

# WELLINGTON VISITOR GUIDE



**WellingtonNZ**

# NAU MAI

ki Te Whanganui a Tara

Welcome to Wellington

In the middle of New Zealand is a vibrant city that buzzes with an intangible energy.

Nestled between green hills and a sparkling harbour, Wellington is the country's capital. Compact and accessible, it's bursting with culture, history, nature, and cuisine.

In the city's urban centre you'll find plenty to keep you busy. Step back in time at interactive museums, or taste the best meal of your life at an award-winning restaurant. Experience the magic of a live performance, and connect to Wellington through the welcoming locals. Wellington is a city that feels alive.

Take a trip outside the city, where the big backyard is your playground. With plenty of trails to explore and views to drink in, there's a wider region waiting to be discovered.

**Whatever you're looking for, you'll find a piece of Wellington that's exactly your kind of place.**





# WORLDS OF FLAVOUR



Wellington has put itself on the map as a top culinary destination of New Zealand. The compact city punches well above its weight when it comes to quality cafés, restaurants, and bars at every corner.

While there are endless cuisines Wellington does well, there are some areas where the city excels, and are “must do’s” on any itinerary. The city prides itself on its coffee, with around 20 local roasteries. Start your day with a life changing flat white. In the evening, the craft beer capital and its numerous breweries will challenge and delight your tastebuds.

In between your sips, Wellington serves up an array of award-winning eateries. The city’s popular café culture offers delicious brunch with a side of people watching or views across the harbour. From there, take your pick from multi-course degustation’s to family-style mezze, best-ever pub grub, or a huge selection of traditional Malaysian cuisine. Wellington has it all (and then some).

Photo: Ryan Domenico

# HOME OF HISTORY

Wellington is the civic and political hub of New Zealand. Home to numerous significant documents, artefacts of importance, and architecture steeped in history, it’s the perfect place to get an insight to the story of the city and country.

The **Beehive** and **Parliament House** are home to New Zealand’s democracy and politics. Found close to the central city in Pipitea, visitors can go behind the scenes and learn about the parliamentary process on a guided tour.

Across the road is the **National Library of New Zealand**. Here you will find ‘He Tohu’, a permanent exhibition displaying significant constitutional documents. Visitors can enter the exhibition for free and view the original Te Tiriti o Waitangi — the Treaty of Waitangi. Signed in 1840, it is the founding agreement between Māori and the Crown. ‘He Tohu’ also displays He Whakaputanga — the 1835 Declaration of Independence and the 1893 Women’s Suffrage Petition — Te Petihana Whakamana Pōti Wahine.



# GET INSPIRED



With a rich cultural and arts scene, world-famous museums, and a thriving screen industry, you're never far from inspiration in Wellington.

Start with a trip back in time at one of the waterfront museums. **Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa** offers six floors of interactive exhibitions reflecting the country's identity, history, and culture. **Wellington Museum** tells the stories of the city in a restored former cargo warehouse.

**Te Wharewaka o Pōneke** offers unique Māori experiences on both land and water, either paddling a waka (Māori canoe), or on a cultural walking tour.

For an iconic Wellington experience, trundle up a hillside on the **Wellington Cable Car**. The five-minute journey offers panoramic views, taking you between the city and **Wellington Botanic Garden ki Paekākā**. At the top you'll also find **Space Place**. Explore the stars through a digital planetarium, galleries, and a telescope.

**Wētā Workshop** in Miramar offers a peek into the world of television and movie-making magic with tours and workshops.

Photo: Camilla Rutherford

# EXPLORE NATURE

Between rolling hills and a sparkling harbour, Wellington is a city with nature on its doorstep.

Just a few minutes' walk from the city centre is Oriental Bay. Sheltered and picturesque, this city beach is perfect for swimming or taking in a view of Wellington.

For an even better vantage point, head up **Mount Victoria**. Accessible via car, bus, bike, or on foot, the lookout over the city is an iconic photo location.

To immerse yourself in nature, visit **Zealandia Te Māra a Tāne**. This world-first urban ecosanctuary is your chance to spot native birds and even spy a kiwi or tuatara. Need more animal interactions? You can find exotic creatures at **Te Nukua o Wellington Zoo** in Newtown.

Stretch your legs on one of Wellington's trails. For something epic, the **Escarpment Track**, part of the Te Araroa Trail, rewards steep stairs with spectacular views along the Kāpiti Coast. Wellington's Great Ride, the **Remutaka Cycle Trail** takes you along rivers and through railway tunnels.



Photo: Camilla Rutherford



# WHAT'S ON

Wellington's events calendar is busy year-round. With world-class gigs, adrenaline-fuelled games, and captivating performances, Wellington likes to put on a show.

International touring exhibitions can regularly be found in Wellington. **Tākina Wellington Convention & Exhibition Centre** hosts international pop culture and interactive experiences. **City Gallery Wellington** is a contemporary art gallery, showcasing artists from New Zealand and beyond.

Throughout the year, the city's venues have a rotating programme of shows. **World of WearableArt Show** combines art, fashion, music, and performance into a spectacular theatrical event. In late summer, **Jim Beam Homegrown** takes over the waterfront for a celebration of Kiwi music. Winter heats up with **Visa Wellington On a Plate** bringing Beervana, pop-up restaurants, and special events to venues around the city.

Wellington is home to the Royal New Zealand Ballet and New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Their shows, as well as a calendar of other live performance events, are hosted in historic civic venues like **St James Theatre**, **Michael Fowler Centre**, and **The Opera House**.



Photo: Jim Beam Homegrown



# GETTING TO WELLINGTON

AUCKLAND

ROTORUA

TAUPŌ

NAPIER

BLenheim

**WELLINGTON**

QUEENSTOWN

CHRISTCHURCH

DUNEDIN

Located in the middle of New Zealand, it's easy to get to Wellington.

Just 15 minutes from the city by car, Wellington International Airport has direct connectivity to the rest of New Zealand, as well as a number of international routes. Wellington's train station is in the centre of the city and offers services to the wider region as well as from Auckland, via the Northern Explorer.

Wellington is a coastal gateway between the north and south islands. Interislander and Bluebridge offer regular ferry services to and from Picton and have vehicle transportation.

If you choose to drive, Wellington is connected via two of the country's major state highways, SH1 and SH2. The Classic New Zealand Wine Trail follows SH2, taking you through some of New Zealand's major wine regions. This route offers breathtaking landscapes and indulgent food and wine experiences.



# EXPLORE THE CITY

Wellington's compact size means it's easy to explore on foot. The central city is approximately two kilometres across, so you can walk from one side to the other in around 30 minutes (not accounting for any coffee stops along the way).

### Public transport

Wellington has an extensive public transport system. Buses and trains can get you around the city, suburbs, and wider region. There is also the East by West Ferry that takes you across Wellington Harbour, from Queen's Wharf in the city to Eastbourne in Lower Hutt.

### Active transport

Electric bike and scooter share services are widely available for on-the-go use, and easily hired via mobile apps. For a longer ride, bike hire is available for half or full days from the waterfront. There are cycle lanes around the city and suburbs.

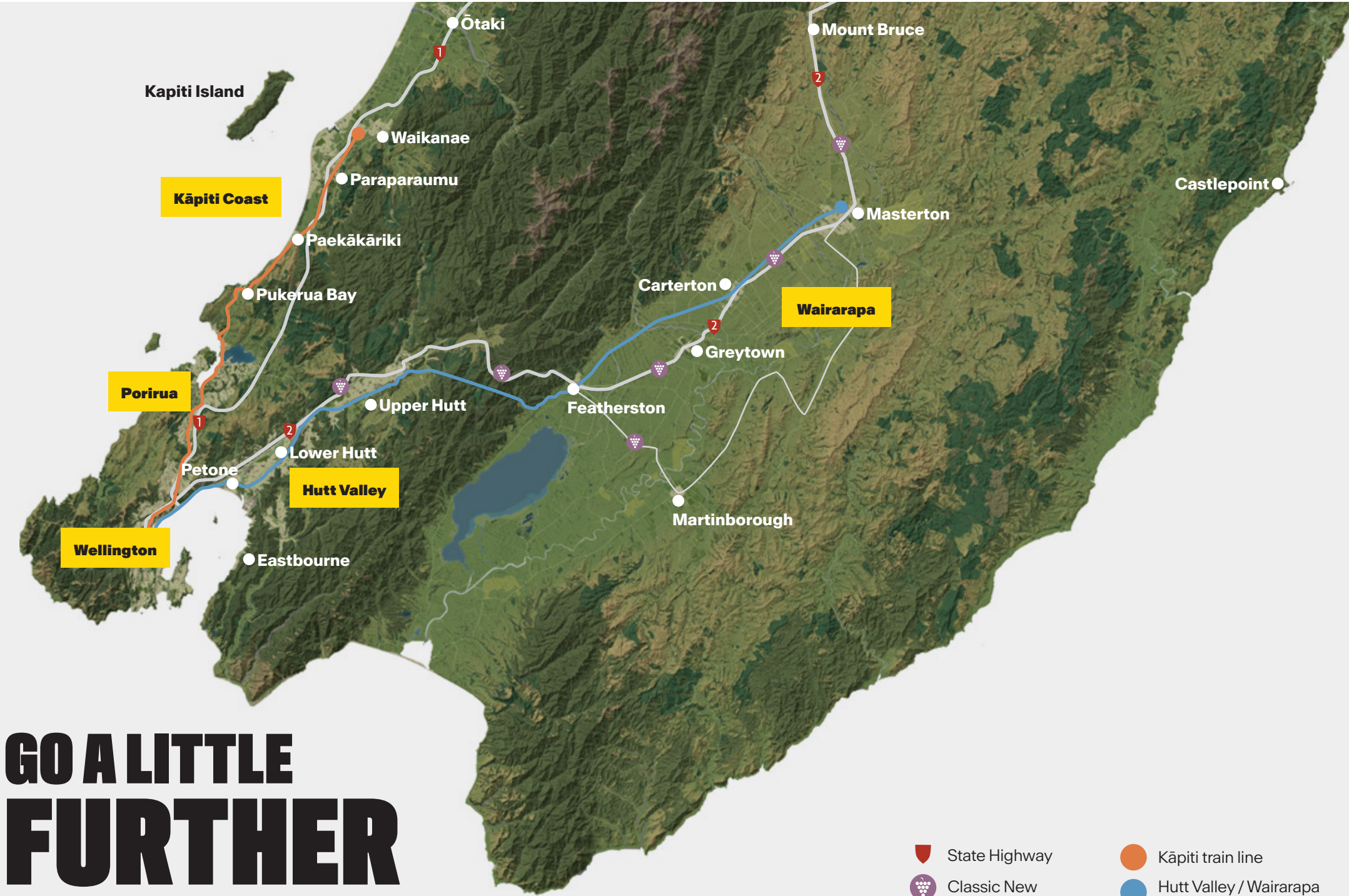
### Car share, rental cars, and taxi's

If you prefer the freedom of a vehicle, ride share services, rental cars, and taxis are available. Car shares are available on demand for daily or hourly hire. Mevo and Cityhop have designated parking spaces and easy-to-use apps for hiring vehicles.

### Buses to key locations

Metlink.org.nz has an easy-to-use journey planner, getting you from A to B using all of the city's transport options.

- AX** Airport Express
- 20** Mount Victoria Lookout
- 2M** Wētā Workshop
- 23** Wellington Zoo
- 2** Zealandia - free Zealandia-operated shuttles also available near isite and top of the Wellington Cable Car.
- 2** Wellington Botanic Garden – you can also take the Wellington Cable Car to the top.



## GO A LITTLE FURTHER

Exploring Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui, the wider Wellington region, offers a taste of the best New Zealand has to offer. Get to know each area on a day trip or short stay, all within an hour's drive or train ride from the city.

### Wairarapa

Wairarapa is a diverse area where country charm meets world-class food and wine. Just over the Remutaka Hill, you'll find an International Dark Sky Reserve, talented boutique producers, and quaint villages. Part of the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail, Martinborough is a must-stop for wine-lovers.

### Hutt Valley

Hutt Valley's two cities offer nature, culture, and food. Outdoor adventures are plenty, with sprawling regional parks, lush trails, rugged coastlines, and quaint seaside villages. It's also home to Brewtown, Wellington's only craft beer village.

### Kāpiti Coast

Kāpiti Coast stretches along 40 kilometres of beaches and coastline. Explore the five unique villages and experience their coastal charm. Not to be missed is a tour of Kapiti Island, one of New Zealand's most important nature reserves.

### Porirua

Located between two harbours, Porirua is a welcoming, multi-cultural city. Enjoy scenic strolls, seaside swims, delicious cafés, and craft breweries. Home to renowned Pātaka Art + Museum, Adrenalin Forest, and New Zealand Police Museum, there's plenty for all ages to explore.

### Drive times from Wellington

Petone	14km	15 mins
Lower Hutt	15km	20 mins
Upper Hutt	33km	30 mins
Porirua	20km	20 mins
Paraparaumu	52km	40 mins
Waikanae	61km	50 mins
Ōtaki	74km	55 mins
Eastbourne	24km	30 mins
Greytown	76km	1 hour 10 mins
Martinborough	81km	1 hour 15 mins
Masterton	100km	1 hour 40 mins





# PLAN YOUR TRIP

For on-the-go inspiration and  
the newest events, places to  
eat, and things to do head to:

**WellingtonNZ.com**

   @WellingtonNZ

  新西兰惠灵顿旅游局



Visit the team at the **Wellington isite Visitor Information Centre**. They are your local experts offering travel advice and arranging bookings within the Wellington region and throughout New Zealand.

Inside Tākina Wellington Convention  
& Exhibition Centre | 50 Cable Street  
+64 4 802 4860

[Bookings@WellingtonNZ.com](mailto:Bookings@WellingtonNZ.com)

As of the publication date, this guide contains information that WellingtonNZ believes to be accurate and current, intended to be used as a guide only. We advise conducting additional research on your intended destinations. WellingtonNZ is not liable for any incorrect information or changes. No part of this guide may be reproduced without prior permission from WellingtonNZ.

This publication uses vegetable based inks and environmentally responsible paper.