






General Information

Wellington began as a harbor settlement in 1840 with very little flat land. As a result, reclamation of land around the harbor began as early as the 1850's and has continued on and off ever since. Today, the capital and home of the government of New Zealand, Wellington has a regional population of about 420,000. It is also known for its popular café culture, excellent coffee, and extensive art scene.

Geographically, Wellington is surrounded by mountains and rugged coastlines and because of its location, at the southern tip of the North Island, it is prone to constant winds that range from mere nuisances to annoying gale forces. Despite the winds, Wellington is a "cycling friendly" city. There are many more bicycle commuters in Wellington than, for example, Auckland and the locals commute to and from the city by bicycle on a regular basis.

Once you get out of the city, there is actually some nice riding terrain, ranging from relatively flat roads along the Hutt River Valley to challenging hills on the outskirts of the city and in the nearby mountain ranges.

Total # of Rides Listed: 13

-  Easy Rides: 4
-  Moderate Rides: 5
-  Difficult Rides: 4
-  One Way Rides: 0
-  Loop Rides: 9
-  Out & Back Rides: 4



When to Visit

Cycling around Wellington is possible year round but the best time to ride is late summer to mid autumn, when the weather is calmer and there is somewhat less wind.

How to Get There

Wellington is served by Wellington's International Airport located in Rongotai, a southern suburb of Wellington. The airport is only 5 miles/8 km south of Wellington city centre.

From the airport you have several transportation options: a number of shuttle bus services and taxis operate between the airport and Wellington city centre. Many of the shuttle services are equipped with spacious trailers to transport your bicycle.

The airport is also accessible by bicycle via a bicycle lane and bicycle path, should you decide to assemble/unpack your bike and ride out towards the city. Travelers can dismantle or assemble bicycles in the arrivals area located outside the terminal.

Since Wellington is the capital city of New Zealand, it is served by several bus companies and by train service.

The Tranz Scenic company runs the Overlander daily train service between Wellington and Auckland during the summer season (December through April) and Friday through Sunday during off season (May through November). The train stops in many small towns between Auckland and Wellington, where it can be boarded for Wellington. The final stop is the main trail station in Wellington, which is also the transportation hub for local and city buses. Bicycles can be carried onboard the Overlander (usually stored in a cargo carriage), and reservations are recommended. You may be asked to cover the chain and remove the pedals for the transport, but generally that is not the case.

Many bus companies serve Wellington: InterCity, Newmans and White Star are just a few. It is best to check their web sites to find out their latest schedule, prices, and policy for carrying bicycles.

Climate and Weather

Wellington must be one of the windiest cities in the world; and it certainly is the windiest in New Zealand. The prevailing winds come from the Tasman Sea and are funneled through Cook Strait most of the time; and when the southerlies pick up, it can get quite chilly even during the summer months.

Generally the temperature in Wellington is mild enough to afford riding year round (with the right cycling clothes and gear); and some of the best days for riding (weather-wise) are in late summer to early autumn. Wellington's average winter temperature during the day rarely drops below 10°C (50°F), and its average summer temperature is around 21°C (70°F).

The Roads

As most of New Zealand roads, Wellington roads are of a sealed-chip surface. This results in a rough ride (jarring ride) for those who ride road bicycle with narrow high pressure tires. Otherwise, the quality of roads in the Wellington region is fairly good.

It seems as if the infrastructure to support urban cycling around Wellington is still in its infancy (as of 2008) and will take a while to implement. The network of bicycle lanes and bicycle paths is fragmented and not very extensive; as a result, most cyclists end-up on urban roads with the rest of the city traffic.

Unfortunately, Wellington does not have many light-traffic rural roads that are easily accessible from the city. Fortunately, some of the main roads in and out of the city do have wide shoulders, which will shield you from the busy traffic.

The Rides

[Wellington to Days Bay](#)

18 miles/28.8 km (*Out & Back* Total: 36 miles/57.6 km)

[Wellington to Owhiro Bay](#)

18.2 mi/29.1 km (*Out & Back* Total: 36.4 miles/58.2 km)

[Ride Around Welligton Bays \(via Happy Valley\)](#)

23 miles/36.8 km

[Wellington - Mt Victoria Loop](#)

6.8 miles/10.9 km

[Wellington to Upper Hutt](#)

45.4 miles/72.6 km

[Wellington to Whitemans Valley](#)

56 miles/89.6 km

[Wellington to Rimutaka Railroad Trail](#)

69.3 miles/110.9 km

[Wellington - Moonshine Hill Road](#)

51 miles/81.6 km

[Wellington - Moonshine Hill Road & Whitemans Valley](#)

60.3 miles/96.5 km

[Wellington to Wainuiomata Coast](#)

27.4 mi/43.9 km (*Out & Back* Total: 54.8 miles/87.8 km)

[Wellington Hill Climbs - Wind Turbine Hill](#)

26.4 miles/42.2 km

[Wellington Hill Climbs - Houghton Bay Hill](#)

39.7 miles/63.5 km

[Wairarapa - Greytown to Ocean Beach](#)

34 mi/54.4 km (*Out & Back* Total: 68 miles/108.8 km)

