

# 5-DAY SUMMER ITINERARY

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

## WHAT YOUR CLIENTS CAN EXPECT IN SUMMER

The summer months are **December to February**, with temperatures ranging between **20°C and 30°C** with long daylight hours between 5am and 10pm.

Summer brings warm days, sparkling lakes and sun-soaked trails across Queenstown and Wānaka. Guests can spend the morning on the water, explore wineries or walking trails in the afternoon, and enjoy long evenings outdoors.

## WHAT TO PACK

- Swimwear, sunscreen, hat and glasses
- Light, breathable clothing and a warm layer for evenings
- Comfortable walking shoes

## SUMMER TRADE INSIGHTS

- High summer demand means early booking is recommended for popular activities
- Summer brings full operating schedules for adventure and outdoor experiences across the region
- Long daylight hours support flexible, multi-activity planning across both towns
- Long, warm days support extended walking, hiking and outdoor adventures
- Increased airline schedules into Queenstown support strong peak-season connectivity
- Suitable for couples, families and small groups seeking varied experiences

## DAY 1: SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing in Queenstown and Wānaka is all about slowing down and appreciating the region's dramatic landscapes, from wide-open lakes to alpine peaks and cinematic valleys. Summer's long, warm days set an easy pace for lake cruises, guided kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding or fishing charters on both Lake Whakatipu and Lake Wānaka.

Scenic flights by helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft reveal soaring peaks, remote valleys and high-country landing spots. Closer to town, the gondola lifts visitors above the lake for sweeping views, with the Luge adding fun for all ages.

Evenings are ideal for outdoor dining, with seasonal menus and Central Otago wines enjoyed on sun-filled terraces and lakefront patios.



## DAY 2: ADVENTURE

Summer showcases the full breadth of adventure across Queenstown and Wānaka, with long, warm days supporting a wide range of experiences. In Queenstown, clients can experience world-first activities such as bungy jumping, jet boating and canyon swings, set among dramatic alpine and lake landscapes. Alongside these icons, year-round options including ziplining and guided 4WD touring provide accessible adventure that fits easily into multi-activity summer days.

Wānaka offers a complementary sense of adventure with via ferrata waterfall climbs, wilderness jet boating and high-country 4WD journeys showcasing expansive valleys and mountain backdrops. These experiences suit a range of confidence levels, making it easy to plan for any client. Guests can end the day at a craft brewery or lakeside venue, enjoying a relaxed finish after an active summer outing.



## DAY 3: WALKING AND HIKING

Summer is one of the best times to explore the walking and hiking trails across Queenstown and Wānaka, with long daylight hours and stable weather creating ideal conditions for time outdoors. Both towns offer easy access to short lakeside strolls and half-day walks that take in forested tracks, river valleys and scenic lookouts. For those seeking more challenge, full-day hikes climb to alpine viewpoints and high-country basins with rewarding panoramas.

Queenstown provides access to three of New Zealand's Great Walks, the Routeburn, Milford and Kepler Tracks, while Wānaka connects directly to Mount Aspiring National Park, known for its glacier-carved valleys and dramatic mountain terrain. A range of guided options, transport services and gear hire support flexible planning for mixed-ability groups. To unwind, clients can enjoy lakeside saunas in Wānaka, hot pools in Queenstown, or wellness experiences such as yoga, meditation and mindful nature walks.



## DAY 4: BIKING

Summer delivers exceptional biking conditions across Queenstown and Wānaka, with dry trails and warm temperatures supporting everything from lakeside cruising to high-energy downhill riding. The region is recognised internationally for its mountain biking, with three lift-assisted bike parks that provide easy access to varied terrain, offering flowing singletrack and technical descents. Queenstown also features a renowned jump park and an extensive network of community-built trails catering to progressing riders. Wānaka’s purpose-built bike park adds sustainably designed flow and freeride trails overlooking the lake and surrounding peaks.



For a gentler pace, clients can follow the 150 km+ Queenstown Trail, part of New Zealand’s Great Rides, linking lakes, rivers, wineries and wide-open viewpoints. Wānaka also offers friendly paths and relaxed lakeside routes suited to families and casual riders. Trade-friendly services, including bike hire, shuttles, guiding and progression sessions, support seamless planning. After a day on the trails, bike-friendly cafés, pubs and community events contribute to a vibrant après-bike culture.



## DAY 5: WINERIES

Summer is one of the most rewarding seasons to explore the wine regions surrounding Queenstown and Wānaka. Central Otago is celebrated globally for Pinot Noir, and summer offers excellent access to relaxed tastings, vineyard dining and sunlit terrace experiences.

In Gibbston, also known as the “Valley of the Vines”, clients can visit cellar doors, enjoy al fresco lunches and explore the region’s distinctive wine cave, all framed by steep valley walls and alpine scenery.



Wānaka provides a more intimate, boutique wine experience, with small-scale producers offering personalised tastings in scenic, often family-owned settings. These wineries showcase the region’s character through storytelling, local history and a strong connection to the land. Guided wine tours across both towns make planning easy for agents, with flexible half-day or full-day options that cater to couples, families and small groups seeking a relaxed finale to their Southern Lakes itinerary.