Wellington is the capital city of New Zealand. The region has the third largest population in New Zealand.

New Zealand’s indigenous people, the Māori, called Wellington Te Whanganui-a-Tara, which means “The great harbour of Tara”.

Wellington is at the southern end of the North Island.

About 500,000 people live in Wellington.

Average daily temperatures in degrees Celsius are:
- February (summer): 21 high, 12 low;
- July (winter): 14 high, 7 low.
People
About 11 per cent of New Zealand’s population live in the Wellington Region. About 23 per cent of the people were born overseas. Wellington City has nearly 200,000 people. People from many cultures live in Wellington. More than 27 per cent were born overseas. About 13 per cent are Māori.

Many groups of refugees have come to Wellington from counties including Iraq, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Iran, Sri Lanka, Rwanda, Sudan, Afghanistan, Colombia and Burma.

There are services to help refugees in the Wellington region. You will be supported through your initial settlement by Red Cross Refugee Services who will be responsible for settling you into your housing and linking you to services in the community. For more information see: www.redcross.org.nz/what-we-do/in-new-zealand/refugee-services/

For information on other services for refugees in Wellington see: www.msc.wellington.net.nz

Recreation and leisure
Wellington has lots of parks and places for sports and events and many popular scenic walking trails. Wellington also has many art galleries and museums including Te Papa Tongarewa (the Museum of New Zealand). Te Papa tells the stories of New Zealand’s art, history, environment, Māori and other Pacific people.

Industry and employment
The biggest industries in the Wellington region are government and administration, hospitality, information technology, media and telecommunications, business management, and education. Jobs can depend on skills and ability to speak English. Government-funded English lessons are available. Some former refugees work in restaurants and hotels. Some have developed businesses such as restaurants, cafes and painting houses and some have positions in Government departments and other professional areas.

Public facilities
Council-provided facilities include libraries, parks, playgrounds, theatres, museums, art galleries, places for sports and events, walking and cycle tracks. There are more than 100 parks and children’s play areas. There are seven swimming pools. More than 30 community gardens are run by volunteers.

For information see: www.wellington.govt.nz
Libraries
Wellington City has 11 libraries. Membership is free, and there is free internet at all libraries.

Public transport
Wellington has buses and trains. There are also ferries to the South Island. Trains connect Wellington City with the Hutt Valley, Porirua and the Kapiti Coast.
For information see www.metlink.org.nz

Schools
The Wellington region has 245 schools. There are many types but most are state-run. Most children start school when they turn five. The school year goes from January till December and is divided into four terms. Most children go to the school nearest to their house. You can apply for them to go to other schools. For government reports on schools see: www.ero.govt.nz
The Ministry of Education has refugee education co-ordinators to help refugee families with the New Zealand education system.

Universities and polytechics
The main university is Victoria University of Wellington. The city also has Massey University and the Otago Medical School.
For information see: www.victoria.ac.nz, www.massey.ac.nz, and www.otago.ac.nz/wellington. Other places to study include Wellington Institute of Technology in Lower Hutt www.weltec.ac.nz and Whitireia polytechnic in Porirua www.whitireia.ac.nz
Many places in Wellington teach English for speakers of other Languages (ESOL).

Places of worship
There are churches, mosques and temples for most religions.

Shopping
There are supermarkets in most parts of Wellington. Outdoor markets are held mostly at weekends. Food from Asia and the Middle East is available.
Porirua
- Porirua is a city about 20 kilometres north of Wellington.
- Porirua has about 50,000 people.
- The main industries include property, education and business services.
- Many people live in Porirua and travel to Wellington by train for study or work.
For information on Porirua see: www.pcc.govt.nz/About-Porirua/Moving-to-Porirua-City

Lower Hutt
- Lower Hutt is a Hutt Valley city about 15 kilometres north of Wellington.
- Lower Hutt has about 100,000 people.
- Lower Hutt has a big area of light industry.
- Many Lower Hutt people travel to Wellington by train for study or work.

Upper Hutt
- Upper Hutt is a Hutt Valley city about 30 kilometres north of Wellington.
- Upper Hutt has about 40,000 people.
- The main industries include agriculture, biosecurity, data, defence, and pharmaceuticals.
- Many Upper Hutt people travel to Wellington by train for study or work.

For information on Wellington see:
www.wellington.govt.nz
www.wellingtonnz.com

For information on the Hutt Valley see:
www.huttvalleynz.com
www.huttcity.govt.nz
www.upperhuttcity.com