



**QUEENSTOWN to QUEENSTOWN**

2-3 days | 120km

Combine awe-inspiring alpine scenery, world-class food and wine and a plethora of activities into the ultimate experience.

In a region rightly known as one of the most beautiful in the country, the Queenstown Trail takes you deep into unspoilt private land, past spectacular sights previously unseen by the public. As well as leading you straight to the region's famed pinot noir and top-notch cuisine, the trail serves up a sample of everything

that makes the area so beautiful: emerald lakes, golden hills, snow-touched mountains, perfect rows of vines, blossoming orchards and stunning landscape colours that transform with the seasons. The 120km trail meanders through the Wakatipu Basin, taking in the Gibbston wine area, the historic gold-mining town of Arrowtown and

**look out for...**

**Fabulous food & wine**  
Queenstown is a region of abundance, and quality cuisine is a part of everyday life here. The lakeside dining, elegant vineyards, fine restaurants and gourmet cafés along the trail will give you plenty of opportunities to stop and indulge

your appetite. Queenstown itself has more than 150 restaurants and cafés ranging from gourmet fare to locally crafted beer, wine and chocolate, while the Gibbston Valley has more than 75 wineries, including producers of some of the world's best Pinot Noir.

**Lake Hayes**  
Nicknamed the 'Mirror Lake', the glassy waters of Lake Hayes reflect its stunning snow-capped mountain surrounds in astonishing clarity - it'll have you taking snap after snap.

the stunning landscapes of Lake Hayes, Frankton and Queenstown. There are plenty of reasons to stop along the way: to discover hidden ruins, amazing architecture and historic bridges; for a cheeky wine tasting at a world-class vineyard, to savour first-rate food and coffee, or to take the plunge with a thrilling bungy jump at the Kawarau Bridge Bungy. Make your own way along the trail, or contact one of the local tour operators to help plan and organise you and your bikes, including cycle hire, transport and pick-ups and drop-offs anywhere along the trail. For an easier ride, e-bikes are available along the trail.

**TRAIL INFO**

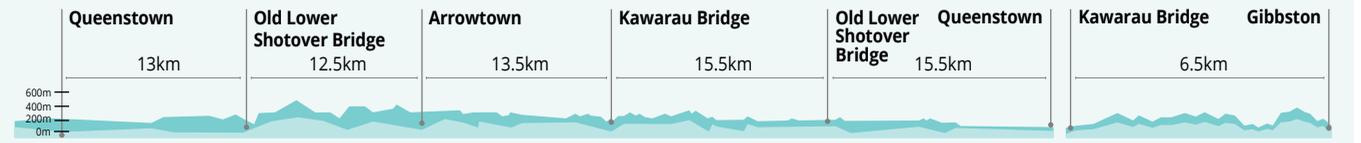


- TRAIL GRADES:**
- LAKE HAYES TRAIL GRADE 3 (INTERMEDIATE)** Circumnavigates Lake Hayes for 8km.
  - GIBBSTON RIVER TRAIL - GRADE 2 (EASY)** Ride 8.7km one-way along this easy grade trail running alongside the Kawarau River.
  - QUEENSTOWN TO ARROWTOWN GRADE 3 (INTERMEDIATE)** A 24.5km ride that takes in the Shotover River and Millbrook Resort.

- MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE:** Most parts of this trail have coverage for the major mobile networks.
- DRINKING WATER:** Don't forget your water bottle. Most local businesses will be happy for you to refill your drink bottle along the way. Plus you can buy food and beverages along the trail.



**riding the trail**



**"Cyclists will be attracted to The Queenstown Trail because of the iconic mountain scenery and the existing tourism attractions such as the wineries and the Kawarau Bungy venture."**

John Dunn, Former Programme Manager, Nga Haerenga, The New Zealand Cycle Trail

The Queenstown Trail offers something for everyone, whether you've got a couple of hours or a few days. There are plenty of great riding options and you can do as much as you want. This is an Easy to Intermediate (Grades 2-3) cycle trail that connects the three hubs of Queenstown, Arrowtown and Gibbston. The trail is well signposted and because you're never more than 20 minutes or so from a main road, it's very difficult to lose your way. The trail can be ridden in sections to suit your ability or link it all together for a longer ride. Here are some suggested itineraries for shorter rides:

- LAKE HAYES TRAIL, 8KM**  
This is one of the most scenic rides in the Wakatipu Basin, popular with walkers and cyclists. It circumnavigates Lake Hayes for 8km following a wide gravel trail. Starting at the top from Rutherford Rd, an anti-clockwise direction is easier.
- GIBBSTON RIVER TRAIL, 8.7KM**  
The Gibbston River Trail follows a relatively easy gradient alongside the Kawarau River providing access to wineries and historic archaeological sites. This is a there-and-back ride starting at the Kawarau Bridge Bungy and ending at the Gibbston Back Rd - the return trip is 17km.
- QUEENSTOWN TO ARROWTOWN, 24.5KM**  
The start/end of this 24.5km section of trail is the Memorial Gates on Queenstown's waterfront and Dudley's Cottage in Arrowtown.



# Along the trail



Featuring Queenstown and Arrowtown, this trail winds through some of New Zealand's most famous scenery.



Queenstown's boundless energy is infectious whatever the season. This is the place to go full-throttle on the adventure and exploration trail, then relax and rejuvenate in spas and alpine hot pools afterwards. As well as a host of famed adventure activities, you can take a cruise on Lake Wakatipu on the 'Lady of the Lake' the TSS Earnslaw, play a round of golf, ride high above the town in a gondola, or wander around the buzzing town centre for a spot of retail therapy. In winter, there

is skiing or snowboarding at one of Queenstown's ski fields.

Enchanting Arrowtown is a living museum. Springing to life in the days of the gold-rush, the beauty of Arrowtown is that it was built to last and if you look carefully, you'll get some sense of what life was like for the miners back then. The ruins of much of the mining workings are still visible, as are quite a few of the earliest dwellings and the commercial premises. Perhaps most poignant of all is the historic reserve where the

restored dwellings of the Chinese miners, who arrived to pick over the tailings of the claims already worked out by their European predecessors, have been preserved.

With four very distinct seasons, Arrowtown puts on a magnificent display of colours in autumn, is an incredibly scenic premium wine-growing area. At Kawarau Bridge there is a viewing platform where you can watch bungy jumpers take the leap above the turbulent water, or you can give it a go yourself. Sandwiched between schist mountains and the rocky Kawarau River gorge, Gibbston Valley is an incredibly scenic premium wine-growing area.

At Kawarau Bridge there is a viewing platform where you can watch bungy jumpers take the leap above the turbulent water, or you can give it a go yourself. Sandwiched between schist mountains and the rocky Kawarau River gorge, Gibbston Valley is an incredibly scenic premium wine-growing area.

IMAGE ABOVE: Jet boating on the Dart River © Destination Queenstown

ABOVE LEFT: Riding the Queenstown Trail © Jim Pollard

# Snow on Show



IMAGE ABOVE: © Coronet Peak • ABOVE, RIGHT: Ledge Bungy © AJ Hackett

Queenstown earns its title as the South Island's major ski resort town thanks to its easy access to world-renowned ski fields.

Cardrona Alpine Resort has more than 320 skiable hectares of dry, natural snow. It's popular for cross-country and freestyle skiing and snowboarding, offering slopes suitable for all levels.

The rolling, open slopes of Coronet Peak offer a range of exciting terrain for skiers and snowboarders. The night skiing here is one of the country's most exhilarating winter experiences.

The Remarkables ski field is well known for its relaxed vibe and beginner-friendly slopes, as well as versatile and challenging terrain.

Snow Farm is a cross-country ski area 58km from Queenstown with 55km of groomed trails.

# Adventure Capital

Consider an appetiser of Nevis Bungy, the highest jump in the southern hemisphere, a hearty main of tandem skydiving, followed by a bird's-eye view of Queenstown on a paraglide, originally used by local climbers as a fast way to descend the mountains. You could head to the highest

point and get entirely off the beaten track on a heli-skiing adventure, or ramp up the thrill factor by opting to go upside down on a self-release, rough-as-guts 150km/hr canyon swing. If you're over 75 you will be pleased to know you can bungy for free at AJ Hackett Bungy.

Queenstown  
284km NW of Dunedin on SH 6

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# Don't miss...



Picnic on shores of Lake Dunstan, Clyde  
 INSET: Main Street, Clyde  
 BOTH © Tourism Central Otago



## CLYDE

With buildings preserved from the gold-rush era, Clyde is as pretty as a picture. The Clyde Dam and Earnsclough Valley are nearby.

If time is on your side, take a trip to **Alexandra**, where the ever-changing scenery is one of its strongest assets. The town is a colourful oasis among the rocky landscape of Central Otago, particularly in spring when flowering plants burst with colour and wild thyme colours the hills purple. Walk along the banks of the Clutha River or take a cruise, visit the museum, walk up to the Clock on the Hill for great views and check out local artists' studios.

**Wanaka** has it all. Its star attraction, Lake Wanaka, sparkles on the edge of town and is backed by towering snow-capped peaks of the Mt Aspiring National Park. There's a variety of ways you can interact with the lake – it's an aquatic playground for anglers, water-skiers, jet-skiers, jet-boaters, sailors, fizz-boaters, swimmers and windsurfers, and there's also a network of walkways around the lake. Afterwards, be wowed by boutique wineries, craft breweries, good cafés, fine restaurants and artisan produce at the farmers' market. Whatever

you do, take time to relax in this stunning setting.

**Cromwell** is set in a remarkable landscape of bare brown hills, fertile valleys, pristine lakes and rivers and dramatic gorges. Don't miss the lovingly restored historic buildings in the Cromwell Heritage Precinct on the shore of beautiful Lake Dunstan. A farmers' market is held here every Sunday in summer.

Visit a vineyard and sample the region's famous Pinot Noir, and head to the Goldfields Mining Centre to try your hand at panning for gold.

## Arrowtown

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