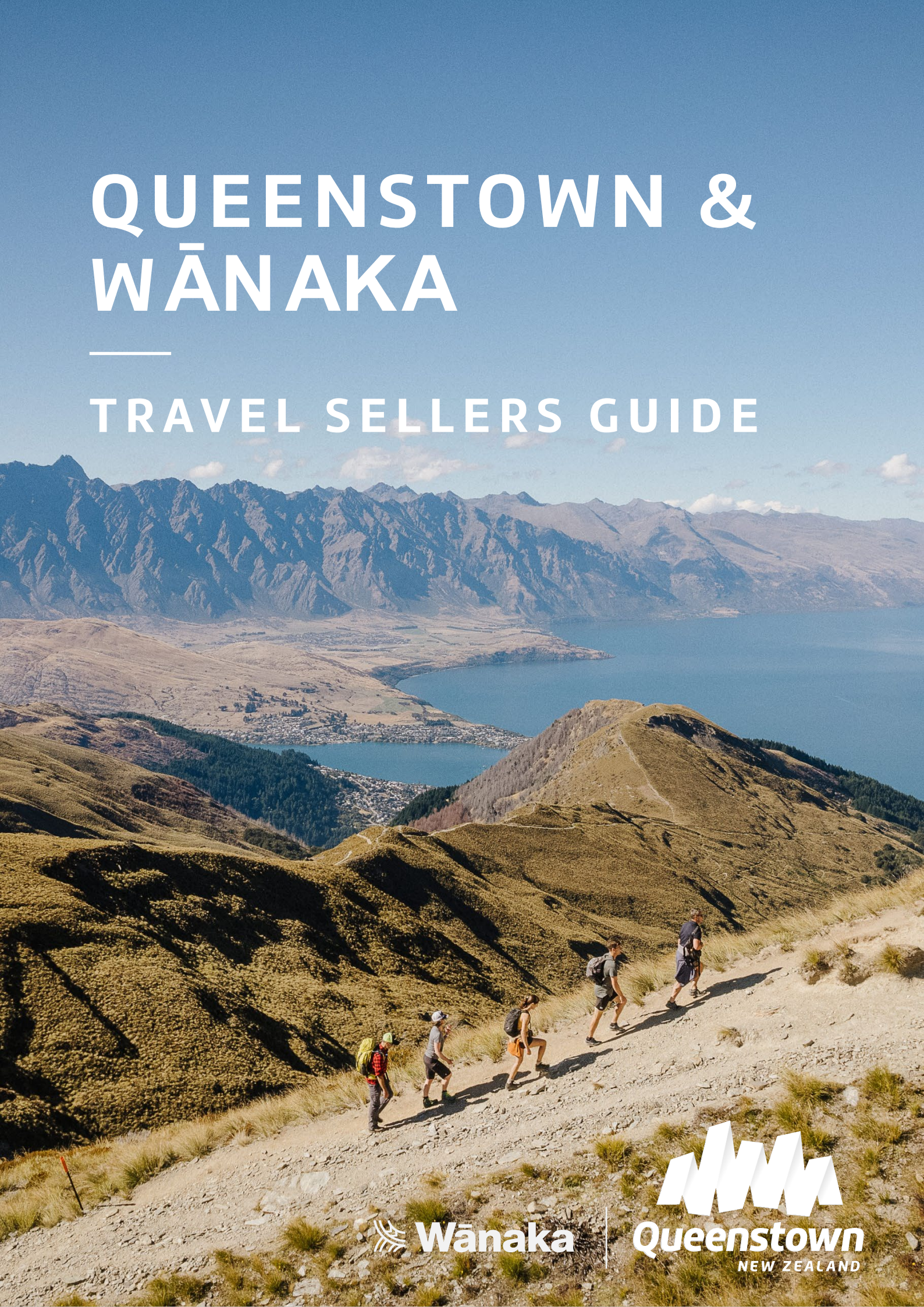
QUEENSTOWN & WĀNAKA

TRAVEL SELLERS GUIDE



Wānaka | Queenstown NEW ZEALAND

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Kia Ora, Welcome **04**

Our Team 05

Our Region **06**

Queenstown Lakes Map 07

Queenstown Region 08

Wānaka Region 09

Getting to Queenstown and Wānaka 10

Getting Around 11

Seasons and Weather 12

Where to Stay 14

Eat and Drink 15

What to do in Queenstown and Wānaka **16**

Adventure 17

Hiking and Short Walks 18

Biking 19

Family / Sightseeing and Exploring 20

Golf / Luxury 21

Skiing and Snowboarding 22

Travel to a thriving future 24

Love Queenstown / Love Wānaka 25

Stay A While, Travel Further **26**

Fiordland / Central Otago 27

South Island Road Trips 28

KIA ORA, WELCOME

Nestled amidst New Zealand's spectacular Southern Alps, Queenstown and Wānaka are four-season destinations offering diverse, world-class experiences that connect you with the unique surroundings and vibrant community.

Set between glacier-fed lakes and soaring peaks, this region invites you to slow down, venture further, and experience more.

Immerse yourself in nature and discover alpine trails, lakeside paths and dramatic landscapes by foot or two wheels. Explore snow-capped mountains, taste and savour local food and wine, and seek your own meaning of adventure.

Shaped by the people who call this place home, Queenstown and Wānaka inspire curiosity and invite deeper connections with people and place.





OUR TEAM

Our Travel Trade team is here to help you confidently sell Queenstown and Wānaka to your clients, with the destination knowledge, inspiration and support you need along the way.

Our team works across Destination Queenstown and Lake Wānaka Tourism, giving you one point of contact for both destinations. We share product updates, seasonal inspiration and practical resources, from new accommodation and activities to the latest developments, so you can plan and sell with confidence.

We work closely with local tourism operators and industry partners to ensure the information and support we provide is relevant, up to date and useful for trade. Beyond this guide, our selling tools, itinerary inspiration and trade training videos provide further inspiration and practical information to support your planning.

Whether you're new to Queenstown and Wānaka or know the destinations well, get in touch with our team or explore our trade resources to learn more.



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OUR REGION


Wānaka
Queenstown
NEW ZEALAND


Haast
MOUNT ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK
MAKARORA
Lake Wānaka
Lake Hāwea
Treble Cone
HĀWEA
Lindis Pass
GLENDHU
WĀNAKA
Cardrona Alpine Resort
GLENORCHY
Coronet Peak
ARROWTOWN
GIBBSTON
Cromwell
QUEENSTOWN
Queenstown International Airport
Lake Whakatipu
The Remarkables
Clyde
Alexandra
KINGSTON
QUEENSTOWN
WĀNAKA









QUEENSTOWN

Queenstown's vibrant township is nestled along the shores of Lake Whakatipu, renowned for its stunning landscapes, outdoor activities and warm hospitality, offering something for every visitor. The region also includes the charming towns of Arrowtown, Glenorchy, Gibbston and Kingston, each with its own unique experiences and natural beauty.

ARROWTOWN

Arrowtown is a historic gold mining town rich in heritage and natural beauty. Situated by the Arrow River, in a wooded valley among mountain peaks, it is a charming legacy of the 1860s Otago gold rush. Enjoy local boutiques, historic miners' cottages and sophisticated food. A 20-minute drive from the main centre of Queenstown.

KINGSTON

At the southern tip of Lake Whakatipu between the Eyre Mountains and Tararua Range, is a serene lakeside town perfect for a day trip from Queenstown. Kingston blends outdoor adventure with historical charm, it's a scenic 45-minute drive from Queenstown along State Highway 6, offering breathtaking views and scenic viewpoints like Devil's Staircase.

GIBBSTON

Known as the Valley of the Vines, Gibbston is home to some of the region's oldest vineyards, set against rugged schist mountains. Located in Central Otago wine country and famous for its award-winning pinot noir, Gibbston features wineries, restaurants and the historic Kawarau Suspension Bridge. Just a 25-minute drive from Queenstown, it's accessible by shuttle, bike or guided tours.

GLENORCHY

Nestled among snow-capped mountains on the edge of a UNESCO World Heritage site, Glenorchy offers unparalleled outdoor adventures, with access to renowned hiking trails, glacial rivers, and ancient beech forests. At the top of Lake Whakatipu, just 45 minutes from Queenstown's centre, it features accommodations ranging from cosy campsites to eco-lodges, all complemented by charming pubs and cafes.

WĀNAKA

Set beside pristine alpine lakes and surrounded by the Southern Alps, Wānaka's township is a relaxed lakeside town offering spectacular landscapes and year-round experiences. It is a gateway to Mount Aspiring National Park, a World Heritage Area known for its mountains, glaciers, rivers and beech forests. Nearby Glendhu Bay and the Matukituki Valley provide access to walking, biking and outdoor adventures, while the wider region includes Lake Hāwea, Luggate, Cardrona and Makarora.

LAKE HĀWEA

Surrounded by mountains and set beside the clear waters of Lake Hāwea, this peaceful lakeside town offers space to slow down. Clients can enjoy walking and biking trails, water activities or simply take in the expansive alpine views. Located along State Highway 6 towards Makarora and the West Coast, Lake Hāwea is a scenic 15-minute drive from Wānaka.

LUGGATE

Luggate and the nearby Wānaka Airport are located approximately 10 minutes from Wānaka. The area offers a range of aviation experiences and attractions, including scenic flights, helicopter experiences, skydiving and aviation museums and collections. Visitors can also explore local attractions such as the Wānaka Lavender Farm.

CARDRONA

The historic village of Cardrona is set within a spectacular high-country valley along the Crown Range Road connecting Wānaka and Queenstown. Visitors can experience its gold-mining heritage, local hospitality, explore the surrounding backcountry and farmland, or head into the mountains for skiing, snowboarding and mountain biking. Cardrona is approximately a 20-minute drive from Wānaka.

MAKARORA

Situated on the Haast Pass Highway between Wānaka and the West Coast, Makarora offers easy access to Mount Aspiring National Park. Surrounded by native beech forest, rivers and mountain landscapes, visitors can venture further on scenic flights, jet-boat tours, wilderness walks and multi-day tramps. Makarora is approximately one hour from Wānaka.









GETTING TO QUEENSTOWN LAKES



Queenstown is accessible with daily direct flights from all of New Zealand’s main centres. Direct scheduled services are also available from Australia's eastern centres; Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne and Gold Coast.

Just over the hill, Wānaka is a short and scenic journey from Queenstown, taking around an hour via the Crown Range, New Zealand’s highest sealed road, or through the dramatic Kawarau Gorge. This makes it easy to include both destinations in a single itinerary.

Queenstown and Wānaka are connected to the rest of the South Island by some of the country’s most spectacular driving routes. As a gateway to the Southern Way touring route, the region is perfectly placed for slow travel adventures, linking seamlessly with Fiordland, Southland, Dunedin and beyond.



GETTING AROUND

WALK OR BIKE

Queenstown and Wānaka’s compact town centres are easy to explore on foot. The Queenstown Trail offers over 150km of off-road trails connecting Queenstown with Frankton, Arrowtown, Gibbston and Arthurs Point, while Wānaka’s lakeside and riverside trails extend towards Glendhu Bay, Lake Hāwea and Luggate. Bike hire is available in both destinations.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Queenstown's Orbus network connects the town centre with the airport and surrounding areas, including Frankton, Arthurs Point, Arrowtown and Jack's Point. Fares are discounted with a Bee Card, available to purchase at Queenstown Airport, with current pricing available on the Orbus website. Wānaka does not currently have local public buses, but its compact town centre is easy to explore on foot.

TRANSFERS

Taxis, shared shuttles and private transport services make it easy to travel around Queenstown and Wānaka. Options include local taxis, airport shuttles and private cars, vans or coaches for individuals and groups. Pre-booked transfers are also available between Queenstown Airport, Queenstown and Wānaka.

During winter, ski buses operate from Queenstown and Wānaka to the region’s ski areas. Many activity operators also provide transfers from central pick-up points or selected accommodation.

VEHICLE HIRE

Rental vehicles are available from Queenstown Airport and providers in Queenstown and Wānaka, giving clients the freedom to explore the wider region at their own pace. Many vehicle hire companies offer bike racks, ski racks and snow chains on request, which are best arranged in advance.

Electric vehicles are supported by charging stations across the region, while campervans and motorhomes offer another flexible option, with holiday parks and campgrounds throughout Queenstown, Wānaka and surrounding areas.



SEASONS AND WEATHER









FOUR-SEASON DESTINATION

Queenstown and Wānaka are dynamic, four-season destinations with each season bringing its own distinct beauty and activities, making it a place that draws visitors year-round. Summers are filled with long days and outdoor exploration, while winter brings world-class skiing and cosy alpine vibes. Autumn's rich colours and spring's fresh blooms enhance the region's breathtaking landscapes, perfect for everything from hiking and wine tours to scenic relaxation.

SUMMER IN QUEENSTOWN AND WĀNAKA

Summer in Queenstown and Wānaka is buzzing with a vibrant mix of people from all around the world. Long sunny days and fresh alpine air create the perfect setting for al fresco dining and socialising, along with an irresistible desire for adventure. The longer days and evenings are an invitation to slow down and explore the landscapes and activities the region is world-famous for.

The summer months are December – February with temperatures between 20°C and 30°C. In summer, dawn arrives as early as 5am, while dusk settles around 10pm.

AUTUMN IN QUEENSTOWN AND WĀNAKA

Queenstown and Wānaka deliver an unforgettable autumn experience. The outstanding golden and red hues dominate the hills around the region and contrast strikingly with the deep blue of our alpine lakes and rivers. Cooler mornings and evenings give way to warm, sunny days, perfect for exploring scenic hiking and biking trails. Autumn is also a time to celebrate the harvest season in New Zealand's southern most wine region.

The autumn months are March – May with temperatures ranging between 5°C and 25°C.

WINTER IN QUEENSTOWN AND WĀNAKA

Each year from early June onwards, the region transforms into a winter wonderland, attracting visitors from around the world with its incredible lake and alpine scenery, crisp blue-sky days, fireside dining and a vibrant après scene. For those keen to hit the slopes, some of New Zealand's finest ski and snowboard terrain is easily accessible.

The winter months are June – August, and temperatures usually range from 5-8°C during the day with the temperature dropping to -2°C on cold nights.



SPRING IN QUEENSTOWN AND WĀNAKA

Spring brings green valleys, snowy mountains and longer, warmer days. Spring is a unique season when visitors can experience everything the region has to offer. With the ski fields open until early October, and the basin green with fresh growth, combine skiing with exploring hiking trails or golf courses, touring wineries and dining al fresco with fresh spring produce.

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

WHERE TO STAY

Queenstown and Wānaka offers a huge range of accommodation options to suit every travel style, group size and budget.



Both destinations have centrally located hotels, resorts and boutique accommodation within easy reach of restaurants, shops and activities. Many properties offer impressive lake and mountain views, with options ranging from familiar hotel brands to locally owned stays.

For families, groups or longer stays, serviced apartments and holiday houses provide additional space and self-catering facilities.

For the ultimate indulgence, luxury lodges and retreats range from centrally located properties to secluded escapes, offering personalised service, premium amenities and memorable surroundings.

Motels offer practical, comfortable accommodation for clients on self-drive itineraries, often with convenient parking.

Budget-conscious travellers can choose from centrally located hostels, while holiday parks and campgrounds throughout Queenstown, Wānaka and the surrounding towns cater to those travelling by campervan or with a tent.

Across the region, a growing number of accommodation providers are adopting more sustainable practices, including renewable energy, waste reduction, locally sourced dining and electric vehicle charging.



TIP: Spring and autumn bring more availability and better rates, an easy alternative to peak summer and winter.



FOOD AND DRINK

When it comes to eating and drinking, Queenstown and Wānaka are spoilt for choice. Their diverse food scenes span global cuisines, relaxed cafés, local breweries and exceptional restaurants. Both destinations feature in the MICHELIN Guide, with Queenstown home to New Zealand's only restaurant awarded two MICHELIN Stars.

From refined dining and famous burger joints to welcoming neighbourhood eateries and conscious cafés, there is something for every appetite. Visitors can enjoy paddock-to-plate or plant-based dining, with fresh, locally sourced seasonal produce served by talented chefs.

In Gibbston, just 25 minutes from Queenstown, visitors can taste award-winning Central Otago pinot noir on food and wine tours by bike, shuttle or helicopter. Wānaka's craft breweries, artisan producers and relaxed lakeside dining add another distinctive flavour to the region, inviting visitors to slow down and savour their surroundings.

Bon appétit!



DID YOU KNOW?
Many cafés in Queenstown and Wānaka have eliminated single-use cups. Be sure to tell your clients to pack their reusable cup and water bottle!



WHAT TO DO IN QUEENSTOWN AND WĀNAKA





ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

Skiing down snowy peaks, navigating white-water rivers or soaring over dramatic alpine landscapes, Queenstown and Wānaka set the stage for adventure. Across both destinations, innovative operators and extraordinary landscapes inspire clients to try something new, challenge themselves and experience more.

Queenstown is recognised as the birthplace of commercial adventure, pioneering world-firsts including jet boating, bungy jumping, tandem skydiving and canyon swinging. Today, adrenaline-seekers can experience these icons alongside New Zealand's highest bungy, the world's biggest swing and the world's steepest tree-to-tree zipline.

Wānaka brings its own distinctive experiences, including climbing sheer waterfall faces on via ferrata routes, wilderness jet boating, and scenic flights paired with wilderness walks through Mount Aspiring National Park.

Across both destinations, clients can discover flowing mountain biking trails, carve fresh tracks while heli-skiing, take to the skies on scenic flights or skydiving experiences, and explore alpine valleys, glaciers, high-country stations and hidden wilderness by helicopter or 4WD.

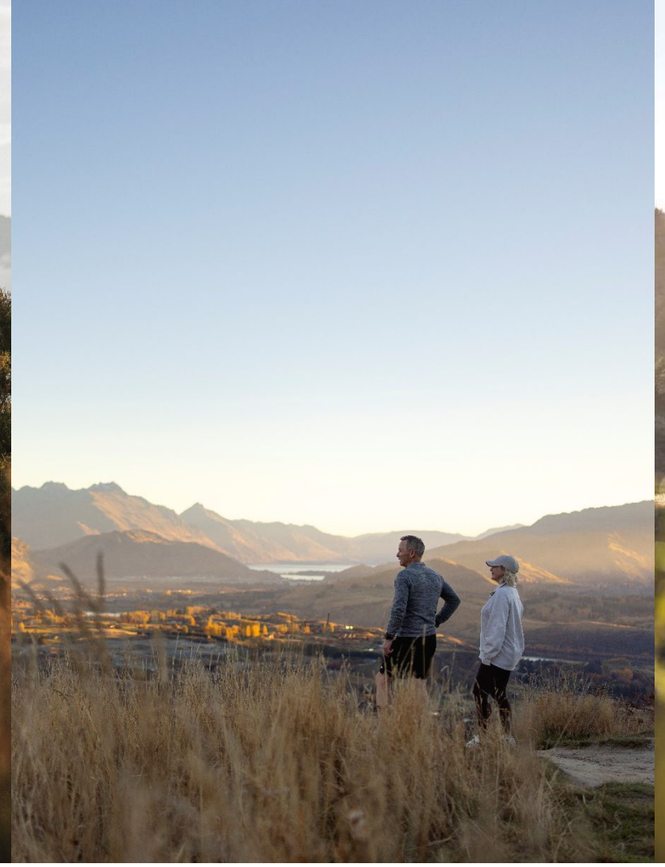


For clients seeking a gentler pace, scenic lake cruises, kayaking, paddleboarding and fishing offer relaxed ways to connect with the water. Guided tours combine soft adventure with local storytelling, while scenic flights and heli-hiking provide access to remote landscapes.

Adventure is not limited to the outdoors. Indoor skydiving, advanced VR, live-action games and climbing walls provide engaging family-friendly and rainy-day options. With experiences suited to different interests and abilities, Queenstown and Wānaka offer year-round adventure at every pace.

Wānaka | Queenstown
NEW ZEALAND







HIKING AND SHORT WALKS

Queenstown and Wānaka are surrounded by extraordinary landscapes, with walking tracks beginning within minutes of both town centres. From relaxed lakeside strolls to alpine hikes, walking is one of the easiest ways for clients to slow down, explore and connect with nature.

Guided day and multi-day hikes allow clients to explore with experienced local guides, who share insights into the region’s ecology, history and cultural heritage. Track transport, hotel transfers and equipment hire are also available, while heli-hiking offers another way to reach remote alpine landscapes

Short walks suit a wide range of ages and abilities, with lakeside, riverside and forest tracks available across both destinations. More challenging day hikes climb through native forest, river valleys and high-country terrain, rewarding walkers with sweeping views of lakes, glaciers, waterfalls and mountain peaks.

Queenstown provides convenient access to the Milford, Kepler and Routeburn Great Walks, while Wānaka is a gateway to Mount Aspiring National Park. These internationally renowned national parks form part of the Te Wāhipounamu UNESCO World Heritage Area.

Walking experiences can be easily incorporated into an itinerary, from a short stroll between activities to a full day or multi-day journey. Lower-altitude tracks can be enjoyed throughout the year, while each season brings a different perspective to the landscapes.

Conditions can change quickly in the backcountry, so clients should choose walks suited to their experience, check current track and weather information, carry appropriate equipment and share their plans. Department of Conservation (DOC) visitor centres provide up-to-date track information, safety guidance and assistance.



BIKING

Queenstown and Wānaka offer biking trails for every age, ability and riding style, from relaxed lakeside cycling and vineyard touring to downhill riding, dirt jumps and backcountry adventures. Bike and e-bike hire, children's equipment, guided tours, progression sessions and self-guided options are widely available, with shuttle services providing easy trail access and heli-biking opening up remote backcountry terrain.

The Queenstown Trail, one of New Zealand's Great Rides, features over 150km of off-road trails connecting lakes, rivers, historic gold-mining towns and Gibbston wine country. The new Kawarau Gorge Trail extends this network further, linking Gibbston to Central Otago's Lake Dunstan Trail through dramatic river gorge scenery, and beyond. Wānaka's lakeside and riverside trails offer relaxed rides through wide-open alpine landscapes.

Mountain bikers can explore flowing singletrack, technical descents and renowned bike parks across both destinations. The region is home to three lift-assisted bike parks, Bike Glendhu and one of the world's most legendary dirt jump parks.

Bike-friendly cafés, wineries, pubs and restaurants complete the experience, creating a vibrant après-bike scene.







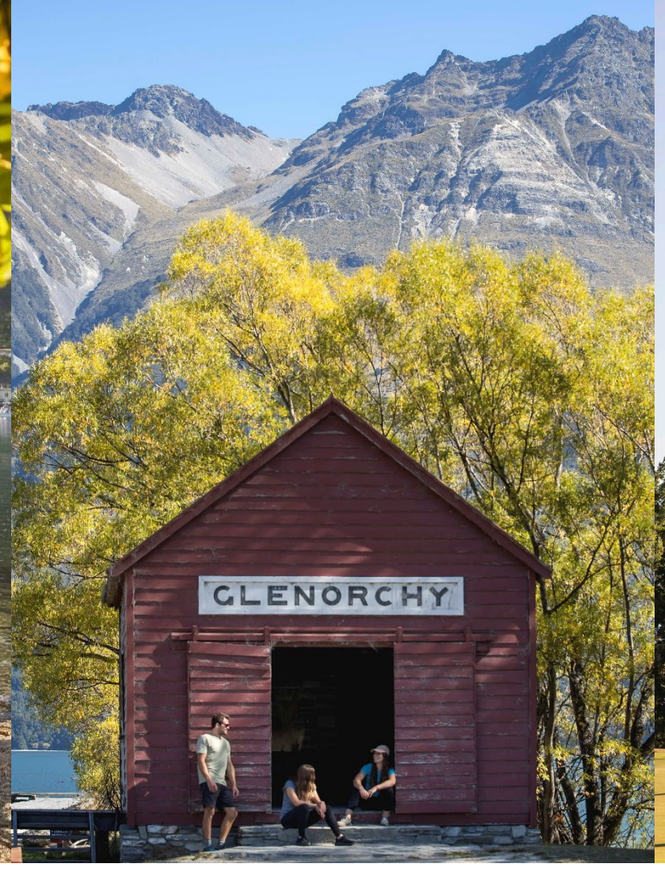
FAMILY

Queenstown and Wānaka make family holidays easy, combining spectacular natural landscapes with experiences for different ages, interests and energy levels.

Families can ski and play in the snow during winter, then explore lakes, walking tracks and biking trails throughout the warmer months. Spring and autumn bring colourful landscapes, a relaxed pace and plenty of opportunities to spend time together outdoors.

Family-friendly accommodation, welcoming dining options and indoor activities for all weather make both destinations appealing year-round.





SIGHTSEEING AND EXPLORING

Slowing down to take in the natural beauty of Queenstown and Wānaka is one of the most rewarding ways to experience the region.

Sightseeing tours reveal the region's landscapes and stories by land, water and air, from guided 4WD adventures and wine tours to knowledgeable local hosts sharing historic settlements and high-country landscapes. From Queenstown, clients can also venture further afield with day trips to Milford and Doubtful Sounds or Aoraki Mount Cook.

Lake cruises, kayaking and paddleboarding offer a different perspective across Lakes Whakatipu, Wānaka and Hāwea.

Helicopter and fixed-wing flights showcase glaciers, alpine passes and remote wilderness, with flights and landings available from both destinations.

DID YOU KNOW?
Queenstown is home to three of New Zealand’s Tohu Whenua sites – places of significant historical and cultural importance



GOLF

There’s nothing quite like teeing off surrounded by spectacular mountains and alpine lakes, with exceptional accommodation, activities, food and wine to enjoy beyond the greens.

Queenstown boasts eight spectacular golf courses, including four championship courses, and proudly hosts the New Zealand Open. Jack’s Point, The Hills and Millbrook Resort combine exceptional course design, varied terrain and dramatic alpine scenery.

Wānaka complements this world-class offering with a scenic 18-hole course overlooking the lake and mountains, and a relaxed nine-hole course near Lake Hāwea.

For something truly memorable, Queenstown’s ‘Over the Top’ experience takes golfers by helicopter to a par-three hole 4,500 feet above Lake Whakatipu.

Across both destinations, equipment hire, lessons, practice facilities, tours and transport make it easy to plan a round or dedicated golf itinerary. Off the course, clients can enjoy celebrated restaurants, Central Otago wine and a wide range of activities, making Queenstown and Wānaka ideal for golfers and non-golfing companions alike.



LUXURY

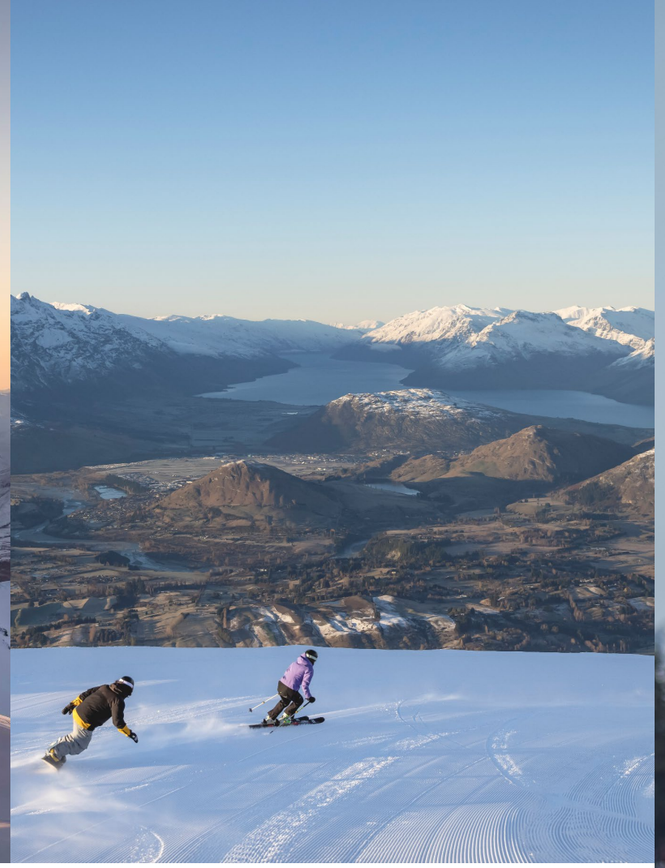
For clients seeking luxury surrounded by awe-inspiring natural beauty, Queenstown and Wānaka combine spectacular alpine landscapes with exceptional hospitality. Stay in five-star lodges, lakeside hotels, private villas, wellness retreats or secluded high-country hideaways, with personalised service and experiences tailored to each stay.

Private helicopter flights offer access to remote peaks for heli-hiking, heli-skiing or mountain-top picnics, while chartered lake cruises and bespoke guided tours provide exclusive ways to explore. Clients can also slow down with spa treatments, lakeside saunas, yoga retreats and private hot tubs surrounded by mountains and lakes.

The region’s celebrated food and wine offering adds another layer of indulgence. Private wine tours and curated tastings showcase award-winning Central Otago wines, while private chefs, long lunches and fine dining highlight seasonal, locally sourced ingredients.

Whether seeking adventure, relaxation or complete seclusion, Queenstown and Wānaka offer seamless, highly personalised luxury experience.







SKIING AND SNOWBOARDING

In the heart of the Southern Alps, Queenstown and Wānaka offer four world-class ski areas, with terrain for every ability and riding style. The long season runs from June until October, with everything from learner slopes and freestyle parks to challenging off-piste terrain. Beyond the four main ski areas, clients can experience cross-country skiing at Snow Farm and heli-skiing across untouched backcountry terrain. Equipment hire, lessons and regular mountain transport make getting on the snow easy. Beyond the slopes, Queenstown and Wānaka offer lively après-ski, welcoming bars, celebrated dining, spas and winter events, alongside accommodation for every travel style. Together, they deliver a complete winter holiday on and off the mountain.

THE REMARKABLES

Just 45 minutes from Queenstown, The Remarkables offers over 385ha of terrain for first-timers through to experienced skiers and snowboarders. Its sun-soaked slopes, large learner's area, seven terrain parks and modern lift network are complemented by cafés, restaurants and an Ice Bar. The Remarkables is all about fun, families, freestyle and freeride.

CORONET PEAK

New Zealand's first commercial ski field, Coronet Peak features wide-open slopes and rollercoaster terrain against the Whakatipu Basin backdrop. The mountain offers restaurants, cafés, equipment hire, a kids' centre and lessons. As the home of Night Ski, Coronet Peak lights up after dark with epic sunsets and lively après-ski.

CARDRONA ALPINE RESORT

Located between Queenstown and Wānaka, Cardrona caters to all skill levels. Following the Soho Basin expansion, its terrain has grown to 615ha, making it New Zealand's largest commercial ski area. The resort offers eight cafés, a kids' centre, accommodation, lessons, rentals, four terrain parks, two halfpipes and a gravity-cross course.

TREBLE CONE

Treble Cone is renowned for its long-groomed runs and legendary off-piste terrain. Located approximately 30 minutes from Wānaka and 90 minutes from Queenstown, it offers 700m of vertical drop, four basins and 550ha of terrain, with spectacular views over Lake Wānaka and the Southern Alps.

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NEW ZEALAND





TRAVEL TO A THRIVING FUTURE



Queenstown Lakes' destination management plan (DMP), Travel to a thriving future, is our roadmap to achieving regenerative tourism and a carbon zero visitor economy by 2030.

This strategy aims to protect and enhance this place for both locals and visitors. Through regenerative tourism, we are committed to creating a brighter future that benefits our communities, environment, and economy.

Regenerative travel in Queenstown means visitors take their time and adopt a slower travel style, allowing time and space to venture further, delve deeper and soak in every moment. It means people leave with a stronger connection and understanding of our environment, wanting to support the vision and give back to the place that hosted them on their unforgettable holiday.

Learn more about our community's vision here. Let's transform tourism into a force for positive change and ensure a thriving future for all.

LEAVE A LITTLE LOVE

Protecting the environment at the heart of our home – now and for generations to come.

The Love Wānaka and Love Queenstown Community Funds connect our visitor industry to local environmental initiatives – protecting the landscapes, waterways, wildlife and wild places that define our region and inspire visitors the world over.

Join the mission through corporate donations, hands-on volunteer experiences, or meaningful guest contributions.

Together, we can ensure that every visitor experience plays a part in looking after our environment long into the future.



Learn how to incorporate Love Queenstown & Love Wānaka into your client itineraries here.

STAY A WHILE, TRAVEL FURTHER

Wānaka | Queenstown NEW ZEALAND



FIORDLAND

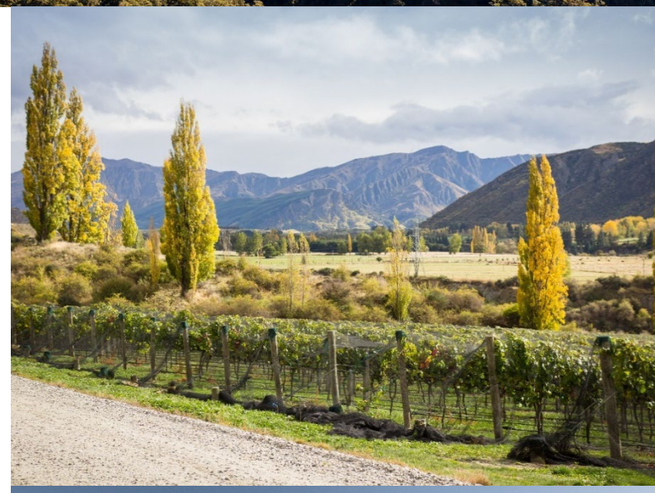
Home to Mitre Peak, the stunning fiords of Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound, and the beautiful lakeside towns of Te Anau and Manapouri, Fiordland is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Area celebrated for its extraordinary landscapes. Known as the sightseeing and walking capital of the world, it is on many visitors' must-see list.

Whether your clients are taking a day trip from Queenstown, enjoying a scenic flight over the Sounds, or embarking on a leisurely overnight boat cruise, many experiences depart and return to Queenstown.

CENTRAL OTAGO

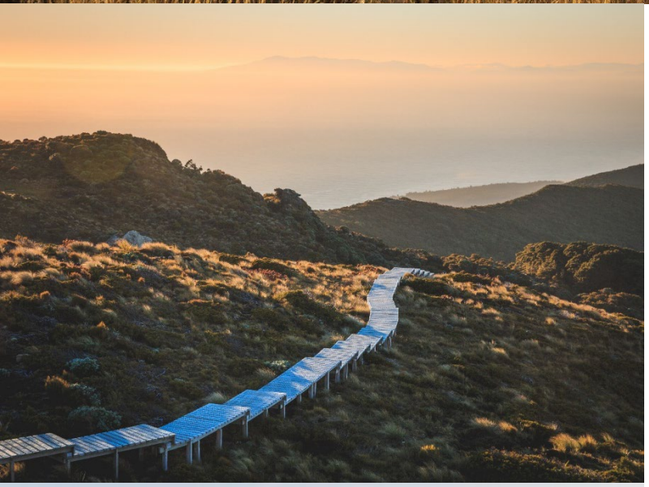
The Central Otago region is in the heart of the South Island and home to historic townships, astounding natural landscapes and world-renowned wine.

Just a stone's throw from Queenstown, a visit to the bordering Central Otago region and its quaint gold mining towns is an adventure that should not be missed. The region offers a diverse range of activities for everyone, from history enthusiasts to active adventurers and wine lovers.





SOUTH ISLAND ROAD TRIPS





SOUTHERN WAY

Once in Queenstown and Wānaka, road tripping around New Zealand's lower South Island is easy with extensive scenic routes that wind through some of the most dramatic and beautiful parts of the country, making it one of the best self-driving destinations to visit.

From the rugged coastlines of the Otago Peninsula, to the serene lakes and spectacular mountains in Wānaka and Queenstown, every turn reveals new and incredible landscapes. Whether cycling or walking along the extensive network of world-class tracks and trails, or sampling the flavours of regions renowned for producing award-winning food and wine, the journey is as rewarding as the destination.

From Waitaki in the north to Stewart Island in the south, the Tasman Sea in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east, Southern Way offers countless places and reasons to visit. Whether visitors want to immerse themselves in nature in Fiordland, explore the rugged Catlins, enjoy the urban culture of Dunedin or Invercargill, or marvel at the stunning Central Otago landscapes, there's so much to discover around the Southern Way.

SOUTHERN SCENIC ROUTE

New Zealand's oldest touring route, the Southern Scenic Route brings together the best of the south and showcases the natural environment, scenery, wildlife, heritage and people. The 610km road trip begins from either Queenstown or Dunedin and can be driven in both directions.

As visitors drive, they'll encounter rugged coastlines with chiselled cliffs, lush rainforests, and pristine lakes. The route allows access to hidden gems like deserted beaches and breathtaking mountain vistas. With a range of activities including short walks, mountain biking, fishing, boating, and tramping, there's something for every adventurer.

Conceived by the people of Tuatapere in 1985, the Southern Scenic Route reflects their dedication to sharing the southern charm of New Zealand. While the main route is sealed, some attractions may be accessed via unsealed roads, requiring careful driving. Keep an eye out for roaming wildlife and respect private land access, ensuring a considerate travel experience. This journey, rich in heritage and natural wonder, promises an unforgettable exploration of the South Island.

CENTRAL OTAGO TOURING ROUTE

The Central Otago Touring Route is a 341km journey through dramatic landscapes full of natural wonders and unique attractions. The stunning route follows the road less travelled from the pacific Ocean in Dunedin to the foot of the Southern Alps in Queenstown, via the beautiful Strath Taieri and Maniototo Plains.

As visitors drive, they'll encounter expansive plains, rugged mountain ranges and historic gold-mining towns that capture the spirit of Central Otago. The route provides access to renowned vineyards, charming towns and scenic lookouts, with opportunities for wine tastings, cycling, hiking and sightseeing. Known for its award-winning pinot noir, the region welcomes wine enthusiasts to experience it boutique vineyards and charming cellar doors.

This journey, largely on sealed roads, may include some unsealed detours to reach certain attractions, so cautious driving is recommended. With its blend of dramatic scenery, rich history and local culture, the Central Otago Touring Route provides an unforgettable adventure through one of New Zealand's most captivating regions.


Wānaka
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