

RECREATION

Evening activities and safety



The number of evening activities and their location are important factors for the vitality of the city and the perception of safety. If there are few activities or if the evening activities are very concentrated the visitor gets the impression of a deserted city and inevitably avoids going there in the evening.

The illustration highlights the facilities that are open during the evening hours (after 9 pm) on a normal summer weekday within the study area. The recording shows that most of the city is relatively quiet in the evenings, with the main entertainment and night-activity areas confined to smaller areas of the city.

In Wellington there are two major concentrations of evening activities. One in Courtenay Place and another one in Cuba Mall and Street. The main activity in these areas are bars, clubs, theatres and restaurants. The activity is highly concentrated in Courtenay Place and spills out onto the side streets, especially side streets down towards the harbour including Allen and Blair Street. On Cuba Street and Manners Mall the activity is more spread out, down little alleys or on the first floor.

It is striking that Lambton Quay and the adjoining streets are devoid of evening activities to such an extent that practically nothing is to be found in these streets after 9 pm. It is important to strengthen Lambton Quay, Willis and Featherston Streets as places for evening activities as they make up an important pedestrian link to the Railway Station.

To achieve a more even spread of evening activities throughout the city and to improve the public perception of safety it is recommended to develop and implement a policy that will promote evening activities throughout the city centre.

Note: The recording also included a study of which streets were perceived as respectively safe and unsafe to walk through at night.