



The Hollyford Wilderness Experience

Start your journey by spending your first night in the exciting and beautiful alpine town of Queenstown. The next day, travel to the remote and spectacular Hollyford Valley for a fully guided, all-inclusive wilderness adventure. Explore Fiordland's dramatic landscapes by foot, jet boat, and helicopter, guided by experts who bring the region's rich history and ecology to life. Discover ancient podocarp forests, glacial rivers, and a rugged coastline steeped in Māori and pioneer stories. Each evening, unwind in cozy private lodges and enjoy hearty meals prepared by welcoming lodge hosts. With small group sizes and breathtaking scenery, this is an unforgettable way to experience the true wilderness of New Zealand.

Starts in: Queenstown
Finishes in: Queenstown
Length: 7 days / 6 nights
Accommodation: Boutique Lodges & Hotels
Can be customised: Yes

This itinerary can be customised to suit you perfectly. We can add more days, remove days, change accommodations, mix it up, add activities to suit your interests or simply design and create something from scratch. Call us today to get your custom New Zealand itinerary underway.



Inclusions:

Includes: All coach transport
Includes: All pick ups/drop offs at destinations
Includes: Afterhours emergency support while touring
plus much more...

Day 1



Welcome to Queenstown

Renowned for its adrenaline inducing activities Queenstown is synonymous with adventure. Parked on the shores of Lake Wakatipu this small alpine town is nestled below soaring vistas of The Remarkables Mountain Range. While arguably the brightest gem in New Zealand's crown, Queenstown offers far more than an action-packed getaway. Spend time on the Gibbston wine trail and end with a meal at Michelin star chef Josh Emett's restaurant, Rata. Take a trip down memory lane on a 100 year old steamship the TSS Earnslaw. Soak in the scenery on your walk around the lake, or venture further afield into Fiordland National Park. Head over the hill to resort town Wanaka, or re-live scenes from Lord Of The Rings by four wheel drive. But - if you really do want that rush - head out on the Shotover Jet, dive off the Nevis Bungy, freefall on the Canyon swing or Zip line the Gondola. Just be sure it's done on an empty stomach & don't say we didn't warn you!

Private Transfer Queenstown Airport to your Accommodation

On arrival you will be met by a private driver and delivered to your Queenstown accommodation.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - TSS Earnslaw Cruise and Walter Peak Gourmet BBQ Dinner

Enjoy a quintessential Kiwi experience, a delicious gourmet BBQ buffet meal, and a farm demonstration in a stunning lakeside setting. Take in the stunning views of Lake Wakatipu and its surroundings as you cruise across the lake to the historic Walter Peak high country farm aboard the TSS Earnslaw Steamship. Enjoy the ambiance of the heart of the stately homestead while your Colonel's Homestead Restaurant chef prepares a gourmet BBQ dinner. Your seasonal menu includes an extensive selection of local New Zealand produce, including succulent meats and a selection of delicious vegetables and salads. Complete your meal with your choice of delicious desserts, or New Zealand cheeses. After dinner, watch the farm dogs in action with a sheep-herding demonstration and say hello to the other farm animals. Finally, cruise home under the southern stars and enjoy the fresh night air as the lights of Queenstown draw ever closer.

Your accommodation: Queenstown Park Boutique Hotel

Queenstown Park Hotel is a boutique hotel with a modern romantic style in the heart of New Zealand's adventure capital. Set in peaceful parkland, savour views of Queenstown's majestic mountains. Enjoy easy access to the vibrant town centre where shopping, cafes and nightlife nestled on the shores of spectacular Lake Wakatipu.



Day 2



Queenstown to Te Anau

Passing through the bustling suburb of Frankton, follow the shores of Lake Wakatipu. The Remarkables mountain range towers over you on the stretch of road known as "The Devil's Staircase" leading you to the township of Kingston. You'll venture into Southland before crossing the rolling tussock lands of Mossburn (deer capital of New Zealand) and shortly arriving at Te Anau, the gateway to Fiordland National Park.

Hollyford Track 4 Day Wilderness Journey

The Hollyford Wilderness Experience is a 4-day and 3-night all-inclusive adventure exploring the remote and spectacular Hollyford Valley, which has remained largely untouched for thousands of years. Following your experienced guide, you will traverse this historic valley by foot, jet boat, and finally, helicopter as your guide brings to life the diversity of the landscape, vegetation, wildlife, and history. You will enjoy cuisine prepared and served by friendly lodge hosts while relaxing in well-appointed private lodges. Throughout your adventure you'll discover the triumphs and tragedies of ill-fated Jamestown, you'll pass ancient forests with thousand-year-old giants such as native Rimu, Totara, and Kahikatea, and soon, the towering lowland podocarp forest transforms into a tenacious coastal garden. It is a wonderful way to explore the very essence of New Zealand's wilderness.

Queenstown to Te Anau - Dinner included

Begin your adventure by traveling from Queenstown to the lakeside town of Te Anau on a private coach to attend a comprehensive pre-departure briefing. Your knowledgeable guides will talk you through all you need to know before setting off, what to include in your tramping pack, and the chance to answer any questions you may have.

Mix and mingle over dinner with your fellow walkers before settling into your hotel room for the evening.

Your accommodation: Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas

The Te Anau Hotel and Villas offers a range of accommodation from hotel rooms and suites to villas. Ideally located on the lake front this hotel is just a few minutes stroll from the shops, cafes and many activities Te Anau has to offer.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



Day 3



Te Anau to Ka Tuku Lodge - Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before taking a private coach into the remote Hollyford Valley to begin your Wilderness Experience. On this first day within the valley, you will walk 19.5km exploring hidden waterfalls, wandering through ancient native bush in awe of the plethora of green shades around you. Learn about the unique flora and fauna and hear tales of those who roamed the paths of the Hollyford before you. Finish the day at Ka Tuku Lodge, nestled beneath Mt. Madeline, where our welcoming lodge hosts and an impressive three-course meal await. Celebrate the achievements of the day over a glass of Central Otago wine or a refreshing craft beer.

Your accommodation: Ka Tuku Lodge

Each evening you'll be welcomed at your Lodge by friendly lodge hosts. You'll enjoy hot showers, impressive 3 course cuisine and the opportunity to relax with a post dinner drink.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 4



Ka Tuku Lodge to Martins Bay - Includes Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Start your day with a plentiful breakfast at Ka Tuku Lodge before heading out on a short walk to Wāwāhi Waka (Lake Alabaster), on your way back stop at the infamous Pyke Bridge – the longest swing bridge in Fiordland National Park.

Embark by jet boat down the Hollyford River and across Lake McKerrow out to Martins Bay. After an impressive lunch, you will explore the Martins Bay sand dunes. Wander along the isolated beach, taking in the rugged beauty of the wild West Coast.

Arrive at your home for the night at Waitai Lodge where your three-course meal and toast in celebration of the vast array of vistas encountered today awaits.

Your accommodation: Waitai Lodge Fiordland Escape

Tucked along the water's edge where rainforest meets alpine slopes, Waitai Lodge anchors refined comfort in deep wilderness solitude. Full-height glass and warm timber open toward calm lake waters and ridgelines. Surrounded by rainforest trails, the lodge serves as a self-contained base for guided backcountry journeys, boat trips, and remote restoration.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5



Martins Bay - Breakfast Included

After another hearty-cooked breakfast, you will be ready to embark on your final walking leg of the Hollyford journey, the awe-inspiring podocarp forest. Marvel at the ancient forests with thousand-year-old giants such as the native Rimu and Kahikatea.

Return to Waitai Lodge to embark on your scenic helicopter flight back through the iconic and dramatic Milford Sound. Marvel at the grandeur of vertical granite cliff faces and breathtaking waterfalls hidden away in the lush native forest.

Upon arrival into Milford Sound, your friendly coach driver will be waiting to drive you back to Queenstown (or Te Anau if desired) via the impressive Milford Road.

Milford Sound to Queenstown

Enjoy the wonderful drive along the Milford Road as you head back towards Te Anau. Crossing the rolling tussock lands you pass through Mossburn, the deer capital of New Zealand. Following the lake north the Remarkable mountain range towers over you as you approach the adventure capital of Queenstown.

Note: Please make sure to allow 5.5hrs to Queenstown, this takes into account the current road works on the Milford Road.

Your accommodation: Queenstown Park Boutique Hotel

Queenstown Park Hotel is a boutique hotel with a modern romantic style in the heart of New Zealand's adventure capital. Set in peaceful parkland, savour views of Queenstown's majestic mountains. Enjoy easy access to the vibrant town centre where shopping, cafes and nightlife nestled on the shores of spectacular Lake Wakatipu.

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 6



SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - The Original Onsen Daytime Session

Onsen Hot Pools is located high on a cliffside overlooking the magnificent Shotover River canyon, providing views over the breathtaking alpine scenery and the perfect vantage point to watch the Shotover Jet boats on the river below. The experience is all about unwinding and soaking-up Queenstown's spectacular scenery, enjoying the pure waters and the fresh mountain air as your mind and body surrender to the deep penetrating warmth and gentle massage of the private pools. At the touch of a button, you can have complete privacy. Water temperature is set according to the day - generally between 37.8C on a hot day, to 39.8C during a snow-storm and in the summer one of the pools is kept cold for those who relish the thought of a cold plunge!

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY - Queenstown Skyline Gondola Ride

Hop aboard the Skyline Gondola - the steepest cable car lift in the Southern Hemisphere! From which you can take in the awe-inspiring views of this spectacular landscape. Sit back and relax as you enjoy panoramic views of The Remarkables, Walter Peak, Cecil Peak, Coronet Peak and the magnificent Lake Wakatipu.

Explore Queenstown

Well-known as New Zealand's 'adventure capital', Queenstown is home to a range of adventures, from the world's first and most famous bungee jumps to jet boat thrills, white-water rafting, and skydiving. However, Queenstown offers far more than a fast-paced, action-packed holiday. Settled on the shores of beautiful Lake Wakatipu beneath a soaring panorama of the Remarkables Mountain Range, this alpine town is surrounded by many historic, gastronomic, and scenic wonders. Take a stroll through the beautiful lakefront parks and gardens, browse through market stalls on weekends, dine in wonderful al-fresco restaurants, or ride on the 100-year-old historic Steamship - TSS Earnslaw to Walter Peak Station. Take the Queenstown Gondola up to Bob's Peak and soak up the panoramic views of the magnificent lake and mountain ranges. And after all of that, if you do want the adrenaline rush, Queenstown is known for taking your pick from the Shotover Jet, Canyon Swing, Zipline, Luge, or Heli-hike.

Your accommodation: Queenstown Park Boutique Hotel

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Meals included: Breakfast



Day 7



Private Transfer Queenstown Accommodation to Airport (LSQ)

You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to Queenstown airport.

Farewell from Aotearoa / New Zealand

Bid farewell to Aotearoa / New Zealand, taking with you unforgettable memories of its breathtaking landscapes and incredible adventures. In Māori, it is said mā te wā, which is not goodbye, it is see you soon!

Tour details

Departures:	Daily
Tour type:	Self-Guided Coach Tours
Starts:	Queenstown
Finishes:	Queenstown
Tour length:	7
Accommodation:	Boutique Lodges & Hotels
Car/transport type:	

Accommodation summary

Day 1	Queenstown Park Boutique Hotel
Day 2	Distinction Te Anau Hotel & Villas
Day 3	Ka Tuku Lodge
Day 4	Waitai Lodge Fiordland Escape
Day 5	Queenstown Park Boutique Hotel
Day 6	Queenstown Park Boutique Hotel