

Resting is an integral part of pedestrian activity patterns. Good seating opportunities give people the option to rest in order to be able to walk further and enjoy public life and the hustle and bustle of the city.

Apart from the number of public benches other parameters are important in order to provide good quality possibilities for resting. Views, shade and comfort are all important attributes. Evidence shows that the seating most used is of good quality, has a good view, sufficient shade, and most importantly is located close to important pedestrian links.

Wellington has an extra-ordinarily high number of benches (approximately 25% more benches than Copenhagen). Much has been done to improve possibilities for long or short term stays in most of the inner city, given that the benches have been spread to cover a reasonably large area.

The waterfront stands out significantly by offering 649 seats on public benches (40% of total amount of benches in all of Wellington). A survey of stationary activities in Wellington in 2004 points to a high usage level of the benches. People accept the invitation to rest at Midland Park and Civic Square. The benches on Lambton Quay and in Cuba Mall are the most highly used.

