

Once again we're a top global visitor destination

When living on an island as magical as ours, it is hard to keep the appeal hidden from the outside world. Waiheke has once again been recognised for its beauty, and this time by American magazine *Travel+Leisure* as the fifth best island in the world.

"This 12-mile-long island can be reached in less than an hour by ferry from Auckland, yet it feels far from the madding crowd. Visitors call its beaches unrivalled and praise its verdant beauty, stellar vineyards, and artsy scene," *Travel+Leisure* magazine writes online.

Every year, the magazine asks readers to weigh in on travel experiences around the globe when conducting the world's best awards survey, to find the top cities, islands, cruise ships, spas, airlines and more.

Readers rated islands according to their

activities and sights, natural attractions and beaches, food, friendliness, and overall value.

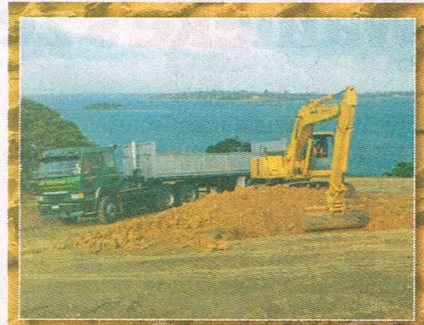
With a score of 90.21 out of 100, Waiheke is deemed the best island in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific. The island comes in fifth when compared to the rest of the world, only beaten by the Maldives (fourth) and Indonesia's Lombok (third), Bali (second) and Java (first).

Making its first appearance on the 2018 world's best list, Java went straight to the top.

"Celebrated for its ancient culture, breathtaking vistas, and Unesco World Heritage sites like the Borobudur Temple Compounds, the island also offers the opportunity to indulge in modernity.

"Waterfalls, volcanoes, protected parks, and white-sand beaches also allow visitors to get away from the thrum," the magazine writes. • Emma Haas

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-Travel+Leisure magazine



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