

# ASTEN 2026 – Information for delegates

MOTAT • Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland • 14–15 October 2026

Kia ora, talofa lava and welcome. This guide is intended to help delegates travelling to ASTEN 2026 to plan their stay and daily travel. Delegates are recommended to stay in Auckland’s central business district (CBD) or Ponsonby, with the conference held at MOTAT.

| Item             | Details                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Conference venue | <a href="#">MOTAT Great North Road</a> - 805 Great North Road, Western Springs, Auckland 1022<br>Delegate entry outside of opening hours (10am - 4pm) is at MOTAT Gate C, Stadium Road, Western Springs. |
| Airport          | <a href="#">Auckland Airport (AKL)</a> - international and domestic terminals                                                                                                                            |
| Time zone        | New Zealand Daylight Time (NZDT, UTC+13) in October                                                                                                                                                      |
| Currency         | New Zealand dollars (NZD). Contactless card payment is widely accepted, including on public transport. AUD1 =approx. NZD1.2                                                                              |
| Weather          | Spring weather can change quickly. Bring a light waterproof layer and comfortable walking shoes. Ave daytime temp is 17C, overnight low of 11C.                                                          |

## Staying in the CBD

The CBD offers the widest range of hotels and the simplest access to the direct airport coach. Delegates can walk to a broad choice of restaurants and use buses, taxis, or rideshare to reach MOTAT.

### Accommodation options

These centrally located hotels provide a mix of value, business and premium choices. The indicative bands below are per room, per night, including GST where displayed by the hotel, but may exclude breakfast, parking or flexible-cancellation premiums.

| Hotel                                                    | Area / useful feature                                        | Indicative nightly rate |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <a href="#">Holiday Inn Express Auckland City Centre</a> | Wyndham Street; central, with breakfast commonly included    | \$180–\$280             |
| <a href="#">Sudima Auckland City</a>                     | Nelson Street; close to SkyCity and the SkyDrive stop        | \$190–\$300             |
| <a href="#">voco Auckland City Centre</a>                | Wyndham Street; modern business hotel in the city centre     | \$220–\$350             |
| <a href="#">M Social Auckland</a>                        | Quay Street; waterfront, opposite the ferry terminal         | \$240–\$380             |
| <a href="#">The Grand by SkyCity</a>                     | Federal Street; premium option beside Sky Tower and SkyDrive | \$280–\$450+            |

**Booking advice:** Rates can rise as inventory fills.

### Travel from Auckland Airport to the CBD

Allow extra time at peak periods. Journey times are estimates and can vary considerably with traffic or service disruptions.

| Option                                 | Typical time    | Indicative cost                                 | Good to know                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">SkyDrive express coach</a> | about 35–55 min | about \$20–\$25 one way                         | Direct between the terminals and Hobson Street near Sky Tower; normally every 30 minutes. Book online or pay the driver by card. |
| <a href="#">AirportLink + train</a>    | about 55–75 min | standard AT fare                                | AirportLink bus to Puhinui Station, then train to the city. Use an AT HOP card; tag on and off with the same card/device.        |
| <a href="#">Taxi or shared shuttle</a> | about 30–60 min | taxi \$38–\$105; shared shuttle from about \$35 | Door-to-door travel for delegates. Follow terminal signage. Use authorised ranks/operators.                                      |
| <a href="#">Rideshare</a>              | about 30–60 min | variable; check the app                         | Uber, Bolt and DiDi use designated pick-up areas. Follow terminal signage.                                                       |

Costs are NZD and indicative only. Check the linked operator immediately before travel. Public transport and SkyDrive schedules may change. Auckland Transport (AT) is the organisation responsible for Auckland’s public transport services, roads, cycling routes and local travel information. An AT HOP card is Auckland’s reusable public transport payment card and can be purchased online or from selected retailers and transport centres.

## Eating in the CBD

Auckland’s centre has many options from food halls and casual cafés to destination restaurants. For dinner groups larger than six, booking ahead is recommended. Ask each venue directly about allergies and dietary requirements.

| Place                                          | Style                                                                        | Price guide / note                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Commercial Bay dining precinct</a> | Large downtown food hall and restaurants; broad range of cuisines            | \$–\$\$\$; easy for delegates choosing independently                  |
| <a href="#">Elliott Stables</a>                | Central dining hall with multiple independent eateries.                      | \$–\$\$; informal, mixed groups. Open 7 days, 12–9pm.                 |
| <a href="#">Amano</a>                          | Italian-inspired all-day restaurant near Britomart                           | \$\$–\$\$\$; bookings recommended for dinner. Open 7 days, 7am – late |
| <a href="#">Viaduct Harbour</a>                | Waterfront cafés, bars and restaurants                                       | \$\$–\$\$\$; many group-friendly options                              |
| <a href="#">Heart of the City dining guide</a> | Searchable guide to CBD dining, including dietary and occasion-based options | All price points                                                      |

**Price guide:** \$ = generally under \$25 for a main; \$\$ = about \$25–\$45; \$\$\$ = typically \$45+ before drinks. These ranges are indicative.

## Travel from the CBD to MOTAT (approx. 5km)

- [Auckland Transport Journey Planner](#) - Enter your hotel as the starting point and ‘MOTAT Great North Road’ as the destination. Check it each morning for live disruptions and the best nearby bus stop.
- [Public bus](#) - Services from the city travel along or connect with Great North Road. Allow about 25–45 minutes from the CBD, including walking and waiting. Contactless bank cards and mobile wallets can be used; always tag on and off with the same card/device.
- Taxi or rideshare - Usually about 10–20 minutes outside peak congestion. Ask to be dropped at Stadium Road, Gate C entrance; travel time and fares vary.

**Allow a buffer:** Weekday peak traffic can affect all road-based travel. Aim to arrive 15–20 minutes before registration and check the AT Journey Planner on both conference mornings.

## Staying in Ponsonby

Ponsonby is a lively inner-city neighbourhood west of the CBD, known for cafés, restaurants and independent shops. It offers more residential stay while remaining close to both the city centre and MOTAT.

Accommodation is generally smaller than in the CBD, so availability for a large delegation may be limited.

### Accommodation options

| Accommodation                     | Location and style                                                                                 | Indicative nightly rate |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <a href="#">Quest Ponsonby</a>    | Serviced apartments on Ponsonby Road; useful for longer stays and self-catering                    | \$180–\$300             |
| <a href="#">Ponsonby Manor</a>    | Restored Victorian guest house at 229 Ponsonby Road; smaller rooms and shared guest facilities     | \$140–\$260             |
| <a href="#">The Convent Hotel</a> | Boutique hotel in nearby Grey Lynn, about a 10-minute walk from Ponsonby; great on-site restaurant | \$180–\$320             |

**Booking advice:** Ponsonby properties are smaller than most CBD hotels. Delegates should book early and check room access, parking, breakfast and cancellation arrangements directly with the property.

### Travel from Auckland Airport to Ponsonby

| Option                                      | Typical time    | Indicative cost                                 | Good to know                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Taxi or shared shuttle</a>      | about 30–60 min | taxi \$38–\$105; shared shuttle from about \$35 | The simplest door-to-door option, particularly with luggage or for delegates travelling together.                                                                     |
| <a href="#">Rideshare</a>                   | about 30–60 min | variable; check the app                         | Uber, Bolt and DiDi use designated airport pick-up areas. Enter the full accommodation address.                                                                       |
| <a href="#">SkyDrive + local connection</a> | about 55–85 min | \$20–\$25 plus local fare                       | Take SkyDrive to Hobson Street near Sky Tower, then connect to Ponsonby by bus, taxi or rideshare. Use the <a href="#">AT Journey Planner</a> for the complete route. |
| <a href="#">AirportLink + train + bus</a>   | about 70–95 min | standard AT fares                               | Travel via Puhinui Station and the city, then connect to Ponsonby. Use the <a href="#">AT Journey Planner</a> for the complete route.                                 |

Costs are NZD and indicative only. Check the linked operator immediately before travel. Public transport and SkyDrive schedules may change. Auckland Transport (AT) is the organisation responsible for Auckland's public transport services, roads, cycling routes and local travel information. An AT HOP card is Auckland's reusable public transport payment card and can be purchased online or from selected retailers and transport centres.

### Eating in Ponsonby

Ponsonby Road has a wide range of cafés, casual eateries, restaurants and bars. Ponsonby Central is convenient for informal groups because delegates can select from several cuisines in one precinct. Book individual restaurants ahead for larger dinner groups and confirm dietary requirements directly.

- [Ponsonby Central](#) - Dining precinct at 136–146 Ponsonby Road. Check individual venue hours and current menus.

**Price guide:** Ponsonby offers options across all price points, from quick meals under \$25 to restaurants where mains are commonly \$30–\$50 or more, before drinks.

## Travel from Ponsonby to MOTAT

- [Auckland Transport Journey Planner](#) - Enter the accommodation address and 'MOTAT Great North Road' as the destination. Check the recommended route each morning.
- Bus, taxi or rideshare - allow roughly 15–30 minutes depending on the exact accommodation, waiting time and traffic. Ask to be dropped at Stadium Road, Gate C entrance; travel time and fares vary.
- Walking or cycling - MOTAT is around 3–5 km from much of Ponsonby. Allow approximately 40–65 minutes on foot or 15–25 minutes by bike, depending on the route and confidence.

---

## Hiring a car

A rental car is most useful if you plan to explore beyond central Auckland before or after the conference. It is usually unnecessary for travel between a CBD or Ponsonby hotel and MOTAT, where public transport, taxis, and rideshare avoid parking and peak-traffic pressures.

- [Auckland Airport rental cars](#) - Licensed on-site companies include Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Ezi, Europcar, Hertz, National, SIXT and Thrifty. International-terminal desks are in the Transport Hub; domestic collections are on the ground floor of car park R.
- Indicative price - allow approximately \$50–\$120 per day for a small or standard vehicle, plus fuel, optional insurance excess reduction, airport or one-way fees, and hotel parking. Larger vehicles and short-notice bookings can cost more.
- Book early and compare the total price, including kilometres, insurance excess, additional-driver fees, cancellation terms and opening hours. Check whether your hotel has parking and its nightly charge before reserving a vehicle.
- [Driving in New Zealand](#) - Keep left, allow for unfamiliar roads and carry a valid driver licence. Overseas visitors should check current NZ Transport Agency licence and translation requirements before driving.

---

## Parking at and around MOTAT

Driving is possible, but free spaces close to MOTAT are limited and cannot be reserved. Car-pooling is encouraged.

- Free street parking: limited free spaces are available on Stadium Road and across Great North Road, to the right of the Caltex service station when facing MOTAT. Check signs carefully for time limits, restrictions and temporary changes.
- Other street parking may be available on nearby roads, including Great North Road and Motions Road, but restrictions vary. Do not assume a space is free unless the signs confirm it.
- Paid MOTAT / Western Springs car park: the main car park at 98 Motions Road has more than 150 spaces. MOTAT currently lists charges of \$2.50 per hour, capped at \$10, applying 9.00 am–5.00 pm.
- Accessible parking: check MOTAT's current location and parking information and contact the conference organiser in advance if you require a reserved or supported arrival arrangement.

[View MOTAT's current location and parking information](#)

## Other places of interest to visit in Auckland

The options below include central-city attractions and destinations that require more travel time. Costs are indicative adult prices in NZD and may change; check the linked website for current hours, availability and booking requirements.

| Place                                                                       | Address                                                                            | Indicative cost                                                                           | Delegate information                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>Auckland War Memorial Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira</u></a>      | The Auckland Domain, Parnell, Auckland 1010                                        | Free for NZ residents; international visitors aged 16+ \$35. Some experiences cost extra. | Natural history, Māori and Pacific collections and New Zealand history. About 10 minutes by taxi from the CBD.                                                          |
| <a href="#"><u>New Zealand Maritime Museum Hui Te Ananui a Tangaroa</u></a> | Corner Quay and Hobson Streets, Viaduct Harbour, Auckland 1010                     | Free for Auckland residents; visitor admission and heritage sailings are ticketed.        | On the downtown waterfront. Allow extra time or book ahead if adding a heritage sailing.                                                                                |
| <a href="#"><u>Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki</u></a>                    | Corner Kitchener and Wellesley Streets, Auckland 1010                              | General admission is free; charges may apply to major exhibitions.                        | Central and easy to reach on foot from most CBD hotels. Closed on some public holidays.                                                                                 |
| <a href="#"><u>Te Whatu Stardome</u></a>                                    | 670 Manukau Road, Epsom, Auckland 1023                                             | Planetarium shows are ticketed; adult prices vary by programme.                           | Located in Maungakiekie One Tree Hill Domain. Book shows in advance and allow about 20–30 minutes from the CBD by taxi or rideshare.                                    |
| <a href="#"><u>Auckland Zoo</u></a>                                         | 99 Motions Road, Western Springs, Auckland 1022                                    | Ticketed; adult online prices are generally around \$25–\$30.                             | Beside MOTAT and suitable for a half-day visit. Online tickets are usually cheaper than gate prices.                                                                    |
| <a href="#"><u>SEA LIFE Kelly Tarlton’s Aquarium</u></a>                    | 23 Tamaki Drive, Ōrākei, Auckland 1071                                             | Dynamic online pricing; adult tickets commonly start at about \$39.                       | Allow 1.5–2 hours. The attraction is east of the CBD; check current bus, shuttle or rideshare options.                                                                  |
| <a href="#"><u>Auckland Botanic Gardens</u></a>                             | 102 Hill Road, Manurewa, Auckland 2105                                             | Free entry and free parking.                                                              | About 25 km south of the CBD. Open daily; October summer hours are generally 6.30 am–8.00 pm, with shorter visitor-centre hours.                                        |
| <a href="#"><u>Te Uru Waitākere Contemporary Gallery</u></a>                | 420 Titirangi Road, Titirangi, Auckland 0604                                       | Free entry; donations welcome.                                                            | Contemporary art in Titirangi village. Combine with a west Auckland visit; check opening days and hours.                                                                |
| <a href="#"><u>Rangitoto Island</u></a>                                     | Ferries depart from the Downtown Ferry Terminal, 99 Quay Street                    | Return ferry commonly about \$55–\$60 per adult.                                          | Book ahead. There are no shops on the island: take water, food, sun protection and sturdy shoes. Complete all pest-free island biosecurity checks.                      |
| <a href="#"><u>Tiritiri Matangi Island</u></a>                              | Ferries depart from downtown Auckland on selected days and from Gulf Harbour       | Ferry and landing costs are generally \$100+ per adult.                                   | Protected wildlife sanctuary with limited sailings. Advance booking and pest-free island biosecurity checks are essential; take food and water.                         |
| <a href="#"><u>West coast beaches</u></a>                                   | Piha, Karekare and Te Henga Bethells Beach, approximately 40–60 km west of the CBD | Free; allow for vehicle hire, fuel and parking conditions.                                | A car is strongly recommended. Roads are winding and mobile coverage can be limited. West-coast surf is hazardous: swim only between patrol flags and check conditions. |
| <a href="#"><u>Devonport village</u></a>                                    | Devonport Ferry Terminal, 1 Queens Parade, Devonport 0624                          | Standard AT ferry fare; use contactless payment or an AT HOP card.                        | Approximately 12 minutes by ferry from downtown. Explore cafés, waterfront walks and local heritage; check the AT Journey Planner for current services.                 |

**Travel advice:** Use the AT Journey Planner for public transport. Book island ferries and ticketed attractions early, especially for weekend travel.

## Before you travel

- Confirm your flight, hotel and conference registration details, including the correct arrival and departure dates.
- [Check Immigration New Zealand entry requirements](#)
- Advise the organiser early of accessibility requirements, food allergies or other dietary needs.
- Save the [AT Journey Planner](#) and your hotel address on your phone; consider downloading an offline map.
- For emergencies in New Zealand, phone 111 for Police, Fire or Ambulance.

Information checked 9 September 2026. Schedules, prices and parking conditions can change. Delegates should verify details through the linked provider before booking or travelling.

## Māori language

Te reo Māori is widely used in everyday life in Aotearoa New Zealand. These words may be useful during the conference and your visit. Pronunciation is approximate: macrons (eg. ā) lengthen a vowel; 'wh' is commonly pronounced like 'f', and 'ng' as in 'sing'. 'O' is long like 'aw'.

| Context           | Te reo Māori    | Meaning                                                           | Pronunciation           |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Greetings         | Kia ora         | Hello, hi or thank you                                            | kee aw-rah              |
| Greetings         | Mōrena          | Good morning                                                      | maw-reh-nah             |
| Greetings         | Ka kite anō     | See you again or goodbye                                          | kah kee-teh ah-naw      |
| Greetings         | Ka pai          | Good or well done                                                 | kah pie                 |
| Daily life        | Kai             | Food or eating                                                    | Kye (rhymes with pie)   |
| Daily life        | Whānau          | Family or extended family                                         | faa-know                |
| Daily life        | Mahi            | Work, job or activity                                             | mah-hee                 |
| Daily life        | Hui             | Meeting, gathering or conference                                  | hoo-ee                  |
| Daily life        | Tamariki        | Children                                                          | tah-mah-ree-kee         |
| Daily life        | Puku            | Belly or stomach                                                  | poo-koo                 |
| Culture and place | Aotearoa        | New Zealand; commonly translated as land of the long white cloud  | ah-oh-teh-ah-roh-ah     |
| Culture and place | Tāmaki Makaurau | Auckland                                                          | taa-mah-kee mah-kow-row |
| Culture and place | Te reo Māori    | The Māori language                                                | teh reh-aw maa-aw-ree   |
| Culture and place | Tangata whenua  | Māori people; literally people of the land                        | tah-ngah-tah feh-noo-ah |
| Culture and place | Mana whenua     | The iwi or hapū who hold customary authority in a particular area | mah-nah feh-noo-ah      |
| Culture and place | Iwi             | Tribe or large kinship group                                      | ee-wee                  |
| Culture and place | Pākehā          | A New Zealander of non-Māori, usually European, heritage          | paa-keh-haa             |
| Culture and place | Mana            | Prestige, authority, status or influence                          | mah-nah                 |
| Culture and place | Taonga          | A treasured or precious item, resource or cultural treasure       | tah-aw-ngah             |
| Culture and place | Whenua          | Land; also placenta, depending on context                         | feh-noo-ah              |