

Zealandia [Karori Sanctuary]



Facilities

Bus (bus and free shuttle from the CBD)	Pram accessible	Picnic table
Parking	Walking tracks	Water fountain
Toilets	Lookout	
Information	Bird watching	
Wheelchair accessible	Cafe	

Cost: Entry fee



Highlight

Watch wild kākā cavorting overhead, meet the takahē and listen for tīeke (saddleback) calls, the only place on the mainland you will see or hear them. Zealandia is a window into how Wellington's ecology might have been.

Description, values & significance

Just 10 minutes from central Wellington, Zealandia is a unique eco-attraction. New Zealand's incredible natural history and Zealandia's world-renowned conservation movement are brought to life with a state-of-the-art indoor exhibition. Step through Zealandia's predator-proof fence into a beautiful 225 hectare (550 acre) eco-sanctuary for your best opportunity to see some of New Zealand's rarest birds, reptiles and insects in the wild.

Accessibility/How to get there/particular time of year to visit

Zealandia is just over 2km from Wellington CBD so getting there is easy. A car ride is less than 10 minutes from the CBD and there is plenty of parking. A free shuttle operates 7 days a week and is free for Zealandia visitors. The shuttle picks up visitors from the Wellington i-SITE visitor centre and loops past Te Papa, Wellington YHA, Rydges Hotel and Novotel (on-demand only) and the top of the Cable Car on the way to Zealandia. Walkers can follow the painted pavement markings for a 20 minute walk from the Cable Car, or a pleasant 45 to 60 minute walk or 20 minute cycle from the CBD. Zealandia is also well-served by the city's bus network, see routes 3 and 23. The entrance is located on Waiapu Road, Karori. Open daily from 10am-5pm. Closed Christmas Day.

Threatened species/species of interest

Zealandia's forest and wetlands are home to over 30 kinds of native birds, hundreds of plant species, many reptiles such as tuatara, and thousands of kinds of invertebrates including giant wētā. It is about the most wildlife-rich diverse square mile of our mainland and yet easily accessible. Many of the animals and plants are nationally vulnerable, and some, such as takahē, are critically endangered.

Key threats

Since Zealandia's pest mammal exclusion fence was erected in 1999, 13 pest mammal species have been successfully excluded and at least 30 locally or nationally-threatened plant and animal species have been reintroduced. Extensive monitoring and bag checks at the gate help prevent new incursions and are important tools that help keep Zealandia free of mammalian pests.

Walks (length)

Contains an extensive 32km track system to suit a range of abilities with a variety of tracks, from 45 minutes to a whole day. Guided tours are also offered.

Walks (grade)

Contains walks to suit all levels, from sealed paths to tramping tracks.

Manager

Karori Sanctuary Trust

How to get there

Protection status

Conservation zoned

Community Involvement

Karori Sanctuary Trust is supported by active volunteers and has strong community links.

