



## WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND

While not the largest city of New Zealand, Wellington assumed the status of capital city (replacing Auckland) in 1865. This put the heart of politics at the geographic heart of the country, and 'Windy Welly' is a fascinating and fun city to visit in equal measures

### KEY INFO

**Currency:** NZ Dollar (1 USD = 1.6 NZD)

**Population:** 212,700 (5.12 million NZ)

**Emergency #:** 111

**Drinking water:** Tap water is drinkable

**Time Zone:** GMT+13 (Sep-Apr) / GMT+12

**ID Requirements:** Photo ID

**Languages:** English, Māori

**Drive on the:** Left

**Pharmacy:** Chemist Warehouse, 262 Lambton Quay

**Protection:** Bug Spray & SPF 30+

**Wi-Fi:** Museum of NZ Te Papa, 'Welly Library, CBDfree

**Post Office:** 166A Featherstone St

### PORT LOCATION

Ships dock at Aotea Quay (part of the Centre Port complex 1.3km from CBD). As it is an industrial port, complimentary shuttles are provided, with drop off points on Brandon Street (by David Jones) and at the i-SITE (opposite the National Museum of New Zealand Te Papa)

**Getting Around:** Once in the CBD, Wellington is an easily walkable city (though some streets are quite hilly). Metlink runs the public transport system, with frequent city buses, and trains heading out of the city. An all-day 'Explorer Pass' costs \$11. A single fare costs around \$2.

[www.metlink.org.nz](http://www.metlink.org.nz) for bus schedules and a journey planner

For taxis, dial 04 384 4444 ([Combined Taxis](#)). The [YourRide](#) smartphone app has national coverage

**Tourist Bus:** The [Wellington Hop-On Hop-Off bus](#) has been discontinued

**Port Facilities:** No walking/taxis permitted, WiFi

**Port Address:** Aotea Quay, Pipitea, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

### WELLINGTON CITY HIGHLIGHTS

**Wellington CBD** is relatively compact, so it's easy to explore the main sites by foot. At one end of the CBD (closest to the port) is the NZ parliament complex. Shops line Lambton Quay, which connects the north end of the city with the hipper south end, of which the shopping and café highlight has got to be Cuba Street, close to Te Papa

**New Zealand Parliament:** New Zealand's executive and legislature are situated in a four-building complex, of which the highlights are the 'Beehive' (executive branch) and the replica House of Commons that serves as the debating chamber of the country's legislature. [Self-guided tour map](#). Free

[www.parliament.nz](http://www.parliament.nz)

**Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa:** Known locally as 'Te Papa', New Zealand's national museum celebrates the country's biculturalism and tells the story across history, nature, and the arts. 10a-6p | Free

[www.tepapa.govt.nz](http://www.tepapa.govt.nz)

For more: [www.wellingtonnz.com](http://www.wellingtonnz.com), [www.newzealand.com](http://www.newzealand.com)

card payment accepted

cash payment accepted

**Wellington Cable Car:** A fun and inexpensive way to get from the CBD to the elevated botanic gardens. At the top of the funicular railway is a free museum to explore about the train and its history. This is the only surviving funicular railway in New Zealand. \$11 round-trip

📍 [www.wellingtoncablecar.co.nz](http://www.wellingtoncablecar.co.nz)

**Wellington Botanic Garden:** Planning for this hilltop garden started in 1844. In addition to the lush gardens and fabulous views, there's also a shop, restaurant, and café to relax over lunch. 24 hours | Free

📍 [www.wellingtongardens.nz](http://www.wellingtongardens.nz)

**He Tohu at the National Library:** See the 1840 original and signed Treaty of Waitangi on display in the permanent He Tohu exhibition at the National Library. This foundational document that ratified the modern-day constitutional country of New Zealand is displayed alongside the 1835 Declaration of Independence of the United Tribes of New Zealand, and the 1893 Women's Suffrage Petition.

9a-5p (Mon-Fri), 9a-1p (Sat) | Free

📍 [www.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.natlib.govt.nz)

**Zealandia:** The first of its kind anywhere, this is a full-fenced, predator-free urban sanctuary, just 10-minute drive from Lambton Quay. Free electric shuttle service leaves from i-SITE and top of cable car.

[Visitor Map](#) | 9a-5p | \$24

📍 [www.visitzealandia.com](http://www.visitzealandia.com)

**City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi:** Contemporary art gallery in the heart of the Civic Square.

4p-7:30p (Mon-Fri), 10a-5p (Sat-Sun) | Free

📍 [www.citygallery.org.nz](http://www.citygallery.org.nz)

## **LORD OF THE RINGS... AND MORE**

**Wētā Cave and Workshop:** Visit the design studio and workshops of the scenic art company that provided so many of the props and creatures in the Lord of the Rings movies, as well as several other well-known franchises such as Avatar, Dune, and King Kong. Collectables for sale.

5-minute drive from CBD | Tours from \$50

📍 [www.wetaworkshop.com](http://www.wetaworkshop.com)

**LOTR Locations:** Wellington (or 'Wellywood', if you prefer) is surrounded by locations used in Sir Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings trilogy. Nearby sites include: Mt Victoria, Harcourt Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, the Hutt River, and Putangirua Pinnacles. Free (\$ local tours available)

📍 [www.tfehotels.com/en/blog/articles/your-lord-of-the-rings-guide-to-wellington](http://www.tfehotels.com/en/blog/articles/your-lord-of-the-rings-guide-to-wellington)

**Wairarapa Wine Region:** Contributing to just 1% of New Zealand's wine production, this boutique wine region just north of Wellington focuses on quality over quantity. Similar conditions to Burgandy in France, the region's vineyards make some of the country's finest Pinot Noir.

📍 <https://www.wairarapawine.co.nz/>