

WELLINGTON

Wellington is New Zealand's political and cultural capital. It smells of coffee; Wellingtonians take their lattes very seriously indeed – life in general revolves around very fine food and drink. Unkind commentators would say this is because the weather is so bad, but global warming seems to be working nicely for Wellington, and al fresco dining is no longer only an annual occasion. Wellingtonians are however absolutely obsessed with weather; largely because Wellington on a good day is the most beautiful, sparkly weather experience you can have anywhere.

Wellington is the home of the arts – people go to see the orchestra, ballet, and opera regularly and the International Arts Festival sends the city into a frenzy every two years. It's also New Zealand's film capital – no one has yet recovered from the Lord of the Rings being made here, though they have finally taken the giant Gollum off the airport terminal. With King Kong, the city should be wall-to-wall gorillas for some time to come.

Wellingtonians are the only New Zealanders who seem to pay much attention to politics, and every development in the Beehive immediately leaks, providing water cooler conversation for your office.

Where should I live?

Wellington is compact, and its bus system is good, so your options are wide. Families and posh people gravitate to Kelburn, Wadestown and Thorndon – for trendier urban options look to Mt Cook and Newtown. The houses are one and two story weatherboard villas perched on incredibly steep hills ... Wellington is very good for your calf muscles!

How much will it cost for essentials?

A latte - NZ\$3.50

A glass of wine - NZ\$8.00

A movie - NZ\$14.00

A 2 bedroom apartment - NZ\$300-400 per week

Useful links...

<http://www.wellingtonnz.com/>

To convert your currency:

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

