

The Outdoor Trust walkway programme aims to provide a safe, accessible and attractive place in every Commonwealth nation and territory - inspiring people to walk all over the world.

### Before you go, remember these five simple rules

1. Plan your trip. Our sites are clearly marked but it's a good idea to check our website for more details.
2. Be sun smart, and make sure you slip, slop, slap.
3. Check the weather - it can change quickly in Wellington.
4. Know your limits.
5. Take enough food and water.

### More information on the go

The free Commonwealth Walkway app will help guide you and give more information about the sites you visit.

### Website

For a map of the Commonwealth Walkway and other walks in the capital, visit:

[wellington.govt.nz/commonwealthwalkway](http://wellington.govt.nz/commonwealthwalkway)



Absolutely Positively  
**Wellington City Council**  
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

## Commonwealth Walkway



The Commonwealth Walkway forms part of a group of walkways in the main cities of Commonwealth nations and territories.



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### Reserve Bank Museum

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand was established in 1934 and is responsible for our monetary policy and issuing the currency. During this time period, the bank's work has changed from pounds, shillings and pence to electronic transfer of dollars. This story is told in the Reserve Bank Museum.

The Museum is open from 9.30am to 4pm Monday to Friday, closed weekends and public holidays. Check website for additional summer hours.

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

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### Wellington Cenotaph

The historical location for of Anzac Day commemorations for the capital, the Cenotaph was inaugurated 25 April 1931 and features a mounted figure called *The Will to Peace*. Located on corner of Lambton Quay and Bowen Street, near access to the Beehive.

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### Wai-Titi Landing

The site of the laying of the first ceremonial Commonwealth Walkway roundel is a prominent position in front of the Parliament Buildings in central Wellington. Wai-Titi Landing was originally a beach and tauranga (a resting place for waka) used by Te Ātiawa/Taranaki whānau before 1840. It was also a main entry point to the Pipitea Kumutoto area. The land takes its name from a stream that ran between the two pā of Kumutoto and Pipitea.

[wellington.govt.nz/wai-titi-landing](http://wellington.govt.nz/wai-titi-landing)

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### The Beehive

During the 1960s office accommodation shortages for Members of Parliament led to an urge to complete the executive wing of Parliament House.

After much debate, the "beehive design" of Sir Basil Spence was chosen and completed in 1981. The distinctive building was built in stages between 1969 and 1979.

The top floor is occupied by the Cabinet Room, with the Prime Minister's office on the ninth floor. The building also features an underground emergency management centre. Daily tours are available, check the website for times.

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

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### National Library

Established in 1965, the National Library of New Zealand on Molesworth Street was formed when the Alexander Turnbull Library, the General Assembly Library, and the National Library Service were brought together by the National Library Act.

The National Library collects, preserves, and protects the documentary heritage of New Zealand and from overseas, aids in the work of other libraries, and collaborates with other institutions that form the international library community.

The Reading Rooms are open 10am-5pm from Monday to Saturday.

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

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### Old St Paul's

Old St Paul's is a Wellington landmark, heritage building, and popular function venue.

It was built by the Anglican Church between 1865 and 1866 on what was originally the site of Pipitea Pā, a Māori settlement on Wellington's waterfront.

Old St Paul's is open daily for visitors or guided tours, but closed Christmas Day, Good Friday, and for short periods during private functions.

[oldstpauls.co.nz](http://oldstpauls.co.nz)

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### Gandhi Statue

Since 2007, the bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi has stood outside the bustling lawn that forms the entrance to the Wellington Railway Station on Bunny Street, celebrating the capital's commitment to peace and cultural diversity.

It was gifted by the Indian government, in the words of the then Indian High Commissioner K.P. Ernest, in recognition of Wellington's commitment to a tolerant, open, and inclusive society.

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### Pipitea Marae

Te Kāinga is the Pipitea Marae - a home away from home. Wellington's traditional urban marae is in the heart of the city and at the heart of local Māori culture.

Pipitea Marae opened on 31 May 1980 to meet the needs of the urban Māori population of Wellington known as Ngāti Pōneke, and as a place where traditional kawa and protocol are observed. Ngāti Pōneke (a transliteration of Port Nicholson, the old name for Wellington) began as a city youth club in the 1930s and was encouraged by Sir Āpirana Ngata and Lady Pōmare.

[www.pipiteamarae.co.nz](http://www.pipiteamarae.co.nz)

[www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/pipitea-marae](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/pipitea-marae)

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### Ngā Kina Sculpture

Impressive by day, and more so when illuminated at night, the *Ngā Kina* sculpture on Wellington's Waterfront acknowledges the history and physical geography of the area, including the Kumutoto Stream, which flowed from Woodward Street to the sea.

Local sculptor Michel Tuffery formed the kina (sea urchins) shells - some weighing up to 7.5 tonnes - as a reference to a midden (a shell mound that may have existed on the Kumutoto Pā), providing a strong link to the mana whenua (local Māori) of Wellington.

[www.sculpture.org.nz/the-sculptures/nga-kina](http://www.sculpture.org.nz/the-sculptures/nga-kina)

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### Frank Kitts Park

A nice spot to picnic, soak up the sun and let the little ones enjoy the playground and giant slide, Frank Kitts Park is often a hive of activity on Wellington's waterfront.

Completed in the late 1980s, Frank Kitts Park was one of the first areas of the waterfront to be developed it features an amphitheatre for concerts and events, the playground, and at the harbour edge, small shops and cafes.

[wellington.govt.nz/frank-kitts-park](http://wellington.govt.nz/frank-kitts-park)

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### Te Wharewaka o Pōneke

Te Raukura - the wharewaka (canoe house) on Wellington's waterfront is both an elegant home for the city's two waka (canoes) and the fulfilment of a vision to return a Māori presence to Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington Harbour).

The vision belonged to Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, a collective of people from Taranaki, whose ancestors migrated to Wellington in the 1820s and 1830s. The name of the wharewaka, Te Raukura, symbolises the peaceful resistance of their tupuna at Parihaka in the 1880s and the white feather (Te Raukura) is still worn by the descendants today.

Te Raukura is open daily and can be accessed through Karaka Café.

[www.wharewakaoponeke.co.nz](http://www.wharewakaoponeke.co.nz)

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### Solace of the Wind

A popular photo destination for all the right - and wrong - reasons, the bronze naked man leans defiantly into the harbour and the prevailing northerly from the wide walking wharf area next to Te Papa.

Sculptor Max Patte, a veteran of internationally-renowned film company Weta Workshop, produced *Solace of the Wind*, which was bought by Wellington City Council in 2008.

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### Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa is the national museum and art gallery of New Zealand, and dominates the eastern end of Wellington Waterfront. Its name broadly translates as "the place of treasures of this land".

It is open every day for visitors to its cafe, shop and exhibitions from 10am to 6pm except Christmas Day.

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

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### Te Aro Pā

In November 2005, work on a multi-million dollar high-rise development in the heart of Wellington City was suddenly halted when foundation work for the new building uncovered the remains of a 160-year-old pā site.

It was a remarkable find, given the pā site was just off Courtenay Place, in central Wellington, under a two-storey building that had stood in Taranaki Street for 100 years.

The remnants were of Te Aro Pā, one of the largest in the Wellington area, with up to 200 people in the 1850s occupying an area of more than two hectares.

[wellingtonnz.com/te-aro-pa](http://wellingtonnz.com/te-aro-pa)

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### Tripod Sculpture

Paying homage to the cinematic excellence that has been cultivated in Wellington over the past three decades, *Tripod* strides across the eastern entrance to the hospitality precinct of Courtenay Place - opposite the grandest cinema in Wellington, The Embassy.

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### Queen Victoria Statue

Standing imperiously over the boulevards of Kent and Cambridge Terraces connecting the waterfront to the Basin Reserve, the statue of Queen Victoria represents the final stop of the Commonwealth Walkway.

Nestled at the foot of her namesake Mt Victoria, which flanks the eastern boundary of Wellington's central city, the Queen Victoria Statue was first displayed in 1905 in Post Office Square (near what is now the Wellington Museum) at a cost of £3000. She has resided in the current spot since 1911.

[mtvictoria.history.org.nz/queen-victoria-statue/](http://mtvictoria.history.org.nz/queen-victoria-statue/)



1

**Government House**

Built in 1910, Government House serves as the official residence for New Zealand’s Governor-General, the official representative of the Queen. It’s also a home away from home for members of the Royal Family, Heads of State, and other distinguished guests visiting Wellington.

Tours are available, but bookings are required 24 hours in advance. See - [gg.govt.nz/tours](http://gg.govt.nz/tours)

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**The Basin Reserve**

Fondly known today as the spiritual home of New Zealand cricket, the Basin Reserve was originally a shallow lake set to be joined by canal to Wellington Harbour and used as a marina. A massive earthquake in 1855 raised the area 1.8 metres, transforming the lake into a swamp.

In 1863, prisoners from the nearby Mount Cook Gaol set to work draining the land and New Zealand’s premier cricket ground was born.

Today the Basin Reserve is one of the world’s top cricket grounds and is the home to the NZ Cricket Museum.

[nzcricketmuseum.co.nz](http://nzcricketmuseum.co.nz)

3

**Pukeahu National War Memorial Park**

Pukeahu National War Memorial Park is New Zealand’s place of remembrance for those who have served us, both in peace and conflict, throughout our history. The National War Memorial was built in 1932, when its tall Carillon tower was highly visible across the capital.

In 2015, Pukeahu National War Memorial Park was completed, diverting the highway underground into Arras Tunnel and creating a quiet, reflective setting for the memorial.

[www.mch.govt.nz/pukeahu-national-war-memorial-park](http://www.mch.govt.nz/pukeahu-national-war-memorial-park)

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**Parihaka Memorial**

On the southwest corner of Pukeahu National War Memorial Park is a memorial to the prisoners from Parihaka, a Māori settlement in the province of Taranaki, who were held at the now demolished Mount Cook Gaol on their way to prisons in the South Island.

[www.mch.govt.nz/pukeahu/park/significant-sites/parihaka-memorial](http://www.mch.govt.nz/pukeahu/park/significant-sites/parihaka-memorial)

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**Holocaust Centre**

The Holocaust Centre of New Zealand provides a moving experience that tells the stories of the survivors and victims of Nazi persecution who came to New Zealand.

Open daily from 10am to 1pm except Saturdays.

[www.holocaustcentre.org.nz](http://www.holocaustcentre.org.nz)

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**Peter Harcourt Seat**

The highest point on the Commonwealth Walkway offers a seat to relax for a few minutes and enjoy an expansive view north to Wellington, the sparkling harbour and the surrounding mountain ranges. It also pays homage to one of Wellington’s most celebrated and influential arts families. The seat can be located along the footpath in Nairn Street Park.

[www.nzonscreen.com/person/peter-harcourt/biography](http://www.nzonscreen.com/person/peter-harcourt/biography)

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**Nairn Street Cottage**

Wellington’s oldest original cottage is home to the story of the Wallis Family who lived there for three generations.

The cottage is now preserved as a museum, revealing a new exhibition experience that has undergone extensive research to present the lives and events of Wellington’s history.

Admission includes a tour of the clapboard cottage and the charming heritage gardens, where the story of these early settlers and their descendants is brought to life. Tours available at 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm (see website for dates).

[www.museumswellington.org.nz/nairn-street-cottage/](http://www.museumswellington.org.nz/nairn-street-cottage/)

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**Subject to Change Sculpture**

Standing like a skeletal sentinel beside State Highway 1, Karo Drive is *Subject to Change*, a large sculpture that reflects the special architecture of the upper Cuba Street area and communities who dwelled among them.

[www.regangentry.com/featured/subject-to-change/](http://www.regangentry.com/featured/subject-to-change/)

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**Bucket Fountain**

One of the most iconic pieces of public art in Wellington is the Bucket Fountain, located in the heart of the culturally-diverse and celebrated Cuba Mall.

Erected in 1969, and designed by Burren and Keen, the Bucket Fountain consists of a series of “buckets” that fill with water until they tip, spilling their load into the buckets and pool below - and on members of the public who stand too close on a windy day!

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**Wellington i-Site, Visitor Information Centre**

Located near Civic Square, the Wellington i-SITE provides comprehensive travel advice and information on tours, accommodation, and activities in Wellington. They also provide event and ticketing services and can make travel arrangements for all New Zealand destinations.

Opening hours are Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm, Saturday and Sunday 9am-5pm, public holidays 9am-4pm, closed Christmas Day.

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**Wellington Town Hall**

Renowned as possessing some of the finest acoustic qualities for a concert venue of its type in the world, the Wellington Town Hall has had an interesting history since its foundation stone was laid in 1901. The Town Hall was fully refurbished between 1991-92, however, the building is currently closed to the public for earthquake strengthening.

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellington\\_Town\\_Hall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellington_Town_Hall)

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**Civic Square**

Civic Square is the formal reception room of Wellington. Originally this was a continuation of Mercer Street down to its intersection with Cuba Street, but in the early 1990s the street closed and Civic Square was built.

The City to Sea Bridge joins Civic Square to Wellington Waterfront, functioning as a bridge as much as an elevated extension to the square. Fronting the south side of the square are the Michael Fowler Center, Town Hall, and Wellington City Council buildings.

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**Old Bank Arcade**

The Old Bank Arcade is an impressive historic building at the gateway of Lambton Quay, one of the main streets of Wellington.

Completed in 1901, the building was designed by Thomas Turnbull, a notable New Zealand architect. It’s located on the site of the remnants of the ship *Inconstant*, which became Plimmer’s Ark, a very early store owned by prominent Wellingtonian John Plimmer around the 1850s. You can view the remnants in the basement of the Old Bank Arcade.

[oldbank.co.nz](http://oldbank.co.nz)

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**Wellington Cable Car**

In 2012, the Cable Car celebrated 110 years of service to the city of Wellington. A favourite of locals and visitors alike, the Cable Car allows easy access from its terminal on Lambton Quay up Cable Car Lane, to the top entrance of the Botanic Garden and the Kelburn lookout - offering stunning views of Wellington. A recent addition to the trip is an LED light show on permanent display through the tunnels.

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

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**Kumutoto Stream Soundscape**

Artist Kedron Parker’s soundscape installation has transformed a humble underpass at the top of Woodward Street into a poignant reminder of the birdlife that once flourished in what is now a largely concrete urban environment. Once you travel through the underpass from Woodward Street, turn right up the stairs to The Terrace and head north. An accessibility ramp continues west from the underpass.

[wcl.govt.nz/wellington-music/index.php/2015/07/10/kumutoto-stream/](http://wcl.govt.nz/wellington-music/index.php/2015/07/10/kumutoto-stream/)

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**Katherine Mansfield Statue**

Situated on the northwest corner of the popular Midland Park, *Woman of Words* is a sculpture commemorating the life and work of Wellingtonian, and New Zealand’s most internationally recognised literary figure, Katherine Mansfield.

[katherinemansfieldsociety.org/katherine-mansfield-sculpture](http://katherinemansfieldsociety.org/katherine-mansfield-sculpture)

