**Queenstown Ski**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Snowboarders

Families

Non-skiers

Après ski

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

11

**Intermediate Runs**

27

**Advanced Runs**

32

**Total Runs**

70

**Lifts**

11

**Chairs**

6

**Drags**

5

**Gondola Cable Cars**

0

**Parks**

2

**Pipes**

3

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Coronet Peak: 2m (6.5ft); The Remarkables: 3.7m (12ft).

**Overview**

Queenstown is probably best known as the home of adrenaline activities, but come winter, it transforms into a full-on ski town. Skiers here will meet Kiwis on their 10th season, Queenslanders who've never seen snow, and British and South American backpackers on their round-the-world trips.

Most visitors stick to the two closest ski fields: Coronet Peak and The Remarkables, which are under the same management. But it's not too far to Cardrona, while Treble Cone and Snow Park NZ (a giant terrain park) are within reach too.

For most of the winter, Queenstown sits below the snow line, so while skiers are carving through the snow up in the mountains, they'll also be looking down at the green valley below. The vertical may not match that of resorts in the Alps or North America, but there’s still plenty of fun to be had, especially on a powder day.

One of the best times to visit is during the Queenstown Winter Festival, which takes place annually at the end of June – just as the ski season is kicking off.

**Location**

Queenstown is located on the shores of Lake Wakatipu in the Southern Alps, within the Otago province of New Zealand's South Island. The nearest ski areas, Coronet Peak and The Remarkables, are situated 18km (11 miles) and 26km (16 miles) from town respectively.

**Website**

http://www.nzski.com

http://www.queenstown-nz.co.nz

**Piste Map**

http://www.nzski.com/images/RE\_TM\_11.jpg

**Hit The Slopes**

The ski season in Coronet Peak usually starts before that of The Remarkables resort, running from early June until early October as opposed to late June until mid-October.

Coronet Peak has had a complete makeover in the last couple of years. A recently built NZ$32m base lodge is one of the best in the world and compliments one of the Southern Hemisphere's most extensive automated snowmaking systems, made up of more than 200 snow guns covering all trails on the mountain.

There's a nicely graded beginners' area at the base, served by three carpet conveyor lifts. An express quad chairlift takes skiers and boarders to the top of the M1 run – a 2.4km (1.5-mile) blue trail popular with intermediates. Advanced skiers, meanwhile, can drop into the more challenging back bowls.

Across the valley, north-facing The Remarkables is a great place to learn to ski. The beginners' area is separate from the main slopes, beneath the day lodge, with three easy-to-ride magic carpet lifts.

The Sugar Bowl is a popular hangout for intermediates and snowboarders, with its blue runs, super-pipe and three terrain parks, including the Southern Hemisphere's only Burton Stash park (a natural terrain park maintained by hand rather than machine). Advanced skiers and riders can hike from the Shadow chairlift to some great chutes.

**The Remarkables**

**Resort**

357

**Base**

1620

**Top**

1943

**Coronet Peak**

**Resort**

357

**Base**

1187

**Top**

1649

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

Those who are visiting Queenstown should be ready for a high dose of adrenaline. Queenstown may be home to the world's original bungee jump, but the fun doesn’t stop there. Pulses will race during an aerobatic flight, or while jet boating, skydiving, snowmobiling, canyoning, heli-skiing or paragliding.

More sedate activities include the Skyline gondola in the town for wonderful views, a steamer trip on the lake, or a bus ride to nearby Arrowtown with its picturesque main street and old gold-mining town charm.

Further afield, it's worth visiting Milford Sound, the site of a fabulous fjord, which can be seen on boat or sea-kayaking tours.

**Family Fun**

Queenstown is an excellent choice for families. The gentle slopes are ideal for young skiers, and there are plenty of affordable eating and sleeping options. There are also plenty of activities, such as a fun tubing park for the whole family to enjoy.

On both mountains, the Skiwiland Early Learning Centres (tel: (03) 442 4692 in Coronet Peak; tel: (03) 442 4928 in The Remarkables) have crèches for children aged three months to five years. Kids aged between six and 17 can enjoy full-day programmes, including lunch and supervision or afternoon-only kids’ group lessons.

Lift passes are free at Coronet Peak to those aged six and under, while at The Remarkables kids 10 and under receive free day lift tickets.

**Retail Therapy**

Queenstown has more than just ski shops (although there are plenty of those too). The town has a host of photographic shops, art galleries, jewellers, fashion boutiques, bookshops and craft shops to explore.

Among the many retail options is In the Pink (31 Camp Street; tel: (03) 441 1525), a funky design store selling an eclectic range of gifts; while Out There Clothing (27 Beach Street; [www.otclothing.com](http://www.otclothing.com)) specialises in simple, New Zealand-designed basics, such as T-shirts and hoodies.

**Splashing Out**

No visit to Queenstown is complete without doing the original bungee jump at Kawarau Bridge. Alternatively, dive headfirst from the 134m-high (440ft) Nevis Highwire, one of the highest bungees in the world. Both adrenaline-fuelled experiences are available from AJ Hackett Bungee (tel: 0800 286 4958; [www.bungy.co.nz](http://www.bungy.co.nz)).

**Apres Ski**

Queenstown is a major party town, thanks in part to its laid-back culture and backpacker community; so visitors won't have to walk far before stumbling across a bar.

For a truly wintry experience, wrap up in a hooded Eskimo jacket (provided) and step into Queenstown's own Minus 5 Ice Bar (Steamer Wharf; tel: (03) 442 6050; [www.minus5icebar.com](http://www.minus5icebar.com/)), which stays at a chilly -5˚C (23˚F) and is made entirely of ice. Après-ski in Queenstown doesn’t come much quirkier than The Find (53 Shotover Street; tel: (03) 442 6757; [world-bar.squarespace.com](http://world-bar.squarespace.com)), which stays open until late and sells cocktails by the teapot.

**Eating Out**

It’s possible to find a different type of cuisine every night of the week in Queenstown, be it sushi, Thai, Turkish, pizza, pub food, fine dining or hearty New Zealand fare.

For delicious gourmet burgers with creative names such as Tropical Swine and Cockadoodle Oink, head to Fergburger (42 Shotover Street; tel: (03) 441 1232; [www.fergburger.com](http://www.fergburger.com)). Or, try Winnie's (7-9 The Mall; tel: (03) 442 8635; [www.winnies.co.nz](http://www.winnies.co.nz)), which is famous not just for its tasty pizzas but also for its opening roof.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Queenstown Airport (ZQN).

Distance to resort: 8km (5 miles).

Driving time: 10 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Public buses run within Queenstown itself. Ski buses operate from the Queenstown Snow Centre to Coronet Peak (NZ$15 return) every 15 minutes in peak times and to The Remarkables resort – this bus is free with a valid Remarkables day or multiday lift ticket; otherwise it too is NZ$15 return.

**Hotels**

Although it’s failed to diminish its great beauty, Queenstown has been a hotbed of property development in the past few years with many new lakeside luxury apartments and accommodation options on offer. Among these is a large choice of large, luxury hotels; all with great facilities.

**Alpine Lodge**

A comfy backpacker hostel with an open fire in the communal living room, Alpine Lodge provides ski/board storage and free internet access. Doubles, twins and dorms are available.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

13 Gorge Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Queenstown

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

New Zealand

**Telephone**

(03) 442 7200.

**Website**

http://www.alpinelodgebackpackers.co.nz

**Eichardt's Private Hotel**

Eichardt's Private Hotel is made up of five opulent suites in a historic lakefront building. Its cocktail bar is popular with locals and visitors alike.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Marine Parade

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Queenstown

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

New Zealand

**Telephone**

(03) 441 0450.

**Website**

http://www.eichardtshotel.co.nz

**Tanoa Aspen Hotel**

Tanoa Aspen Hotel offers hotel rooms and apartments (including kitchen/dining facilities) with fantastic views over Lake Wakatipu and The Remarkables mountain range.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

139 Fernhill Road

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Fernhill

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

New Zealand

**Telephone**

(03) 441 0097.

**Website**

http://www.aspenqueenstownhotel.co.nz