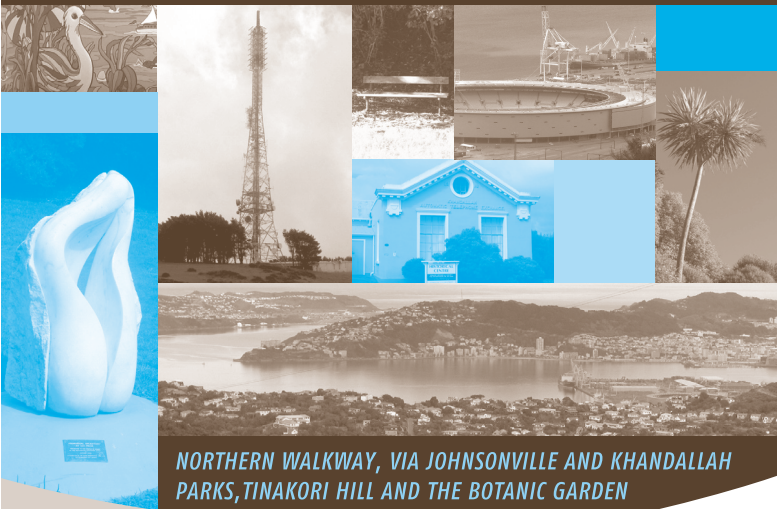


# EXPLORE WELLINGTON

Discover Wellington's Town Belt, reserves and walkways



NORTHERN WALKWAY, VIA JOHNSONVILLE AND KHANDALLAH PARKS, TINAKORI HILL AND THE BOTANIC GARDEN

**Absolutely  
POSITIVELY**

ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE  
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL **Wellington**

[www.feelinggreat.co.nz](http://www.feelinggreat.co.nz)

## EXPLORE

The Northern Walkway extends 16 kilometres from Johnsonville through several parks via the Town Belt to Kelburn. It takes at least four hours to complete. Various exits to suburban streets allow you to take this walk in stages if you wish. The walkway has many attractions, including spectacular views, picnic sites, children's play areas, unused tunnels, and the Khandallah Summer Pool. It is steep in some places but not difficult overall.

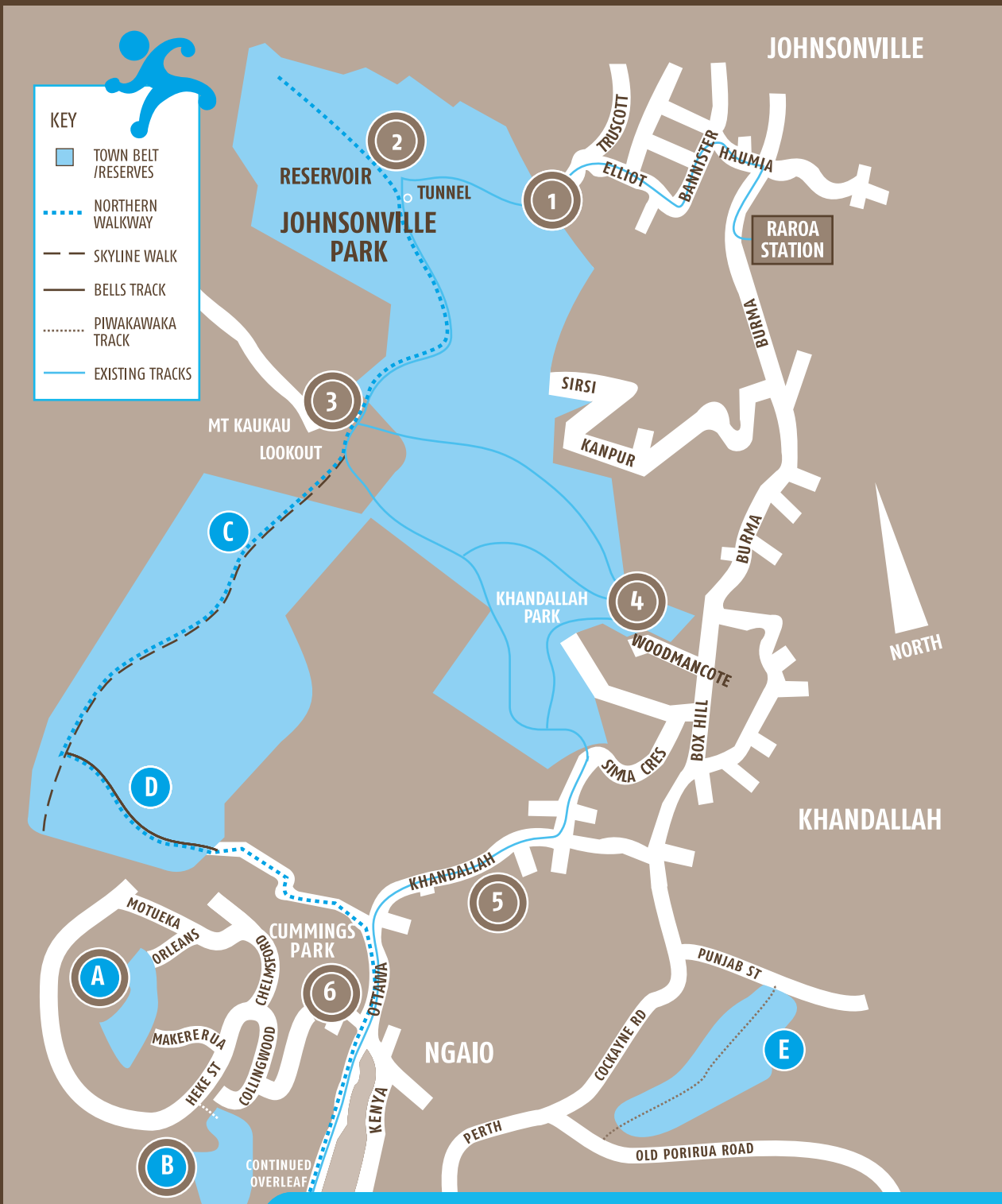
The walk begins – from the north – at Johnsonville Park. Take a Johnsonville line train to Raroa Station. Then follow the map's directions to the park entrance in Truscott Avenue.

The southern start of the walk is at the top of the Cable Car on Upland Road in Kelburn. It proceeds through the Botanic Garden onto Tinakori Road and up St Mary Street in Thorndon. For full map and details about the Botanic Garden, pick up an Explore Wellington Walk 5 brochure from selected Explore Wellington stands at the Visitor Information Centre on Wakefield Street, Wellington International Airport and the Wellington Railway Station.

Between these entry points the walkway passes through five areas: Johnsonville Park, Khandallah Park, Trellissick Park, Tinakori Hill and the Botanic Garden. If you prefer to complete selected areas of the walk only, take a No 14 Wilton bus to Weld Street in Wadestown. This leads to the northern end of the Tinakori Hill section and the southern end of the Trellissick Park section. Alternatively, take a Johnsonville train to or from Simla Crescent Station.

Along the route are numerous seats and picnic spots. Dogs are permitted but must be on a leash. Most of the Northern Walkway is closed to mountain bikers. See separate brochure for more details or check out [www.feelinggreat.co.nz](http://www.feelinggreat.co.nz) for mountain bike tracks in Wellington.

There are also other walkways and tracks that connect with and cross the Northern Walkway. These are illustrated on the map opposite with a short description of each walkway also listed.

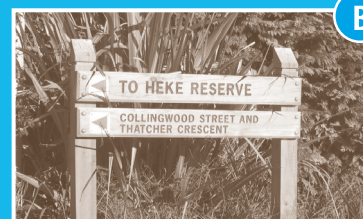


## RESERVES



### A Orleans Makererua Reserve

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



### B Heke Street Reserve

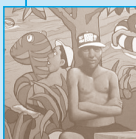
Access between 45 and 47 Thatcher Crescent provides entry to this reserve. There are two tracks linking to Heke and Collingwood Streets, the latter providing an alternative route to bypass the Waikowhai Street section of the Northern Walkway.



### 6 Primordial Ancestors Sculpture

The Primordial Ancestors sculpture, by Ian Prior, was presented to the people of Ngāio by the Wellington Sculpture Trust in January 2000.

Primordial Ancestors is a fertility shrine that pays homage to pregnant women, the birthing canal and the birth of life from stone. It represents the artist's relationship to stone and the extension of the earth as a living organism.



### 4 Khandallah Pool

The Khandallah Pool was opened in 1925. Its construction was

mainly due to the concerted efforts of local residents who helped secure the funding. The pool retains many original features, which makes it historically interesting. A tea kiosk was built at the pool entrance in 1926, and served tea and ice creams until it was converted into a private house in 1973. It was then reopened again as a café in 1999. Entry to the Khandallah Pool is free and open from December to March each year.



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 Wahine Storm. Halfway down is a grassy clearing with seats and a picnic table. The walkway then descends tawa and kohekohe forest onto Simla Crescent.



### 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 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.

### 1 Start

The walk starts at the end of Truscott Avenue in Johnsonville Park. Follow the orange directional signs up the hill to the first of two tunnels on the walk.



### 2 Johnsonville Reservoir

The tunnel was hewn through solid rock to accommodate the (now disused) outlet pipe from the reservoir. In 1910 the Johnsonville Town Board purchased land on the northern and eastern slopes of Mount Kaukau to build a high-pressure water supply to all properties in its area. Water was pumped up from a dam in the Ohariu Valley to the reservoir, built 314 metres above sea level. It flowed under considerable pressure to the township below.

First designated as a domain in 1909, Khandallah Park is one of New Zealand's oldest. It has more than 60 hectares of native bush with 9km of walking tracks winding through dense bush and passing several lookouts. The walkway then winds its way up to Mount Kaukau.

### 3 BCL TV Transmitter

Take the time to stop along the way and enjoy the stunning views. The BCL TV transmitter stands an impressive 122 metres tall. The area surrounding the television tower and lookout is privately owned. Please respect the landowners and their wishes. No dogs are allowed on this section of the walkway.



Climb onto the viewing platform (430 metres altitude) for spectacular 360° views. You'll experience spectacular

views of the city, Wellington Harbour, the Rimutaka and Taranaki ranges, Porirua Basin, and the Tasman Sea. On a clear day, you can see the snow-capped Mount Tapuaeouenuku from the South Island.

The walkway starts its descent 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.

## OTHER TRACKS AND WALKS



### C 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. On a clear day views of the Kaikoura ranges, the Marlborough Sounds, Wellington City and the harbour, the Tararua and Orongorongo ranges are spectacular.

The walkway is also open to mountain bikers.

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 Sirsi Terrace in Broadmeadows
- from the Northern Walkway at the top of Mt Kaukau.



### D Bells Track

This reestablished route 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 Ngāio Railway Station.



### E 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 Bridle Track. The highest point, at the water tanks, provides the most spectacular views of the harbour and city from Ngāio.



### Te Araroa

Many parts of the Northern Walkway merge with Te Araroa, the National Walkway. Depending on your route,

Wellington is the beginning or end of the North Island sector of this magnificent project – a defined track from North Cape to Bluff. Te Araroa means 'the long pathway', and that is certainly what this will become: a legal thoroughfare for footsloggers. It is nearly 3000km long across mountains and lowland, through bush and pine forest, by way of all varieties of farm country and local communities, from north to south of New Zealand.

A small team of local enthusiasts are working with Wellington City Council and other regional councils to establish and mark the Te Araroa trail from Levin to the top of the Cable Car. Walkers will enter the Wellington City Council section south of Colonial Knob behind Porirua.

1. From here it joins into Spicer Forest and then onto Ohariu Valley Road, meeting up with Rifle Range Road, along Old Coach

Road where it joins the Northern Walkway to to Mount Kaukau.

2. From Mount Kaukau it carries along the Skyline Track until Bells Track. Bells track will lead back onto the Northern Walkway in Ngāio.

3. Te Araroa then follows the Northern Walkway through Trellissick Park, Tinakori Hill and the Botanic Gardens to the Cable Car.

4. From here, if you wish to walk to the South Coast, you can join the City to Sea Walkway. This will take you to the coast at Island Bay. This will at least be a walk from sea to shining sea – from Cape Reinga\*.

\* Known to Maori as Te Rerenga Wairua "the leaping place of the spirits" it is believed that after death Maori spirits travel to Cape Reinga where using seaweed as ropes, they slide down the hill to the 800 year old Pohutukawa tree at the northern most tip of the cape. The spirits make their final leap from the tree down to the roots and then return to Hawaiki, the Maori Ancestral Homeland.

Follow the footsteps!





The walk continues along Waikowhai Street then heads down to cross Korimako Stream onto Wightwick's Field (donated to the City Council by Mr

and Mrs Wightwick). From Trellissick Crescent, the track winds down through Trellissick Park and the Kaiwharawhara Stream in the Ngaio Gorge before coming out onto Hanover Street in Wadestown. Within the gorge, there are a wide variety of birds, including piwakawaka (fantails), tauhou (silvereyes), tui and kererū (pigeons). In addition listen out for the distinctive calls of the ruru (morepork) and nakonako, (shining cuckoos).

There are also brown trout, red finned bullies, and common bullies in the Kaiwharawhara Stream. While populations declined dramatically in the past 10 years, there is now evidence of increased numbers due to water quality improvements.

Ngaio Gorge forms a natural access way between Wellington and the Coast, and was used a lot by Maori en route north through the Te Wharou Range to Wanganui and Taranaki. Maori also used the gorge as a source of food and for hunting. In 1841, the Maori track through the gorge was improved to form a pedestrian way between Kaiwharawhara and Khandallah, Old Porirua Road. This was followed in 1845 by the construction of a road up the gorge, which was commissioned by Captain Edward



Daniell, whose "Trellissick Farm", named after his estate in Cornwall, was at the head of the gorge.

Follow the map's directions through Wadestown up onto Weld Street and Tinakori Hill. Then continue on to the gentle contours through exotic and native forest. The ridge above the walkway is more open and here you can enjoy views over downtown Wellington, the harbour and eastern bays with a backdrop of the Rimutaka ranges.



The original name of the hills was "Ahu-Mairangi", which means 'like a whirlwind'. The name provides a vivid description of the strong winds that can be experienced on the exposed upper ridge of the hills.

The name Tinakori is a misspelling of "Tina Kahore" meaning 'without dinner'. This name was given during the construction of Tinakori Road, as road makers worked all day without stopping for lunch.



Gradually this land was cleared and burnt to be used for various purposes such as hunting, grazing, quarrying and gold-mining. The second of the two tunnels to note on the walkway is below the Tinakori section on a detour to the left of the walkway, above the Scout

Hall. This tunnel is 40 metres long. It is not certain whether it was excavated for gold-mining or quarrying.

Although native plant regeneration is plentiful, introduced trees predominate. Among the introduced trees are radiata pine, macrocarpa, sycamore and eucalyptus. Interspersed in this plantation are native pohutukawa, karaka, ponga and other ferns.

On the upper ridge the undergrowth is thinner, eventually being superseded by low exotic scrub.

Revegetation of this part of the Town Belt in native plants is the long term strategy of the Town Belt Management Plan. Native birds thrive in Tinakori Hill such as piwakawaka, kotare (kingfishers), tui, riroriro (grey warblers) and tauhou. Introduced species include chaffinches, blackbirds, starlings, house sparrows, hedge sparrows and song thrushes.

#### 7 Westpac Stadium

The Westpac Stadium was officially opened on 3 January 2000. The stadium is one of the biggest pre-cast construction jobs undertaken

in New Zealand. Four thousand lightweight concrete units cast in Otaki and New Plymouth were trucked to Wellington. The lightweight concrete used is 20%-30% lighter than ordinary



concrete, however, the largest units still weigh up to 35 tonnes.

The project employed 250 construction staff on site and a further 230 off site. About 18,000 cubic metres (5000 truck loads) of concrete were used in total. Also used were 1590 tonnes of structural steel, 2700 tonnes of reinforcing steel and 250,000 concrete blocks.

Leaving Tinakori Hill the walkway winds down down St Mary Street in historic Thorndon before crossing Glenmore Street into the Botanic Garden.



#### 8 Botanic Garden

Pick up a Walk 5. Explore Wellington, Discover the Heritage and Public Art in the City brochure to continue your walk through the Botanic Garden.

## RESERVES



F

### Huntleigh Park reserve

This relatively unknown area consists of 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.

G

### Trellissick 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 onto Trellissick Crescent at two other points. What also makes this interesting is the historic powder magazine built in 1879-80 and used for storing explosives during the Russian invasion scare of the 1880s.



## RESERVES



H

### 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 at the main entrance on Wilton Road from the Otari Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane.

## SAFETY AND REGULATIONS

Dogs must be kept on a leash



Mountain Bikers to give way to pedestrians



No Litter

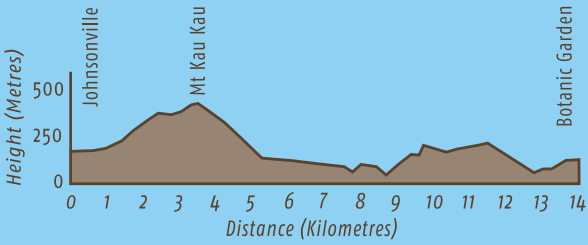


No Fires



No Camping

## TOPOGRAPHICAL PROFILE



## FLORA AND FAUNA

Between 1924 and 1944 over one million exotic trees were planted on the Town belt; Bishop's Pine (Pinus muricata), Monterey Pine (Pinus radiata), macrocarpa (Cupressus macrocarpa) and various gums (Eucalyptus spp).

For much of the walkway, it is shaded, richly scented and covered with pine needles.

Secondary native vegetation is thriving in some areas and native birds piwakawaka (fantails), riroriro (grey warblers) and tauhou (waxeyes) populate the walkway.

The long term vegetation plan for the Town Belt involves the removal of many pine trees especially if they are a hazard and replanting with native plants.



Other Explore Wellington brochures featuring major tracks and walkways and art and heritage walks in the city are available at stands at the Visitor Information Centre on Wakefield Street, Wellington International Airport and the Wellington Railway Station. Brochures are also available by phoning Wellington City Council 04 499 4444, or visit our website [www.feelinggreat.co.nz](http://www.feelinggreat.co.nz) for details.

The new Mountain Biking brochure is also available at the Visitor Information Centre, Wakefield Street or check out [www.feelinggreat.co.nz](http://www.feelinggreat.co.nz) for information about mountain biking in Wellington.

Planting a tree is a wonderful way to commemorate something special or to take an active part in creating a greener future. There are lots of ways you can help restore the city's reserves, bush and coastal areas – and some don't involve getting your hands dirty! Phone 499 4444 or visit [www.Wellington.govt.nz](http://www.Wellington.govt.nz) for more information.