

TRAVEL

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New Zealand's quaint cove



photos courtesy of New Zealand Tourism Board

New Zealand's picturesque harbor is circled by houses and quaint commercial architecture spilling down rolling slopes to the shore.

TAKE A WALK THROUGH

Wellington

Travelers often miss New Zealand's most urban city

By Carole Van Grondelle
New York Times Syndicate

In a nation brimful of scenic wonders, New Zealand's capital city of Wellington, situated at the southernmost tip of the North Island, is often bypassed in the tourist stampede from Auckland to Queenstown.

Yet New Zealand's first organized European settlement has evolved into the country's most intensely urban city. It is arguably the intellectual and cultural center of New Zealand. The setting is stunning: a fine, deep harbor set in a natural amphitheater of densely wooded hills. Clinging tenaciously to the hillsides is a colorful patchwork of timber houses, many dating to colonial times.

A narrow crescent of flat land supports a cluster of tall commercial buildings focused around the Civic Center, which forms a new nucleus for the city's cultural amenities.

A large open-air plaza, which was completed in late November, provides an urban meeting place for outdoor concerts and events. Enclosing this space is an ensemble of new, older and refurbished buildings.

Dominating one end of the Civic Center is the polished armature of the Michael Fowler Center, the city's principal concert venue.

Among new buildings is the three-story Wellington Public Library, which opened in December, presenting an undulating facade to the plaza and lining the street with a colonnade of giant steel "nikau palms."

Beneath the plaza is Capital Discovery Place, a hands-on children's museum scheduled to open in September. Refurbished buildings include the Town Hall, of Edwardian classical design, and

the Early Modern civic administration building.

The former city library, an imposing striped classical edifice, is being remodeled as the new City Art Gallery and will open in early 1993. Beyond the central city, to the south and east, are a series of rocky bays and sandy inlets connected by narrow and winding roads.

Despite its dramatic topography, Wellington is easily navigated on foot. From the north it takes just two hours to stroll from the pioneer cottages of the Thorndon neighborhood, past the Parliament buildings, along the bustling storefronts of Lambton Quay and south to the Mediterranean-style promenade of Oriental Parade.

For energetic visitors there are several signposted walkways into the city's hills. These trails combine panoramic views and discreet glimpses into private gardens.

A word of caution: The price Wellington pays for its peninsula location and lush green vegetation is a brisk sea breeze and changeable weather.

WHAT TO DO

Historic Wellington has a 150-year heritage of European settlement.

The Wellington Information Center, on the corner of Wakefield and Victoria streets, P.O. Box 2199, offers the "Thorndon Walk" (80 cents) and "Historic Wellington" (\$1.35) brochures, which outline sightseeing tours. For more information call 801-4000.

One spot is the Katherine Mansfield Birthplace, at 25 Tinkertown Road, where New Zealand's most gifted writer was born in 1888. It is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed Monday.

Admission is \$2.15. For more information call 473-7268.

Farther up Tinakara Road, onto Glenervie Terrace and Ascot Street, are tiny 1870s cottages.

Among other old places of interest are the Parliament buildings lining Molesworth Street, which include the old Parliament House, built in 1912 and considered a fine example of Edwardian Classicism, and the Gothic Revival General Assembly Library, built in 1899, as well as the modern executive wing of Parliament, known as the Beehive for its conical shape.

St. Paul's Cathedral, a block away on Mulgrave Street, is a splendid example of 19th-century timber Gothic architecture.

In the newly completed National Archives building, at 10 Mulgrave Street, you can visit the Constitution room to view the original Treaty of Waitangi, the most important document in New Zealand's constitutional history. It was signed in 1840 by representatives of the British government and many of the country's Maori tribal groups.

The National Archives Building is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 499-5595.

At the National Museum and Art Gallery, at Buckle Street, is Taonga Maori, a display of rare Maori cultural artifacts assembled for a recent Australian tour. It is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 385-9609.

From Cable Car Lane off Lambton Quay you can take the Kelburn cable car to the top of the Wellington Botanic Gardens (free admission) to admire the view, then walk down through the verdant bush. At the Lady Norwood Rose Garden 100-plus types of roses, arranged in formal geometric design, are in full bloom throughout the summer months.

The Kelburn cable car, which costs 80 cents, operates from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. For more information call 472-2199.

For view of the city skyline from the opposite side of the bay visitors can take the Wellington Harbor Ferry across to Day's Bay, a popular picnic spot. Departure from Queen's Wharf is \$12 for a round-trip ticket. Visitors stroll around the beach to Eastbourne and browse in the shops and galleries.

Returning to Queens' Wharf, one can follow the waterfront to Oriental Parade, which sweeps around the sheltered southeast arm of the harbor in a broad serpentine, lined with Norfolk pines. Until late evening the promenade attracts a steady stream of joggers, swimmers, windsurfers, cyclists, fishermen and dog lovers.

Retirees enjoy going through Oregon's only rustic gristmill

By Gene and Adele Maloit
special writer

Peter Crandall, 70, and his wife Cora bought Oregon's only gristmill — the Butte Creek Mill — in 1972. It took Crandall just two days to close the deal.

He had been a mechanical engineer in southern California when he visited Oregon, heard the mill was for sale and decided to buy it and retire.

Now he says, "I have never regretted doing it. I'm where I want to be, doing what I want to do."

Crandall's Butte Creek Mill — in Eagle Point, Ore., just north of Medford, Ore., on U.S. Highway 62 — is a favorite stop for mature travelers on the road to Oregon's spectacular Crater Lake area.

Inside the weathered four-story water-powered mill, a miller uses the same 1,400-pound stones that were brought to Eagle Point more than 100 years ago to grind wheat, rye and corn into flours, meals and cereals.

Today the structure, which first opened in 1872, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Crandalls also run the General Store Museum, which is part of the mill complex. They have filled the museum with items that piqued their interest during the past 50 years: patent-medicine bottles, old advertisements, a turn-of-the-century phonograph, an antique coffee grinder and potbellied stove.

"The Crandalls are typical of southern Oregon's new wave of retirees who come to vacation and decide to stay."

Most who visit this area will make their way north and east on U.S. Highway 62, perhaps stopping at Natural Bridge Viewpoint about 50 miles past Eagle Point for a stroll across the Rogue River before continuing to Crater Lake.

Medford is central to the area — a good place to camp for day-trips into the rest of the region.

Across the wide road from Crandall's establishment is Rita's Towne & Country Parlor, a tiny shop filled



photo courtesy of GEM Publishing Group

Peter Crandall, 70, owns Oregon's only gristmill, a popular stop for mature travelers checking out the area as a possible retirement spot.

with sunahine and handcrafted gifts made by the owner, Rita Turner, who loves to chat with the artists, fishermen and retired people who stop in.

Another Oregon retiree is Jack Heald, who collects and displays antique tractors at the Fordson Home Hostel, an American Youth Hostel he runs near Cave Junction, Ore.

Heald acts as an unofficial guide for mature travelers in the quiet valley just west of Medford.

"It's the best-kept tourism secret in America," Heald tells visitors, referring to Oregon's fishing, hunting, hiking, golf and six months of 90-degree days.

Despite the "youth" in its name, Heald's American Youth Hostel is a haven for mature travelers. It's possible to spend a few days or stay a while longer, while looking over the area as a possible place to retire. Accommodations are \$7 a night per person.

For more information contact Heald at 250 Robinson Road, Cave Junction, Ore. 97523 or call him at (503) 592-3203.

For information on visiting southwest Oregon, as well as details on the region's Shakespeare Festival, Crater Lake area and other attractions, contact the Southwestern Oregon Visitors Association, 88 E. Stewart Ave., Medford, Ore. 97501 or call (503) 779-4691.

'I have never regretted doing it. I'm where I want to be, doing what I want to do.'

— Peter Crandall

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1-800-567-1600. For tourist information and a free

Festive Stratford Visitors' Guide, call 1-800-561-7926.



The "Beehive" or executive wing of New Zealand Parliament buildings, was the result of a design sketched on a napkin and inspired by the motif on a box of "Beehive" matches.

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