

North Island, New Zealand • Calendar

January

AUCKLAND ANNIVERSARY DAY REGATTA. Watch hundreds of boats race as Auckland celebrates the birthday of the City of Sails. This is one of the world's biggest one-day regattas.

February

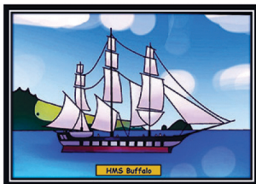
GARDEN CITY FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS.

You'll never look at your garden the same after experiencing this Auckland

festival. Visit creative booths where you will learn about native New Zealand flowers and plants.

March

GLASS BOTTOM BOAT TOURS. From the glass floor of these boats, you can see Auckland's variety of fish, such as snapper, goatfish, blue cod, marble fish, and stingray.



April

WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING CRUISE. Cruise in the "Dolphin Explorer," Auckland's 65-foot catamaran. Get a close-up view of orca whales, bottlenose dolphins, and several species of sea birds.

May

MATARIKI FESTIVAL.

Fireworks, food, and music are the focus of Auckland's Matariki, (Māori New Year). Matariki is celebrated when one of the brightest clusters of stars is visible, the Pleiades constellation.

June

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL FIELDAYS. Watch tractor racing, ride on farm equipment, or sit next to an 'Ag Drive Instructor' during this Hamilton, NZ event. Participants will try to beat the clock, competing for the Fieldays Ag Drive Tractor Racing Championship crown.

July

AUCKLAND FOOD SHOW. Enjoy tasty desserts, cheese, seafood, and more at this Auckland Food Show. Spend the day learning cooking secrets from some of the top chefs in the area.

August

HOBBITON & WAITOMO GLOWWORM CAVES DAY TRIP. Travel south of Auckland to visit the Waikato region, chosen as the famous backdrop of the Hobbit and Lord of the Rings movies. On this walking tour you will see small cottages used on the movie sets. Another walking tour takes you through the amazing Waitomo Glowworm Caves.



September

MERCURY BAY MUSEUM. Visit the actual museum mentioned in this book! See exhibits from the HMS Buffalo shipwreck, fishing displays, and learn about Māori culture. You may even see a pounamu greenstone!

October

MILL CREEK BIRD AND ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS. This sanctuary, located near Whitianga, cares for more than 400 birds and several friendly farm animals, many of which you can hold and pet. Take a train ride around the park.

November

NEW ZEALAND SCULPTURE ONSHORE. This Auckland annual art event is the largest and longest-running exhibit in New Zealand. View the stunning outdoor exhibits created by more than two hundred artists.

December

SWIMMING, SURFING, AND SEASHELLS. Buffalo Beach is Whitianga's most popular beach. Enjoy swimming, boogie boarding, surfing, or collecting seashells as you walk this white sand beach. New Year's Eve celebrations take place across New Zealand in this warm summer month.