

## "Homestay at Evans Bay"

Homestay at Evans Bay is a very special place as is your host Leisha Schuitema who has lost no "beauty sleep". Originally from Holland, with a great sense of humour, Leisha is passionately proud of New Zealand and of the wonderful city of Wellington.

My friend Stuart Middleton and I made an "all action round trip" of 26,240 miles and made Homestay at Evans Bay our base, staying there on three occasions for our just magic trip of a lifetime. We did all our arrangements over the internet and we were so lucky to find this ace place where nothing is trouble to the host.

- The location is excellent, some 5 minutes by car from the Airport. You are collected from the airport as part of her unique service - what a wonderful gesture to people visiting a new country for the first time.
- The detached villa, with parking, is luxuriously furnished and decorated and original water colours by Leisha adorn the walls. Views across the bay to the front of the house are wonderful.
- You can walk to the City around the bay or you can get the bus from the bus stop, a two minute walk. A 45 minute walk before breakfast takes you to the top of Mt. Victoria, where views over the city, the harbour, other bays and the surrounding rolling hills is a delight. No Black Riders or Hobbits were seen on the two occasions we reached the top!!
- You are greeted with hors d'oeuvres and coffee/tea but if you like Macs Black or Monteiths Hearty Black, there is always a supply in the fridge (not if Stuart is around!!).
- The breakfast is very special (so get up early to enjoy it and the great service) with a massive variety of Leisha's homemade delights.
- Sit out and relax in the rose garden to the rear.

This was my first introduction to a "Homestay" and Leisha did explain the concept. You're staying in someone else's home, sharing their life, meals and "rhythms" and at the same time the host is imparting to you a wealth of information as to national and local cultures and becomes a travel advisor to boot. No six-star resort can match the hospitality of a good host in their own home. Homestays must be one of travel's greatest pleasures. Take it from me - you will find no one better than Leisha and Homestay At Evans Bay.

Fraser Mackay  
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