

WELLINGTON PHOTO TOUR – FULL DAY

Assemble at the Town hall at 8.15 to board your green Newlands bus on Wakefield Street opposite the Amora Hotel. On loading you will be checked against the participants list to ensure that the right people are on the right bus.

The first stop on this full day trip will be at Zealandia Wildlife Sanctuary – 225 hectares of picturesque lakes, bushwalks and rare native species. Zealandia has its own café for those who would like morning tea (own cost). Note that Zealandia does not normally open until 10.00 am so their café and the inside static display will not be available until then. Entry into the sanctuary is covered by the registration fee but the inside static display will incur an additional cost of \$10.00.

We leave Zealandia at 11.45 am and stop for lunch in the quirky Aro Valley. Arobake and Haya café and delicatessen on the right hand side of the road and Aro Café on the left hand side of the road have a range of filled rolls, pies, cakes and coffee for you to choose from and a small amount of seating inside and outside each café.

At 12.45 we will reboard the bus and head for Wellington's rugged south coast stopping at Carlucci land, an unusual display of sculptures made from scrap metal, en route to Island Bay.

Picturesque Island Bay is named for Tapu te Ranga Island that provides a natural breakwater about 500 metres offshore. Tapu te Ranga Island protects the small fishing fleet that takes shelter in the bay. The boats face into the wind and bob on the swells, a real life version of Rita Angus's famous painting. The old orange coloured concrete building on the rocky point at the eastern end of Island Bay is the remains of the Bait House built in about 1949 to store bait for the local fishing fleet. It now houses the Marine Education Centre aquarium.

We leave Island Bay at 2.45 pm and head to Scorching Bay on the eastern side of the Miramar Peninsular. Scorching Bay has something for everyone: a curve of sandy beach with rocky headlands at either end; Scorcharama restaurant, located across from the beach, has seats on both sides of the road. It is a popular spot for breakfast and lunch or just for coffee. Scorcharama replaced the original Chocolate Fish Café that became famous for the stars who could be spotted enjoying a break there during the filming of the Lord of the Rings trilogy in nearby Miramar. The concrete walls outside the café are adorned with unusual sculptures with nautical themes that are made from paua and other shells.

The ridge to the north of Scorching Bay is called Point Gordon. It is the site of Fort Ballance. Access to the fort is quite hidden in the bush at the base of the ridge. If you walk up the road on the left just past the bus stop at the northern end of the beach for about 50 metres to the right angled bend then head across the grass into the trees you come across an old asphalt path heading into the bush and up the hill. After passing between rolls of rusting barbed wire you head up the overgrown path to the fort on the ridge top,

Fort Ballance, with commanding views stretching all the way from the harbour entrance to Matiu/Somes Island, was to be the centre of the outer harbour defences. Construction began in June 1885 as an emergency work undertaken by members of the Armed Constabulary. The fort had accommodation for 40 men. It was protected from frontal attack by the steep cliff and from the rear by loopholed walls along each flank. Fort Ballance was disestablished in 1918 but was recommissioned during the Second World War with a six-inch gun at the fort, a battery on the ridge below, a magazine room and accommodation for 177 men. The observation points, gun pits and the loopholed corrugated iron and concrete curtain walls are still intact albeit now covered with brightly coloured graffiti and signs warning of the dangers of entering the buildings

We leave Scorching bay at 4.00 pm and head to Massey Memorial at Point Halswell at the northern end of the Miramar Peninsular. The Memorial commemorates Prime Minister William Massey who died in office in 1925. It was unveiled in September 1930 by the then Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe. It is an easy 300 metre walk from the car park along a path up the coastal cliff. The memorial occupies a picturesque site above Point Halswell with great views over Evans Bay to the city and over the harbour to Matiu/Somes Island and the Hutt Valley. The imposing white marble structure is built of Coromandel granite covered with white Kairuru marble from Takaka. The mausoleum is actually the magazine of a gun emplacement that was built in 1889 as part of the harbour defences. The dome at the curved end of the memorial marks the position of the gun pit.

We leave Massey Memorial at 4.45 pm to return to the Town Hall

Timetable

Depart Wellington Town Hall	8.30
Arrive Zealandia	9.00
Independent time at Zealandia	
Depart Zealandia	11.45
Arrive Aro Street	12.00
Lunch and Photography in Aro Street at own cost	

Depart Aro Street	12.45
Arrive Carlucci land	1.00
Depart Carlucci Land	2.00
Arrive Island Bay	2.15
Depart Island Bay	2.45
Arrive Scorching Bay	3.00
Depart Scorching Bay	4.00
Arrive Massey Memorial	4.15
Depart Massey Memorial	4.45
Arrive Town Hall, Tour ends	5.00

Notes

- Some of the tracks are rough and the visits to Fort Ballance will require walking up a steep grade.
- There are photo opportunities for those with limited mobility at each of the stops
- If you want to know more about these and other features of Wellington's Coast you can purchase "**FROM THE CITY TO THE SEALS - the complete guide to Wellington's Coast**" direct from the author Wellington Photographic Society member, Hugh Davies.