Things to do

A local guide to activities, places and useful contacts.

Scan for the website

Outdoors & on the water

Free Walks: Russell to Long Beach or Tapeka

Sailing: Vigilant, Phantom, R. Tucker Thompson

Surfing / Body Surfing: Long Beach

Swimming: Russell Town Beach (waterfront), Long Beach and Tapeka Point

Fishing: Russell Wharf, Tapeka Rocks, Long Beach

Tennis: Bookings & gear at Information Booth

Pétanque: Pompallier Mission grounds

After-hours Sports: Football, Netball, Basketball at Russell School

Ferries: Fullers GreatSights, Happy Ferry, Blue Ferry

Local essentials

Public toilets - York street. Next to Hone's behind the town hall.

Supplies: Four Square, Fresh Choice

Liquor: Russell Liquor Store

Russell Wharf Information Booth Tel. 09 403 8020

Russell Mini Tours - The head of the wharf Tel. 021 182 0359

Russell Op Shop (Thrift shop) - York street. Tel. 09 403 7320

Sport, culture & community

Pickleball: Town Hall - Lydia Ayton Tel. 021 770 605

Badminton & Table Tennis: Town Hall

Darts & Pool: Nauti Penguin Tavern, RSA

Yoga: Town Hall - Ines & Dagmar Tel. 021 892 304

Yoga: Oasis - Karin Tel. 021 276 7755

Tai Chi: Catrina Tel. 021 124 7983

Bowls: Contact Pania Sigley Tel. 027 687 8548

Movies: Cinema Kororāreka - Frank Tel. 021 209 2057

Worship: Anglican (Christ Church), Baptist (Community of the Divine Oasis), Catholic (St Peter's Chanel), Christian Fellowship (Town Hall)

DVDs & books: Russell Library, York Street. Tel. 09 403 8337

Watch Sport: Swordfish Club, Nauti Penguin Tavern

Research History: Russell Museum, Pompallier Mission, Russell Mini Tours, Christ Church, Flagstaff Hill

Play board games purchased from Russell Book Shop

Food and drink suggestions and contacts: page 3.
Rainy-day ideas: page 4.

Explore Russell

Heritage, beaches, tours and local services.

Historic places & tours

Pompallier Mission & Printery

Restored Catholic mission printing house and gardens

5 The Strand | 09-403-9015 | heritage.org.nz

Russell Museum

Local history museum with Māori and maritime exhibits

2 York Street | 09-403-7701 | russellmuseum.org.nz

Christ Church

Oldest existing church in New Zealand

1 Church Street | 09-402-5432 | russellnz.co.nz/christ-church

Flagstaff Hill / Te Maiki

Historic hill with flagstaff and panoramic views

Flagstaff Hill Track | doc.govt.nz

Russell Mini Tours

Discover Russell and Northland

The head of the wharf | 021 182 0359 | russellminitours.com

Beaches

Russell Town Beach

Town-centre beach along the Russell waterfront

The Strand, Russell

Long Beach / Oneroa Bay

Long sandy bay popular for swimming

Longbeach Road

Tapeka Point Beach

Secluded beach near rocky headland

Tapeka Point Road

On the water

R. Tucker Thompson Sailing

Tall ship day sail and sailing adventures

Russell Wharf | 09-402-8430 | tucker.co.nz

Phantom Yacht Charters

Day sail charter exploring the Bay of Islands

0800-224-421 | phantomsailingbayofislands.com

Vigilant Yacht Charters

Day sailing charters in the Bay of Islands

0800-334-662 | sailing-bay-of-islands.co.nz

Community & useful contacts

Cinema Kororāreka

Local community cinema

Town Hall, The Strand | Frank 021 209 2057

cinemakororareka.co.nz

Hato Hone St John Retail Store

Thrift shop / opportunity shop

York Street | Anne-Marie Kemp-Scott

027 317 6857 | stjohn.org.nz/shop/retail-stores/russell

Russell Wharf Information Booth

09 403 8020

Russell Op Shop

York Street | 09 403 7320

Food & drink

Restaurants, cafés, takeaways and places to meet.

Duke of Marlborough Hotel & Restaurant
Historic waterfront hotel and restaurant
35 The Strand | 09-403-7829 | theduke.co.nz

The Gables Restaurant
Fine dining in a historic 1847 building
19 The Strand | 09-403-7670 | thegablesrestaurant.co.nz

The Grazing Table
Pizza Restaurant
4 Cass Street
facebook.com/grazingtablerussell

Butterfish Eatery & More
Modern restaurant with bar and deck seating
25 The Strand | 09-403-7652 | butterfish.co.nz

Hone’s Garden
Garden bar serving pizza and local beers
10 York Street | 022-466-3710 | hones.co.nz

Boat Club Bistro
Bistro at Russell Boating Club
46 Matauwhi Road | 09 403 7222 | russellboatingclub.org.nz

Seaside Café, Restaurant & Bar
Waterfront café, restaurant and bar
29 The Strand | 09 945 8088 | seasiderestaurant.co.nz

GREENS Russell
Thai cuisine in central Russell
3 York Street | 09 403 7561 | greensnz.com/russell/thai/contact

Russell Fish Co Ltd
Takeaway fish and chips
2 Cass Street | 09 945 8374 | facebook.com/russellfishco

Tuk Tuk Bangkok Thai
Thai dishes for dine-in or takeaway
19 York Street | 09 403 7111

Bay of Islands Swordfish Club
Historic fishing club with Russell clubrooms on The Strand
25 The Strand | 09 403 7857 | swordfish.co.nz

Omata Estate Winery
Vineyard and kitchen
212 Aucks Road | 09 403 8007 | omata.co.nz

Sage Restaurant
Fine dining at Paroa Bay
Otamarua Road | 09 403 8270 | thelindisgroup.com/sage

Nauti Penguin Tavern
Pub with meals, darts and pool
19 York Street | 027 248 1208
tipsyoysterandco.nz/nauti-penguin-russell

Kororāreka / Russell RSA
Contact the club for current dining availability
1 Chapel Street | 09 403 7773 | russellrsa.co.nz

Rainy-day ideas

There is still plenty to enjoy when the weather turns wet.

Discover Russell’s Heritage

Take a stroll through Christ Church (and spot the historic bullet holes!) or tour Pompallier Mission to learn about its fascinating printing history. The Russell Museum is also a must-visit - full of treasures and stories from the town’s colorful past.

Take a Mini Bus Tour

Get to know the town and its rich history without getting soaked - a guided mini bus tour is a great way to see the sights and hear the stories of old Kororāreka.

Play Games or Read Indoors

Head to Pompallier Mission and play a board game, or pick one up from the local bookshop or op shop to enjoy back at your accommodation. There’s nothing like a rainy day and a good game or book! You’ll also find plenty of children’s puzzles - perfect for keeping young minds entertained.

Relax at the Tavern or the RSA

Pop into The Nauti Penguin Tavern for a round of darts, a game of pool, or just a drink and a chat with the locals. Or visit the RSA on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday afternoons to play pool and enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

Stretch or Move Indoors

Feeling active? Give one of Russell’s local yoga teachers a call - classes often pop up depending on demand. You can also play pickleball, badminton, or table tennis indoors when the courts are open.

Catch a Movie

On Friday, Saturday, or Sunday evenings, enjoy a cozy night at the Russell Cinema. Perfect for escaping the drizzle.

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry

When all else fails - or even if it doesn’t - settle into one of Russell’s great cafés, eateries, or takeaways. Grab a hearty meal or enjoy classic beer and chips at The Duke.

At a glance

Pizza
Hone’s Garden, Omata Estate Winery

Coffee
Hell Hole Café, Carl’s Coffee Cart, Pompallier Café, Four Square

Fish & Chips
Russell Fish Co Ltd

Places to eat
Seaside Café, Butterfish, Hell Hole, The Grazing Table, Nauti Penguin Tavern, Swordfish Club

Sushi
Hank’s on Cass Street; Turkish kebab options locally

Thai
Tuk Tuk

Thai
GREENS Russell

Fine Dining
The Gables, The Duke, Sage Restaurant

Drinks
Nauti Penguin Tavern, Hone’s, The Duke, Tuk Tuk, Swordfish Club, RSA

Ice Cream
2 shops on Cass St near Wharf