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WridgWays Global

Guide to Living in Wellington



Disclaimer: Though WridgWays strives to maintain the materials in this document, keeping them as accurate and current as possible, the information is collected for reference purpose. WridgWays assumes no liability for any inaccurate or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

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NB: Further information can be found in our New Zealand Destination Guide



Photo by [Guillaume Lebelt](#) on Unsplash

Geographic Location

Wellington is located on the southern end of New Zealand's North Island on Cook Strait.

It receives the moniker 'Windy Welly' as it is one of the windiest places in the world due to its location next to Cook Strait.

Winds funnelled through the strait are strongest on the Wellington side.

The city centre sits on Lambton Harbour, an arm of Wellington Harbour. Nearly all residents live within 3 kilometres of the coast.

The Wellington Fault passes directly through Wellington, and the city's distinctive landscape is a result of this. Earthquakes can be common, with land south-east of the fault subsiding, and land to the north-west side of the fault shifts upwards.

There are 500 km² of regional parks and forests in the region. Steep hills surround the city centre. Notable hills in and around the city include Mount Victoria, Mount Cook, Mount Kaukau, Makara Hill and Wrights Hill.

Wellington City

Wellington is New Zealand's centre of government and the world's southernmost capital city. It is a picturesque city, lying between the Wellington Harbour and surrounded hills. The city centre is compact, relatively flat and densely populated.

It is the third most populous urban area in New Zealand, administered by the city councils of Wellington, Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt and Porirua. It is the country's cultural capital, and home to many museums, theatres and arts festivals. The city attracts makers, artisans, thought-leaders, and entrepreneurs. Many start-up companies set up in Wellington to connect with like-minded people. It is known as the Silicon Valley of the south.



Climate

Wellington has a windy, mild, and generally temperate climate. The city is called 'Windy Wellington' with good reason. Given the city's location on the Cook Strait, it is in the perfect location to produce a wind-funnel effect (and some of the windiest conditions in New Zealand). While the temperature might be mild, the wind often can make the temperature feel much colder.

Compared to the northern hemisphere the seasons are reversed, winter is in the middle of the year and summertime at the end.

Spring	September to November
Summer	December to February
Autumn	March to May
Winter	June to August

Summers have an average temperature of between 19-21°C, and rarely gets above 25°C. February is the warmest month.

Winters are mild and wet, with an average temperature between 6-12 °C. Frosts are quite common in the hills and Hutt Valley during winter, although snow is rare. July is the coldest month.

It is quite wet, even in its driest month, with an average rainfall of 1249 mm per year. The wettest months are June and July. There is an average of 2,025 hours of sunshine per year.

It is important to be SunSmart throughout the year, from September to April. Remember to stay in the shade, wear a shirt, hat, sunglasses, and apply an SPF 30+ sunscreen every two hours.

For current weather reports and conditions, visit:
<https://www.metservice.com/>.

Population

Wellington is the second largest city in New Zealand. The population of Greater Wellington as of June 2019 was 424,000 people. Of this, 98.3% of the population live in urban areas.

New Zealand's overall population is close to 4.8 million people as of July 2020, this accounts for 0.6% of the world's total population. The population will continue to rise, although at a slower rate than previous years. By the end of the decade, it is forecast to reach 5 million people.

Time Zone and Daylight Savings

New Zealand has two standard time, New Zealand Standard Time (NZST), which is 12 hours in front of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), the North and South Island both lie in this time zone. The Chatham Islands, which lie 860 kilometres off Christchurch use Chatham Standard Time (CST), 12.45 hours in front of GMT.

On the last Sunday of September, people of New Zealand and the Chatham Islands turn their clocks forward an hour for Daylight Saving Time (DST), allowing them to enjoy more of the nicer weather in the afternoons and evenings, where daylight can last until 9.30pm. The time reverts to normal after summer is over, when everyone changes their clocks back on the first Sunday in April.

To see more information on the current time and date for Wellington, as well as other local information, visit:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/new-zealand/wellington>



Photo by [Wolf Zimmermann](#) on Unsplash

Wellington Lifestyle Overview

Wellington has much to offer those looking for a relaxed lifestyle. This picturesque city often rates highly among the most liveable cities in the world.

Wellington is New Zealand's creative capital and has a thriving arts scene.

A small city, commute times are short, allowing a healthy work-life balance. With time on your hands, visit the national museum or one of the city's art galleries, experience the waterfront, or relax on the golden sands of Oriental Bay.

If you enjoy nature and outdoor adventure, Wellington region has many walking, mountain biking, and hiking trails to explore.

People of Wellington

Wellington is a diverse city, with residents from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds, each with their own cultures and traditions.

According to the 2018 Census, 33.4% of Wellington City's population was born overseas, compared to 26.9% in Wellington Region.

The top five ethnic groups of Wellington residents in the 2018 Census include European (71.5%), Asian (15.1%), Maori (13.8%), Pacific Islander peoples (9.8%), and Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (2.2%).

Wellington Shopping Overview

The city centre is compact and easily walkable. The 'Golden Mile' is framed by Lambton Quay, Willis Street, Manners Street and Courtenay Place, offering some of the best high fashion and boutique stores in the city. Lambton Quay is home to the Old Bank Arcade, home to some of New Zealand's best designers. Cuba Street is the best-known street in Wellington. You will find independent vintage and eclectic fashion boutiques.

Wellington has an abundance of markets including, Wellington Night Market, Hill St Farmers' Market, Wellington Underground Market, and Harbourside Market, where you can find arts, crafts, and fresh food produce.

Countdown and New Market are the main full-service supermarket chains across New Zealand. These are located across Wellington as well as smaller grocery and convenience stores.

Eating in Wellington

Eat, drink, and be merry with Wellington's diverse culinary offerings. There is something to meet every budget and taste. Head to Cuba Street, where you can taste world-renowned coffee from one of the many quirky cafes, or grab a bite to eat or enjoy a cocktail at one of the many bars.

The area around Courtenay Place comes alive in the evenings, with locals heading to one of the award-winning restaurants or cocktail bars. Or if you would like to dine with a view, head to the waterfront or one of the local beach cafes.

The [Wellington Night Market](#) is held every Friday and Saturday night. The Friday market is held at Left Bank, and on Saturdays head to Lower Cuba Street. Next any given night you will find cuisine from all corners of the globe.

The Martinborough Wine Region is a short drive from the CBD, and is known to produce quality Pinot Noir wines.

Celebrations and Holidays

New Zealand has a range of public (bank) holidays throughout the year, some of which are unique to Wellington, while others exist across all of New Zealand and many other Western countries. Some of these holidays include:

- + New Year's Day
- + Day after New Year's Day
- + Wellington Anniversary Day
- + Waitangi Day
- + Good Friday
- + Easter Monday
- + Anzac Day
- + Queen's Birthday
- + Labour Day
- + Christmas Day

For a full list of public holidays and regional anniversary days, please visit:

<https://www.govt.nz/browse/work/public-holidays-and-work/public-holidays-and-anniversary-dates/>



General Visa Information

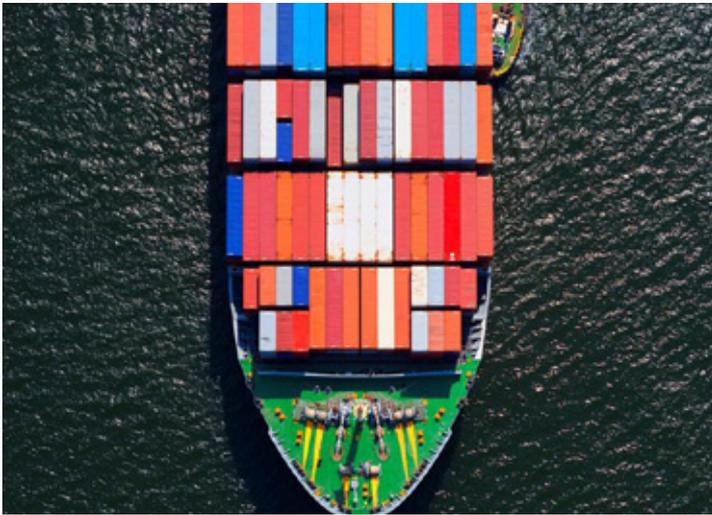
Obtaining the correct visa for your pending relocation can often be time-consuming and confusing. Let us assist you with your visa and immigration requirements. We can guide you through the application process, from initial application to form submissions.

If you are planning a holiday in New Zealand, and you are an Australian citizen or permanent resident, UK citizen and/or passport holder, or citizen of a country that has a visa waiver agreement with New Zealand you don't need to apply for a visa. A holiday visa will be issued upon arrival in New Zealand.

If you do not meet the criteria above, you will need to apply for a visitor visa before you travel to New Zealand.

If you do plan to settle or stay in New Zealand to work, and you are an Australian or permanent resident, you will need to organise a work or resident visa. Speak to your WridgWays consultant to find out more.

You can also find out more information on visa requirements from the New Zealand Now [website](#).



Quarantine - Prohibited and restricted items into New Zealand

There are various items that are prohibited or restricted from entering New Zealand. Should you have any specific questions relating to any items into New Zealand, please ask your WridgWays consultant. If you do not declare items that are deemed risky, you could be subject to fines or prosecution.

You can't bring any of these items into NZ:

- + Objectionable material contained on items like videotapes, films, records, CD-ROMs and in publications
- + Weapons like flick knives, butterfly knives, swordsticks, knuckle-dusters
- + Any weapon which is disguised as something else
- + Equipment for using cannabis or methamphetamine
- + Anything which you're planning to use in a crime.

You need a permit to import these items:

- + Ivory in any form, including jewellery, and carvings
- + Tortoise or sea turtle shell jewellery, and ornaments
- + Meat or food derived from whales, dolphins, rare crane, and pheasants, or sea turtles
- + Medicines containing musk, or rhinoceros or tiger derivatives such as ground horn or bone
- + Carvings or other things made from whalebone or bone from other marine mammals
- + Cat skins
- + Trophies of sea turtles, all big cats, rare reptiles, cranes, pheasants, bears, antelope, and deer
- + Live species, including pet eagles, hawks, owls and parrots, many cacti, orchids, cycads, and cyclamens, carnivorous plants.

To import **plants and plant products, animals and animal products**, and other commodities that may carry organisms, like sea containers and personal effects, these must meet biosecurity requirements in import health standards. If there is no import health standard this usually means that you cannot import an item. For a full list, visit the Ministry for Primary Industries [website](#).

You will need a NZ Police permit to bring **firearms** into New Zealand. A permit must be obtained before you arrive.

You may not be able to bring some medicines into NZ, especially controlled drugs. You might be able to bring in prescription medicines if you can show a valid doctor's certificate.

For more information on specific custom requirements please speak to your WridgWays consultant. You can also visit the [New Zealand Customs website](#) or the Ministry for Primary Industries, <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/travel-and-recreation/arriving-in-new-zealand/items-to-declare/>.

Vehicle transport

If you want to import a vehicle into New Zealand, all vehicles must be checked, registered and licenced before you can use them on the road. The process is known as entry certification. WridgWays can arrange to have our trusted vehicle transportation team organise all aspects of your transportation, making sure all the correct permits and paperwork are completed.

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/vehicles/importing-a-vehicle/>



Housing Options

The housing market in Wellington is competitive and the cost of renting or buying is one of the highest in New Zealand.

Temporary Accommodation

Typically, fully furnished serviced apartments, or similar styles of accommodation, ranging from 1 to 3 bedrooms are available in both city and rural locations depending on requirements. Higher prices are found in the city centre.

Long Term Accommodation/Rental/Tenancy

Housing is varied, with many housing styles to choose from. Options include suburban homes, rural living and lifestyle blocks, apartments, flats and townhouses.

External looks can sometimes be deceiving as many of the older style homes may be fully renovated and refurbished with modern fittings and fixtures. The rental price is a good indicator of what the condition of the property will be, and whether the property has been recently updated/renovated.

There aren't any specific expat areas in Wellington but suburbs that offer lifestyle include, Te Aro, Brooklyn, Mt Victoria, Oriental Bay, and Churton Park. If you are looking for a semi-rural lifestyle, Wairarapa or Upper Hutt are good options.

Housing Inspection and Rental Bond

Before you apply to rent a property, you will need to inspect it.

Inspections are arranged with the letting agent, real estate agent or landlord. These can be arranged directly with them or the property may be open for inspection – where anyone can attend at a set time and date.

If you are entitled to Home Search assistance with WridgWays, your Relocation Consultant will assist you to liaise with the agent or landlord to arrange an inspection.

You should check the Land Information Memorandum (LIM) before purchase. This document provides comprehensive information about the land and buildings on a property. This can be purchased from the local council.

For full details, please refer to our Moving to New Zealand Destination Guide.

Furniture and Electrical Appliance Rental

Rental of furniture and electrical appliances is available on both a short and long term basis. Clients may request full kits including all furniture, linen, appliances and cooking utensils or select individual items.

There are several companies in Wellington, including:

+ Mr Rental - <https://www.mrrental.co.nz/>

Medical Emergency Checklist

Prepare a medical emergency checklist based on the following (as a guide):

- + Emergency services numbers
- + Emergency contact person information
- + Doctor's name and contact details
- + Dentist's name and contact details
- + Health Insurance Information (plan/policy number etc.)
- + Medical history (allergies, medicines, medical problem etc.)
- + Special instructions (diet restrictions etc.)
- + Other emergency info (including home address/ phone number)

Hospitals and Medical Practitioners

Public Hospital	
Public Hospital	Wellington Regional Hospital 100-106 Gisborne Street, WELLINGTON, NSW, 2820 +64 9367 0000 https://www.ccdhb.org.nz/our-services/wellington-regional-hospital/
Private Hospitals	
Private Hospitals	Bowen Hospital 98 Churchill Drive, Crofton Downs Wellington 6035 https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/bowen-hospital-1/ Southern Cross Hospital https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/southern-cross-hospital-wellington/ Wakefield Hospital https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/wakefield-hospital/
Chiropractor	
New Zealand Chiropractors Association	https://www.chiropractic.org.nz/ Ph: 0800 006922 or International +6427 246 0114

What do I do in case of a Medical Emergency?

DIAL 111 for Ambulance, Fire or Police

For further information in what to do in an emergency, visit:

<https://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz/living-in-nz/safety/emergency-services>

Wellington is the only city in New Zealand to offer a free ambulance service. For more information, visit: <https://www.wfa.org.nz/what-we-do/clinical-care/>

Health Line provides free trusted health information and advice, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Registered nurses are available to provide information and advice when you're not sure what to do – whether you should see a local GP, manage the condition at home, or go to an emergency department.

Free call: 0800 611 116 or visit <https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/health-care-services/healthline> for more information.

Dentist	
New Zealand Dental Association	Phone: 09 580 0081 https://www.ada.co.nz/
Doctor	
Capital & Coast District Health Board	https://www.ccdhb.org.nz/our-services/find-a-gp/
Massage and Natural Medicine Therapists	
Massage New Zealand	https://www.massagenewzealand.org.nz/ Ph: 0800 367 669
National Therapists Association	https://www.naturaltherapypages.co.nz/associations
Optometrists	
New Zealand Association of Optometrists	Ph: 08004 EYECARE/0800 439 322, Ph: +64 4 473 2322



New Zealand Schooling Overview

New Zealand's education system has a strong international reputation for excellence and has been ranked among the world's best. Your child will receive a quality education that will form a strong foundation for their future success.

If you are a corporate client and are using our school finding services, please discuss your needs with your relocation consultant.

Schooling in New Zealand is made up of 13 Year levels. Primary education starts in Year 1 and goes to Year 8. Secondary education is from Year 9 to Year 13.

Your child will be assessed during their last 3 years at school (Year 11-13) the final year of secondary school. The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) is the national senior secondary school qualification. This is used as a benchmark for selection by universities and polytechnics. The NCEA is also recognised by many international universities.

Children between the age of six to sixteen must attend school, although your child can start school on the day they turn 5 years old.

New Zealand is well served by good schools throughout all communities. Schools belong in one of three main sectors:

- + State (Public) Schools
- + State Integrated Schools
- + Private Schools

Further information is available at <https://www.govt.nz/browse/education/school-and-college/school-zones-reviews-and-decile-ratings/>



Electricity and Gas Suppliers

In Wellington consumers are able to select which electricity and gas supplier they would like to obtain their energy from. You can either use the same company for both, or separate companies for gas and electricity. Some suppliers require consumers to take a contract for 12 or 24 months, whereas others do not lock you into any contractual arrangements, but you may find that their energy costs are slightly higher.

Electricity is supplied throughout Wellington at 230 volts (50 hertz). You will likely need an adaptor/converter for your devices, chargers, and other electronic equipment.

Most electrical stores in will be able to help you out with these requirements once you arrive, if you have not acquired the necessary adaptors already.

Water and Sewage

[Wellington Water](#) manages the drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services for Hutt, Porirua, Upper Hutt and Wellington city councils, South Wairarapa District Council and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Pay TV

There are options available for subscription based television in New Zealand, with Disney+ and Netflix being a few of the most popular or Neon TV for a local offering. For further details see:

- + Netflix - <https://www.netflix.com/nz/>
- + Disney+ - <https://www.disneyplus.com/en-nz/>
- + Prime Video - <https://www.primevideo.com/>
- + Neon TV - <https://www.neontv.co.nz/>
- + Acorn TV - <https://signup.acorn.tv/>
- + CuriosityStream - <https://curiositystream.com/>
- + iwonder - <https://iwonder.com/>



Public transport overview

Metlink is Wellington region's extensive public transport network. It is managed by the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Public transport options include:

- + Buses
- + Rail services
- + Ferries
- + Cable car

The bus network has 108 routes across the region and serves 2,800 stops.

Wellington region's passenger rail network is made up of five lines. These include the Johnsonville line, Kapiti line, Melling line, Hutt Valley line, and the Wairarapa line.

The Wellington Cable Car is a cable railway climbs 120 metres over a length of 612 metres. It connects Lambton Quay in the city centre, and the Botanic Garden in Kelburn.

Ferries travel from Wellington Harbour to Days Bay (near Eastbourne), Seatoun, and Matiu/Somes Island.

Purchasing Tickets

Snapper card is a stored value card that is used across the Wellington bus network. You can also use cash to pay for your fare. The Snapper card can't be used across the train and ferry network but Metlink single, return, 10-trip passes and monthly passes are available for purchase. Tickets can be purchased from [selected stations](#), [ticket agents](#) or [online](#).

If you would like more information on fares, visit the [Metlink](#) website.

Main Airport Location

Wellington International Airport is the third busiest airport in New Zealand. The airport lies 8 km south-east of the city centre.

The airport has a main terminal building with three piers, consisting of 49 gates. The main terminal has a common check-in area, baggage claim and retail area. Air New Zealand has three lounges for Koru members.

12 airlines operate flights from Wellington Airport. There are over 1000 flights each week to 19 destinations. International flights fly direct to destinations like Singapore, Fiji, Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

To get to and from the airport, there are a number of options. The Airport Flyer is an express bus that connects the airport to the Wellington City and Lower Hutt. Taxis and shuttles can be found directly outside the main terminal building. Seven rental car operators offer service on-site, car rental counters are next to the domestic baggage claim.



For more details on how WridgWays Global can assist you visit wridgways.com.au

About Us

We manage thousands of removals throughout Australia and across the globe annually for a multitude of domestic, corporate and government organisations.

WridgWays philosophy of complete honesty and integrity is reflected in the number of repeat customers that we service each year and the high rate of referrals received.

The consultative approach of our customer service representatives ensures that they fully understand the dimensions of a project and the needs of customers before recommending the best solutions - after all we have a strong respect for our customers' property and personal circumstances and we know that no two relocations are ever the same.