

AUCKLAND

It is wonderful to visit so many different parts of the world on this 6 month trip, and it is equally magical to revisit places we enjoyed on the first world cruise one year ago.



Auckland is definitely one of our favourite places - modern, clean, friendly and safe, and we know exactly what we want to do here on our 15 hour stay. Again we opt for the "Hop-on, Hop off" Auckland Explorer Bus, but this time we stay on the bus until we arrive at the Museum of Transport and Technology. Last year we spent so much time visiting the earlier stops on the bus route, that we did not have enough time to visit MOTAT.



When we arrive there is a sudden downpour, and we decide to take the preserved working tram from the MOTAT entrance, past the zoo to the hangar that houses the numerous old aircraft. Exhibits include a restored Solent sea plane, a Lancaster bomber and a Gipsy Moth.

The main area in MOTAT includes a recreated Victorian village, restored fire-engines, trolley buses, cars and tractors, and a display area of old computers! Again, we are disappointed that there are very few Aussie cars on display.



On the way back from the museum, our bus driver stops at Mount Eden, an extinct volcano, for us to take photos. From our vantage point, we have a good view of the city of Auckland below us, and also of the inside of the volcano crater, where cows are peacefully grazing.

Back in the city, we stand awhile at the foot of the Sky Tower, and watch amazed as the cable-controlled base jumpers throw themselves off the top. The tower is 328 metres high, and the journey from the top takes just a few seconds.

As we do not leave Auckland until this evening, we decide to stay in the city and eat at one of the many restaurants in the main street. There is a fantastic array of eating places - Indian, Indonesian, Thai, Vietnamese, Italian and many others. We choose a Chinese restaurant where we have a "Pre-Theatre Special" meal washed down with some New Zealand beer. Owain tries a black beer, and Alvina a red beer from the Lion Brewery, which we passed on the bus this afternoon.

We are back on the ship in plenty of time for the 9pm sailing to our next port of call in New Zealand.

