



Government Precinct Heritage Area

Wellington Central

Cuba Street Heritage Area

Courtenay Place Heritage Area

Te Aro

Mt Victoria

Mt Cook

Trails

- Maritime
- Old Shoreline
- Te Ara o Ngā Tupuna
- Art Deco

Wellington Harbour

Wellington's heritage trails



MLC Building at the corner of Lambton Quay and Hunter Street in the 1940s (ATL PAColl-9048)

Me Heke Ki Pōneke
Absolutely Positively Wellington

Wellington's heritage trails

Discover fascinating stories about New Zealand's capital with a walk to some of our most important heritage places.

Visit our online heritage inventory:
wellingtoncityheritage.org.nz

Turn your mobile device into a personal guide by visiting:
wellington.govt.nz/heritagetrails

The trails are easily negotiated by wheelchair.



● Te Ara o Ngā Tupuna

4 hours



Ornaiti Reserve (WCC)

Immerse yourself in the history of Wellington's original Māori residents whose culture, settlements and industry have helped shape our capital's identity.

According to Māori, the explorer Kupe was the first to visit Wellington. Later visitors Tara and Tautoke encouraged their father Whatonga to establish a settlement at Wellington, and the area became known as Te Whanganui a Tara (the great harbour of Tara).

Te Ara o Ngā Tupuna (Trail of our Ancestors) follows the harbour and coastline from **Pipitea Marae (B1)** on Thorndon Quay to Ōwhiro Bay. The trail can be done in two parts. The map shows how to walk the first part from Pipitea Marae to **Te Aro Pā (B4)** and the Pou Whenua marking **Waitangi Lagoon (B4)**. Pick up a Te Ara brochure for instructions on how to drive from Matairangi/Mount Victoria to the south coast.

The trail includes a number of pā and kāinga (fortified and unfortified villages), and traditional food growing areas. Although many sites no longer exist, they still have a strong spiritual presence.

● Maritime Trail

1.5 hours

Wellington's 28-metre deep harbour is not only one of the country's most important ports, but is also enjoyed as a recreational facility.

When the first New Zealand Company settlers arrived in Wellington in early 1840, they settled at Petone. The site was problematic and they quickly moved to Lambton Harbour, where the water was deeper and permanent wharves could be built.

Starting at **Shed 21 (B2)** on Waterloo Quay, the trail follows the waterfront round to Oriental Bay, passing many former Wellington Harbour Board buildings.

Highlights include the fine brickwork of Shed 21 (built in 1910), the late English Classical style **Queens Wharf Offices (B2)**, and the Art Deco **Post and Telegraph Building (C3)** on Herd Street.

● Old Shoreline Trail

1.5 hours



Lambton Quay in the 1860s (ATL 1/2-003926-G)

When the first Pākehā settlers landed in 1840, the shoreline was simply a beach and, until wharves and jetties were built, it remained the only means of access to and from the water.

Reclamation has added more than 155 hectares of land to the inner-city area. Earthquakes have raised land and led to the removal and replacement of hundreds of buildings.

This trail takes you as close as possible to Wellington's former shoreline.

Start your walk at the seaward corner of Herd Street and Oriental Parade. Fourteen brass plaques set in the paving along the route show where the shoreline was in 1840.

● Art Deco Trail

The inter-war period was a rich time for Wellington architecture, with 200 new non-residential buildings constructed between 1919 and 1939, 30 of which you can see on this trail.

Following the Depression, several large buildings were built including **Wellington Railway Station (B1)** and the former **National Museum (A5)**.

Towards the end of the 1930s architects turned to Modernism. The focus shifted to window space and practical construction improvements. The **State Insurance Building (A2)** (1940) offered a glimpse of how architecture would look in the second half of the century.

World War 1 Heritage Trail: Wellington's Parades and Places



Follow some World War 1 procession and parade routes in Wellington from the Parliament precinct to the **National War Memorial and Carillon (B5)**, the **Basin Reserve (B5)** and beyond.

The trail starts at the **Parliamentary Library (B1)** on Molesworth Street where the announcement that New Zealand was at war was made on 5 August 1914.

Continue past the **Town Hall (B3)**, one of Wellington's most significant public buildings and the site of many important wartime activities.

Finish your walk at the Pukeahu Precinct - one of Wellington's newest parks and the site of the 1911 **Defence Headquarters Building (A5)**, and 1931 National War Memorial and Carillon.

Was this guide and map easy to use? Tell us what you think: heritage@wcc.govt.nz

Go your own way

Take your time exploring the different areas that make up Central Wellington.

● Courtenay Place and Cuba Street

Wellington's Courtenay Place theatre and cinema district is home to **The Embassy Theatre (B4)** (1924) which was restored for the Australasian premiere of Peter Jackson's Fellowship of the Ring. Other historic theatres in the area include the **Paramount (B4)** (1917-27), **St James (B4)** (1912), and the **Opera House (B3)** (1911-14). Adjacent **Blair and Allen Streets (B4)**, the city's wholesale fruit and vegetable markets until the 1980s, are one of the country's best preserved collections of Edwardian warehouses.

Head west and you'll discover another of the city's heritage precincts: **Cuba Street (A4)**. A building boom in the late Victorian and early Edwardian era transformed this area. Look out for the **Working Men's Club (A4)** at 101-117 Cuba Street - a fine example of Edwardian era architecture - and the now Art Deco, **James Smith Building (B3)** on the corner of Cuba and Manners streets.

● Lambton Quay



Massey House c.1963 (ATL 1/2-037205-F)

Originally known as The Beach, Lambton Quay was the shoreline when New Zealand Company settlers arrived in 1840. Its first houses, shops and workshops were built on a muddy track facing the harbour.

By the 1920s, this street had some of the city's best Victorian and Edwardian buildings. Some fine examples remain, including the **BNZ Buildings (A3)** at the Willis Street end of Lambton Quay.

Nearby, a group of 1930s office buildings (**MLC Building (A2)**, **Prudential Building (A3)**, **South British Insurance Building (A3)** and the **CBA Building (A3)**) are clustered around the intersection of Hunter and Featherston streets.

Buildings of note in this street include department stores like **DIC (A2)**, **Massey House (A2)**, one of the country's most important Modernist buildings and the former **Public Trust Building (A2)**.

● Government precinct (B1-2)



Parliament Buildings prior to their destruction by fire in 1907 (ATL 1/2-106917-F)

Wellington has been New Zealand's capital since 1865. Government buildings include the **Parliamentary Library** (1889-1901), **Parliament Buildings** (1912-21) and **Executive Wing** (1965-81) - more commonly known as the Beehive. Nearby is the largest timber office building in the world, **Government Buildings** (1876); the former **Supreme Court** (1879-81); the **Wellington Cenotaph** (1931) and **Waititi Landing**.