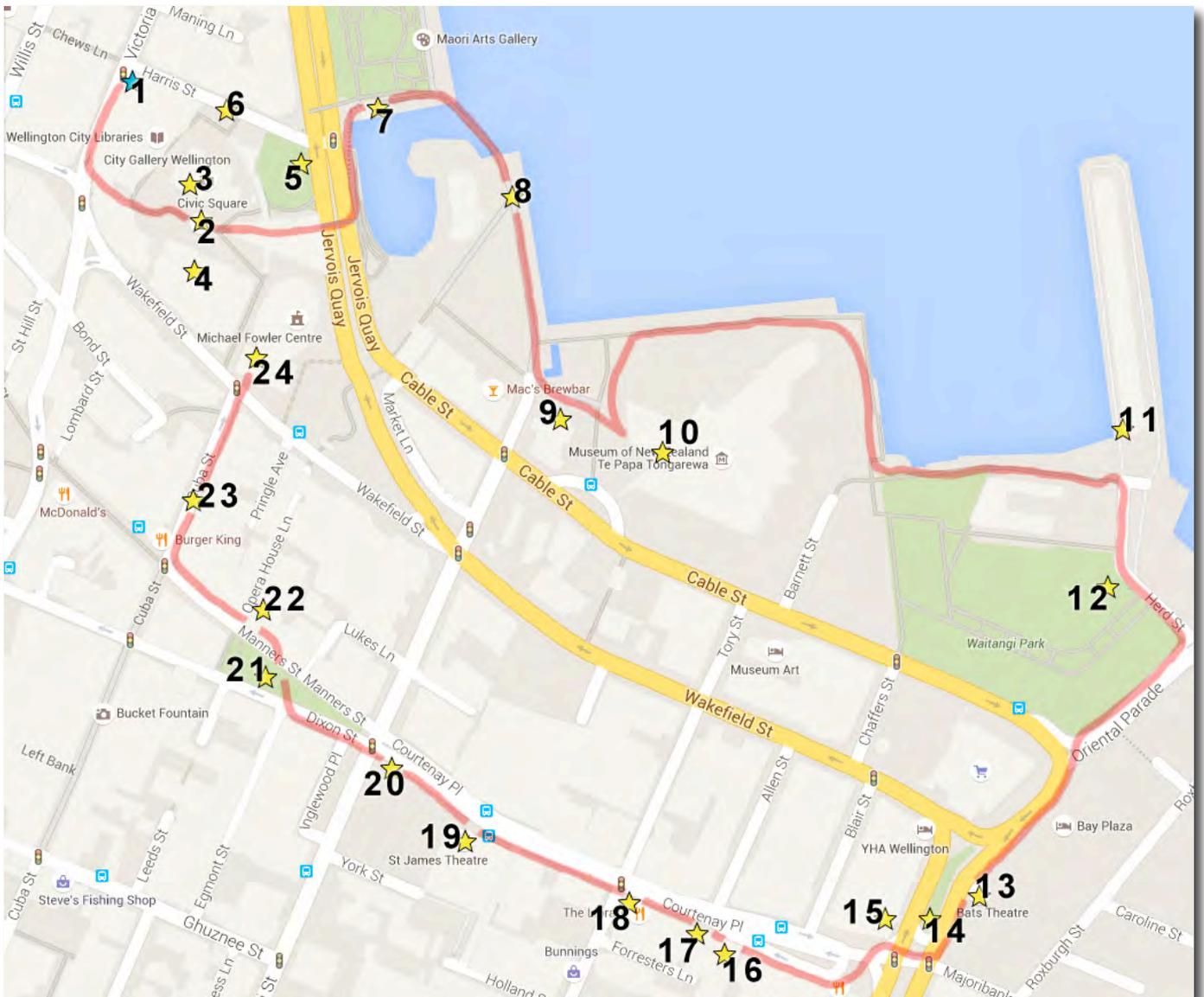


# Rainbow Connection

## Wellington waterfront walk tour

This 1-hour walk tour is circular. Start at the former site of Carmen's Balcony on the corner of Harris and Victoria Streets, walk through Civic Square, onto the waterfront, down to Bats Theatre and then back to the Michael Fowler Centre via Courtenay Place.

The tour has short companion audio and video clips that can be accessed online, and you can also download a single mp3 file with all of the audio content. Visit [http://www.pridenz.com/wellington\\_waterfront\\_walk\\_tour.html](http://www.pridenz.com/wellington_waterfront_walk_tour.html)





(1)

### **Le Balcon – The Balcony**

*corner Harris and Victoria Streets (former site)*

We begin the walk tour at Carmen Rupe's Le Balcon - a cabaret nightclub on the corner of Harris and Victoria Streets. Today The Balcony has been replaced by a corner of Wellington City Library. In the early 1970s Dana de Milo worked there as a waitress, and in this recording she recalls some of the entertainment that was on offer.



4-min

Follow the walkway up the side of the public library. Keep going until you are looking into the centre of Civic Square. To your right you will see the City Gallery (formerly the public library). To your left you will see the Wellington Town Hall.



(2)

### **Civic Square**

Civic Square has been the location for a number of large rainbow gatherings, particularly *Out in the Square* - an annual rainbow fair which began in Newtown in 1986 and moved to Civic Square in 2008. The location was also a focal point for the *2nd AsiaPacific Outgames* in 2011 and a rally for marriage equality in 2012. From Civic Square the equality rally moved through the city and ended up at Parliament. In this recording participants share their thoughts.



(3)

### **City Gallery**

*101 Wakefield Street*

In 1995 the gallery hosted a controversial retrospective of US photographer Robert Mapplethorpe which was seen by 45,000 people. The same year it hosted an exhibition of Pierre et Gilles which carried a censor's warning. In the mid 1980s, when the building was part of the public library, a lower ground-floor auditorium was used for community meetings to discuss homosexual law reform. In this recording Rod McLeod Morrison recounts one of those meetings.



(4)

### **Wellington Town Hall**

*109 Wakefield Street*

The Town Hall has hosted numerous artistic, political and celebratory events to do with rainbow communities. In 2011 the town hall was the hub venue for the *2nd AsiaPacific Outgames* and human rights conference, and in the mid-1980s both anti and pro-law reform meetings were held here. In this recording Julie Glamuzina recalls an anti-homosexual law reform meeting in 1985.



Turn to face the harbour. To your left you will see a green lawn (former site of Circa Theatre) and beyond that Harris Street.



(5)

### **Circa Theatre**

*corner Harris Street and Jervois Quay (former site)*

The Topp Twins performed here in 1983, Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song Trilogy* was performed here in 1985 and *Beautiful Thing* in 1994. The theatre subsequently moved onto the waterfront by Te Papa.



(6)

### **Harris Street**

On a night in July 1975 a police officer questioned MP Colin Moyle who was lingering around a well-known cruising spot on Harris Street. The incident eventually led to his resignation from Parliament. In this recording former MP Marilyn Waring talks about the use of homosexuality as a political weapon.



6-min

Walk towards the harbour, over the bridge and down the left-hand steps to Frank Kitts Park Lagoon.



(7)

### **Frank Kitts Park Lagoon**

In the 1990s the lagoon was the site for *Beacons of Hope* - a memorial ceremony for those who had died from AIDS related conditions. The memorial was based upon the annual *International AIDS Candlelight Memorial* - a service that has been held since May 1983. In this recording Bill Logan recalls the first memorial ceremony at the lagoon.



8-min

Walk onto the waterfront and follow the harbour pathway towards the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. You will find Circa Theatre just before you get to Te Papa.



(8)

### **Waterfront parade route**

The waterfront parade route has seen a number of rainbow related parades, including the *Love Parade* in 2016 and the opening parade of the *2nd AsiaPacific Outgames* and human rights conference in 2011. In this recording participants Huhana Hickey and Sumithra Chand look forward 30 years.



(9)

**Circa Theatre**  
*1 Taranaki Street*

In 2014 the production *Rita and Douglas* was performed here by Jennifer Ward-Lealand and pianist Michael Houston. It explored the complex relationship between composer Douglas Lilburn and painter Rita Angus. A few years earlier this was the venue for Cathy Downes' one-person play *The Case of Katherine Mansfield*. In this recording Alison Laurie reads from Mansfield's journal about her relationship with Edith Kathleen Bendall.



(10)

**Te Papa**  
*55 Cable Street*

The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa holds numerous rainbow-related taonga (treasures) including the *New Zealand AIDS Memorial Quilt* which was gifted to the museum in 2012. The museum also has taonga from Carmen Rupe, the photographs of Brian Brake, an exhibition featuring homosexual law reform material and more. In this recording Nicki Eddy and Megan Butcher talk about Robin's panel on the *New Zealand AIDS Memorial Quilt*.



8-min

Return to the waterfront and walk towards what was formerly the Overseas Passenger Terminal.



(11)

**Overseas Passenger Terminal**  
*(former site)*

The terminal was the site of the first *Devotion* dance party in December 1991. Like *Hero* in Auckland, *Devotion* became a festival with parties, a parade and other activities celebrating rainbow diversity. The terminal has now been converted to apartments. In this recording Hamish Allardice talks about how the party got its name.



8-min

From the Overseas Passenger Terminal follow Herd Street away from the harbour. This will take you alongside Waitangi Park and onto Oriental Parade.



(12)

**Waitangi Park**

The inaugural *Out in the Park* was held here in 2016. The celebration grew out of the annual *Out in the Square*, which in turn grew out of the *Lesbian and Gay Fair* - first held at Newtown School in 1986 during homosexual law reform ("a fair for a fair law"). In this recording Georgina Beyer addresses the 2015 fair which was held in Ghuznee Street (due to bad weather conditions in the park).



6-min

Follow Oriental Parade inland (Waitangi Park will be on your right). Cross to the other side of the road at the Cable Street traffic island. Keep following Oriental Parade as it changes into Kent Terrace.



(13)

**Bats Theatre**  
*1 Kent Terrace*

Bats Theatre has seen a variety of rainbow related productions including *Confessions of a Drag Queen*, *Corner 4am* and *Cuba* - a play about the hate murder of Wellington teenager Jeff Whittington in 1999, and the youth collaborative theatre piece *That's So Gay* in 2012. In this recording participants of *That's So Gay* talk about the production.



6-min

Directly opposite Bats Theatre is the 'Taj Mahal' toilet, and on the other side of that - Downstage Theatre (on Cambridge Terrace). You can cross to Downstage Theatre at the Majoribanks Street/Kent Terrace intersection.



(14)

**'Taj Mahal' Toilet**  
*10 Cambridge Terrace (former site)*

The public toilet opened in 1929 and was part of the regular beat [for anonymous sex]. The site is now a bar/restaurant. In this recording Denny talks about police tactics used to entrap men.



(15)

**Downstage Theatre**  
*12 Cambridge Terrace (Hannah Playhouse)*

Downstage Theatre has seen many rainbow related performances including *Angels in America*, *Shopping and F\*\*king*, *Boys in the Band* and locally created works *Black Faggot*, *Drum Drag*, *Lovelock's Dream Run*, *A Long Undressing* and *Mates and Lovers* based on the book by Chris Brickell. In this recording playwright Ronald Trifero Nelson and producer Ahi Karunaharan talk about experiencing homophobia during the production of *Mates and Lovers*.



4-min

From Downstage Theatre turn to face Courtenay Place and walk to the tripod sculpture. From there begin to walk along Courtenay Place (you are now travelling back towards Civic Square).



(16)

**Paramount Theatre**  
*25 Courtenay Place*

The Paramount has hosted the (mostly) annual *OutTakes: A Reel Queer Film Festival* since the mid 1990s. In 2015 the theatre premiered New Zealand's first lesbian web series *Pot Luck* written and directed by Ness Simons. In this recording Ness Simons talks about stereotypes in film.



(17)

**Photospace Gallery**  
*Level 1, 37 Courtenay Place*

Photospace Gallery has exhibited a number of rainbow artists including photographers Mark Beehre and Jac Lynch. In 2015 Jac did a photographic essay entitled *Butch on Butch*. In this recording Val Little, one of the participants, talks about the language of identity.



(18)

**Body Positive Drop-in Centre**  
*Level 2, corner Courtenay Place and Tory Street (former sites)*

Body Positive, a peer support organisation for people living with HIV AIDS, established a Wellington drop-in centre here in 2013 (closing in 2015). Just around the corner at 45 Tory Street (now Chow), was the location of the NZ AIDS Foundation's Āwhina Centre which opened in August 1997. The centre is now located in Willis Street. In this recording Kate Leslie, founding Chair of the Foundation, talks about the early years of AIDS in New Zealand.



4-min

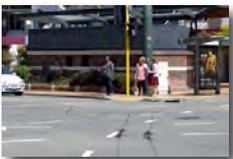
Cross the Tory Street / Courtenay Place intersection and continue walking to the St James Theatre. Just beyond that you will see the former Courtenay Place Men's Toilet.



(19)

**St James Theatre**  
*77-87 Courtenay Place*

The Topp Twins, Douglas Wright, Michael Parmenter have all performed at the St. James. The theatre is also the home of the Royal New Zealand Ballet. One of its dancers, Warren Douglas, is remembered on the *New Zealand AIDS Memorial Quilt*. In this recording from 1993 Nicki Eddy talks about the history of the quilt.



(20)

**Courtenay Place Men's Toilet**  
*(former site)*

Built in 1911, the underground public toilet was part of the regular beat [for anonymous sex]. The toilet had two sets of stairs which led from street-level down into a number of cubicles. The site is now part of a pizzeria. In this recording Denny talks about being arrested in the toilet in the 1970s.



4-min

Cross the Taranaki Street / Courtenay Place intersection and walk into Te Aro park.



(21)



2-min

### **Te Aro (Pigeon) Park**

The park has been the gathering point for many rallies and protests. In the mid-1980s it was the scene for a large pro homosexual law reform rally. In this recording Glenda Gale talks about speaking to the crowd.

Directly opposite Te Aro Park is The Opera House.



(22)



6-min

### **The Opera House**

*111-113 Manners Street*

*Alley* - Jack Body's opera about Rewi Alley premiered at the Opera House in 1998. The theatre has also hosted the *Queen of the Whole Universe* (2011) - a slightly queer beauty pageant. In this recording visit the QWU makeup room.

Walk from The Opera House towards Lower Cuba Street (there is a Burger King in the old bank building on the corner).



(23)



4-min

### **Lower Cuba Street**

Lower Cuba Street has seen a number of rainbow-related events. In the mid-1980s there was a pro-homosexual law reform march and in 2015 the *Love Parade* marched from Civic Square to Ghuznee Street. In this recording an onlooker to the *Love Parade* reflects on her own family experience.

Lower Cuba Street is a shared pedestrian/car area. Walk to the Michael Fowler Centre at the end of the street (next to the Town Hall).



(24)

### **Michael Fowler Centre**

*111 Wakefield Street*

The Michael Fowler centre is our last tour location. It is the home venue of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Audiences have heard performances from New Zealand composers such as Douglas Lilburn, Claire Cowan, Gareth Farr, John Elmsly, Samuel Holloway, Alex Taylor and Jack Body. In this recording Jack Body reflects on Carmen Rupe during the writing of the symphonic *Songs of Dances and Desire: In Memoriam Carmen Rupe*.

Thanks to all of the people who have contributed to PrideNZ.com and thank you for taking the walk tour. We welcome any feedback - [info@pridenz.com](mailto:info@pridenz.com)