1 | Start
From the end of Truscott Avenue in Johnsonville, follow the orange directional signs up the hill to the first of two tunnels.

2 | Johnsonville Reservoir
The tunnel was cut through solid rock to accommodate the new disused outlet pipe from the reservoir: in 1910 the Johnsonville Town Board purchased land on the northern and eastern slopes of Mt Kaukau to build a high-pressure water supply. Water was pumped up from a dam in the Ohariu Valley to a reservoir, built 314 metres above sea level. It flowed under considerable pressure to the township below.

The walkway then winds its way up Mt Kaukau.

3 | BCL TV Transmitter
Take the time to stop along the way and enjoy the stunning views. The 1220 BCL TV transmitter and surrounding area are privately owned. Climbing onto the viewing platform (340 metres altitude) provides 360° views. You’ll experience spectacular views of the city, Wellington Harbour, the Rimatara and Taranaki ranges, Porirua Basin, and the Southern Ocean. On a clear day, you can see the snow-capped Mt Taranaki—u-enuku in the inland Kaiteretai range.

The walkway starts to descend from Mt Kaukau. There are various tracks that lead off to the left down to the Khandallah Park main picnic area, the children’s play area and to Khandallah Pool.

Khandallah Pool was opened in 1925 and retains many original features. The kiosk was built at the pool entrance in 1926, and served tea and ice cream, and at one point it was converted into a private house in 1973. It reopened as a café in 1998. Entry to the Khandallah Pool is free and the pool is open from December to March each year.

In the park, native plant cover is interspersed with exotic trees, particularly pines and macrocarpas. These trees are remnants of a plantation severely damaged in 1968 by the Woolme Storm. The walkway then descends through taws and kowhai forest onto Simia Crescent.

The walk continues along Waikowhai Street then heads down to cross Karimoo Stream. From Trelissick Crescent, the track winds through Trelissick Park and the Karawaharau Stream in the Ngāi Gorge before coming out onto Hanover Street in Waibrook. Within the gorge, there are a wide variety of birds including piwakawaka, kererū, taahou (silvereyes), tui and kererū (pigeons). Listen out for the distinctive calls of the ruru (monopoly) and kakariki (shining cuckoo).

There are also brown trout, net finned brownies, and common brownies in the Karawaharau Stream. Ngāi Gorge forms a natural access way between Wellington and the Kaikoura Ranges. Ngāi Gorge, there are a wide variety of birds including piwakawaka, kererū, taahou (silvereyes), tui and kererū (pigeons). Listen out for the distinctive calls of the ruru (monopoly) and kakariki (shining cuckoo).

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The ridge above the walkway is more open and here you can enjoy views across the Wellington Harbour, the highway and eastern bays with a backdrop of the Rihitanga ranges.

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The walkway starts from the bottom of Ngāi Gorge and continues into Cummings Park with a children’s play area.

4 | Khandallah Pool
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5 | Khandallah Telephone Exchange
A short walk along the road brings you to the Khandallah Telephone Exchange, 86–88 Khandallah Road. Designed by John Campbell in 1918 and completed in 1921, it was the first important public building of the post-war period. The building is a national treasure as the oldest automatic exchange in New Zealand and the oldest in New Zealand to survive unaltered.

In 1889 John Campbell took up the position of draughtsman in charge of the design of government buildings throughout New Zealand and in 1909 he became the first person to hold the position of Government Architect. Crossing Khandallah Road the walkway then continues into Cummings Park with a children’s play area.

The walkway starts from the bottom of Ngāi Gorge and continues into Cummings Park with a children’s play area.

6 | Primordial Ancestors sculpture
In Cummings Park you can see the Primordial Ancestors sculpture, by Ian Fitz. It was presented to the people of Ngāi by the Wellington Sculpture Trust in January 2000. Primordial Ancestors is a sculpture that pays homage to pregnant women, the birthing canal and the birth of life from streams represents the ancestor’s relationship to stone and the extension of the earth as a living organism.

Follow the map’s directions through Wadestown up to Well Street and Trenzak Hill. Then continue on through exotic and native forest.

The ridge above the walkway is more open and here you can enjoy views across Wellington Harbour, the highway and eastern bays with a backdrop of the Rihitanga ranges.

The walkway starts from the bottom of Ngāi Gorge and continues into Cummings Park with a children’s play area.

7 | Westpac Stadium
Westpac Stadium opened in 2000. The stadium is one of the biggest pre-construction jobs undertaken in New Zealand. The project employed 250 construction staff on site and a further 230 skilled tradesmen. It was one of the biggest precast construction jobs undertaken in New Zealand. The stadium is one of the biggest precast construction jobs undertaken in New Zealand. The stadium is one of the biggest precast construction jobs undertaken in New Zealand.

The Wellington sector of the walk starts south of Colonial Quay to Upland Road; limited car parking in Upland Road (northern end) Johnsonville line train from Johnsonville to Wellington. Difficulty: steep in some places, but not difficult overall. Distance: 360° views. You may cross private land or farmland – please respect property.

Take water and food. Do not disturb stock.

Dogs must be kept on a leash and are excluded from the section of track around the Kaukau TV mast.

Please leave farm gates as you find them.

Most of the Northern Walkway is closed to mountain bikers. For information about bike tracks, see the Cycling Access to Wellington’s Town Belt brochure.

In Spring and Autumn there is considerable dust on the track – please wear a face mask.

On the section of the walk and the southern end of the Trelissick Park section, or take train to Simia Crescent station and join the walk there.

For bus and train timetables see metlink.co.nz

8 | Botanic Garden
Pick up a Walk 5. Explore Wellington, Discover the Heritage and Public Art in the City Centre. Alternatively, do not walk on your walk through the Botanic Garden.

REPRODUCTION OF THIS PICTURE IS PROHIBITED.
Skyline Walk
This walkway runs north and south along the ridge between Mt Kaukau and Chartwell. It is four kilometres long and takes two hours at an easy pace. Access points to the walkway are:
- through the car park at the end of Chartwell Drive,
- from Bells Track at the Awarua Street end,
- from Truscott Park in Johnsonville,
- from Siro Terrace in Broadmeadows,
- from the Northern Walkway at the top of Mt Kaukau.

Bells Track
The track starts at the top of Awarua Street and joins a farm track up to a saddle on the ridge. This route originally provided access between farms in Ohariu Valley and the Ngaio Railway Station.

Piwakawaka Track (Odell Reserve)
Access is from alongside 14 Punjab Street or from the Old Porirua Road near the entrance to the Harbour Lights subdivision. This track passes through regenerating bush and provides a convenient segment of a circular walk with the Bidele track. The highest point, at the water tanks, provides the most spectacular views of the harbour and city from Ngaio.

OTHER TRACKS AND WALKS

Orleans Makererua Reserve
There are open grassy spaces at the Orleans Street entrance and a bush route continues through to Makererua Street.

Heke Street Reserve
Access between 45 and 47 Thacker Crescent provides entry to this reserve. There are two tracks linking to Heke and Collingwood Streets, the latter providing an alternative route to bypass the Walkabout Street section of the Northern Walkway.

Huntleigh Park reserve
This is a Wellington City Council Reserve and an adjoining bush area administered by the Girl Guides Association. Access is from either alongside 29 Huntleigh Park Way or via the Girl Guides Centre in Silverstream Road in Crofton Downs. Tracks are marked with small coloured posts but some care is needed in several areas that are quite steep.

Trelissick Park
This track has a sign-posted entry from a disused road loop near the bottom of Ngaio Gorge Road. A track runs up alongside Kaiwharawhara Stream to meet the Northern Walkway with the option to exit to Trelissick Crescent at two other points. An historic powder magazine built in 1879-80 and used for storing explosives during the Russian invasion scare of the 1880s.

Otari-Wilton’s Bush
This unique sanctuary is devoted to indigenous New Zealand plants. It has a range of tracks through forest, cultivated gardens, open spaces and picnic areas. Access is from Wilton Bush Road, Wilton Road or John Wilton Drive. Further details are available from the Otari Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane, on Wilton Road.