

## The 8-day 'Otago Explorer' Queenstown – Wanaka

### Day One:           **Queenstown**

Arrive in Qtown airport from Auckland. Rob will be waiting for you at the airport and then it is off to your beautiful accommodation with its sweeping lake and mountain views, stunningly detailed villas and food and wine to write home about. Once here, you will most definitely not want to leave.

### Day Two:           **Glenorchy**

Take a leisurely drive around the stunning **Lake Wakatipu** to **Glenorchy**, the home of the **Lord of the Rings** and a really amazing place to visit. Funnily enough, nearby is a small town that goes by the name of '**Paradise**' and you will have no trouble seeing why. Here, we will venture out into the wilderness on the **Dart River Safaris**, a jet-boat ride up the picturesque Dart River. Your camera-happy fingers had better be ready for this!

Following the jet boat, a stop in at the Glenorchy café for a warm bowl of soup is always a good idea, even mid-summer. Having had some food, head back to Queenstown for an afternoon of leisure and a meal either at the lodge or in town.

### Day Three:       **West Coast**

Today will be a 'uniquely Kiwi experience' if ever there is one. The chopper will be ready at 8am. In we jump and off we go. On the schedule are the glaciers on the **West Coast**, **Fox** and **Franz Josef** for an amazing mountain experience. From here, we will fly over the **Southern Alps** into the **Maruia Hot Springs**, for a soak in some incredibly secluded hot pools that only the locals know about. Lunch at **Hanmer Springs** and then it's back to **Queenstown** for a celebratory glass of local NZ wine at **Bardeaux**.

*Your Lodge:*

*Matakauri Lodge  
Glenorchy Road  
Queenstown  
(03) 441 1008  
[www.matakauri.co.nz](http://www.matakauri.co.nz)*

### Day Four:       **Dunedin**

Having had a trip in the air yesterday, a day on the ground is on the cards. We are off to **Dunedin** for 2 days of art, cafes, the **Otago Peninsula**, the rugged **East Coast** beaches and a drive through **Rohan** to get there. Staying at **Corstorphine House**, a beautifully boutique experience and dining at the renowned **Two Chefs** restaurant, this will truly be a night to indulge.

## **Day Five: Dunedin**

This morning head out to the peninsula, towards Portobello and the Royal NZ Albatross colony. Larnach Castle is a must see too with the eastern peninsula beaches renowned for their seal and wildlife.

Following the coastal explore, a visit to the **Dunedin Public Art Gallery** to witness some of the country's most distinguished exhibitions is a great way to wrap up this city before dining back at the lodge.

### Your Hotel:

*Corstorphine House  
Milburn St  
Caversham  
Dunedin  
(03) 487 1000  
[www.corstorphine.co.nz](http://www.corstorphine.co.nz)*

## **Day Six: Wanaka**

Take a leisurely drive back inland to the small lakeside township of Wanaka, however be sure to pass through Roxburgh, Alexandra and take a look at the Clyde dam. Continuing on along the shores of Lake Dunstan into Cromwell, you could always stop in at Mt Difficulty winery for a sip of their award-winning Pinot Noir.

Wanaka is home to some of the most spectacular scenery on offer, with small cafes and great food and wine. Having arrived into Wanaka with its beautiful mountain-lined lake, check in to your accommodation and relax.

This superb lodge is Relais & Chateaux and appointed with the finest or everything on offer.

## **Day Seven: Wanaka**

Depending on the snow, today would be an ideal day for another heli adventure, this time involving snow!! The **Harris Mountain Range** is a majestic range of the Southern Alps, and offers skiing for any level skier. Let the chopper whisk you up into the hills, where fresh untracked snow awaits, a fantastic Chalet lunch, and the skiing experience to match no other. No lifts, no other people, no noise... There is of course the option for a day on Treble Cone or Cardrona, the local commercial fields offering groomers, high-speed lifts and scenery that will leave your camera battery depleted...

Staying at the famed Whare Kea, you will enjoy the hospitality of your amazing hosts in this great Central Otago lodge.

### The Lodge:

*Whare Kea  
Mt Aspiring Rd  
Wanaka  
(03) 443 1400  
[www.wharekealodge.com](http://www.wharekealodge.com)*

## **Day Eight:        Queenstown revisited...**

Today the remaining sights of beautiful **Wanaka** will be the focus before driving out via the Crown Range back to Queenstown. Driving along the valley floor beneath both the Cardrona and Snow Park ski areas, the **Cardrona Hotel** is next on the agenda for an ice-cold **Speights**.

Nestled into the hillside, this charming little pub has remained done up but as-is since the gold mining days past. Great grounds, excellent food, roaring fire and flowing beer, this really is a sight to be seen, not to mention their gluehwiien...

Having sampled some of the local ambience, it is off over the Crown Range and back to Queenstown for a fine dining experience, a bit of a look in town and the final slumber before departing our shores having had a truly relaxing, truly magnificent taste of "Down Under"...

### Trip Summary:

#### Dates:

Duration:        8 nights, 9 days

Pick-up:         Queenstown, NZ

Drop-off:        Queenstown, NZ

09 Costing:    NZD \$

USD \$

***(THIS COST IS AN ESTIMATE  
AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
ON REFINEMENT OF THE  
ITINERARY.)***

### What's included: (4 pax)

- *KDI services, administration and Itinerary Management Fee (IMF)*
- *Goods and Services Tax (GST) 12.5%*
- *All accommodation*