



# **Queenstown*eguide*** **2006**

[www.Queenstowneguide.com](http://www.Queenstowneguide.com)

# Contents

Queenstown <i>guide</i> .....	3
Orientation .....	3
Attractions.....	3
Arrowtown.....	3
Kiwi and Birdlife Park .....	3
T.S.S Earnslaw.....	3
Gold Fields Mining Centre.....	4
Skyline Gondola .....	4
Kiwi Haka.....	4
Lake Hayes .....	4
Deer Park Heights.....	4
Skippers Canyon.....	4
Queenstown Vineyards.....	4
Active Queenstown.....	5
Queenstown Above Ground.....	5
Queenstown Bungy .....	6
Queenstown Canyon Swing.....	6
Queenstown Cycling.....	6
Queenstown Horse Riding .....	6
Queenstown Water Activities.....	7
Queenstown Luge.....	7
Queenstown Jet Boating .....	7
Queenstown off-road.....	7
Queenstown Tramping.....	8
Queenstown Ice Skating.....	8
Queenstown skiing.....	9
Coronet Peak .....	9
The Remarkables.....	9
Cardrona .....	9
Treble Cone .....	10
Snow Park Queenstown .....	10
Snow Farm Queenstown.....	10
Daytrips from Queenstown.....	11
Doubtful Sound.....	11
Glenorchy .....	11
Kingston.....	11
Milford Sound.....	11
Te Anau .....	11
Wanaka.....	11
Mt Cook.....	12
Lord of the Rings.....	12
Queenstown Entertainment.....	13
Queenstown Casino .....	13
Minus 5.....	13
Reaching Queenstown.....	13
Queenstown Transport .....	13
Queenstown Restaurants.....	14
Queenstown Chinese Restaurants.....	14
Queenstown Indian Restaurants.....	14
Queenstown International Restaurants .....	14
Queenstown Italian Restaurants.....	14
Queenstown Japanese Restaurants .....	14
Queenstown Mexican Restaurant.....	14
Queenstown New Zealand Restaurants.....	14
Queenstown Seafood Restaurants.....	15
Queenstown Shopping.....	15
Weather .....	15
Queenstown Environment .....	16
Queenstown History .....	16

# Queenstowneguide....

The “Queenstowneguide” provides the independent traveller with complete practical information for Queenstown. Other eguides are available from [www.Traveleguides.com](http://www.Traveleguides.com). Every effort is made to provide accurate information, however things do change and eguide accepts neither responsibility nor liability for incorrect information that might appear in the text. We do very much welcome corrections and additions, please email them to [info@traveleguides.com](mailto:info@traveleguides.com).

## Orientation

Queenstown is located in the South Island of New Zealand. Surrounded by lakes and mountains has perfect setting. The centre of Queenstown is compact where you will find the shops, restaurants and tour booking offices. Surrounding the town are a number of suburbs.

Most of the many adventure activities are located outside the town and can be reached by car or in most cases the operators will provide transport from the centre of Queenstown and the main accommodation areas.

## Attractions

### Arrowtown

Arrowtown is a contrast to Queenstown. It has a charm and village feel and retains a lot of the original buildings of the original gold rush. A group of Chinese gold miners settled in Arrowtown in 1869 and lived at Bush Creek by the Arrow River. The settlement was abandoned but rediscovered in 1983 and now open as an historical site with some of the buildings reconstructed.

Arrowtown has a good collection of shops in Buckingham Street and many specialty shops catering to the visitor. A good place to browse. Restaurants and cafés are of a high standard and popular with both locals and visitors.

The Lakes District Museum has a good display of artifacts and historical information. You can even try your luck panning for gold in the Arrow River.

Arrowtown is 19km from Queenstown and about a 20 minute drive. It can be part of a circular drive via Coronet Peak one way and Lake Hayes on the return. Arrowtown is also on the way to the bungy jump on the Kawarau river.

### Kiwi and Birdlife Park

Located very conveniently in the centre of town next to the Gondola station. Kiwi Birdlife Park is a place to enjoy the native bush and see Kiwis the national bird of New Zealand. You can also see the world’s oldest fossil the Tuatara.

### T.S.S Earnslaw

Cruise Lake Wakatipu on the steamship T.S.S Earnslaw. Relive the elegance of bygone days with a cruise aboard the vintage steamship TSS Earnslaw, one of the last remaining coal fired passenger carrying vessels operating in the southern hemisphere. Affectionately known as the “Lady of the Lake”, the TSS Earnslaw has a special place in the hearts of Queenstown people.

She has been transporting goods to remote settlements and conveying passengers on beautiful Lake Wakatipu since 1912. What better way to view the magnificent scenery than by taking a cruise aboard the TSS Earnslaw. Step aboard – watch the stokers fuelling the fireboxes and hear the sound of the steam engines working as the TSS Earnslaw takes you on a nostalgic cruise of beautiful Lake Wakatipu. For details of departures phone 64 3 249 7416

## **Gold Fields Mining Centre**

At the entrance to the Kawarau Gorge one of the original mining locations still operates as a tourist venture. A guided tour shows the workings and provides stories about the history and characters. You can try your hand at gold panning. It is located on the Queenstown – Cromwell highway at Kawarau gorge.

## **Skyline Gondola**

The Skyline Gondola rises above Queenstown and provides panoramic views. A restaurant serves a full range of meals and snacks. Just above the Gondola is the popular luge which has tracks for the beginner and the advanced and accessed by a chair lift that starts at the top of the Gondola.

## **Kiwi Haka**

Kiwi Haka is a Maori Cultural Experience located at the top of the Gondola and has a traditional Maori village. There is an evening performance and dinner from 7pm – 10pm where you can experience the Haka, the poi display and traditional music.

## **Lake Hayes**

Lake Hayes is named after Donald Hay who gave it the name. A mirror like lake with stunning scenery about 15 minutes drive from Queenstown on the way to Arrowtown. Fishing is possible but only at slow speeds and trolling must be without a motor.

## **Deer Park Heights**

A working deer farm with heaps of animals. Located at Kelvin Heights 03 442 2005. Take a safari through The Deer Park and view amazing panoramas over Queenstown basin, lakes, and mountains. You can take a 2-hour guided scenic adventure or drive your own car through the park. Charges apply.

## **Skippers Canyon**

Skippers Canyon is approached by the Skippers Road which twists around the steep cliffs. The road is very dangerous and so banned to all hire vehicles! Entry for the road is therefore by tour. The area now hosts a number of adventure sports such as rafting, horse riding, mountain bikes and helicopter rides.

## **Queenstown Vineyards**

In recent years the planting that began in the 1980's are taking fruit. Some world famous vineyards now produce the must have "Central Otago" wine. The vineyards are the most southern in the world but has a distinct similarity to the Burgundy region.

The vineyards are at high altitude and subject to cold winters and hot dry summers which makes for some very skilled wine producers to cope with this variation. The main areas are just north of Arrowtown and include the Gibbston Valley and Felton Road areas. Many vineyards have wine tastings and restaurants attached. There are over 45 wineries in Central Otago.

## **Walter Park High Peak Country Farm**

Cruise on the T.S.S. Earnslaw to Walter High Country Farm and experience the farm life of this part of the world. Opportunities to watch sheep shearing and sheep dog trials.

# Active Queenstown

## Queenstown Above Ground

### Adventure

Actionflite  
03 442 9708

Fly by wire  
03 442 2116

Go Vertical Bungy Trampoline  
0800 124 224

Para Bungy  
03 442 8507

### Queenstown Hang Gliding

Antigravity hang gliding  
0800 426 445

Skytrek Hang Gliding  
03 442 6311

### Queenstown Helicopter Tours

Heliworks Queenstown Helicopters  
03 441 4011

Over the Top Helicopters  
03 442 2233

The Helicopter Line  
03 442 3034

### Queenstown Scenic Flights

Air Milford  
03 442 2351

Air Wakatipu  
03 442 3148

Glenorchy Air  
03 442 2207

Milford Sound Flightseeing  
0800 656503

Milford Sound Scenic Flights  
03 442 3065

### Queenstown skydiving

Vertical descent adventures  
03 409 0363

### Queenstown Paragliding

Flight Park Tandem Paragliding  
0800 467 325

Paraflights NZ  
03 442 8507

## **Queenstown Bungy**

A J Hackett put Queenstown on the map with the world's first commercial bungy jump at Kawaru Bridge, a 43 metre jump. Since then two other bungy jumps have been opened by AJ. The Ledge Bungy a 47 metre fall located just above Queenstown. For the brave the Nevis Highwire at 134 metre provides an awesome drop as you jump off a high wire suspended between two mountains.

### **Queenstown Bungy Jumping**

A.J.Hackett  
03 442 7100

## **Queenstown Canyon Swing**

A more recent activity is the Canyon Swing. This is a giant rope swing suspended across the Shotover River. You leap off the cliff and then wing in a giant arc reaching speeds of 150 kmph. The immediate freefall is 60 metre and the whole arc is 200 metres. The price as for bungy jumps goes down each time you swing and so you can try doing it forwards, backwards, sit in a chair and a total of 10 options is provided.

Shotover Canyon Swing  
03 442 6990

## **Queenstown Cycling**

Mountain biking is easy and popular. There are many organised mountain bike tours many of which will take you up the hill and all you have to do is cruise down!

### **Alpine and Heli Mountain Biking**

03 443 8943

### **Fat tyre adventures**

0800 32 8897

### **Gravity action**

03 442 5277

### **Vertigo Mountain Biking**

03 42 8378

## **Queenstown Horse Riding**

Horse riding in the mountains around Queenstown is popular. Short and long trips are available and most operators will pick you up from Queenstown.

### **Dart Stables**

0800 4 743 464

### **Moonlight stables**

03 442 1229

### **Shotover stables**

03 442 9708

## Queenstown Water Activities

Jet boats, raft, kayak, river surfing its all in Queenstown. Try canyoning which is a process of working your way down a river system and so involves jumping off rocks, abseiling, swimming narrow passages and a real adventure.

## Queenstown Luge

At the top of the Skyline Gondola is a luge with tracks for beginners and the adventurous each is 800 metres long. A luge is three wheeled cart that you steer and break.

## Queenstown Jet Boating

Jet boats were designed by Bill Hamilton as a way to travel around the shallow rivers on his farm. The principle is that is drawn in and pumped out at great force. No propeller or rudder is needed which means that jet boats can operate in very shallow water.

Jetboats move at great speed and provide a thrill-seeking adventure. There are a number of jet boat companies operating on different rivers and lakes including the very popular Shotover Jet which departs from Arthur's Point close to the town centre. Listed below are some great Jet Boat tours, just click the link for more information and to book.

## Queenstown off-road

The mountain tracks lend themselves to some exciting 4 WD drives and many operators offer tours. Many combine the trip with visit to Lord of the Ring film locations. Off road is available in Quad bikes and also two wheel bikes.

### Queenstown off road tours

#### Criffeld Peak Safaris

03 443 1711

#### Family adventures

03 442 8836

#### Mountain Land Rovers

03 411323

#### Nomad Safaris

03 442 6699

#### NZ Hummer Tours

03 441 3344

#### Off Road Adventure Queenstown Quads

03 442 7858

## **Queenstown Tramping**

Queenstown has lots of opportunities for walking and tramping, both gentle and long distance. There are walks around the lakeshore, up the mountains and along the rivers.

### **Milford Encounter Guide Walk**

03 441 1138

### **Routeburn Encounter Guided Walk**

03 442 8200

### **Ultimate hikes**

0800 768 832

## **Queenstown Ice Skating**

Located in the Queenstown Botanic Gardens is the Queenstown Ice Skating ring.

# Queenstown skiing

Skiing was pioneered in the early 1950's and has now grown to a major activity in Queenstown. The main ski areas close to Queenstown are Coronet Peak and The Remarkables. Further afield are Cardrona and Treble Cone.

The Queenstown ski season is from late June to the end of September. The exact dates vary according to the snow situation at the start and end of the season. There is no ski in/ski out accommodation, with most skiers staying in Queenstown and driving to the ski field each day. This is easy and well organized although the road to The Remarkables is challenging. Chains have to be carried and advice is provided on when and if they need fitting. Buses depart from Queenstown at regular intervals and provide a fast efficient service to the ski field's.

All ski equipment can be hired in Queenstown. Queenstown is alive at night and plenty of atmosphere, entertainment and apreski activities are possible.

## Coronet Peak

Coronet Peak is close to Queenstown and about 25 minutes drive (18kms) from Queenstown. Easy to reach by self drive or on the many shuttle services that operate. .

Coronet peak has 280 hectares and 5 lifts. The vertical fall is 420 metres and the elevation is 1649 metres. Coronet Peak has a rolling terrain and snowmaking machines.

Lifts include 1 High Speed Six Seater, 1 Express Quad Chair, 1 Double Chair, 1 T- Bar, 1 Magic Carpet and 1 Beginner Tow. The longest run is the M1 at 1.8km.

Coronet Peak is open from early June to early October. Night Skiing is organised on Friday and Saturday nights.

For details in Queenstown contact the Queenstown Snow Centre at the Station Building on Duke Street (03 442 4640).

## The Remarkables

A high altitude ski field that faces north. A 45 minute drive from Queenstown and an elevation of 1943 metres. The Remarkables has five lifts and a ski area that covers 220 hectares. There is a terrain park. Across the valley from Coronet Peak is The Remarkables.

The Remarkables has three sunny sheltered bowls framed by towering peaks. It's a great place to learn to ski with easy access to learner runs by an easy to use chairlift. And for the expert reasonably long off-piste runs. Kids are well catered for and kids 10 years and under get a free day lift pass. For details in Queenstown contact the Queenstown Snow Centre on Duke Street (03 442 4640).

## Cardrona

Cardrona Alpine Resort is between Wanaka and Queenstown and about 60 minutes from Queenstown. There are daily buses during the Queenstown ski season. Cardrona has 7 lifts and a capacity of 7800 people per hour. There is a pipe park and terrain park. The base elevation is 1670m and the highest lift point 1894m. The vertical rise is 390 metre.

Cardrona has 3 magic carpet lifts, a platter lift and a beginner quad chair. Cardrona has half pipes and terrain parks. For details call 03 442 4112 or visit the Queenstown office at 35 Shotover Street .

## Treble Cone

It will take about 90 minutes to drive to Treble Cone from Queenstown and reached via Wanaka. Daily shuttle services are available. Treble Cone is the largest ski area in South Island with 550ha of skiing and a vertical drop of 705 metre.

Treble Cone ski area lies over three basins with trails to suit all skill levels. Two trails - 'Triple Treat' (3.5km) and 'Main Street' (2km) are good for beginners and intermediates. The learner's area with snowmaking facilities is located near the base building. The ski area is open from 9 – 5 the longest run is 4.3 km. There are 7 lifts and a terrain park (03 443 7443).

## Snow Park Queenstown

Snow Park is situated 55km from Queenstown Snow Park is a specialist ski area with no trails, just pipes and terrain set up by Frank Wells and his team who each winter create a Superpipe, cut to World Cup standards. And many other pipes, kickers and tabletops, quarter pipe, hips, spines and a wall ride. There is a learner's pipe and beginner boxes.

From Queenstown head north across the Crown Range , following the signs to Wanaka. Snow Park is located just after the village of Cardrona (03 443 9990).

## Snow Farm Queenstown

Snow Farm is about one hour from Queenstown and caters for cross country skiing on over 50 km of groomed runs. Trails are designed for all levels of Cross Country skiers. The trails wind through the Meg River Valley to the North and the South with views of the Southern Alps contrasting with the rolling slopes. The main season is from the beginning of July to the end of September. Snow Farm also has tubing. Snow Farm is located near Wanaka on the Cardrona RD1 (03 443 0300).

# Daytrips from Queenstown

## Doubtful Sound

Quieter than Milford Sound and made up of about 100km of waterways. The trip to Doubtful Sound involves crossing Lake Manapouri and is possible as a long day trip from Queenstown. Doubtful Sound was sighted by Captain Cook in 1770 but he “doubted” whether if entered he could turn round and make it back out to sea.

## Glenorchy

Glenorchy is located at the head of Lake Wakatipu and the place to start the Routeburn Track and other tracks. It is the gateway for Mount Aspiring National Park. A good area for windsurfing, sailing and fishing. Glenorchy is a 45 minute drive along the lake. A good stopping point is Bennett’s Bluff Lookout with amazing views. Glenorchy became part of the Middle Earth in Lord of the Rings.

## Kingston

Kingston is at the south end of Lake Wakatipu and about an hour’s drive away. A major attraction is the Kingston Flyer Steam Train which started in 1878 and carried passengers from Gore to Kingston from where they could catch the steamer to Queenstown. The Kingston Flyer still runs today on a 14km section and some carriages date to 1898. Kingston is also the star of the Northern Southland Heritage Trail and a good place for walking trails.

## Milford Sound

Milford Sound is world famous for its scenery and steep cliffs. A day trip is possible but is a long day from Queenstown. Cruise boats depart regularly and often an abundance of wildlife is seen. The drive to Milford Sound is about 4½ hours from Queenstown. You can fly from Queenstown as a quicker but more expensive option.

## Te Anau

Te Anau is the base town for both Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound and is a scenic 2 hour drive from Queenstown. Te Anau sits on the Lake Anau which is New Zealand’s second largest lake. The main attraction is the Te Anau Glowworm caves reached by boat from Te Anau and is an underground adventure involving both walking and boat to marvel at the glowworm grotto.

Te Anau is the base for many long distance walks that include Milford, Hollyford, Greenstone and Routeburn Tracks.

## Wanaka

Wanaka is small township about 90 minutes north of Queenstown and a destination in its own right. About an hour from Queenstown is a gateway to Mt Aspiring National Park famous for its glaciers and climbing opportunities. The clear beautiful Lake Wanaka sets a very pleasant scene for the town.

Wanaka has like Queenstown an active tourism industry and lots of tours and adventures are possible from here. Wanaka has four ski areas Treble Cone, Cardrona, the Snow Farm and the Snow Park and a lot of activities that can be organised.

Stuart Landsborough’s Puzzling World on the main highway is a major attraction with its eccentric architecture and illusion rooms. For those interested in Fighter aircraft the Warbirds Museum is home to a collection to WW11 Fighter aircraft.

## **Mt Cook**

At 3750m Mount is New Zealand's highest mountain. It towers above snow-clad peaks that make up the Mount Cook National Park. On one side of Mount Cook is the mighty Tasman Glacier, a 30km giant and one of the longest Glaciers outside the Himalayas. Mt Cook is approximately 260km and a 4 hour drive from Queenstown.

## **Lord of the Rings**

Many of the Lord of the Rings scenes were filmed around Queenstown and many tours operate to view the scenery.

### **Lord of the Rings tour companies**

#### **Dart River Safaris**

03 442 9992

#### **Dart Stables**

0800 4743 464

#### **Arrowtown Bus Tours**

03 442 1900

[Click here for more information on Queenstown Tours](#)

# Queenstown Entertainment

Queenstown has over 150 licensed premises to choose from. Plenty of late night bars, discos, pubs and live music.

## Queenstown Casino

The Skycity Queenstown Casino is located in Beach Street and opens from 12 noon until 4am and has plenty of games and machines.

## Minus 5

Minus 5 is an ice bar where everything is made of ice. Only short stays are possible. Located at Steamer Wharf next to the lake.

# Reaching Queenstown

Queenstown now has direct flights arriving year round from Australia. During the ski season these flights increase.

There are several connections each day from New Zealand's major cities such as Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

Access by road is a great scenic option. Hire a car, a campervan or travel by coach.

## Queenstown Transport

The town is small and very easy to walk around. There is a "Shopper Bus" that operates from 6.50am to 11pm every day. This bus services all the major hotels; airport, Sunshine Bay, Fernhill, Frankton and Remarkables Park Shopping Centre. There is also a good taxi system. Most tour operators will transport you to their activity from central Queenstown.

Parking at peak times can be difficult. It is metered in the city centre. There are several free car parks and some pay and display car parks if you want park for the whole day. These car parks are at Gorge Road, Athol Street, Henry Street, Church Street and Earl Street.

# Queenstown Restaurants

Queenstown is alive with restaurants and a diversity of dining opportunities due to its many visitors. Due to the diversity of international visitors from all parts so you will find the complete range of dining opportunities. The prices varies form cheap in the food courts to expensive in the excellent fine dining restaurants.

## Queenstown Chinese Restaurants

### **Manadarin Restaurant**

03 442 5222

## Queenstown Indian Restaurants

### **Little India**

03 442 5335

## Queenstown International Restaurants

### **Beefeater Steak House**

03 442 9149

### **HMS Britannia**

03 442 9600

### **Vknow**

03 442 5444

## Queenstown Italian Restaurants

### **Pasta Pasta Cucina**

03 442 6762

### **Pizza and Spaghtti House**

03 442 8588

### **Winnies Gourmet Pizza Bar**

03 442 8635

## Queenstown Japanese Restaurants

### **Kappa**

03 441 1423

### **Minami Jujisei**

03 442 9854

## Queenstown Korean Restaurants

### **Arirang**

03 441 1359

## Queenstown Mexican Restaurant

### **Sombrero's**

03 442 8240

## Queenstown New Zealand Restaurants

### **Bentley's Brasserie**

03 442 8700

### **Chico's**

03 442 8439

### **Frasers Bar and Grill**

03 442 7503

**Gantleys Restaurant**

03 442 8999

**Roaring Megs**

03 442 9676

**Tatler**

03 442 372

**The Boathouse**

03 442 5625

**The Bunker**

03 441 8030

**Wai Waterfront Restaurant**

03 442 5969

**Queenstown Seafood Restaurants**

Boardwalk Restaurant

03 442 5630

Fishbone Bar and Grill

03 442 6768

**Queenstown Thai Restaurants**

Thai Siam Queenstown

03 442 4815

Thai Happy Wok

03 442 4415

Thai Siam Wanaka

03 443 5010

**Queenstown Vegetarian Restaurants**

Dux Lux

03 366 6919

## Queenstown Shopping

Queenstown is a much visited tourist destination and so has a full range of shops for browsing. Locally produced fine wool means some good buys. Good also for outdoor clothing, local jewellery made from Paua. Paua is a type of abalone and comes with beautiful blue green colours.

In Queenstown you will find most things and all located fairly centrally around the Queenstown Mall and side streets.

## Weather

Queenstown is 310 metres above sea level but surrounded by high mountains which means temperature vary all depending on the altitude you reach. The Summer is hot and dry and runs from December to February with an average between 19°C and 30°C. The Autumn runs from March to May and has clear but cool days with the temperature in the 10°C - 24°C range. The Winter (June - August) is a ski season and is between 3°C - 10°C but much colder in the ski areas. The Spring is more changeable and ranges between 9°C and 21°C.

## Queenstown Environment

Lake Wakatipu is the third largest lake in New Zealand and about 80 kilometres long. At its deepest point it is 378 metres deep. The name means “ the freshwater trough where the giant demon lies”. It only has one outlet the Kawarau but has several rivers flowing into it. A strange phenomenon is that the Lake Wakatipu rises and falls by 12cm every 5 minutes and that the temperature only varies by a few degrees each season. This is story of Maori legend but also could be explained by a seiche which is where the atmospheric pressure causes the water level to change height.

The Remarkables were named as such because they are only one of two mountain ranges that runs from North to South.

The stunning scenery was recognised by Peter Jackson the Director of Lord of the Rings as the setting for Middle Earth. Many tour operators organise trips to visit the sites some of which can be visited by raft, by bike, by air, by 4WD, by horse or walking.

## Queenstown History

The Maoris arrived a 1000 years ago, attracted by the greenstone (pounamu). The stone had spirituality and was highly valued in Maori culture. If you visit the Kiwi Haka, a Maori Cultural Experience located at the top of the Gondola you can learn more about the early Queenstown history and the Maori culture. The initial settlers arrived in the 1860's and were farmers. William Rees was the first settler and lived in “The Camp” on Queenstown bay. His son's name lives on with two local peaks named after him, Cecil Peak and Walter Peak.

There is some dispute who discovered gold first but is agreed that it was 1862. Rangiora Ellison and Hakaria Haeroa were two local Maoris who it is thought found the first gold but also said that two local sheep shearers Thomas Arthur and Harry Redfern found the gold. It resulted in 1863 the Shotover River becoming the centre of the New Zealand gold rush with many thousands of miners. Arthur's Point now the starting place for the Shotover Jet is named after one of the original miners. At its peak the Shotover River was the highest gold producing river in the world that provided 12 oz of gold for every yard of gravel that was panned. . In Arrowtown we can find the restored Chinese village where the Chinese gold miners lived. Some of the original properties are located in Queenstown Mall which has been converted to modern use. Marine Parade includes William Cottage the oldest remaining building built in 1864.

The Government brought order to the chaos of the gold rush and bought the town and stated that it was now fit for Queen Victoria, the reason it became Queenstown instead of just “The Camp”.

Road access did not come until 1936 and early transport was by steamer from Kingston at the South of Lake Wakatipu. It is still possible to travel on one of the original steamers the Earnshaw which was launched in 1911 and now does regular cruises. A railway connected Kingston with Gore and it is still possible to travel on the Kingston Flyer and experience the original carriages and one of the early locomotives.

Modern tourism came with the launch of jet boats, rafting and it took a big boost with the first commercial bungy jump being set up by A.J. Hackett in 1988 which is now a major attraction and draw card to Queenstown. Even visited by President Clinton who was suitably impressed with the scenery.