GOOD REASONS TO CHOOSE

WELLINGTON

Wellington will charm you the moment you set eyes on it. A large part of the city's appeal stems from its natural setting: rugged hills rise above a busy harbour, buildings perch on hillsides, streets wind their way around the coast and into hidden valleys.

It's a compact city - the concentrated mix of business, the arts, sports, entertainment and café society add to Wellington's vibrancy and appeal.

What better environment in which to stimulate and entertain conference delegates?

The Cable Car provides access to a wealth of Wellington attractions, including the Botanic Garden and the Carter Observatory.

Compact Wellington

Easy to get to… easy to get around

One of Wellington's most appealing features is its compactness. The CBD is just 2 km wide, this bustling, energetic metropolis brings the vitality and attractions of a modern cosmopolitan city right to your doorstep. You can stroll between hotels, meeting venues, cafés, shops, restaurants, galleries, and tourist hotspots within minutes.

Wellington is just as easy to get to as it is to get around, being accessible by major highways, the main trunk railway line, Cook Strait ferries, and domestic and international air services. The airport is only a 20 minute drive from the city centre.

Cultural Wellington

Wellington justifiably holds the title of 'New Zealand's cultural capital'. Some of our celebrated residents include:

- The Royal New Zealand Ballet
- The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra
- Te Whaea - National School of Dance and Drama
- The internationally acclaimed Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
- The biennial New Zealand International Arts Festival
- Weta Digital, home of special effects for the Lord of the Rings trilogy and King Kong
- The spectacular annual World of WearableArt™ Awards
- Many prominent actors, writers, dancers,musicians, fashion designers and other artists

Professional theatres and contemporary art galleries abound in Wellington making it easy to catch a play or find a significant piece of art to take back home. Wellington is also New Zealand's leading city for modern sculpture, with plenty on public display throughout town.

Literature fans will enjoy the Wellington Writers Walk around the waterfront, where text sculptures display quotes about Wellington from well known New Zealand writers. Or visit the National Library, New Zealand's premier cultural and information resource, and check out one of the regularly changing exhibitions in its gallery.

For an insight into Wellington's past, follow a self-guided heritage trail through the city, admiring historic buildings and public art as you walk. The Museum of Wellington City & Sea explores the city's distinctive character from first settlement by Maori to the present – a great way to spend a couple of hours.

Cutting Edge Wellington

Superb venues, up-to-the-minute presentation technology, and first-class conference facilities are here.

Whatever vision you have for your conference, the specialist personnel and service providers are available to turn it into a reality – from event planners, to world-class chefs and caterers, entertainers and MCs, all of whom can add that special touch.

Wellington's extensive central business district WI-FI coverage also makes it easy to do business wherever you are. Within the coverage area you can use your laptop or PDA to connect with the Internet or a corporate LAN, without plugging in! CafeNET provides 24hour access for $10 and is available in cafes, hotels, conference venues, university campuses, train stations and other business and public locations in downtown Wellington. www.cafenet.co.nz

Where to Eat and Meet

Wellington is a culinary capital, famous for its variety of cafes and restaurants. There are more than 300 of these treasures located thoughout the city, offering the finest food, wine and coffee.

Included in that 300 are New Zealand Cuisine Restaurant of the Year, Matterhorn and Hotel Restaurant of the Year for 2007, Martin Bosley's Restaurant.

When it comes to dining in the capital you are spoilt for choice at all budget ranges.

The majority of these are within the CBD area and very walkable from your accommodation.

Wellington also has a very strong coffee culture providing a range of options from global brand outlets to local icons. Coffee is ingrained as part of the vibe of the city.

Some restaurants you may enjoy minutes walk from the conference location:

Monsoon Poon

A vibrant atmosphere and an innovative design concept, Monsoon Poon offers choices from the exotic flavours of India, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia – all on one menu.

St Johns Heineken Hotel

St. Johns Heineken Hotel is Wellington's newest waterfront bar and restaurant. St. Johns has an outstanding history as the ambulance building in the 1920's, a great music venue in the 70's and 80's and now a modern, comfortable and stylish fitout makes this art deco architectural masterpiece the place to visit while in town.

The Brewery Bar & Restaurant

The Brewery Bar & Restaurant is unique to New Zealand. Located in a beautifully restored wharf building on Wellington's waterfront, you can watch your favourite beer being brewed before your eyes. Enjoy great food and the freshest beer available in the friendly bar or outside in the courtyard.

CHOW

Experience the healthy fresh flavours of Asia in a casual modern setting. CHOW offers an extensive selection of noodles, grilled and steamed dishes as well as cocktails, wine, beer and sake. All of the dishes are prepared using the freshest ingredients and the highest quality meat and produce. All chicken and eggs are corn fed free range.

Istana Malaysia

Istana Malaysia has been open for 13 years, with a well established owner/chef with 25 years experience. The restaurant has stylish wooden floors and a brick interior, and also features an open kitchen, where your meal is cooked to order. A selection of 45 different dishes is available.