

Welcome to Central Otago, and Queenstown

3 days, 2 nights



The villages and towns located in this picturesque area of the lower South Island are within short driving distance from each other – meaning you can be very flexible with the time you spend in each place and even change your next destination at the last minute. Move at a leisurely pace if there is something of particular interest you find along the way. Take the time to meet the locals or break out your adventurous side and pack in as much as you can!

Day 1 Central Otago		
Time	Activity	Notes
Breakfast	Breakfast in Dunedin	
0800	Drive from Dunedin to Fruitlands, South of Alexandra	Following SH1, and SH8
1015	Arrive at Historic Mitchells Cottage	Located 13 km South of Alexandra this cottage was built with local stone and started in 1880. The building is noted as a Category 1 Historic Place.
1130	Travel through to Clyde for lunch	The old historic town of Clyde is located on the Clutha River. Take a step back in time and relax for a leisurely lunch here
1230	Suggested lunch: The Bank Cafe	

1400	Drive to Bannockburn	Wine Country and the heart of New Zealand's famous Pinot Noir country
1430	Carrick Wines	Nestled at the southern end of one of the broad glacial river valleys, Bannockburn enjoys a continental climate with low rainfall and high sunshine hours creating ideal conditions for the production of Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Riesling. Other grape varieties such as Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Gris also thrive in Central Otago's microclimate.
Other suggested activities		
	The Central Otago Arts Trail	The Central Otago Arts Trail offers a unique artistic experience. It is an opportunity to personally meet talented local artists in their studios and visit their galleries.
	Central Otago Wineries and Vineyards	A vineyard circuit through and around Central Otago. Many wineries have cellar door tastings and restaurants.
	Central Otago Cycle Rail Trail	This is one of a network of special cycle trails throughout New Zealand. Walkers, cyclists and horse riders can follow the former Otago Central Branch railway line for up to 150 kilometres. The trail can be completed in sections or in full.
Suggested stay Option 1	Olivers in Clyde	The original stone complex, located in Clyde's historic precinct, was built in 1869 as a general store, servicing the prospectors who sought their fortunes during the Otago gold rush. Today, in recognition of its outstanding heritage value, Olivers is protected by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust with a priority category one classification.
Suggested stay Option 2	Heritage Lake Resort	Visit Cromwell

Day 2 Queenstown		
Time	Activity	Notes
0830	Breakfast at accommodation	
0930	Drive to Arrowtown (and then through to Queenstown)	Follow the spectacular Kawarau Gorge SH 6 (approx. 40-50 minutes)
1030	Take a look around Arrowtown on foot	The "hidden gem" of the Wakatipu Valley, historic Arrowtown is set on the Arrow River, once the scene of a massive goldrush in the 1860s
1230	Suggested Lunch: Stables Restaurant	The Stables was originally built in 1873 for horses, and the building retains the heritage of the town
1400	Travel through to Queenstown	Approx 20 minutes drive
Afternoon	TSS Earnslaw	A cruise on Lake Wakatipu aboard the iconic steamship the TSS Earnslaw is undoubtedly one of the best ways to experience Queenstown's famed scenic beauty.
1900	Dining in Queenstown	Queenstown has so much to offer in the way of dining. Our recommendation: Stroll the laneways and adjacent streets to choose a place to dine on the night
Other suggested activities		
	Shotover Jet	It's an amazing white water ride, as the Shotover Canyon walls tower over you, your expert driver puts his state of the art Big Red Jet boat through its paces.
	Spring Skiing	2 ski fields will be operating in late August in the Queenstown area. Night skiing is also available
	Millbrook	Millbrook Resort – golf, spa or visit for a coffee, bite to eat or wander the beautiful grounds
Suggested stay Option 1	Browns Boutique Hotel	Superbly situated in a quiet, central location
Suggested stay Option 2	Pounamu Apartments	Apartment style rooms with stunning views

Day 3 Queenstown

Time	Activity	Notes
0700	Breakfast at accommodation	
0800	Take in a full days Skiing at The Remarkables or Coronet Ski Fields or Dart River Jetboat Safari	The Dart River Wilderness Jet is a spectacular journey deep into the heart of the world-renowned Mt Aspiring National Park.
1230	Suggested Lunch in Queenstown: Public Kitchen	Serving "Kiwi cuisine" using the best local produce available in Central Otago, hunted in the hills or foraged from the farms around Queenstown.
1400	Skyline Gondola	Enjoy breath taking views of the famous Queenstown mountain range and lake as you climb the steepest gondola in the Southern Hemisphere.
Afternoon	Destination Queenstown	The adventure capital of New Zealand! So much to do here!
Late afternoon: Travel back to Dunedin		
Other suggested activities		
	4WD Safaris	4 wheel drive tours into the historic gold mining area of the surrounds of Queenstown, or choose to visit Lord of the Rings film locations, or go off road quad biking.
	Milford Art Gallery	Located right in the heart of Queenstown view emerging and contemporary NZ artists
	Ziptrek Eco Tours	Our multi award winning company offers a spectacular and fun zipline eco-adventure through the forest canopy high above Queenstown, on Skyline Gondola hill.
	Golf	Millbrook Jacks Point The Hills Queenstown Golf Remarkables Course
	Onsen Hot Pools	It's time to unwind with uninterrupted views across the Shotover Canyon. Completely private cedar hot tubs are constantly filled and refreshed with pure water.