiting The Bays, experience a truly Kiwi experience by enjoying fish and chips beachside under the shade of a Pohutukawa tree.

## Hot Spots

**Browns Bay Boardwalk** The Browns Bay boardwalk has recently been redeveloped and is an ultimate way to spend an afternoon near the sea.

• *The Browns Bay Boardwalk is located just off the main road in Browns Bay.*

**Cliff Top Walk** Walk along the cliffs from Long Bay southward and enjoy the breathtaking coastlines of the North Shore by foot.

• *The Cliff Top Walk can be undertaken from anywhere beginning in Long Bay in the North to Devonport in the South.*

**Long Bay Regional Park** Enjoy this marvellous park where open grassy spaces meet the beach front. Enjoy a meal or a hot drink at the newly renovated waterfront café.

• *To reach Long Bay Regional Park take State Highway 1 north and turn off at Oteha Valley Rd. Turn right and follow Oteha Valley Rd to the lights. Go straight ahead into Carlisle Rd and follow the signs through Torbay to Long Bay*

# Glenfield

The first official purchase of land in Glenfield dates back to 1837. Since then this satellite suburb linking Birkenhead with Takapuna and the East Coast Bays, has experienced one of the biggest building booms on the North Shore.

With a family-friendly feel and shopping and restaurants within reach, Glenfield is a highly populated residential area.

Westfield Shopping Mall in central Glenfield boasts over 100 fashion and specialty stores and is a great place for shoppers to visit for an afternoon of retail therapy. Next door to the mall is North Shore Leisure- Glenfield. This multi-purpose facility

houses a magnificent swimming pool with spas and saunas available. There are also group fitness classes, childcare and a full-equipped gym on offer.

If you are looking to take in a movie there is a great selection of new releases on offer at Wairau Park. And, no matter where you are in Glenfield, you are never far from leading fast food outlets.

## Hot Spots

**Marlborough Park:** Enjoy a leisurely stroll or take part in some skate boarding at the skate park located onsite.

• *Marlborough Park is located off Chartwell Avenue in Glenfield.*

**Westfield Glenfield Shopping Centre:** This shopping centre has it all just as you would expect from any mega mall.

• *Westfield Glenfield is located at the corner of Glenfield Road and Downing Street in Glenfield.*

**North Shore Leisure** If you're looking for a good workout – whether it is running, swimming, squash, or group fitness – North Shore Leisure is the place to go for the fitness minded connoisseur.

• *North Shore Leisure-Glenfield is located just behind Westfield Glenfield on Bentley Avenue.*

# Northcote

Northcote is an area of contrasts. While the town centre serves as the multi-cultural heart of North Shore City, Northcote Point boasts an array of heritage sites which thrive alongside modern and funky cinemas and restaurants.

The Northcote Shopping Centre can aptly be described as a celebration of Pacific Rim culture. With restaurants and stores from right across Asia and the Pacific, locals and visitors enjoy the food and vibrancy of the Orient. Each morning groups practice Tai Chi in Norman King Square, while the afternoons see regular games of Chinese chess around the elm tree in Pearn Place. The shopping centre is also home to some well-utilised community facilities such as the Northcote library and the NorthART Community Arts Centre which hosts a variety of exhibitions throughout the year. Both these community facilities can be found in Norman King Square.

Northcote Point is an area on The Shore which is rich in history and convenient to

reach by ferry. The Northcote Point Tavern has been in operation since 1840 when it started as an upper-class hotel for city weary travellers. In modern history this immaculately maintained heritage site boasts both a public and a private bar which are linked together via a meandering hallway. Come here to enjoy cleansing ale and a meal on a warm afternoon and chat with the locals for a most memorable experience.

While visiting Northcote Point it is well worth your while to check out a foreign or avante garde film at the Bridgeway Cinemas and then treat yourself to an award winning meal or glass of New Zealand wine next door at the Sausalito café. These establishments are world class and are a mainstay of a buzzing social scene in Northcote.

## Hot Spots

**Northcote Shopping Centre** Boasting a huge array of ethnic shops, restaurants and specialty boutiques this shopping centre is the place to go if you're looking to add some spice to your stay.

• *The Northcote Shopping Centre is located just off the Northern Motorway from Akoranga Drive turn left onto Lake Road.*

**The Bridgeway Theatre, Northcote Point** Just over the Harbour Bridge from downtown Auckland, The Bridgeway Theatre is an upbeat and colourful way to enjoy foreign films.

• *The Bridgeway is easily located on Queen Street, Northcote Point.*

**The Northcote Tavern:** An historical icon on The Shore, the Northcote Tavern has both public and private bars and is the perfect place to go to feel like a local.

• *Just down the street from The Bridgeway, the Northcote Tavern is easily accessible from the ferry terminal at Northcote Point.*

# Takapuna

Takapuna is the heart of North Shore City. An urban city centre with a coastal, breezy vibe and boasting beautiful Takapuna Beach and fresh water Lake Pupuke. Takapuna is a dream for those looking to spend a day shopping, kayaking, hiking, swimming, or enjoying a world class meal with friends.

Visiting Lake Pupuke is a wonderful way to spend the afternoon strolling lakeside and enjoying a cup of coffee at the cafe near the historic Pump House Theatre & Gallery.

After taking in some of Takapuna's natural scenery take a stroll along Hurstmere Road to indulge in some retail therapy. Takapuna offers a huge variety of boutique shops, health and beauty spas, award winning restaurants, funky cafes and much more – all of which are within walking distance to the beach.

If you are feeling adventurous and want to experience what it is like to be a local, the famous Takapuna Beach markets are an Auckland favourite and are open from 6am every Sunday in the Takapuna municipal car park on Anzac Street.

As well as being a great place to spend a day, Takapuna also offers many excellent choices for those searching out accommodation – from the Spencer on Byron to quaint B&B's, it is all here.

## Hot Spots

**Hurstmere Road** If you're after some retail therapy, this is the spot for you. Explore the retail boutiques and recharge in one of the many cafes. Then pop across the road to the Westfield Mall – home to all of NZ's favourite chain stores.

• 10 minutes drive over the Harbour Bridge, Hurstmere Rd is found in central Takapuna.

**The Pumphouse** Located beside beautiful Lake Pupuke, this iconic heritage building hosts a range of theatre activities all year round. Make the most of the setting by enjoying a coffee at the onsite café while you take in the sights.

• The Pumphouse is located on Manurewa Avenue Takapuna, on the banks of Lake Pupuke.

**The Lake House Arts Centre** Continuously housing a range of exhibitions, this stunning heritage location is a 'must see' for all who enjoy the arts.

• The Lake House Arts Centre is located at 37 Fred Thomas Drive, Barry's Point Reserve, Takapuna.