

SHORE EXCURSIONS

WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND – FEBRUARY 24, 2024

Highlights of Wellington



Duration: 3 ½ Hours

Activity Level: Easy

Adult: \$64.90

Child: \$64.90

DETAILS:

Discover the historical and scenic highlights of New Zealand's center of government and culture, known as the "Capital of Cool". A picturesque drive

along lovely Oriental Bay toward Mount Victoria offers a spectacular 360 view of Wellington and its well-protected harbor. Visit the Wellington Botanical Garden, established in the 1860s. Strolling through this wonderland of exotic and indigenous plants, you'll see rare specimens of begonias, heritage roses, and aromatic herbs. The lily pond is also worth noting because of its enormous water lilies and the carnivorous plants nearby.

History takes center stage as you drive down Bowen Street, home to New Zealand's Parliament, which has been meeting here since 1865. The most iconic building within this sprawling government complex is the Executive Wing, known as "The Beehive," for its distinctive shape. It provides quite an architectural contrast to the Parliament House, an Edwardian neo-classical building. You'll visit the War Memorial Pukeahu National War Memorial Park. This is the national place for New Zealanders to remember and reflect on their country's experience of war, military conflict, and peacekeeping, and how that experience shapes their ideals and sense of national identity. You'll pass the contemporary Wellington Cathedral before arriving at Old Paul's, the city's former cathedral. Constructed entirely of native timbers, the interior is absolutely stunning, especially the wooden rafters and stained-glass windows. Although no longer a parish church, the cathedral remains a place of great spiritual significance.

You will also drive toward Mount Victoria, which offers a spectacular 360 view of Wellington and its well-protected harbor for a quick photo stop.

NOTE:

This tour includes approximately 1 ½ hours of walking. It is available to guests, who utilize a collapsible wheelchair, can make their way on and off the coach and have a companion to assist them. Casual, weather-appropriate clothing and comfortable, flat walking shoes are suggested.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

Te Papa Tongarewa Museum



Duration: 4 Hours
Activity Level: Moderate
Adult: \$141.90
Child: \$141.90

DETAILS:

Gain great insight into the Maori culture as your expert guide takes you through Te Papa Tongarewa, the

national museum of New Zealand, where many of the most significant Maori treasures are displayed. From historic, artistic, and contemporary perspectives, this tour will enrich your understanding of what makes New Zealand's Maori culture unique.

Depart from the pier and enjoy a short drive to the Te Papa Tongarewa Museum, a landmark national museum constructed in an architectural style that reflects New Zealand's history and evolving identity. Symbolism is abundant throughout and includes entrance boulders that reflect Mother Earth and the indigenous people, and elaborate waharoa gateways that serve as thresholds to the country's natural and cultural heritage.

The museum holds more than 30,000 cultural treasures known as taongas in its Taonga Maori Collection, the focus of your visit. While browsing the exhibits, you'll learn the history of the most highly prized tribal artifacts, which include ancestral carvings, garments, shells, and weapons. There are also fine examples of Maori weaving that beautifully express the different techniques used for baskets, cordage, and house panels.

You'll also explore Te Papa's verdant Bush City, an outdoor exhibition of approximately 1,400 plants that naturally thrive in the rainforests, wetlands and mountains surrounding Wellington. Pepper trees, giant pig ferns and towering edible ferns are but a few of the usual plants.

Following your exploration of Te Papa, you'll be treated to Kapu Ti, a hot drink and traditionally inspired food. This hospitality is an important part of Maori culture and is a great opportunity for you to have a more relaxed talk with your Host.

From here your tour takes you along Marine Parade, one of Wellington's holiday hotspots. Then, head up Mt Victoria for impressive views of the city and photo opportunities. Enjoy more of the city highlights on your way back to the port.

NOTE:

This tour includes walking at guest's discretion with approximately 20 steps to negotiate. It is available to guests who utilize a collapsible wheelchair, can make their way on and off the coach and have a companion to assist them. Casual, weather-appropriate clothing and comfortable, flat walking shoes are suggested.