

24 hours.

[24 HOURS IN]

wellington

New Zealand's harbourside capital bills itself as one of the world's coolest cities for foodies and lives up to its promise, says Trudi Jenkins.

9am

RISE AND SHINE

Ohtel, a cute boutique property in Oriental Bay, has harbour views and is within walking distance of the city centre. Choose from just 10 rooms – all have supremely comfortable king-size beds, underfloor heating and (hooray) windows that open. There's gorgeous retro furniture and a simple but delicious breakfast is served in the lobby. **66 Oriental Pde, visit: ohtel.com.**

10am

TRAIL MIX

Be more sensible than I was and avoid platform boots for a Zest walking tour visiting some of the top foodie destinations.

You might try an excellent coffee at the Mojo roastery in a converted shed on the quay-side, unusual flavour combinations at Ciocco Chocolaterie (chilli and lime anyone?), honey at Kura art gallery, and cheese and chutney at Moore Wilson, a fab fresh food market that made me want to move to Wellington so I could shop there every day. **Visit: zestfoodtours.co.nz.**

12.30pm

BANK ON LUNCH

The Zest gourmet tour ends with lunch at the award-winning Logan Brown, a stunning restaurant set in a converted bank. Look out for the bar that doubles as a fish tank, then, sticking with the

underwater theme, try Waikanae crab cakes with gribiche and citrus oil, or smoked king salmon with horseradish panna cotta and crayfish. There's an extensive wine list, too. **192 Cuba St.**

2.30pm

TIME OUT

You could head up Mount Victoria to catch stunning views from the lookout (pictured), hop on a cable car up to the Botanic Gardens or treat yourself to an hour or two at East Day Spa, a haven of tranquillity and indulgent treatments – maybe the Elemis exotic lime and ginger salt glow followed by a Balinese massage? **Level 2, 1 Thorndon Quay, visit: eastdayspa.com.**

4.30pm

CULTURE CULTURE

Pop into the innovative Te Papa museum (**Cable St**) – kids will love the hands-on Discovery Centres. Then head to Nikau Gallery Cafe in the City Art Gallery (**Civic Sq**) for a cup of tea and excellent cakes.

6.30pm

AT THE WATERING HOLE

The nearby Museum Hotel also has a fabulous collection of NZ artworks that you can peruse on your way up to their opulent bar, Hippopotamus, for a French aperitif – personally I can't go past a Kir Royale. **90 Cable St.**

8pm

DINNER ON CUBA STREET

Buzzy Cuba Street is the place to go for dinner, whether at Floriditas (**161 Cuba St**) for bistro-style food and a chic Parisian feel, Scopa (**141 Cuba St**) for great woodfired pizza or Duke Carvell's (**6 Swan La**), just off the main strip, to sample the Mediterranean sharing plates. Then head to hidden Matterhorn bar (**106 Cuba St**) for a nightcap with the cool crowd. **d.** *Thanks to Positively Wellington Tourism (wellingtonnz.com) and Air New Zealand (airnewzealand.com.au). Air New Zealand offers daily flights to Wellington from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.*