

SCOR Meeting 23-28 November 2013

Local Information for Travellers

First visit to Wellington or New Zealand

This is a quick reference for some of those little things it's nice to know when you visit a place for the first time. You should also check out <http://www.wellingtonnz.com/>, which is a great site giving you information on everything to do with Wellington!

Financial Matters

Money

You do not need to arrive with New Zealand currency or travellers cheques. You can pay for just about anything with Visa or MasterCard; you will find other cards such as American Express also accepted but not as widely. However, from time to time you will need some cash for small purchases, buses, ferries, etc.

Banks are generally open from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Automated Teller Machines (ATM) are widely available at banks, along main shopping streets and in malls and airports. International credit cards and ATM cards will work as long as they have a four-digit PIN encoded. Check with your bank before leaving home.

New Zealand money comes in notes and coins, the most common note denominations being \$5, \$10 and \$20 and coins come in copper (10 cents), silver (20 and 50 cents) and gold (\$1 and \$2). You may see some \$50 and \$100 notes around, but they are not that common.



If you want to change foreign currency then you must do so at a bank or a dedicated foreign exchange agency. There is a Travelex Currency Services exchange kiosk at Wellington Airport; however, please note that this is not a 24-hour service so depending on your arrival time you may need to follow this up in town. There are several banks and currency exchange agencies in the city and your hotel concierge can provide you with more detailed directions.

In mid-October one Euro would buy you NZ\$1.64 and one USD would buy you NZ\$1.19.

Goods and Services Tax

All goods and services are subject to a 15 percent Goods and Services Tax (GST) included in the displayed price. Visitors cannot claim this tax back; however, when a supplier ships a major purchase to a visitor's home address the GST will not be charged.

How Much Will it Cost?

Here is a general guide of what you can expect to pay in New Zealand for a few common items:

- A hotel breakfast NZ\$10 - \$25
- Dinner (three course, no wine) NZ\$30 - \$70
- Lunch snack/sandwich NZ\$5 - \$10
- Cafe lunch NZ\$15 - \$20
- A postcard stamp to anywhere abroad NZ\$1.50
- Big Mac Hamburger NZ\$4.45
- Cappuccino NZ\$3 - \$4.50 (best coffee = anywhere!)

Tipping and Service Charges

New Zealanders do not expect tips for normal service--even in restaurants and bars. However, tipping for extra special service or kindness is at the discretion of the visitor. Hotels and restaurants in New Zealand do not add service charges to their bills.

Your arrival

Most likely you will travel by air and you will fly into Wellington Airport, which is a few kilometres east of the central city. Most international flights will have already entered New Zealand at either Auckland or Christchurch airports and you will clear customs and immigration at those sites before taking a domestic flight into Wellington. There are some international flights from Australia directly to Wellington, in which case you would clear customs in Wellington.

Please be aware that New Zealand has very strict biosecurity laws. Ensure you do not bring any raw fruit, milk products, or meat into New Zealand. If in any doubt then declare any goods. An instant fine of \$400 applies if any prohibited goods are found in luggage when it is x-rayed on arrival in New Zealand.

Transport to and from the airport

Wellington Airport is approximately 6 km from the Comfort Hotel in the central city. You can use the Airport Flyer bus (~\$8), door-to-door shared shuttle service (~\$18) or taxi (~\$30) to go from the airport to the city and back. Most taxis will accept major credit cards.

There are five rental car agencies that have desks at ground level of the main terminal in Wellington Airport.

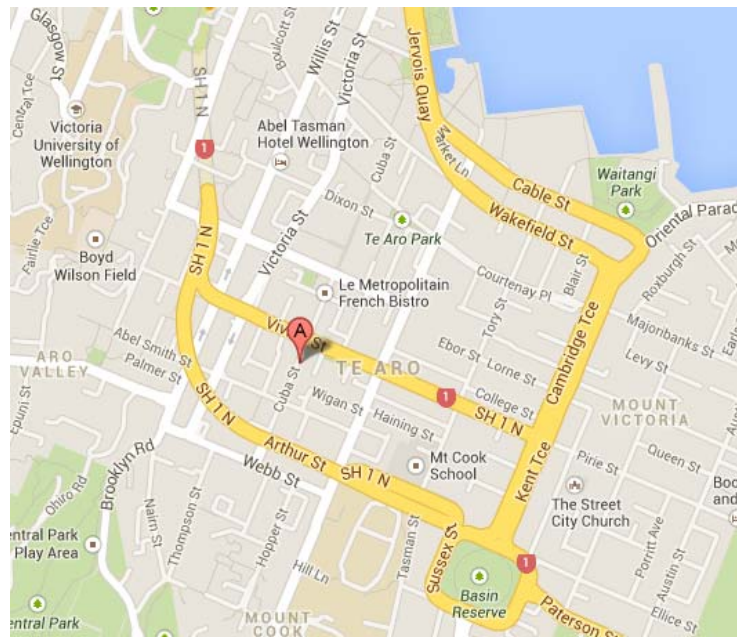
Check <http://www.wellingtonairport.co.nz/parking-and-transport/> for more detailed information.

The ground transportation area at the airport is directly opposite the domestic baggage claim area.

Hotel information

The preferred hotel accommodation is the Comfort Hotel at 223 Cuba Street.

Website: <http://www.hotelwellington.co.nz/accommodation/comfort.html>



Built in 1894, formerly known as the 'People's Palace' and 'Trekks', the building was refurbished and restored to its original Edwardian grace in 2004, becoming the CQ Comfort Hotel Wellington. The 3 star plus CQ Comfort Hotel Wellington exudes character and charm and is listed with the NZ Historical Places Trust. It holds a prestigious place in the history of Wellington. Softly refurbished in 2011, the hotel provides a comfortable stay.

With shared onsite facilities, both hotels (Comfort & Quality) have access to the heated indoor swimming pool and spa, roof top sun terrace, fitness room, bar, restaurant, café, self-service laundry (charges apply) and onsite car parking (charges apply).

Located in the vibrant heart of Wellington, the CQ complex is within easy walking distance to the central business district and Wellington's tourist attractions. Cuba Street has an abundance of cafes, restaurants, art galleries and a colourful collection of hidden boutiques.

Electricity

Electricity is supplied throughout New Zealand at 230/240 volts, 50 hertz. Most hotels and motels provide 110 volt ac sockets (rated at 20 watts) for electric razors only. For all other equipment, an adapter/converter is necessary, unless the item has a multi-voltage option.

Please note that power outlets only accept flat three or two pin (as per a 3 pin but missing the bottom pin) plugs, depending on whether an earth connection is fitted.



Mobile Phones

Check with your phone company before leaving home about international mobile roam facilities that may be available in New Zealand.

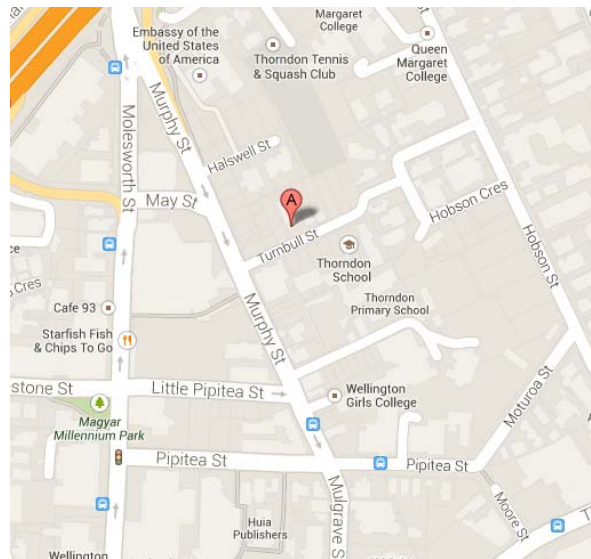
Laptops

You will need a RJ45 type plug to be able to connect your laptop into a computer socket in New Zealand.

Conference Venue

The venue for the conference is the Royal Society of New Zealand, 11 Turnbull St, Thorndon, Wellington.

Visit <http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/contact/location/> for more location details.



Transportation will be provided from the hotel to Royal Society, as it is 2.7 km from one to the other. Shuttle buses will leave the hotel at 8:30 a.m. each morning.

Shopping

Wellington has it covered in the shopping department. All the hottest New Zealand and international designers are represented, as well as bustling markets and vintage boutiques to pick up something unique and full of character.

This city is a treasure trove of shops. Check out Cuba, Willis, Victoria, Wakefield and Featherston streets and of course the Golden Mile on Lambton Quay.

For ideas on which shops to head to for what items, check out this link: <http://www.wellingtonnz.com/shopping>.

With regard to food and personal items, there are several small convenience stores and a couple of smaller metro-supermarkets within walking distance of the hotel. There is also a major supermarket just across the road from the Royal Society of New Zealand conference venue.

Eating out

Here is a list of some restaurants and cafes close to the Comfort Hotel.

Restaurant Name	Address	Website	Cuisine
Fidel's	234 Cuba St	http://www.fidelscafe.com/	Cuban
S&S Patel Superette	235 Cuba St	This is like a mini-supermarket or "dairy" as they are called in NZ	
Malaysian Restaurant	54 Ghuznee St	http://www.kkmalaysian.co.nz/index.html	Malaysian
El Matador	196 Cuba St	http://www.elmatador.co.nz/	Argentinean/Spanish
Logan Brown	192 Cuba St	http://www.loganbrown.co.nz/	Contemporary NZ
Cuba St Bistro	203 Cuba St	http://cubast.wix.com/bistro	Contemporary NZ
Charlotte's	201 Cuba St	http://charlottesteakhouse.co.nz/	Steakhouse/Grill
Ombra	199 Cuba St	http://www.ombra.co.nz/	Venetian
Flying Burrito Brothers	Cnr Cuba and Vivian Sts	http://www.flyingburritobrothers.co.nz/	Mexican
Olive	170 Cuba St	http://www.oliverestaurant.co.nz/	Mediterranean
Istanbul	156 Cuba St	http://www.istanbul.co.nz/	Turkish
Floriditas	161 Cuba St	http://www.floriditas.co.nz/	Contemporary
Duke Carvell's	No. 6, Swan Lane, off Cuba St	http://dukecarvell.co.nz/	Contemporary Sharing (good place for large groups)
Scopa	Cnr Ghuznee and Cuba Sts	http://www.scopa.co.nz/	Italian
Little India	115 Cuba Mall	http://www.littleindia.co.nz/dine-in	Indian (also do take out)
Matterhorn	106 Cuba St	http://www.matterhorn.co.nz/	Contemporary NZ

Other entertainment in Wellington

Some must sees in the city include the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, our national museum (also know simply as Te Papa); the Weta Cave, where you can also do a tour of the Weta Workshop to get a glimpse of how the movie magic happens; and Zealandia, a protected valley sanctuary home to some of New Zealand's most rare and extraordinary wildlife (just minutes from downtown Wellington but worlds apart). For some more options check out this site NZ <http://www.newzealand.com/int/wellington/>.

If you are looking for some adventure outside of Wellington, check out the previous link or head to the NZ Tourism Guide <http://www.tourism.net.nz/>.

Wellington Weather

Wellington is situated at 41° south. Funnelling of wind through the nearby Cook Strait has provided the city with the legendary title of the world's windiest city. Weather is never still and never the same from one hour to the next.

November is the end of spring. Days will be getting longer (sunrise 5.45 am, sunset 8.30 pm) and daytime temperatures can range from to 9° (48F) to 19°C (67F). Rain won't be surprising but expect some bright and beautiful days too – New Zealand isn't green by mistake!

For a short range forecast check NIWA Weather at <http://weather.niwa.co.nz/Wellington> or the NZ MetService forecasting site <http://www.metservice.com/towns-cities/wellington>

Recommended Clothing

Dress is informal and relaxed on most occasions. Smart casual clothes are acceptable at most restaurants and night-spots. Men are generally not expected to wear suits and ties, except in a few of the top formal bars and restaurants.

As the weather in late November can be quite variable, a light-medium weight jacket or sweater should be included in your luggage should it turn cooler. You can expect some rain at any time of the year, so include a light rainproof jacket or coat.

Time

In November the time zone is NZ Daylight Time (NZDT), which is GMT/UTC + 13 hrs.

Personal health and safety

Health and Medical Insurance

We strongly advise you to arrange your own health insurance. New Zealand's public and private medical/hospital facilities provide a high standard of treatment and service, but it is important to note these services are not free to visitors, except as a result of an accident.

Visitors bringing in a quantity of medication are advised to carry a doctor's certificate to avoid possible problems with New Zealand Customs. Doctor's prescriptions are needed to obtain certain drugs in New Zealand.

Accident Compensation Scheme

Visitors to New Zealand are covered under the local Accident Compensation Scheme for personal injury by accident. Benefits include some medical and hospital expenses, but do not include loss of earnings outside New Zealand. We therefore recommend your travel insurance policy also covers accidents.

Medical Advice for Visitors

New Zealand has a wide range of public and private hospitals. Depending on your country of residence, international visitors may be charged for using the public hospital system. Charges for surgical services are extremely variable and it could be worthwhile seeking advice regarding both your best clinical and most cost effective option. If you need to seek medical treatment, check with your hotel manager for the options available. The emergency phone number in New Zealand is 111.

The Wellington Accident & Urgent Medical Centre (<http://www.wamc.co.nz/>) is located at 17 Adelaide Rd, Mt Cook, phone number 04-384 4944, and provides a number of medical services. The clinic is open from 8.00am until 11.00pm and appointments are not necessary. However, please remember that for any major medical emergency, an ambulance should be called by dialling 111.

Smoking

To protect people from the health effects of second-hand smoke, smoking in all hospitality venues, including bars, restaurants, cafes, and casinos, is prohibited in New Zealand. If you smoke, please remember to smoke outside.