

5-DAY SPRING ITINERARY



 **Wānaka** | **Queenstown**
NEW ZEALAND

WHAT YOUR CLIENTS CAN EXPECT IN SPRING

The spring months are **September to November**, with temperatures sitting between **8°C and 22°C**.

Spring in Queenstown and Wānaka brings fresh green valleys, snow-capped peaks and longer, warmer days. Guests can ski in the morning and enjoy lakes, trails or vineyard experiences in the afternoon, creating an easy blend of exploration and food and drink in a single trip.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunscreen and hat
- Light layers and a warm jacket
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Ski and snowboard gear (or plan to rent locally)

SPRING TRADE INSIGHTS

- Strong spring availability across accommodation, activities and transport
- Competitive airfares and shoulder-season pricing offer excellent value
- Longer daylight hours support flexible, multi-activity planning across both towns
- Ski areas operate into mid-October (subject to conditions), adding seasonal variety
- Easier lead times and smoother itinerary planning for agents
- Great Walks are in-season during spring, with early-season dates offering more availability
- Ideal timing for couples, families and small groups seeking varied experiences

DAY 1: SPRING SKIING AND GOLFING

Spring in Queenstown and Wānaka brings snow-dusted peaks, fresh green valleys and the rare chance to enjoy two seasons in a single day. Mornings can be spent on the slopes at one of four alpine ski areas, operating into mid- October, with rentals, lessons and mountain shuttles making access seamless. Softer spring snow and quieter slopes create ideal conditions for beginners and relaxed recreational skiers.

As the day warms, the focus shifts from alpine terrain to championship fairways. Queenstown's world-class golf courses offer sweeping mountain vistas and immaculately groomed greens, while Wānaka's relaxed, scenic courses provide a gentler pace surrounded by lakes and rolling hills. Longer daylight hours create space to unwind with fireside drinks or al fresco dining, pairing seasonal produce with Central Otago wines. Spring's blend of snow, sun and fresh growth sets an uplifting tone for the days ahead.



DAY 2: ADVENTURE

Spring brings renewed energy to Queenstown and Wānaka's iconic adventure landscapes as the season shifts from snow to fresh growth and longer, lighter days. In Queenstown, clients can step into world-first experiences such as bungy jumping, jet boating and tandem skydiving, all set among dramatic lake and alpine scenery.

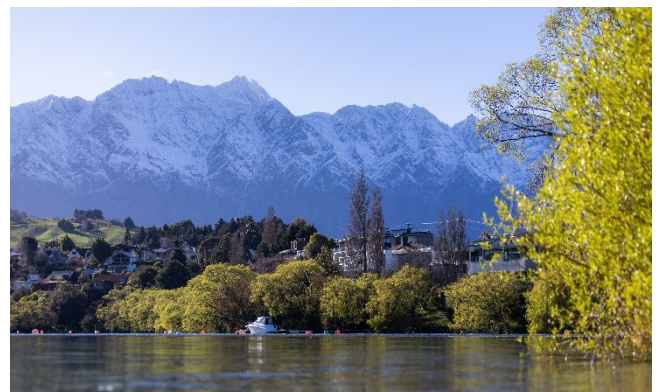
These activities are complemented by year-round favourites, including ziplining through native forest, canyon swings above river gorges and guided 4WD expeditions that reveal remote viewpoints and rugged backcountry terrain.

Wānaka's spring adventures highlight the area's raw, expansive beauty, with via ferrata waterfall climbs, wilderness jet boating and high-country 4WD tours showcasing sweeping valleys and mountain backdrops. As the days warm, these activities become an ideal way to connect with wide-open landscapes across the region. With seamless transport options between towns, agents can easily design mixed-interest itineraries. A lakeside lunch or a tasting at a local craft brewery or boutique gin distillery offers a relaxed, well-balanced finish to an active spring day.



DAY 3: SIGHTSEEING

Spring's clear light and crisp air make sightseeing across Queenstown and Wānaka especially rewarding, with bright reflections on the lakes and wide-open views of the surrounding peaks. Clients can start the day on the water with a lake cruise, guided kayak or stand-up paddleboard session on Lake Whakatipu or Lake Wānaka, where calm shoulder-season conditions create ideal settings for relaxed exploration.



For elevated perspectives, scenic flights by helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft offer glacier landings, alpine picnics and sweeping views of the Southern Alps. These flights often operate with good visibility in spring's stable, cooler air. Closer to town, the gondola provides panoramic outlooks above the lake and mountains, with the Luge adding a fun, family-friendly activity at the summit.

As evening arrives, both towns ease into a warm spring rhythm, with outdoor dining, seasonal produce and extended daylight creating a relaxed atmosphere along the lakefront.

DAY 4: WALKING AND HIKING

Spring reveals Queenstown and Wānaka's landscapes at their most vibrant, with lakeside paths lined with new growth, garden walks filled with early blooms, and alpine trails dotted with wildflowers. Both towns offer accessible short walks close to their centres, from lakeside promenades to botanical garden tracks, providing an easy way for clients to immerse themselves in spring colour and clear views. For those seeking more challenge, full-day routes lead to dramatic lookouts, waterfall valleys and wide-open alpine terrain.



Queenstown provides access to sections of three of New Zealand's Great Walks - the Routeburn, Milford and Kepler Tracks - which require advance booking during peak seasons. From Wānaka, Mount Aspiring National Park opens a network of trails through glacier-carved valleys and toward soaring peaks. Guided hikes, transport options and gear hire make it simple for clients to choose their preferred level of adventure.

End the day with a soak in lakeside hot pools, a sauna session, or quiet moments by the water's edge.

DAY 5: BIKING

Spring offers ideal conditions for biking across Queenstown and Wānaka, with crisp mornings, dry trails and landscapes dotted with new season growth. Queenstown is home to three lift-assisted bike parks and a network of world-class flow trails catering to a wide range of riders. For a gentler pace, the 150 km+ Queenstown Trail follows rivers, vineyards and lakeshore viewpoints, offering relaxed, scenic riding.



In Wānaka, riders can explore lakeside paths, rolling countryside and wide-open trails framed by expansive alpine views. Purpose-built mountain biking areas across the region provide well-designed flow, freeride and progression options, creating a complementary experience to Queenstown's terrain.

For a relaxed afternoon option, vineyard-to-vineyard cycling allows clients to enjoy tastings surrounded by blossoming vines and garden-to-plate dining. Trade-friendly services, including bike hire, shuttles and guided options, make it simple to plan for mixed-ability groups.