

# New Zealand

**The first country to see the dawn of a new day.** New Zealand (Aotearoa in the native Maori language) is situated in the south-west of the Pacific Ocean and comprises two main islands, the North Island and South Island; and some smaller islands. It lies to the east of Australia, south of the smaller Pacific Islands (Fiji/New Caledonia) and 2550km to the north of Antarctica. It is a long country, stretching 1600 kilometres from the top of the North Island to the southern end of the South Island. The capital city, Wellington, is centrally situated at the southern end of the North Island.

**The Landscape** is diverse: including rolling green hills to jagged mountains, rain forests and dense native vegetation, many white sandy beaches, some 15,000 kilometres of coastline, and numerous lakes and rivers. It has a temperate climate and although there are regional contrasts in weather patterns, climatic extremes are rare in New Zealand. There is no monsoon season and hurricanes are extremely rare, and do not reach as far south as Queenstown.



Although the total land area is 26.9 million hectares – about the same size as Japan or the United Kingdom – New Zealand has a population of only just over 4 million. Around 85% of the population live in urban areas, with the largest city Auckland (in the North Island) being home to 1.3 million people. The total population of the North Island is around 3.1 million, with the South Island having a total population of 1.02 million.

The first settlers to New Zealand, the Maori, arrived around 1000 years ago from the Pacific Islands. Maori had a strong culture and were established hunters, fishermen and vegetable growers. The first European to sight New Zealand was a Dutchman, Abel Tasman, in 1642, but he never set foot on land. Actual European settlement didn't really begin until the early 1800s, when Whalers, Sealers and Missionaries arrived in very small numbers. The European immigrant population started to increase steadily from the mid 1830s. Around 15% of New Zealand's current population are of Maori descent with 74% of the New Zealand population being of European descent. Other significant ethnic groups include Indian, Chinese and Pacific Island Polynesian. New Zealand's official languages are English, Maori and New Zealand Sign Language – all students are taught in an English-speaking environment.



New Zealand is a parliamentary democracy, with a stable diversified modern economy, including major agricultural and tourism industries, diverse cultures and innovative technology.

New Zealand has many beautiful birds and wild deer and goats in some locations. Remarkably, there are no snakes, lions, tigers, cougars, wolves or other such animals that will attack you in the wild. This makes New Zealand one of, if not the, safest natural environments in the world.



"The Beehive" Parliament Buildings Wellington

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Remarkables Park Ltd (RPL) wish to acknowledge Destination Queenstown, Tourism NZ, Statistics NZ, Neville Porter, Vicky Jones, and Tom Walter for their help in the preparation of this information. All care has been taken to ensure that this general information is correct, however, RPL does not take any responsibility for errors or omissions, or for information sourced from third parties.

# Southern Institute of Technology Remarkables Park, Queenstown New Zealand

The opportunity to study, live, work and play in one of the safest and most picturesque parts of the world will provide qualifications and memories for a lifetime. New Zealand is made up of diverse and outstanding landscapes with Queenstown providing the most stunning scenery in the country. A cosmopolitan resort with a vibrant local community, Queenstown offers a truly unique destination.



## Queenstown Jewel in New Zealand's crown

Queenstown is situated in an alpine valley in the south of the South Island of New Zealand. It is surrounded by magnificent mountains, including The Remarkables mountain range and Coronet Peak – two of the best known snow sports areas in the southern hemisphere. The town is further enhanced by its breathtaking water views across Lake Wakatipu (51km long and one of New Zealand's largest lakes), a number of smaller lakes and some magnificent rivers. It is the largest town in the Queenstown-Lakes District.

Queenstown's landscape is breathtaking. It has been used as the location for many feature films, including all of the Lord of the Rings movies, as well as Wolverine, The Lovely Bones starring Saoirse Ronan in the lead role as protagonist Susie Salmon, along with Mark Wahlberg and Rachel Weisz, as her parents Jack and Abigail Salmon respectively, and many Bollywood movies including 'I hate luv stories'.



## Four Season Resort

Queenstown is a true four season resort town and experiences four distinct Southern Hemisphere seasons:

- **Spring** (September to November) crisp mornings with warm days
- **Summer** (December to February) long, mainly dry warm days 20 to 33°C
- **Autumn** (March to May) clear, warm to cool days displaying glorious autumn colours
- **Winter** (June to August) cool, many beautiful days, snow capped mountains -3 to 11°C



Queenstown has relatively low rainfall (30 inches average per year) and low humidity. As a result it enjoys many clear, blue-sky days during all seasons. The low humidity means a pleasant climate year round, even in winter when the lower temperatures are exhilarating and the occasional snowfall is magical.

**A cosmopolitan and sophisticated resort town**, Queenstown has a permanent district population of around 23,000 and is the fastest growing region in New Zealand. People from all over the world call Queenstown home – its resident population is as diverse as the people who visit. Welcoming international and domestic travellers from its very early years, Queenstown currently hosts approximately 1.2 million visitors per year.

**Queenstown is known as the adventure capital of New Zealand** – from high adrenalin activities and sporting activities to the more leisurely paced adventures – there are an unrivalled number of activities in the district. More than 100 activities make the most of the stunning landscape; including bungy jumping, jet boat rides, sky diving and hang gliding, four-wheel drive adventures, extreme mountain biking, ice hockey/skating, and snow skiing and snow boarding (in the winter). For a more leisurely outdoor pursuit, there are 8 premier golf courses (within 45 minutes drive of Queenstown) which are mostly playable for 12 months of the year. When outdoor activities are over, visiting the vineyards for wine-tasting, lunch, or dinner, or taking time out at the movie theatres or art galleries, are enjoyable relaxing alternatives.



**Queenstown sporting activities and events** are available to visitors and residents alike. Those who live here can enjoy and participate in a wide range of sports on a regular basis. Venues include:

**Events Centre** – a multi-purpose indoor and outdoor sports and events venue. Outdoor facilities include: an international class cricket and rugby oval; an athletics field; 4 all weather practice cricket nets; tennis and netball courts. Inside the auditorium there is a climbing wall (with experienced instructors) and a multi-use space for four badminton courts or two basketball courts with grandstand seating. Organised social sporting leagues include, cricket, netball, touch rugby, volleyball, hockey, and basketball.

**Aquatic Centre.** This swimming pool facility opened in 2009 and includes recreational swimming pools, lap pool, children’s pool and swim school. This substantial complex also includes a fully equipped health and fitness gym.

Throughout the year there are many sports and fun events that are entered by a wide range of people and abilities including triathlons, cycling events, marathons, dragon boat racing and many more.



**Extensive walking, running, cycling and horse riding trails** seamlessly connect the whole district. They cater for all levels of fitness; trails that are perfect for leisurely strolls and those that challenge the fittest athlete.

Queenstown has an enormous range of entertainment opportunities. The many wine bars, pubs, and nightclubs are matched by a huge range of places to eat – in fact, Queenstown has 82 different restaurants, 28 cafes and 16 fast food venues. Because there are visitors and residents from such a diverse range of nationalities and cultures, there are international menu options that suit a wide variety of tastes and budgets. Coffee culture flourishes in the downtown and lakeside areas. In the warmer months the lakeside beaches are popular and the streets buzz with outside diners basking in the late sunsets, drinking locally crafted, award-winning beers and wine; and in winter, relaxing with an after ski wine in front of roaring log fireplaces.



**As a popular year round destination** for tourists, there are a number of excellent **accommodation options**, for every taste and budget; from 5 star hotels and luxury lodges to affordable backpackers. Prices range from NZ\$25 (backpackers) to NZ\$2,600 (luxury lodges) per night. A premium room in a good quality hotel is usually available for around \$150 per night. For a taste of real New Zealand life and great ‘Kiwi’ (what New Zealander’s colloquially call themselves) hospitality, there are also numerous farm or homestay accommodation options. Resident and long term accommodation consists mainly of 2-4 bedroom apartments and homes.



Queenstown is serviced by a Trans-Tasman (Australian) **International Airport**. Air NZ, Qantas, Pacific Blue and Jetstar offer domestic and international flights, with direct flights from main New Zealand cities as well as Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane in Australia. Currently approx 24 flights from Australia and 77 New Zealand domestic flights per week arrive into Queenstown. Flights are very competitively priced, and at specific times and during off peak seasons the airlines offer very attractive low price, special fares.



**Queenstown is an extraordinary education destination.** A wonderful place to embark on further education. A safe town with stunning scenery, a wonderful climate, wide variety of entertainment, great shopping and international affiliated banking services. Certainly, Queenstown offers a magical place to both study and live – an environment that will truly stimulate the mind, body and soul.

## Southern Institute of Technology Remarkables Park

*Remarkables Park offers the unique opportunity to study, live work and play all within the same neighbourhood*

**Remarkables Park** is at the geographical centre of the Queenstown valley known as the Wakatipu Basin. As such it is easy to access all the district has to offer from this location. Remarkables Park is an expanding and dynamic urban centre. It includes a well established neighbourhood and regional shopping centre. Remarkables Park offers the potential to study, live, work and play all within the same neighbourhood. Its relatively flat, sunny location provides 360° views of the mountains and walking access to the Kawarau River and Lake Wakatipu.



### Remarkables Park Town Centre

is Queenstown’s major regional shopping centre with more than 2 million people per year visiting the Centre. It is open 364 days a year; closed only on Christmas Day (25 December). The Centre provides a wide range of shopping to satisfy daily needs including the district’s largest supermarket (New World), general merchandise store (The Warehouse), and a department store, as well as many other shops offering everything from sporting goods to fashion; homewares to travel services. The restaurants, cafés and bar within the Centre offer great value dining. Two of New Zealand’s major banks have branches in the Centre and an extensive range of professional services also operate from within the centre: a medical centre, physiotherapists, podiatrist, Skin Institute (skin specialists and day care elective surgery) and New Zealand Immigration service.



The **Southern Institute of Technology’s** expanding Queenstown campus is based at Remarkables Park. This facility provides an exceptional teaching environment; new purpose built spaces, plenty of natural light, magnificent views, ample parking, easily accessible by public transport.

Many shops and businesses at the Remarkables Park Town Centre regularly seek part-time and full-time employees. So there are opportunities within very close walking distance for those studying at Remarkables Park. An international student on a student visa can work for 20 hours per week and apply for a one year full-time work graduate visa upon successful graduation, and a partner of a student can work full-time.

**“Play”** at Remarkables Park begins with the easy access to a major river (the Kawarau) and walking and cycling trails through and around Remarkables Park. These trails connect to the wider network of district trails. Remarkables Park is also very close to the Events Centre, Aquatic Centre, 9-hole golf course and just a short car or bus ride from all the downtown activities. An easy flat ten minute walk will take you to the shores of Lake Wakatipu, offering numerous water activities including swimming, sailing, and relaxing on the beach. Snow sports are easily accessible by bus or car to the Remarkables Mountains and Coronet Peak, with two more ski fields further afield in the district. If you’re into golf or wanting to learn to play, there are four 18-hole premier golf courses and a 9-hole course all within a fifteen minute drive of Remarkables Park, and four more 18-hole courses within 45 minutes drive.

From Remarkables Park to Queenstown’s downtown shopping and restaurant precinct is only a short ten minute car ride (15 minutes on the frequent timetabled public bus service).