



START on the banks of the Maitai River beside the site of the old **Normanby Bridge 1**. A new bridge, built in 2008, replaced the 'cart traffic bridge' of 1877. The artwork depicts the eel, which were plentiful in the Maitai River and popular food for Māori for centuries. See the information panel.

Cross the road to Tasman Street and enter the **Huangshi Chinese Gardens 2**. Completed in 2007, this exquisite walled garden with pavilion and pond is a testament to Nelson's sister city relationship with Huangshi.

Adjacent is the **Queens Gardens 3**, which opened in 1891, a beautiful example of a classical Victorian ornamental park. Centrally located information panels reveal the history of the gardens and the eel pond. Stroll around and enjoy the park's sculptures, which include **The Cupid Fountain, the Water Wheel, the Boer war memorial, Sentinel** and fine memorial gates at both main entrances. The gardens are part of a designated Historic Places Trust precinct.

Return to Bridge Street and go the **Bishop Suter Memorial Art Gallery 4**, which was formally opened on 31 May 1899 and is still a fully functioning gallery.

Continue along Bridge Street to **Albion Square 5**. This was once the hub of the city and site of government buildings, as outlined on the information panel under the trees at the car park entrance. Walk between the courthouse and the gardens past the **Gunpowder Room, the old Fire Station** and the historic post office box to arrive at Hardy Street. To your left, admire an historic building dating from 1905 and read the information panel about the history of the **Nelson Technical School**.

Cross the road to admire **Earth-Sky 6** sculpture, installed in 1996 to mark the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology's 25th year. Turn left into Collingwood Street to the intersection of Nile Street, then turn right to **Bishop's School 7**, which functioned as a school from 1844 to 1895. See information panel. Across the road is the **Nelson School of Music 8**, which opened in 1901.

Continue to Trafalgar Square and take path directly ahead up **Cathedral Hill**. See information panels to your left at **Christ Church Cathedral 9** gates. Go inside and see the inspirational glass windows. Outside, at the front of Cathedral, go down **The Church Steps 10** installed 1913. To your left, see an information panel for items of interest in the surrounding area.

Continue to Trafalgar Street and see the **Bust of Eelco Boswijk**, owner of the legendary Chez Eelco café, once sited nearby; known as the oldest café in NZ, established in 1961. Continue down Trafalgar Street past **Symonds Gas Light 11**, a replica of original that stood at the intersection of Hardy and Trafalgar streets in 1880. To your left is **The Nelson Provincial Museum 12**. Go inside and enjoy a wide range of exhibitions including a ground floor display about early Nelson. View some of their extensive archival photographic collection. The artwork at front is the **Anchor Stone**, which is argillite (pakohe) quarried by early Māori in the Maitai Valley. The markings show it was used to anchor waka close to shore.

Continue down Trafalgar Street, stand on the right to see **The Southern Cross 13** sculpture (1992), which relates to the constellation that guided navigators to our shores. Continue down Trafalgar Street. On your left, in Achilles Avenue, are the **Cabbage Trees 14**. See explanatory plaque. Continue along Trafalgar Street and turn left into Halifax Street.

Cross the street to the **Elma Turner Library 15**. The entry is graced by the **Knowledge Mural**, which is based on rock carvings by early civilisations including Māori. The library has books dating from the first library in Nelson in their NZ Heritage room. Retrace your steps back along Halifax Street to the **Information Centre 16**. Beside the river is an information panel about the history of this site. A number of artworks grace the site, including **Vessel, Reef Knot**, and art reflecting our Māori heritage.

Continue on the path beside the **Maitai River**, past the contemporary sculpture **High Flyers 17**, which seeks to reflect the kinetic energy of the Maitai river rapids, to return you to the start.



eel walk

Eels, Art and Heritage

Art and heritage intertwine in this easy walk around the central city that starts at the bridge known as Aratuna (Pathway of the Eels). Enjoy a selection of Nelson's treasures along the way.

For more information on any of these sites go to www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz

