

The answer for Auckland's domestic tourism: Arts and Culture



Auckland's leading arts, culture and heritage institutions are proving a popular success as visitor numbers to their destinations bounce back and some venues see such a revitalisation that local visitor numbers are higher than before COVID-19. In total, over 130,000 visitors enjoyed the Museums of Auckland in July 2020.

Kirsten Paisley, Director, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, says this resurgence shines a light on the arts and culture as the solution for domestic tourism:

'The Museums of Auckland hold the key to the revival of the city and to the growth of our local economy. Collectively, we are visited by over a million New Zealanders each year, from all parts of the country. Cultural, heritage and arts attractions have always been a cornerstone of Auckland's tourism offer. Together we represent an incredibly rich array of experiences – experiences that delight, engage, entertain, inform, excite and inspire. These are the levers this city needs now.'

Right across the sector, Aucklanders are showing up in droves to enjoy cultural experiences that are seeing school programmes booking out and a revival of domestic visitation. In July, the Museums of Auckland, comprising Auckland Art Gallery, Auckland War Memorial Museum, New Zealand Maritime Museum, MOTAT, Howick Historical Village, Heritage New Zealand's Auckland sites, Stardome and the Navy Museum, began reopening their doors. With Howick Historic Village soon to reopen, all will have welcomed the local audience back with open arms.

The July school holidays brought significant family audiences to Auckland's cultural attractions. Over the school holiday period, Heritage New Zealand's historic house, Highwic, saw a 500% increase in visitation and Stardome reported a 40% increase in visitation.

Victoria Travers, Chief Executive of Stardome says:

'We are incredibly grateful to Aucklanders for their patronage. We could really feel this aroha from our locals, and it means everything for us, especially as we celebrated Matariki and welcomed in the new year. We know there is a huge appetite from our local audience to return to our venues, and now we are inviting the rest of New Zealand to experience what we have to offer.'

David Gaimster, Chief Executive of Auckland Museum says:

'In July 2020 we had over 60,000 visitors through our doors. This is an incredible response and it means so much to have the support of our local audiences. Since we reopened, Aucklanders and regional visitors have experienced new tours such as our behind-the-scenes "Secret Museum" tour and enjoyed the Wildlife Photographer of the Year international exhibition. Post-COVID-19 lockdown, the community engagement we're seeing is stronger than ever.'

**For more information, high-res images
and interview requests contact:**

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Notes to editor | On now at the Museums of Auckland

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki

Open daily 10am-5pm, now open LATE every Friday until 9pm. Gallery entry is FREE, charges apply for special exhibitions.

Enchanted Worlds: Hokusai, Hiroshige and the Art of Edo Japan

Until Sunday 16 August

Adult \$19 | Concession \$16 | Members and Children under 12 FREE

The exhibition presents a captivating introduction to the characters, places and pastimes of a flourishing era during Japan's 250 years of self-imposed isolation from the world. See more than 70 paintings, including delicate silk prints, precious scrolls and vibrant folding screens, and explore the wonder, mystery and popularity of art from this period.

Civilisation, Photography, Now

Until Sunday 18 October

Adult \$19 | Concession \$16 | Members and Children under 12 FREE

Civilisation, Photography, Now explores our hyper-connected, 21st-century lives through over 200 original photographs by 103 contemporary artists from across Europe, Asia, America, Australia and New Zealand. Examining contemporary life, from the way we produce and consume to the way we work and play, travel and inhabit, think and create, collaborate and clash, *Civilisation, Photography, Now* reveals not only the complexities of human existence, but also the possibilities beyond the world we currently encounter.

Sara Hughes: All My Favourite Shapes

Until Friday 30 October

FREE

This interactive project by Auckland-based artist Sara Hughes, for the Gallery's Creative Learning Centre, gives everyone the chance to become the artist. Inspired by childhood magnetic board games and her own children's play with wooden blocks, *All My Favourite Shapes* is a family-friendly participatory installation that invites visitors to use the same decision-making process as the artist. Using coloured magnetic shapes arranged into abstract patterns on the Gallery's walls, visitors can collaborate on an existing composition or create original work in this constantly evolving geometric installation.

<https://www.aucklandartgallery.com/>

Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira

Open daily 10am-5pm. General admission is free for Auckland residents with proof of address, or by donation for those from the rest of New Zealand.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Until Sunday 16 August

FREE with museum entry

Come and experience the world's most prestigious international nature photography exhibition, on now at Auckland Museum. The Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, direct from the Natural History Museum in London, is a must-see, world-class free exhibition that showcases the 100 winning images from the competition. This is the most prestigious photography event of its kind, providing a global platform that showcases the natural world's most astonishing and challenging sights. The exceptional images in this exhibition capture fascinating animal behaviour, spectacular species and the breath-taking diversity of the natural world.

Secret Museum Tour

11.30am daily

\$30 per person

Don't miss this once in a lifetime chance to explore the underground world where many of our treasures are stored. Your guide will reveal how we look after our priceless collections and how they are kept safe for future generations. This is a rare opportunity to see some of the incredible objects that aren't on display in our galleries and exhibitions.

<https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/>

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

Highwic

Wednesday-Sunday, 10.30am-4.30pm

Adults \$10 | Children under 18 FREE

A must-visit for lovers of history, architecture and gardens, this rambling Gothic mansion is the legacy of early colonial Alfred Buckland. A self-guided tour of Highwic not only offers a captivating trip back in time to the days when the house bustled with Buckland family life, but also insight into the rapidly changing landscape of colonial New Zealand.

Alberton

Wednesday-Sunday, 10.30am-4.30pm

Adults \$10 | Children under 18 FREE

This exceptionally well-preserved mansion is an architectural delight offering a fascinating insight into the lives of a wealthy colonial family. Situated on the lower slopes of Mt Albert and once the centrepiece of a 500-acre country estate, Alberton began life as a two-storey farmhouse built in 1863. Entry allows visitors to explore the house and garden at their leisure, with hosts on hand to provide an illuminating introduction to the property.

Ewelme Cottage

Sundays, 10.30am-4.30pm

Adults \$10 | Children under 18 FREE

The kauri-constructed Ewelme Cottage has a link with the Anglican community in Auckland, the dwelling designed and built by the Reverend Vicesimus Lush (1817-1882) and his wife Blanche in 1863-64. Ewelme Cottage is of considerable importance for its well-preserved interiors and furnishings, and provides great insights into colonial building materials and techniques as well as middle-class domestic life.

<https://www.heritage.org.nz/>

Howick Historic Village

Pop up Meet the Villagers day

10am-5pm Sunday 16 August

A fun day for all the family. Immerse yourself in a Victorian village and try your hand at traditional crafts and games. Try on Victorian style clothing for your own special photo of the day.

<https://www.historicalvillage.org.nz/>

MOTAT

Open daily 10am-4pm.

Science Photographer of the Year

Until 30 November

Included in General Admission

Immerse yourself in incredible science photography from around the world. A visual spectacular direct from the Royal Photographic Society in the UK. From telescopes to tadpoles, an electrified safety pin and even the skull of King Richard III, you will be surprised and delighted by Science Photographer of the Year.

The Great MOTAT Bear Hunt

10AM-4PM, 23 August

Included in General Admission

Explore the Museum's collection and exhibitions to uncover the sneaky hiding places of the MOTAT Bears.

Firefighter, Science, Aviation, Military, Engineer and Christmas MOTAT Bears - the whole crew will be there! Find them all to earn your Great MOTAT Bear Hunt badge! There will be loads of other fun activities happening too. Featuring: a teddy bears picnic, craft activities, face painting and more.

Slice of Life: The World Famous Dunedin Study

Until 4 October

Included in General Admission

Slice of Life tells the story of the 1,000 most studied people in the world and what we have learned from their lives so far. This exhibition parallels the participants lives through the decades, from their childhood in the 1970s, through to adulthood in the 2000s, telling the story of the study, its research methods and its findings.

<https://www.motat.nz/>

New Zealand Maritime Museum

Open daily from 10am – 4pm, last entry 3pm. Free Museum entry for Auckland residents.

Merchant Navy Day Service

11am, Thursday 3rd September, The Maritime Room Princes Wharf, Viaduct Harbour.

Free

Commemorate those who served and lost their lives in the Merchant Navy during the Second World War from the first day to the last. This one hour public service will be followed by light refreshments put on by the Maritime Museum and a wreath will be laid at sea in the Museum's marina from the vessel NAUTILUS.

Free Guided Tours

10:30am Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Free with Museum entry | Free entry for Auckland residents

Soak up our stories of the sea with a guided tour. Dive deeper into the much-contended America's Cup, the genius of traditional Pacific voyaging and the experience of early European immigrants.

High Tea on NAUTILUS

Book an extra special 1-hour outing on NAUTILUS. Built in 1913, this classic motor launch served in the Merchant Navy on board SS MARAMA in WW1. Enjoy tea, cake and coffee on board from \$98 per person. Pre-bookings essential.

www.maritimemuseum.co.nz

Stardome Observatory & Planetarium

Monday 9.30am-5pm | Tuesday to Friday 9.30-5pm, 6pm-9.30pm | Weekends 9.30am-9.30pm

Wine, Cheese & Astronomy

8pm-10pm, Tuesday 18 August

\$34.50pp (18+ event)

Join us at our famed Tuesday evening special where you will enjoy an extended 'Our Night Sky' show that includes a glass of wine or beverage of your choice and supper. Learn about the planets, stars and constellations visible in the night sky on the evening of your visit. The show is perfect for anyone looking for something different to do for a date night (or mates night!) and for anyone who wants to learn about astronomy in an interactive and relaxed environment.

Our Night Sky

8.30pm-9.30pm, Wednesday-Sunday throughout August

Adult \$15 | Children \$12

In this live 360-degree experience, your planetarium presenter will take you on an extraordinary tour of the stars, planets and constellations visible on the night of your visit from our little corner of the globe, Auckland. Be curious, ask questions, look up, and be amazed as you experience the Auckland night sky in ways you've never seen before. As Earth moves through the seasons, the view above us is ever-changing so you'll get a new perspective on the celestial sights every time you return.

<https://www.stardome.org.nz>
