



AIR NEW ZEALAND

JUST FOR FUN

A Taste of New Zealand's Best From the Air New Zealand Team

I loved steering the NZL 41 yacht part of the way to **Waiheke Island**, off the coast of Auckland, New Zealand. The fresh air, waterscape, and communal sharing of sailing an **America's Cup yacht** were intoxicating. We visited the island's gorgeous rolling hills, relished the village atmosphere, lovely boutique vineyards, and my personal favourite - **Rangihoua Estate**, a local olive farm with a small store featuring the best olives, tapenade and olive oil, bar none! – *Rosalie Cushman*

Coromandel Peninsula is one of the best kept secrets in all of New Zealand with its beautiful coastline, beaches, bays and forests and it's only a few hours from Auckland. You can easily spend half a day there exploring with Kiwi Dundee (Doug Johansen) from **Kiwi Dundee Adventures**. – *Steve Campbell*

“The **Hobbiton village movie set** from *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy is located in **Matamata** - only a one hour drive from Rotorua. Families can have fun going in and out of the hobbit holes tucked in valleys of New Zealand farmland.” – *Lu Shi*

“The best cooking school is the **Ruth Pretty Cooking School** in **Te Horo**. She does amazing one-day cooking classes in a fully equipped commercial kitchen out at her homestead, located in a very relaxed, rural setting. Afterward, the class sits outside in the sunshine and dines on a four-course meal. And her cute pug is always hanging around for the table scraps.” – *Julie Alloway*

“A well-kept secret in **Arrowtown** – a quaint, historic gold mining town about thirty minutes north of Queenstown – is **Dorothy Brown's**, a very chic boutique cinema tucked away off of the main street. Sit on a red fur-lined bench or bean bag chair by a roaring fire, read a book and have a glass of wine from the lobby bar while waiting for your movie. The theatre itself brings back the romance of a night at the movies with its beautiful crystal chandeliers hanging from the ceiling and big, overstuffed seats with armrests that serve as tables. Patrons are encouraged to pre-order their wine and cheese boards at the bar before the film starts, and then pick them up during intermission to enjoy during the second half of the movie.” – *Melanie Macauley*



AIR NEW ZEALAND

“A unique find Northwest of Auckland is a trip to **Muriwai Beach** to visit the **Gannet Colony**. The gannet story is fascinating. The birds lay a single egg between September and November each year with an incubation time of 44 days. The chicks then stay in the colony until February/March and then migrate 2,500 kilometres to Australia. It is said that this is the first flight of the juvenile birds and that they do not return to Muriwai for three to six years.”

– *Sheila O’Neil*

“A great restaurant in **Queenstown** is **Joe’s Garage**. It’s a converted garage that serves great food. There is also **Minus 5**, an ice bar in **Queenstown**. Put on a parka and gloves before you enter and experience life at minus 5 degrees.” – *Gillian Mclean*

“Restaurants and cafés that I would fly around the world just to eat at are **Parade Café**, **Chocolate Fish Café** and **Midnight Espresso** in **Wellington** and **RICE** and **Sitting Duck Café** in **Auckland**.” – *Julie Alloway*

“I loved staying at the **Langham Hotel, Auckland**. It sits on a rise of land across from a lovely old grave yard with lots of history. It’s also dangerously close to great shopping that is *local!* If you trek down **Karangahape Road** crossing Queen Street in just a few blocks you will discover lovely shops with great deals; lots of imports from Asia too! After spending hours picking up unique items for bargain prices I ate the best Pad Thai ever at a food court nearby!”

– *Rosalie Cushman*

“**Awatuna Homestead** in **Hokitika** is the best bed and breakfast accommodation.”

– *Diane Garrett*

###