

7-DAY WINTER ITINERARY



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

WHAT YOUR CLIENTS CAN EXPECT IN WINTER

The winter months are **June to August**, with temperatures typically sitting between **-2°C and 8°C**.

Queenstown and Wānaka transform into a winter wonderland, with snowy peaks, crisp alpine days and lively town centres. Clients can enjoy four nearby ski areas, year-round adventure activities, cosy après-ski and dining by the fire.

WHAT TO PACK

- Thermal layers and a warm, insulated jacket
- Hat, gloves and neck warmer
- Waterproof outerwear
- Sturdy walking shoes
- Ski gear (or rent locally)

WINTER TRADE INSIGHTS

- Strong winter demand makes early booking essential across accommodation, ski experiences and key activities
- Year-round adventure products offer options for non-skiers, keeping itineraries balanced
- Four ski areas within easy reach allow agents to match terrain and ability, with cross-country skiing and night skiing adding variety
- Mountain shuttle services, rentals and lessons create a seamless experience for visitors
- Self-drive to ski areas is possible, though alpine roads may require chains. Clients can rent chains from car hire companies or in-town ski rental outlets
- Firelit dining, après-ski venues and seasonal menus add strong appeal for couples, families and small groups
- School holidays and major winter events may influence availability and pricing, making forward planning important

DAY 1: SIGHTSEEING AND ADVENTURE IN QUEENSTOWN

Winter brings snowy peaks, crisp days and a clear alpine feel across Queenstown, creating an ideal backdrop for sightseeing and year-round adventure. Begin with a gondola ride for wide views over Lake Wakatipu and the surrounding ranges, with the luge offering an easy downhill experience at the summit.



Queenstown's iconic adventure activities operate throughout winter and remain reliable inclusions for your clients. From bungy jumping, skydiving and jet boating to ziplining and guided 4WD experiences, each offers a different way to experience the season. For a slower pace, the vibrant town centre provides boutique stores, cafés and short lakeside walks, while lake cruises continue to operate and offer a calm, scenic viewpoint across the lake and peaks.

As evening settles, Queenstown's food and drink scene comes alive, with more than 150 venues offering hearty winter menus, Central Otago wines and cosy, fireside dining.



DAY 2: SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING IN QUEENSTOWN

Queenstown offers easy access to two of New Zealand's most recognised ski areas. Coronet Peak is only 20 minutes from town, delivering groomed runs for every level of skier or snowboarder, rolling terrain and wide views across the Whakatipu Basin.

The Remarkables sits around 40 minutes from town, offering open bowls, dedicated learner zones and elevated perspectives across the surrounding ranges.



Both mountains provide well-run shuttles from central Queenstown, along with comprehensive rental and lesson facilities suited to first-timers through to confident intermediates. Snowmaking supports reliable conditions throughout the season, and on-mountain dining and sheltered spaces offer comfortable breaks during the day. Events across both ski areas add extra atmosphere on select dates.



After returning to town, clients can ease into Queenstown's winter atmosphere with local craft brews, mulled wine and relaxed dining in warm, buzzing venues.

DAY 3: HELI-SKIING AND NIGHT SKI IN QUEENSTOWN

Winter also opens the door to Queenstown's high-alpine terrain, where heli-skiing provides access to remote basins, wide powder fields and untouched slopes across 16 mountain ranges in the Southern Alps. Guided experiences include safety equipment, expert instruction and return transfers, making them suitable for confident intermediate through to advanced skiers and snowboarders.

For non-skiers, heli sightseeing flights and alpine landings offer a memorable way to experience the region. Most heli groups return by mid-afternoon, giving clients time to relax, browse local shops or enjoy a warm drink before an afternoon of exploration.

Coronet Peak offers New Zealand's only night skiing on scheduled evenings, with lifts operating from 4pm and a lively on-mountain après-ski atmosphere that extends the ski day, creates a social evening experience on the slopes, and delivers après-ski, Queenstown style.



DAY 4: SLOW DOWN AND EXPLORE FURTHER IN QUEENSTOWN

Winter is also a great time to slow the pace and explore some of the region's quieter corners. Clients can begin the day with a soak in scenic hot pools or choose a restorative spa treatment, yoga session or gentle walk close to town, all of which pair well with crisp clear winter mornings.

Beyond Queenstown, several nearby areas offer easy half-day or full-day excursions. Arrowtown delivers gold-rush heritage, boutique shops and cafés framed by historic streets and alpine scenery. Gibbston is known for its cellar doors and leisurely long lunches, with Central Otago Pinot Noir a seasonal highlight. For clients seeking nature and scenery, Glenorchy provides lakeside tranquillity and guided walks beneath snow-covered peaks.



End the day soaking up the quiet winter atmosphere among the region's historic townships and alpine landscapes, with winter evenings offering a slower, more reflective pace.

DAY 5: ALPINE ADVENTURE IN WĀNAKA

Snow Farm introduces a different side of winter in Wānaka, offering cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and gentle snow play suited to a wide range of clients. As New Zealand's only dedicated cross-country ski area, it provides more than 55km of groomed trails across rolling terrain, with options for beginners through to experienced skiers. Rentals, lessons and trail passes are available on site, making it easy for clients to get started.



For clients seeking additional winter adventure, a selection of guided experiences in the surrounding alpine areas offer access to elevated viewpoints, open terrain and wide winter vistas, using 4WD vehicles. Families can also enjoy with tubing and snow play.

After returning to Wānaka, clients can settle into the town's relaxed winter atmosphere, with local craft breweries, mulled wine and cosy dining venues providing a warm finish to the day.

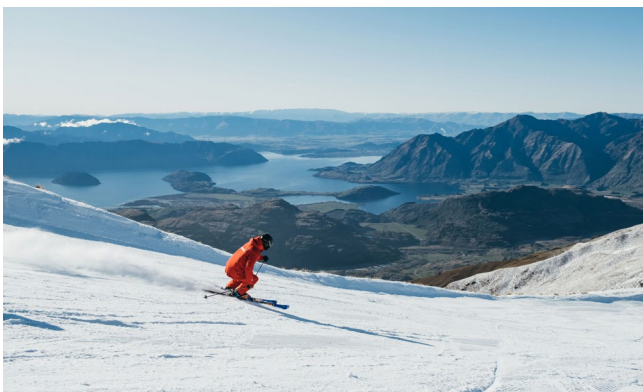
DAY 6: SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING IN WĀNAKA

Wānaka is surrounded by two exceptional ski areas, each offering a distinct winter experience. Cardrona Alpine Resort, located 35 minutes from Wānaka and around 60 minutes from Queenstown, is New Zealand's largest ski resort. Its new lift into Soho Basin expands the skiable terrain even further, creating more room for progression and adding variety across wide, open trails suited to beginners through to intermediates. Cardrona is also recognised internationally for its freestyle and freeride facilities, with terrain parks and training zones that attract elite riders from around the world. Extensive learner areas, rentals, lessons and on-mountain facilities make it a reliable option for families and mixed-ability groups, as well as performance-focused travellers.



Treble Cone, set 30 minutes from Wānaka (and around 90 minutes from Queenstown), delivers a more challenging experience, with long groomed trails, steep off-piste terrain and expansive views over Lake Wānaka and the Southern Alps. With 700m of vertical and 550ha to explore, it appeals to confident intermediates and advanced skiers seeking a more technical alpine experience.

After a full day on the mountain, the focus shifts to unwinding, whether that's a fireside drink at the historic Cardrona Hotel or a quiet lakeside stroll as winter light fades across Lake Wānaka.



DAY 7: WELLNESS AND LAKESIDE LEISURE

Wānaka's slower winter rhythm makes it an ideal place to unwind on the final day of the itinerary. Clients can begin with a restorative spa treatment, yoga session or a soak in one of the region's scenic hot tubs, all of which pair well with crisp winter mornings and calm, quiet surroundings. Gentle lakeside walks and short town-based trails offer easy ways to take in Wānaka's alpine scenery at a relaxed pace.



E-bike hire and low-gradient lakeside routes provide additional options for clients wanting light activity without committing to a full day on the trails. The town's boutiques, artisan stores and weekend markets also offer opportunities for slower exploration and local shopping.

To close the itinerary, clients can enjoy a relaxed vineyard lunch or tasting at a nearby winery, pairing Central Otago pinot noir with winter produce and lakeside views.