

## DAY 16 – Wellington, New Zealand

Our first stop on the North Island of New Zealand is Wellington, the Nation's capital. This is a larger city of 350,000 people.



It reminds me a little of Austin, TX – not because it LOOKS like Austin, but because it FEELS like Austin.

Very liberal, filled with arts and culture and is the gay and lesbian capitol of New Zealand.

Art galleries everywhere and

artsy coffee shops and hip culture. In this picture you can even see them playing a game of cricket in the lower right of the photo.



Wellington was not always the capitol, Auckland was the first, but it was moved to Wellington in 1865. Wellington was also one of the first cities in the world to allow women to vote, over 30 years before the USA did.

The natural Wellington harbor was formed many thousands of years ago when an extinct volcano flooded.

New Zealand has a total population of 4.5 million – not a lot more than Greater Tampa Bay.

But today for us was less about visiting Wellington and more about **The Lord of the Rings!!!** This movie trilogy was filmed in New Zealand and we went to go see some of the locations where they filmed.



Legolas Greenleaf – an elf Warrior



>>> Bruce Longman not-so-elfin warrior. But standing in the exact same spot Legolas was standing!!!

It was a fun trip seeing the places where the movie was made – most are really unrecognizable because of the CGI that they added in after the fact, but still fun and a nice tour of the countryside outside of Wellington.

Here's a couple more places where they filmed the movie:





Ok, so not really Wendy's thing, but I had a lot of fun with it and I think she enjoyed the tour nevertheless. We did get to walk across a swing bridge.

After the tour we returned to town with enough time to catch what they call a cable car, but looks to me more like a vernicular up

to a hill overlooking the city.

Nice views, we came back down again and walked downtown for a while before returning to the ship for a spectacular sail out of the bay.



The "cable car" above and downtown Wellington on the left.

