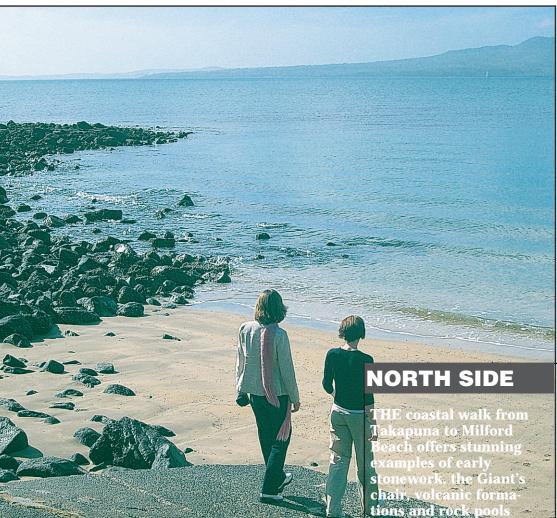
## focus on Auckland



## teeming with marine l

You could even try a spot of fishing off the rocks. If you aren't feeling at one with nature yet, the 6km Long Bay Coastal Walk offers great views of the Hauraki

## **Enjoy Auckland** for under \$10

Everywhere there are billboards, advertisements, shop windows and discount flyers competing for your cash ... It seems this town is all about money. So what can you do if you don't have so much of the stuff? How do you spend your free time? And by free time, we mean free time. Read on to discover how free time can be free (or close enough) – even in Auckland.

Gulf from lookout points. Along the decent-size bag of high quality way you will find a WWII gun sweets will only set you back a few emplacement, part of a defence dollars, but how much you spend is network to protect the Waitemata entirely dependent on how indul-Harbour from Japanese invasion. gent you're feeling. The sweets are Don't forget to stop off at the imported and the hot chocolates Vaughn Homestead. For a gold are a must. coin donation you can take a look

Hit the road again for the Harbourside Art Trail. This tour of local artists' studios throughout Northcote and Birkenhead includes weaving, pottery and woodturning. Take the tour at your Mokoia Rd. The owner of the store own pace during the week, but you really knows her stuff, and will may need to phone ahead on weekgladly offer a recommendation if ends. The only cost is the petrol to it was occupied by the Navy, until the selection overwhelms you. A get you around, but you may like to 1996.

purchase some works too. For a full list of artists and contact details: www.tourismnorthshore.org.nz/id/ 4/top10

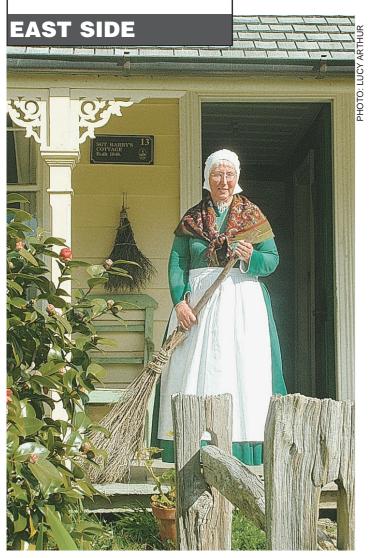
Take a stroll along the water front and climb North Head, a hill which served as a Maori Pa until the mid 19th Century. Then from 1870-1956 it was used as an army base, for prospective invasions from the Russians and later the Japanese, although they never

quite made it here. As a result, the hill is riddled with tunnels. In more recent years

IF YOU'RE feeling nostalgic, the Howick Historical Village will give you a realtime history lesson. It recreates the 1847 settlement of retired British soldiers in Auckland.

Every third Sunday of the month cos tumed interpreters stoke the fires, bake bread and carry out domestic and military activities. All this in the surroundings of stunning colonial buildings. A great family outing for adults at \$10 and kids for \$5.

For the adrenaline-junkie out east Whitford Forest offers over a dozen mountain-biking tracks, suitable for beginners right through to advanced riders. The lengths and difficulties vary, and as a bonus, it's free.





WE START in Auckland with the Auckland cattle, sheep, goats, kune kune pigs and Pasifika bazaar runs every Saturday Regional Botanic Gardens open a horse or two. The park also includes from 6am until noon, with a mix of between 8am and dusk. 65 hectares of coastal inlets which are home to 86 Maori, Pacific, Indian, Asian and Auckland soil have been graced with species of birds. During the autumn, European food, art, craft and culture. over 10,000 plant types. The sheer num- 20,000 birds arrive from the Antarctic Set the alarm clock for an early start to bers of plants mean that every season and the South Island, making the park experience the best of Auckland's multithere is something in flower. And best of their holiday home. The park is open cultural diversity, enjoy a fresh pork all, the cost is free.

around the homestead built by

Undo all the hard yards you've

trekked by indulging in goodies

from **The Chocolate Boutique** in

George Vaughn in 1893.

Next it's on to the Nathan Homestead. Built in 1925, with expansive lawns and gardens, it has become the home of the Manurewa Theatre Company and regular art exhibitions. Once again, there is no entry fee.

The Ambury Regional Park at Mangere Bridge gives urban dwellers

colourful South the experience of a working farm, with everyday from 7.30am to 7pm. Entry is bun (\$2) and take in the entertainment. free but please leave Fido at home.

> Other nearby attractions include Mangere Mountain, once the largest fortified Maori pa in Auckland and the Kiwi Esplanade which feature the finest example of Pahoehoe lava flows in New lively atmosphere. Make sure you've Zealand

The Otara Flea Market is world Leisure Centre.

If this has whet the appetite for bargain hunting then head back up the motorway to Mangere Town Centre

Markets. The highlights here are an abundance of cheap fresh produce, including live crabs (\$9.99 kg) and a packed your togs because across the carpark is the Moana-nui-a-Kiwi

Te Waha Nui, August 23, 2004



AUCKLAND'S wild, wild west is full of surprises. More then just bad haircuts and broken down cars, west Auckland offers the Kiwi Valley Maze. Nestled below the Waitakere Ranges, the outdoor maze is over 1 km and includes caves, an aviary and animal pens. The cost is \$9 for adults and students and \$7 for senior citizens and children.

Every Sunday the Waitakere Tramline rolls through native bush and on up to the Waitakere Dam. Highlights include travelling through the longest tunnel in Auckland which is home to glow worms. And stunning views of the Waitakere Ranges.

The tram leaves every Sunday from the end of Christian Rd in Swanson, at 10am, 11.30, 1pm, 2.30. Bookings are essential as trips are limited to 20 people. Phone: 836 0900. And the cost – well, for adults it's \$8 and school children pay \$4. For pre-school children it's free.

Another attraction of west Auckland is Woodhill Mountain Bike Park. Located in 411 hectares of Carter Holt Harvey forest in Woodhill and Riverhead, it has over 40 trails running over 70kms. The sand-based forest is suitable for people of all riding abilities, and there are even night riding trails, jumps with bridges and balancing beams. There is a cost... For adults it's \$4, kids \$2 and under-11's are free.



THE grand Auckland Museum, atop the sculptures, oil paintings and mosaics are Auckland Domain, hosts regular exhibitions and events, ranging from New Zealand history to photography, design and fashion. Open daily, it has activities for the kids too. There is a "suggested" (but actually compulsory) \$5 donation.

Auckland city is a haven for art-lovers, with venues to suit all tastes. Maota Gallery showcases Samoan art and culture at 283 Karangahape Rd. Wood

free to view Monday to Saturday from 9am-

Just down the road is the Art Station, at 1 Ponsonby Rd. New exhibitions run every three weeks, with a focus on unusual and different art from the Auckland com-

Late nights on Monday to Thursday, also open Fridays from 9am-5pm, Saturdays 9am-4pm.

