



Queenstown & Wanaka

Includes »

Queenstown Region.....	568
Queenstown	568
Arrowtown.....	587
Glenorchy	591
Lake Wakatipu Region	593
Wanaka Region.....	595
Wanaka	595
Makarora	603
Hawea.....	604
Cardrona	604

Best Places to Eat

- » Bella Cucina (p582)
- » Fishbone Bar & Grill (p582)
- » Amisfield Winery & Bistro (p585)
- » Vudu Cafe & Larder (p582)
- » Federal Diner (p601)

Best Places to Stay

- » The Dairy (p579)
- » Glenorchy Lake House (p592)
- » Wanaka Bakpaka (p599)
- » Riversong (p599)
- » Warbrick Stone Cottage (p579)

Why Go?

With a cinematic background of mountains and lakes you actually have seen in the movies, and a ‘what can we think of next?’ array of adventure activities, it’s little wonder Queenstown tops the itineraries of many travellers.

Slow down (slightly) in Wanaka – Queenstown’s junior cousin – which also has good restaurants, bars, and outdoor adventures on tap. Explore nearby Mt Aspiring National Park to reinforce the fact that you’re only a short drive from true New Zealand wilderness.

Slow down even more in Glenorchy, an improbably scenic reminder of what Queenstown and Wanaka were like before the adventure groupies moved in. Negotiate the Greenstone and Routeburn Tracks for extended outdoor thrills, or kayak the upper reaches of Lake Wakatipu.

Across in historic Arrowtown, consider the town’s gold-mining past over a chilled craft beer or dinner in a cosy bistro. The following day there’ll be plenty more opportunities to dive into Queenstown’s cavalcade of action.

When to Go

The fine and settled summer weather from January to March is the perfect backdrop to Queenstown’s active menu of adventure sports and lake and alpine exploration. From June to August, the ski slopes surrounding Queenstown and Wanaka are flush with an international crew of ski and snowboard fans. For the best in local festivals, make a date for June’s exciting Queenstown Winter Festival, or experience the region’s food and wine scene at March’s Gibbston Valley Festival and Wanaka Fest in October.

i Getting There & Around

Air New Zealand (☎03-441 1900; www.airnewzealand.co.nz; 8 Church St) links Queenstown to Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, and Sydney and Melbourne. Virgin Australia has flights between Queenstown and Sydney and Brisbane. Jetstar links Queenstown with Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington, and Sydney, Melbourne and the Gold Coast. From Wanaka, Air New Zealand flies to Christchurch. Bus and shuttle companies criss-cross Otago from Dunedin to Queenstown and Wanaka. Several divert south to Te Anau and Invercargill, and others migrate north to Christchurch or travel through the Haast Pass and up the West Coast. The major operators include InterCity, Atomic Shuttles, Naked Bus, Tracknet, Alpine Coachlines and Wanaka Connexions.

QUEENSTOWN REGION

POP 11,000

Surrounded by the soaring indigo heights of the Remarkables, crowned by Coronet Peak, and framed by the meandering coves of Lake Wakatipu, it's little wonder that Queenstown is a show-off. The town wears its 'Global Adventure Capital' badge proudly, and most visitors take the time to do crazy things they've never done before. But a new Queenstown is also emerging, with a cosmopolitan restaurant and arts scene and excellent vineyards. Go ahead and jump off a bridge or out of a plane, but also slow down and experience Queenstown without the adrenaline. And once you've eased up, look forward to more of the same in historic Arrowtown or beautiful Glenorchy.

Queenstown

No one's ever visited Queenstown and said, 'I'm bored.' Looking like a small town, but displaying the energy of a small city, Queenstown offers a mountain of outdoor activities.

Maximise bragging rights with your souvenir T-shirt in the town's atmospheric restaurants, laid-back cafes and bustling bars. Be sure to also find a lakeside bench at sunrise or dusk and immerse yourself in one of NZ's most beautiful views.

Queenstown is well used to visitors with international accents, so expect great tourist facilities, but also great big crowds, especially in summer and winter. Autumn (March to May) and spring (October to November) are slightly quieter, but Queenstown is a true year-round destination. The town's restaur-



Queenstown & Wanaka Highlights

- 1** Sampling superb wines amid the dramatic scenery of the **Gibbston Valley** (p585)
- 2** Relaxing and dining in **Arrowtown** (p587) after the last of the day-trippers have left
- 3** Doing things you've only dreamed about in **Queenstown** (p570), the adrenaline-rush capital of NZ
- 4** Walking the peaceful **Routeburn Track** (p593)
- 5** Exploring by horseback, kayak and jetboat the upper reaches of Lake Wakatipu from sleepy and stunning **Glenorchy** (p591)
- 6** Watching a flick at **Cinema Paradiso** (p602) in Wanaka, with pizza during intermission
- 7** **Bar-hopping** (p584) and **dining** (p582) in cosmopolitan Queenstown
- 8** Experiencing Queenstown's **mountain biking** (p575) mecca on two knobbly wheels