

Further information

**Whakatipu-wai-Māori /
Queenstown Visitor Centre**

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Queenstown day walks and bike trails

Whakatipu Waimāori
Lake Wakatipu



**0800 DOC HOT
362 468**

For safety hazards and
conservation emergencies

Cover: Macetown mountain biking.
Photo: *Guilherme Rosa*

This information was accurate at
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information on DOC's policies and
facilities, visit www.doc.govt.nz.

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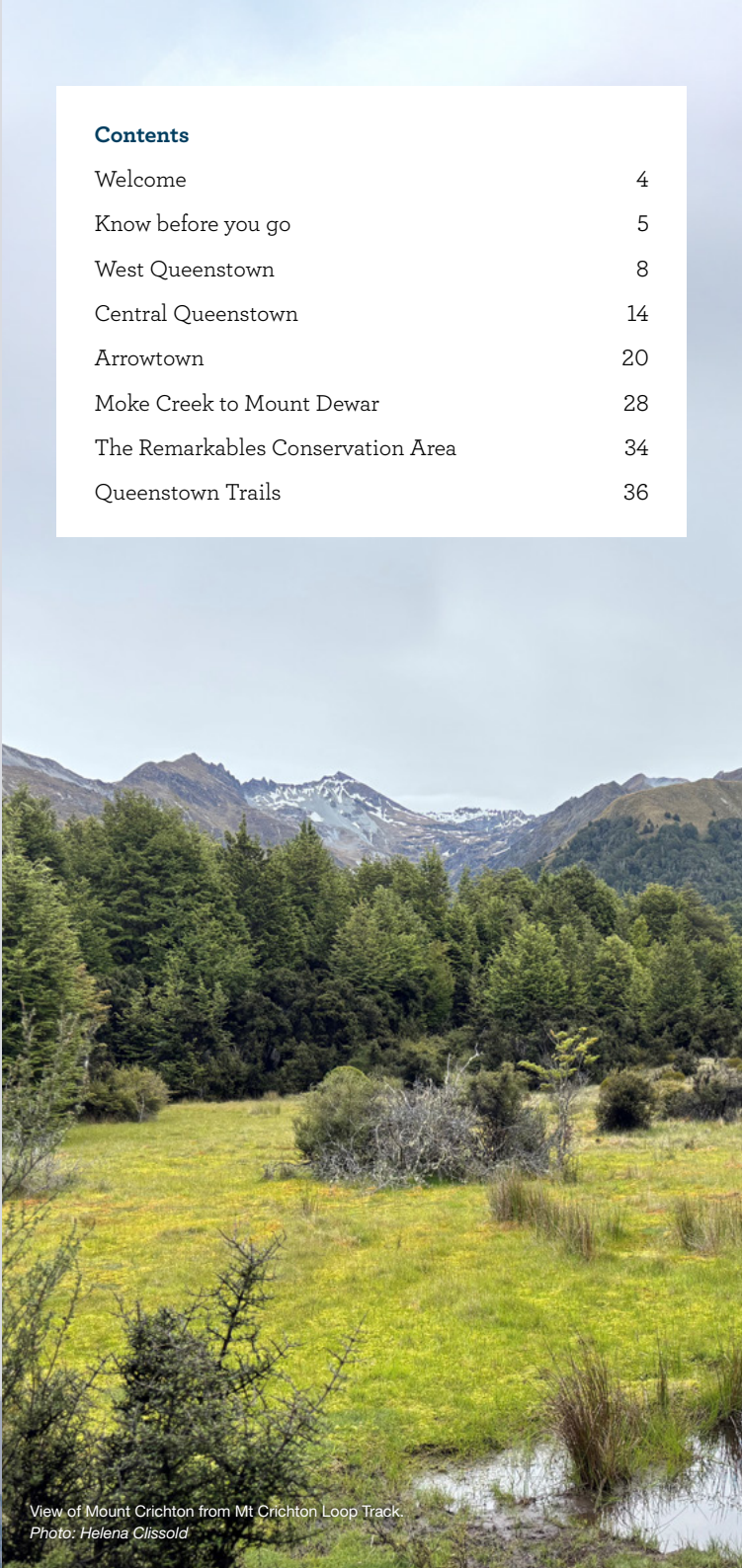
Track management

The tracks in this brochure are managed by:



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View of Mount Crichton from Mt Crichton Loop Track.
Photo: Helena Clissold

Nau mai, haere mai – welcome to the Whakatipu basin

The Whakatipu Waimāori / Lake Wakatipu area is a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts, offering a variety of tracks and trails for all levels of walkers and bikers. From gentle lakeside strolls to more challenging mountain adventures – there is something for everyone. The landscape is diverse, showcasing rugged mountains, lake-edge vistas, native bush and rolling hills covered in golden tussock.

This region was used by Māori as a base for seasonal hunting, food-gathering expeditions and the extraction of pounamu. There is also a rich history of gold mining and settlement. Glimpses of the region's history can be spotted along many of the tracks and found in the local stories and place names.



View of the Whakatipu basin from Mount Dewar.
Photo: Sarah Moreton

Know before you go

WEATHER

Always check the forecast before heading out – the weather in this area can change quickly at any time of the year.

The higher altitude tracks can be exposed with snow and ice from autumn through winter, and often into spring. Check with the Whakatipu-wai-Māori / Queenstown Visitor Centre for information on current conditions.

PRIVATE LAND

Some of the tracks in this brochure cross private land. Respect the landowner's property by staying on the track, keeping your distance from livestock and leaving gates as you find them.

DRONES



A permit is required to use drones on public conservation land. To find out more or to apply for a permit, visit www.doc.govt.nz/drones.



CYCLE SAFETY

Cyclists must wear a helmet, give way to walkers, keep left, pass on the right side of the track and follow the Mountain Bikers Code. For more information, visit www.doc.govt.nz/mountain-biking-guidelines.



BETWEEN WATERWAYS

CHECK, CLEAN, DRY

Stop the spread of didymo and other freshwater pests. Remember to CHECK, CLEAN, DRY all items before entering and when moving between waterways.

TRACK GRADES



Wheelchair-accessible short walk: Even, well-formed track offering easy walking for up to an hour. Suitable for people of all abilities, wheelchairs and baby buggies. Walking shoes required.



Easy short walk: Well-formed track offering easy walking for up to an hour. There may be steps or slopes. Suitable for most abilities and fitness levels. Walking shoes required.



Easy to intermediate walking track: Mostly well-formed track offering easy to moderate walking for up to a day. Some track sections may be steep, rough or muddy, and some minor stream crossings may be unbridged. Suitable for people with moderate fitness and limited outdoor skills and experience. Walking shoes or light tramping/hiking boots required.



Intermediate tramping track: Generally well-formed track for day or multi-day tramping/hiking trips. Some track sections may be steep, rough or muddy, and smaller stream and river crossings are unbridged. Suitable for people with moderate fitness and basic backcountry (remote area) skills and experience. Light tramping/hiking shoes or boots required.



Advanced tramping track: Mostly unformed track for challenging day or multi-day tramping/hiking trips. The track has directional markers, poles or rock cairns for wayfinding. The track may be rough and steep with unbridged stream and river crossings. Suitable for people with moderate to high fitness who have backcountry (remote area) and river crossing skills and experience. Tramping/hiking boots required.

CYCLE GRADES



Grade 1 (easiest): Fairly flat, wide, smooth track or gravel road.



Grade 2 (easy): Mostly flat, smooth track with some gentle climbs and easily avoidable obstacles such as rocks and potholes.



Grade 3 (intermediate): Track has steep slopes and/or avoidable obstacles and may be narrow and/or have poor traction. There may be exposure at the track's outer edge.



Grade 4 (advanced): Track has a mixture of long, steep climbs and obstacles that are difficult to avoid or jump over. It is generally exposed at the outer edge and may be narrow and/or have poor traction. Most riders will find some sections easier to walk.



Grade 5 (expert): Technically challenging, narrow track with giant climbs and numerous hazards, including dangerous drop-offs, sharp corners and difficult obstacles. Expect some walking and possibly bike carrying.

KEY TO SYMBOLS



Dogs on lead



No dogs



Cycling



No cycling



Mountain biking



No mountain biking



Four-wheel drive (4WD)



Track managed by
Department of Conservation
(DOC)



Camping



No camping



Horse riding



Fishing



Skateboarding



Historic site



Nesting birds



Rock climbing



Parking

West Queenstown

The tracks in this area can be accessed by heading along the Glenorchy–Queenstown Road from the Fernhill roundabout. Pockets of lush, green native plants flourish in this region, and mixed beech-podocarp-broadleaf forests, once abundant along the shoreline of the lake, can also be found. As you travel along the tracks, you will be able to catch glimpses of Queenstown's human history. Many of the shorter walks in this area can be linked to enjoy a longer, full-day experience.

1. Bobs Cove Track

30 min / 1.5 km (one way)

Start: Bobs Cove car park

Finish: Picnic Point



This track descends through native bush to Punatapu/Bobs Cove, where you can swim and fish off the shore. The track then climbs up a short loop to Picnic Point, where you will be rewarded with beautiful views of Punatapu/Bobs Cove, the lake and the surrounding mountains. Mountain biking is not permitted on the loop to Picnic Point.



Matai at Punatapu/Bobs Cove.
Photo: Sarah Moreton

2. Bobs Cove Track to Twelve Mile Delta

1–2 hr / 6 km (one way)

Start: Bobs Cove car park

Finish: Twelve Mile Delta



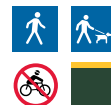
Follow Bobs Cove Track (#1) to Picnic Point or take the shortcut to the left of the junction – both tracks reconnect and lead along the lakeshore to the trail end at Twelve Mile Delta. Walkers can also use this track to connect with the Mt Crichton Loop Track (#3).

Budding geologists will delight in the ancient marine sediments that can be found along this track. Mountain bikers will find small but steep climbs with mixed terrain surfaces. Film enthusiasts will be interested to know that Twelve Mile Delta was a location for the Ithilien Camp in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

3. Mt Crichton Loop Track

2–3 hr / 6.4 km (loop)

Start/finish: Mount Crichton car park
on the Glenorchy–Queenstown Road



A local favourite, this loop follows along sections of Twelve Mile Creek and passes through tawhairaunui/red beech in the gullies. As the track ascends, it passes through tawairauriki/mountain beech and mānuka.

The Twelve Mile Creek gorge was worked intensively by gold miners and signs of sluicing can still be seen. A short side track below the historic Sam Summers Hut leads to an impressive rock fissure that was once used as a tail race. This popular historic hut (day use only) sits in the bush beside a waterfall and has been regularly repaired and maintained over its nearly 100-year history.

A link to the Lake Dispute Walkway (#4) is signposted on the ridge on the eastern side of the track.

4. Lake Dispute Walkway

1 hr 30 min / 5.6 km (return)

Start / finish: 1.4 km beyond Wilson Bay
on the Glenorchy-Queenstown Road



From the signpost on the Glenorchy-Queenstown Road, the track zigzags up through kōhūhū / pittosporum shrubland to Lake Dispute. There is a link to the Mt Crichton Loop Track (#3) at the southern end of the lake, offering views above Lake Dispute and across to Lake Wakatipu. The link takes about 40 min. Mountain biking is not permitted on the link track.

Note: This track passes through private land.



5. Lake Dispute – Moke Lake Track

2–3 hr / 5.8 km (one way)

Start: Lake Dispute Walkway (#4)

Finish: Junction with Moke Lake Loop Track



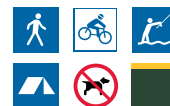
A 4WD track follows along the eastern side of Lake Dispute from the cattle grid near the southern end of the lake. The track heads up through a short, steep saddle to skirt farmland and follows the fenceline to Moke Lake. Continue around either side of the Moke Lake Loop Track (#6) to reach the picnic and camping area (1 hr 30 min each side).

Note: This track passes through private land.

6. Moke Lake Loop Track

2–3 hr / 6 km (loop)

Start / finish: Moke Lake Campsite



This popular undulating walk takes you on a full loop around the lake, travelling through grassland that is surrounded by mountains. A short boardwalk at the southern end of the lake protects an important wetland.

Note: Due to erosion, mountain biking is no longer allowed on either side of the peninsula. Bikers should travel on the western side of the lake.

7. Seven Mile Point Track

1 hr 30 min / 3 km (one way)

Start: Wilson Bay on the
Glenorchy-Queenstown Road

Finish: Seven Mile Recreation Reserve car park



Walk or bike alongside Lake Wakatipu before heading up through pine forest and regenerating native bush to views of Wilson Bay from Kirks Terrace. This track provides access to 7 Mile Scenic Reserve Mountain Bike Park via an uphill bike access trail. For more information, visit Queenstown Mountain Bike Club at www.queenstownmtb.co.nz.



Wilson Bay.
Photo: Eiji Kitai



Central Queenstown

This area has a mix of easy short walks and more challenging hiking trails, all of which can be easily accessed from the town centre and offer fantastic lake and mountain views.

8. Arawata Track

45 min / 1.4 km (one way)

Start: Arawata Terrace

Finish: Car park on the

Glenorchy-Queenstown Road



This track is part of the original bridle trail from Queenstown to Glenorchy and has interesting rock formations, native bush, lake views and access to rock-climbing opportunities.

9. Sunshine Bay Track

40 min – 1 hr / 4 km (return)

Start / finish: 1 km past the

Fernhill roundabout



This pleasant walk follows the shores of Lake Wakatipu to a quiet beach at Sunshine Bay. The track travels mostly through native bush but also offers some good lookout spots with views across the lake and to The Remarkables.



10. One Mile Creek Walk

1 hr – 1 hr 30 min / 1.9 km (return)

Start / finish: Fernhill roundabout



This track passes through a small hidden section of Queenstown's closest beech forest, where you can spot several native bird species. The track follows an old pipeline up to One Mile Dam, one of Aotearoa New Zealand's first hydroelectric power schemes, and then climbs up to a small waterfall. From here, retrace your steps or carry on (the trail from here is shared with mountain bikers) to the Midway Clearing on the Queenstown Skyline access road for access to the Ben Lomond Track (#12).

Note: This track is moderately challenging and you will need to follow the orange markers to stay on the trail.



11. Tiki Trail



1 hr / 2 km (one way)

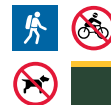
Start: Skyline gondola base on Brecon Street

Finish: Top terminal of Skyline gondola

This popular steep track zigzags steadily up through pine forest to the Queenstown Skyline complex for the famous postcard view. The track can also be used for access to the Ben Lomond Track (#12).



12. Ben Lomond Track



Ben Lomond Saddle: 5 hr / 11 km (return)

Ben Lomond summit: 6–8 hr / 13–15 km (return)

Start / finish: via Tiki Trail (#11) or via One Mile Creek Walk (#10)

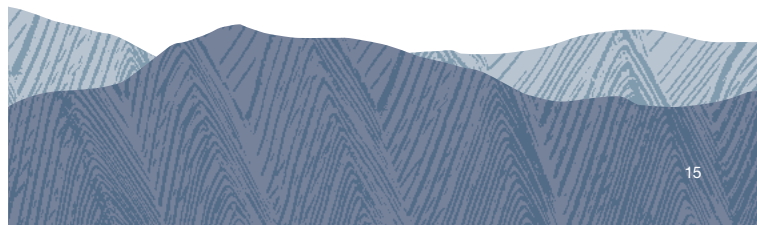


Be prepared for snow and ice above the bushline from April to November. Before you go, watch the video from the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council at www.doc.govt.nz/ben-lomond-track.

The Ben Lomond Track is a popular yet demanding full-day hike. It is a 1,438 m elevation gain when starting from Queenstown and taking the Tiki Trail (#11), which is the best access. Te Taumata-o-Hakitekura is the Māori name for Ben Lomond and Fernhill.

At 800 m altitude, you will enter alpine tussock and shrubs before climbing to Ben Lomond Saddle (1,326 m). The track then gets steeper and rougher as it approaches Ben Lomond's 1,748 m summit, where trampers are rewarded with panoramic views. In fine weather, the view includes Mount Earnslaw / Pikirakatahi and Mount Aspiring / Tititea.

Note: The track between the saddle and the summit passes through private land.





Queenstown Hill.
Photo: Sarah Moreton

13. Queenstown Hill Time Walk

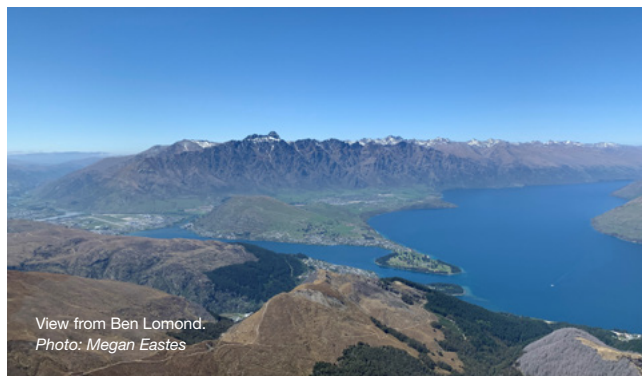
2–3 hr / 5.4 km (return)

Start / finish: Belfast Terrace



A local favourite, this track climbs some 500 m to the summit of Queenstown Hill, known by Māori as Te Tapunui or the ‘mountain of intense sacredness’. As you head up the track, you will see a small tarn surrounded by bog pine and the popular Basket of Dreams sculpture, which sits at the top of the loop track before the climb to the summit. At the summit, rock tors provide grandstand seating to take in the 360-degree panoramic view that includes The Remarkables, Cecil Peak, Frankton Arm and Queenstown Bay.

Note: This is a council-managed track that passes through private land.



View from Ben Lomond.
Photo: Megan Eastes

14. Queenstown Gardens

40 min / 2 km (loop walk)

Start / finish: Queenstown lakefront
on Marine Parade



The Queenstown Gardens are situated on a small peninsula on the shore of Lake Wakatipu, adjacent to the centre of Queenstown. Here, you can stroll along the lakeshore, explore the rose garden or play a round of frisbee golf – all while enjoying great views. There is also a playground for tamariki (children) on the Marine Parade side and a skate park by Park Street.



15. Frankton Arm Walkway

1 hr – 1 hr 30 min / 7 km (one way)

Start: Park Street

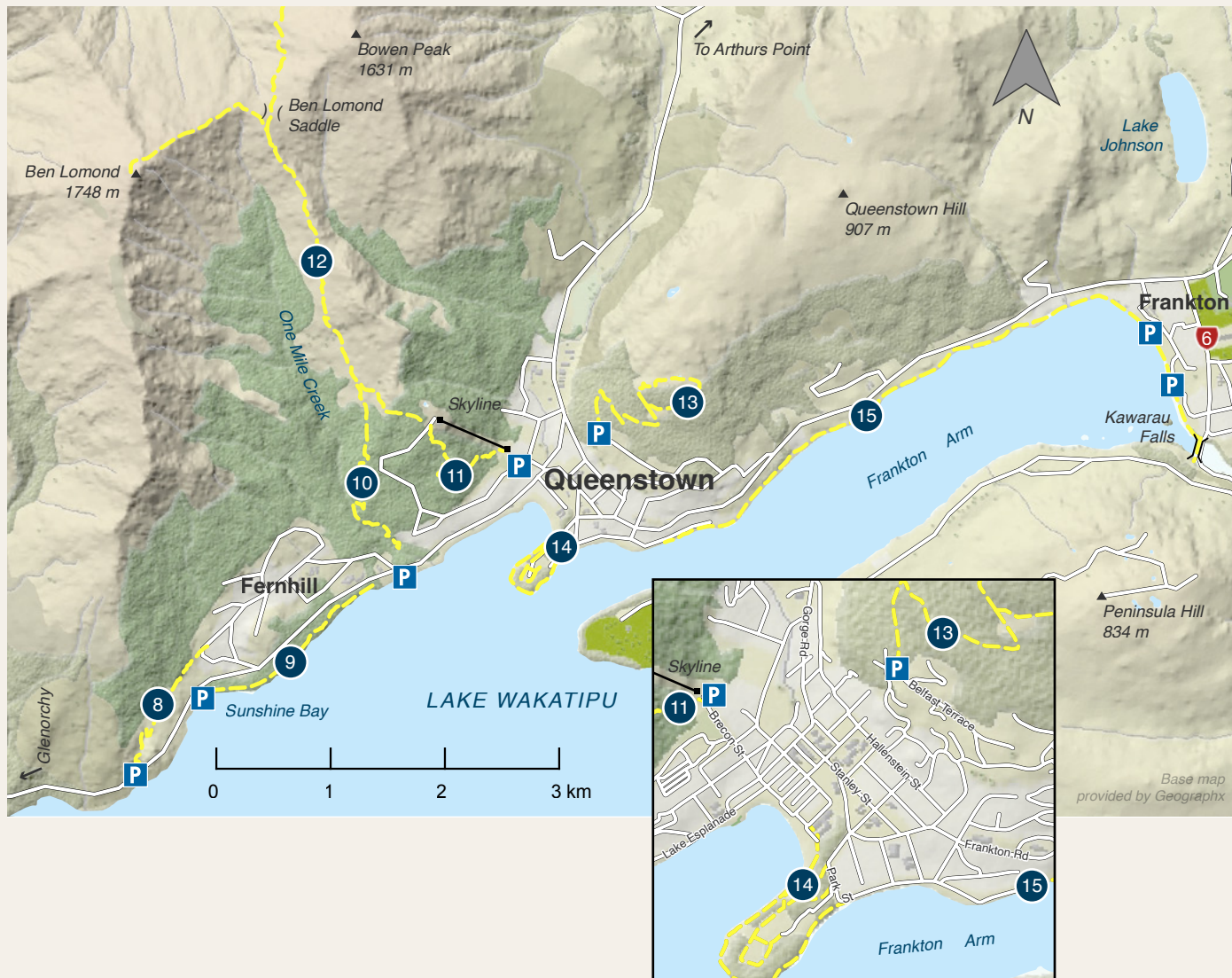
Finish: Frankton Beach



This wide, flat track follows the lakeshore and offers particularly good views of The Remarkables. Finish at the popular Frankton Beach or continue along the beach to the historic Kawarau Falls Bridge. This is a shared-use trail and part of the Queenstown Trail network, so walkers please keep to the left and riders pass on the right.

Note: The track from Queenstown to Frankton is mostly gravel but is suitable for most wheelchairs (there is a short, steep rise at Battery Hill where assistance may be required).





Arrowtown

Arrowtown, known by tangata whenua as Kā-muriwai, is a charming heritage village near Queenstown known for its gold mining history. This area has plenty of trails for walking and cycling that take in the historic sites and the beautiful scenery. Mahu Whenua tracks are also accessed from here. Mahu Whenua, meaning 'heal the land', is an area of private land under Queen Elizabeth II National Trust protective covenants. Arrowtown is also a hub for the Queenstown Trail network.



Bush Creek
Photo: Sarah Moreton

16. Arrowtown Chinese Settlement



On the banks of Bush Creek near Buckingham Street is the partially restored Arrowtown Chinese Settlement. A Tohu Whenua landmark, this settlement is a reminder and tribute to the contribution made by Chinese gold miners and businesspeople to the region's gold mining, cultural and business history. Here, you can read about how the community lived during the gold rush and explore the restored huts and Ah Lum's store, which was once central to this community.



17. Arrow Gorge Track



25 min / 1.5 km (one way)

Start: Across Bush Creek from

Arrowtown Chinese Settlement

Finish: Norman Smith footbridge

This relaxing walk or ride above the Arrow River follows the pipeline next to Macetown Road. About 20 min into the trail, you will pass the spot where the Sawpit Gully stream becomes a small waterfall. The trail then reaches the Norman Smith footbridge and joins the Macetown 4WD road.

From here, retrace your steps or return via the road (if taking the road, some river crossings are necessary).



Arrowtown Chinese Settlement. Photo: DOC

18. Arrowtown Millennium Walk



1 hr / 4 km (loop)

Start / finish: Butler Green car park off
Ramshaw Lane or Ford Street

This relaxing stroll or ride along the banks of the Arrow River is a wide, easy, tree-lined loop track that was built in 1998 to commemorate 150 years of European settlement in Otago. To make this track a loop, cross the bridges opposite Tobins Track and Centennial Avenue Reserve. Part of this trail was the location for the Gladden Fields in *The Lord of the Rings*. It forms a section of the Arrow River Bridges Trail, part of the Queenstown Trail network. It also connects to the Tobins Track (#19) and there is a skate park next to the track near Ramshaw Lane.



19. Tobins Track



1 hr / 6.3 km (return)

Start / finish: True left of the Arrow River
along Arrowtown Millenium Walk (#18)
near O'Callaghan Park on Ford Street

This 4WD track climbs up to the Crown Terrace for spectacular views of the Whakatipu basin and the surrounding mountains. The entrance to the New Chum Gully Track (#24) is halfway up the track on the left-hand side.



20. Bush Creek Track

1 hr 30 min / 6.5 km (one way)

Start: Arrowtown Chinese Settlement

Finish: Bush Creek Saddle



This walk travels along the charming Bush Creek to Arrowtown's old water supply intake (built in 1881) and up to an open basin and Bush Creek Saddle for great views over the Whakatipu basin. Some sections have recently been upgraded so that bikers can enjoy it too. To begin the track, cross the small footbridge opposite the Chinese Settlement and turn left. From the dirt road, follow the track alongside Bush Creek where stone walls can be seen in the river, reportedly built by Chinese gold miners to divert water from one side to the other so they could work the dry side. The track then heads over the footbridge at the start of the Sawpit Gully Trail (#21). Turn left to follow the Bush Creek Track.

Note: This track passes through private land.



21. Sawpit Gully Trail

3 hr / 7.9 km (loop)

Start / finish: Arrowtown Chinese Settlement,

Arrow Gorge Track (#17) or Bush Creek Track (#20)



A local favourite, this loop walk has a great variety of scenery and can be walked in either direction. Head up the Arrow River, either following the Arrow Gorge Track (#17) along the pipeline or from Macetown Road, crossing the bridge over the river. Sidle along the gorge, crossing a small creek several times before entering tussock-covered hills and climbing to Eichardt's Flat (and the access to Big Hill [#22]). From here, descend towards Bush Creek while enjoying magnificent views of the Whakatipu basin.

Note: This track passes through private land.



22. Big Hill Trail

8 hr / 15.5 km (return)

Start / finish: Arrowtown Chinese Settlement,

Arrow Gorge Track (#17) or Bush Creek Track (#20)



The Big Hill Trail was the main route to Macetown until the opening of Macetown Road in 1884. Today, the trail follows the old bridle trail, climbing steadily from Bush Creek via Eichardt's Flat to a high saddle with grand views over the Arrow basin. From here, you can return on the same route or descend steeply to Eight Mile Creek before following the creek downstream to the Macetown 4WD road.

Note: This track passes through private land.



23. Macetown 4WD road to Macetown Historic Reserve

3–4 hr / 15 km (one way)

Start: Across Bush Creek from

Arrowtown Chinese Settlement

Finish: Macetown Historic Reserve



The terrain on this track is difficult and includes sections of narrow 4WD track with steep drop-offs, blind corners and 23 unbridged river crossings. Only drive this road if you have experience driving 4WD vehicles on this type of terrain – you should be self-sufficient and carry appropriate recovery equipment. Walkers, bikers and horse riders should take care around 4WD vehicles on the road.



The Arrow River can rise rapidly when raining and should not be accessed during the winter months.

Walk or ride along the Macetown 4WD road to the Macetown Historic Reserve, passing many historical points of interest along the way. The road crosses the Arrow River numerous



times, and there is a highline for walkers and bikers to use if they want to avoid the river crossings. To reach the highline, start at the Arrow Gorge Track (#17) and cross the Norman Smith footbridge (note there are narrow steps) before joining Macetown Road – the next crossing has a highline on the true left of the river.

From Eight Mile Creek onwards, walkers can keep their feet dry by following a narrow and exposed track for the last few kilometres. Be aware that this track is challenging, so you should follow the orange poles and less-confident riders should walk this section or take the road and river crossings.

Macetown is the start and finish of the Motatapu Track that links with Glendhu Bay, near Wānaka.



24. New Chum Gully Track

2 hr 30 min – 3 hr / 7.5 km (loop)

Start / finish: Via Tobins Track (#19)



This track offers a great variety of terrain and scenery and can be walked in either direction. The ridgeline of Glencoe Station is poled with orange markers and offers great views over Arrowtown and the Whakatipu basin. The track leads alongside the streams of New Chum Gully, which was well-mined during the gold rush era, and evidence of sluicing and the remains of water races can still be seen. This track can be walked as a loop using the Arrow Gorge Track (#17) to / from the Norman Smith footbridge and the Tobins Track (#19). A good level of fitness and sturdy footwear is required.

Note: This track passes through private land.



25. Lake Hayes Walkway

2–3 hr / 8 km (loop)

Start / finish: Lake Hayes Pavilion

(off State Highway 6), Lake Hayes Reserve

(northern end, via Arrowtown-Lake Hayes Road)

or via Rutherford Road



Stroll, walk, run or cycle around Wai Whakaata / Lake Hayes, which is surrounded by spectacular mountains and home to a population of pūteketēke / Australasian crested grebes. In 2021, the Wai Whakaata Wetlands restoration project was initiated to restore the lake's wetland to its natural state. This track is well maintained with a smooth gravel surface but can be narrow in sections with steep drop-offs, although the trail is not technical. The track is part of the Queenstown Trail Great Ride network and is shared use for walkers and bikers.

26. Peregrine Loop Track

1 hr / 2.7 km (loop)

Start / finish: Peregrine winery

on Gibbston Highway

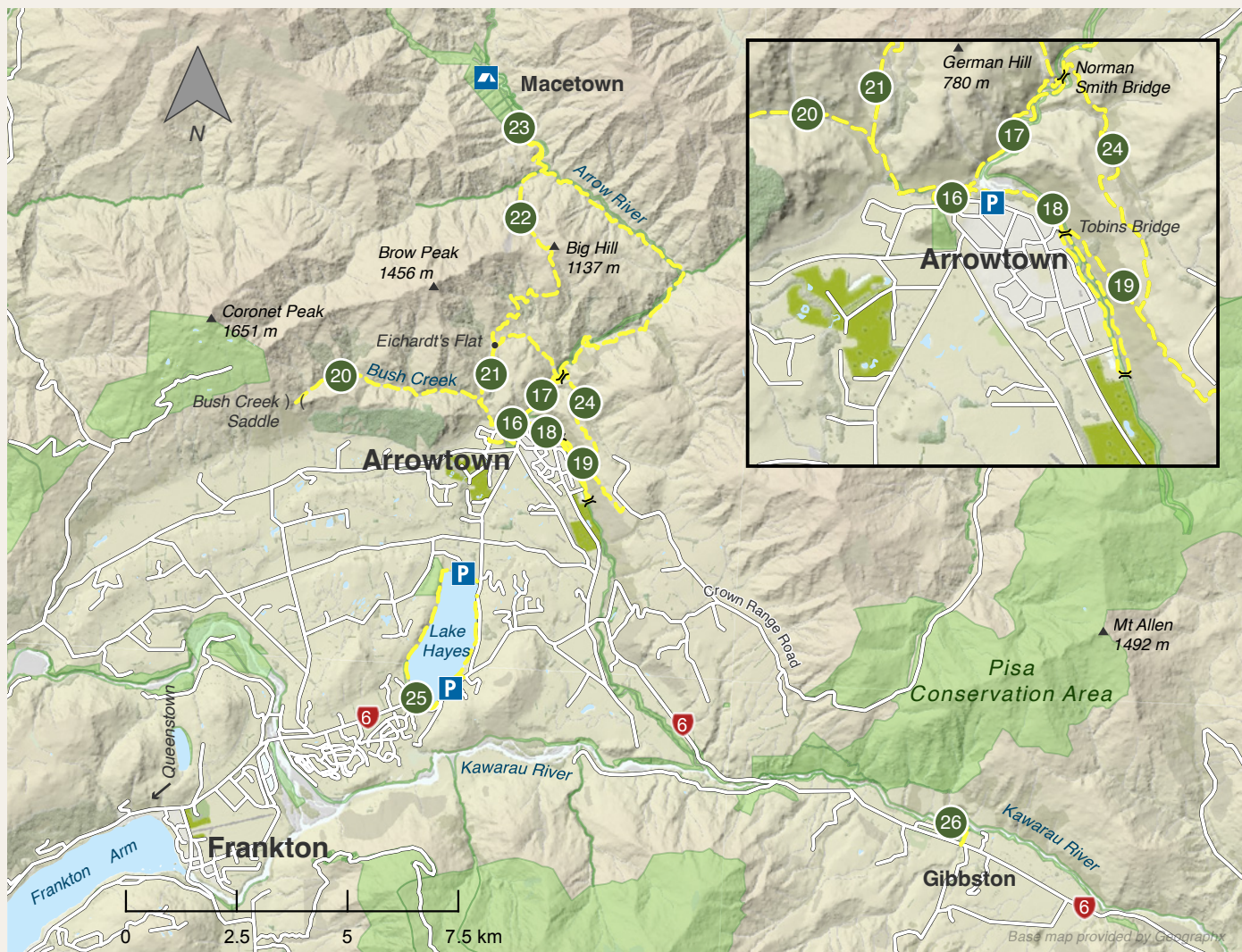


This walk is best started from the Peregrine winery and can be walked in either direction. As you head along the Kawarau Gorge section of this loop, enjoy impressive views of the Kawarau River (often a beautiful blue-green hue), as well as remaining traces of Central Otago's gold mining heritage.

This loop track is steep in places with some very tight corners – it is recommended for walkers or advanced riders only.

Less experienced riders can stay on the Gibbston River Trail, which is part of the Queenstown Trail network.





Moke Creek to Mount Dewar

These trails can be accessed from Arthurs Point on the Kimiākau / Shotover River and Coronet Peak Road. Choose from a short walk along the river, where Queenstown's famous gold mining once took place, or a more challenging tramping or mountain bike track that travels over tussock-covered hills and has impressive views of the surrounding mountains and deep river gorges that were once mined for their riches.

27. Moonlight Track

4 hr / 13.5 km (one way)

Start: Moke Lake Campsite

Finish: McChesney Road in Arthurs Point township



From the Moke Lake Campsite, follow the Ben Lomond Station farm road above Moke Creek (with a couple of short, steep climbs) before passing the remnants of the old mining settlement, Sefferstown. The farm road forks here – take the track to the right and pass the sign to Ben Lomond Saddle, then turn right onto the Moonlight Track (now a single track) and sidle high above the river to Arthurs Point.

The Moonlight Track is a single track with narrow and sometimes overgrown sections and steep drop-offs – bikers may wish to walk some sections. It can be done as a shorter walk starting at Arthurs point and returning before the farm track, for views over the Shotover River. Mountain bikers can loop this trail with Moke Lake Track to Lake Dispute (#5) for a challenging day ride (involving main roads). This track can be walked or biked in either direction.

Note: This track passes through private land that is managed by Ben Lomond Station.



Moonlight Track. Photo: Sarah Morison



View from Mount Dewar.
Photo: Felicia Kubjeziel

28. Ben Lomond Saddle to Arthurs Point or Moke Lake



Saddle to Arthurs Point: 4 hr / 13.5 km (one way)

Saddle to Moke Lake: 4 hr / 16.3 km (one way)



Be prepared for snow and ice above the bushline from April to November.

Follow the Ben Lomond Track (#12) from Queenstown to the Ben Lomond Saddle (approximately 3 hr). From the saddle, follow the poled walking track down to the Ben Lomond Station farm road and turn left to Moke Lake or right to Arthurs Point. The hike below the saddle is often muddy and there are several stream crossings. Be prepared for a challenging full-day hike that will be exposed to the weather.

Note: This track passes through private land that is managed by Ben Lomond Station.

29. Mount Dewar

1 hr / 2.5 km (one way)

Start: Skippers Saddle

Finish: Mount Dewar summit



This moderately steep track travels along a 4WD trail and through tussock grassland to the top of Mount Dewar (1,310 m), offering superb views from the summit. For a longer track experience, carry on along the Devils Creek Track (#30) or Atleys Track (#31). Be aware that this track is steep – most bikers will need to push their bikes.

30. Devils Creek Track

5–6 hr / 12 km (one way)

Start: Skippers Saddle

Finish: Coronet Peak Road



From the top of Mount Dewar, the track descends through tussock grassland into Devils Creek before dropping, gently at first and then more steeply, into Devils Creek catchment. From here, you can climb a small saddle and then descend to Coronet Peak Road, where there are great views of the Whakatipu basin. The track can be completed in either direction, but it is easier when starting from the Skippers Saddle side. Walkers and bikers can use the trail, but bikers should be aware that the climb out of Devils Creek is steep and technical. You can rejoin Coronet Peak Road 3 km downhill from Skippers Saddle.

Note: This track passes through private land.

31. Atleys Track

5–6 hr / 13.7 km (one way)

Start: Skippers Saddle

Finish: Skippers Road



From the top of Mount Dewar (#29), descend via a 4WD track towards the Shotover River (where you will see many historic gold mining features) to Atleys Terrace Historic Reserve and huts. From here, retrace your steps for a shorter journey (2–3 hr) or continue following the rugged track towards Butchers Point and Skippers Road. From the end of the track, it is another 5 km up Skippers Road to Skippers Saddle. If shuttling this section, be aware that the road is narrow and not for the fainthearted.

Note: This track passes through private land.



Atley Terrace Hut.
Photo: Sarah Moreton

32. Morningstar Track

30 min / 2 km (one way)

Start / finish: Car park at Morning Star

Beach Recreation Reserve



A short, easy walk along to Morning Star Beach – a scenic river beach spot opposite the Oxenbridge tunnel on the Shotover River.

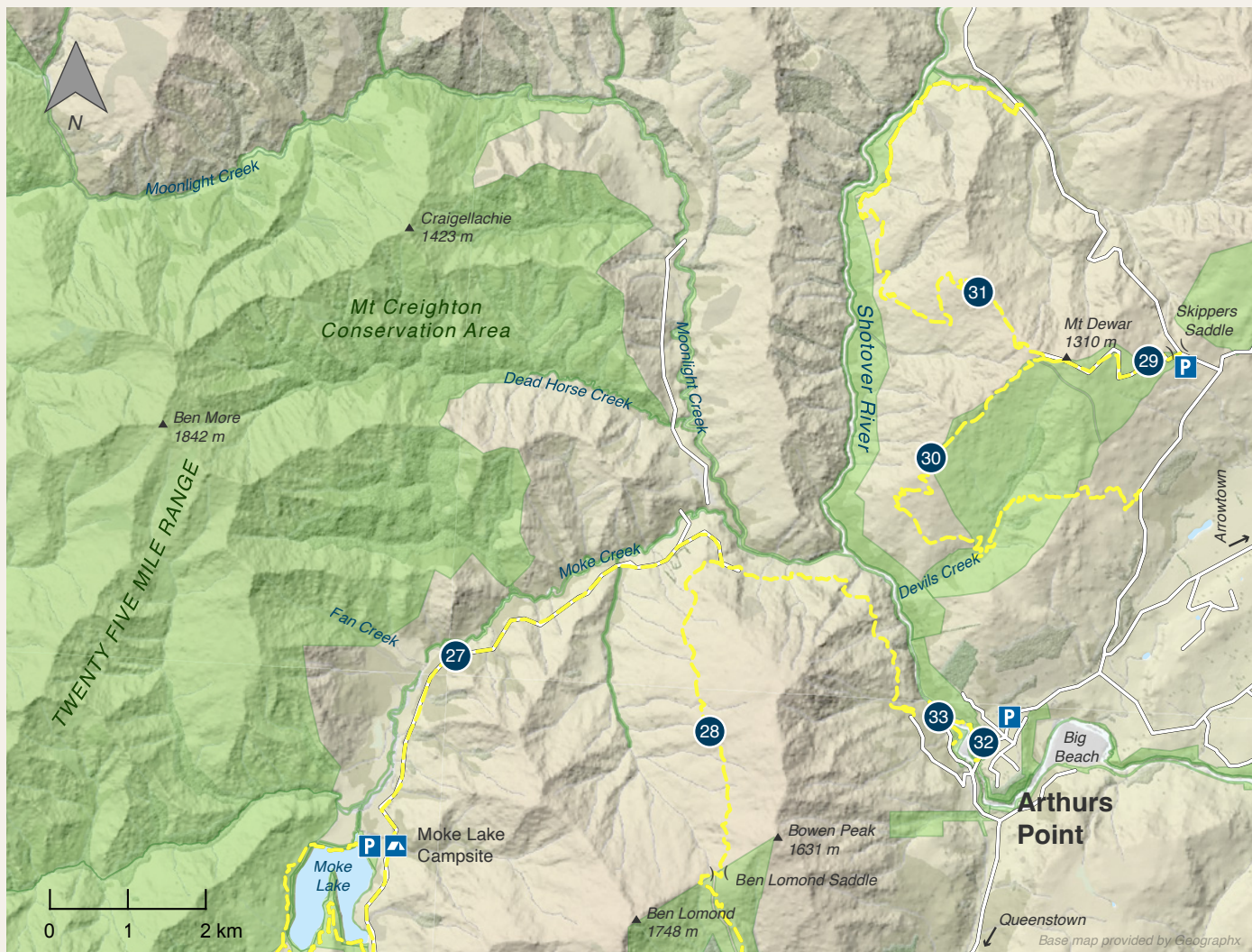
33. Oxenbridge Tunnel Track

20 min / 1 km (return)

Start / finish: Turn left just before the Edith Cavell Bridge at Arthurs Point (coming from Queenstown)

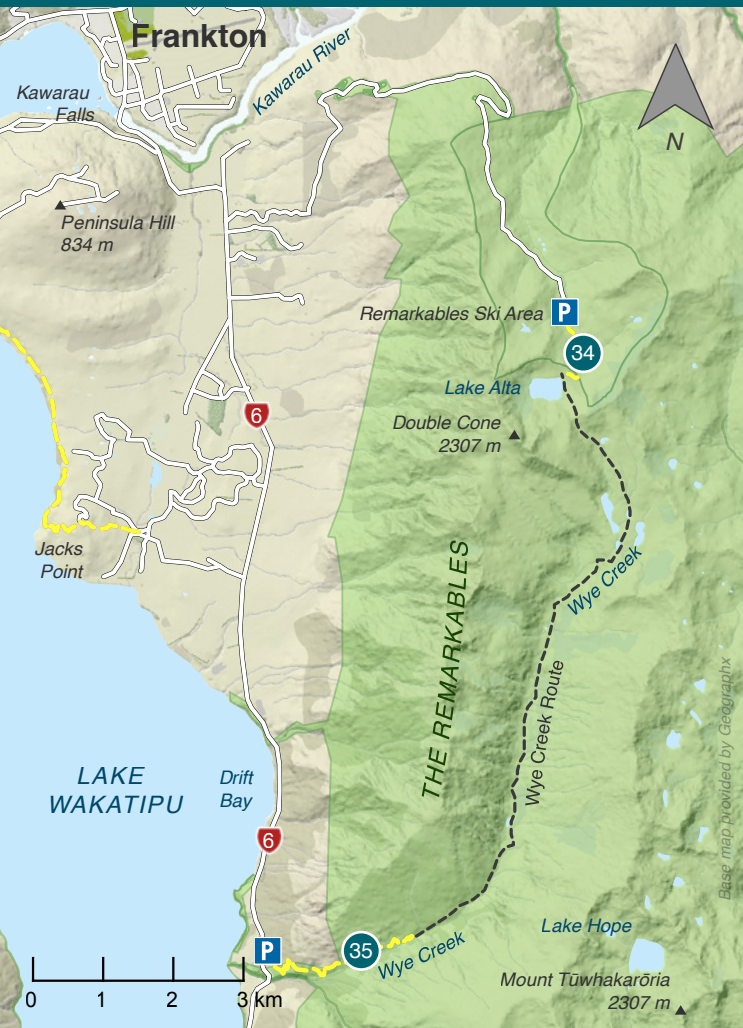


A short, easy walk to a viewpoint that overlooks the historic Oxenbridge tunnel river diversion and an old steam engine.



The Remarkables Conservation Area

Known for its rugged terrain and jagged peaks, the Remarkables Conservation Area is a prominent part of the Queenstown landscape. The traditional name for the iconic mountain range, The Remarkables, is Kawarau, the name also given to the Kawarau River to the north. It is known to have been a site of nohoanga (encampment) and mahinga kai (food and resource gathering). It is also a habitat for taonga (treasured) species. These tracks are at high altitude and suitable in summer only, although snow may still be present at any time of the year.



34. Lake Alta Track



1 hr 30 min / 2.4 km (return)

Start / finish: The Remarkables Ski Area



High winds and cold temperatures can be experienced at any time of the year – it is important that you take suitable clothing and equipment with you (snowshoes and poles are recommended during the winter period). Be aware that a road toll applies outside the ski season.

This track climbs steadily to the picturesque glacial Lake Alta (1,800 m), which is surrounded by steep schist slopes. During summer, the first part of the track follows a ski field road to the top of the Lake Alta chairlift. From here, cairns and flagstones mark the way through the alpine wetlands and up to the glacial cirque, where there are information boards explaining the alpine environment. In winter, access is through an operational ski field and the track is usually covered in snow.

There are fragile alpine plants in this area, so tread with care and take all rubbish and waste with you (including dog waste).

35. Lower Wye Creek Track



4 hr / 6.5 km (return)

Start / finish: Wye Creek car park off

State Highway 6 (20 min drive south of Queenstown)



From the car park, the track climbs for 45 min to the hydro dam, where you can cross to the right for access to popular rock-climbing spots. Stay left of the dam and head further up the steep tramping track, through beech forest before reaching the bushline and the lower Wye Creek basin. This trail is recommended during summer only.

Note: This track passes through private land.



Wye Creek Route is an unmarked alpine route. It is separate from the Lower Wye Creek Track and much more difficult.



Twin Rivers Trail.
Photo: Sarah Moreton

Queenstown Trail

The Queenstown Trail is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's 23 Great Rides and part of Ngā Haerenga New Zealand Cycle Trails. It offers an expanding network of over 150 km of scenic off-road trails for both biking and walking and connects Queenstown through to Arrowtown and Gibbston. These trails can be done in smaller sections linked together or explored over a few days. They showcase a variety of views from lakeshore trails, rivers and bridges to backdrops of spectacular mountains. There are many access and signage points along the trails that will help guide your way.

The following are some of the main trails – most of which can be linked. For more detailed information and suggested itineraries, visit www.queenstowntrails.org.nz.

Note: All trails listed are dog friendly, and the times given are for biking.

Frankton Track and Kelvin Peninsula Trail



16.4 km / 1–2 hr (one way)

Start: Queenstown Gardens

Finish: Jardine Park on the Kelvin Peninsula

The Queenstown Trail starts at the lakefront in the Queenstown Gardens and joins the Frankton Arm Walkway (#15) before heading over the historic Kawarau Falls Bridge (now foot and bike access only) and onto the lakeside trail to the Kelvin Peninsula. From here, head around the Queenstown Golf Club on the Kelvin Heights Sculpture Trail, enjoy the sculptures and take in some of the best views across the lake. This trail is a popular shared-use trail and suitable for all levels of riders.





Map courtesy of Queenstown Trails.

Jacks Point Trail

7.1 km / 2 hr (one way)

Start: Jardine Park on Poplar Drive

Finish: Jack's Point Golf Course



This undulating lakeside trail offers superb mountain and lake views and travels over grassland and scattered scrub, ending after a steep climb at Jacks Point. It is a little more off the beaten track and follows high above the shoreline. The track is classified as an advanced bike trail due to some tight corners and steeper, narrow sections.

Twin Rivers Trail

18.5 km / 2–3 hr (one way)

Start: Kawarau Falls Bridge

Finish: Morven Ferry Road



This trail takes in views of two of Aotearoa New Zealand's most iconic rivers (the Kawarau and Shotover Rivers) and showcases some of the more remote spots in the Whakatipu basin. The trail follows alongside the Kawarau River towards the Shotover Delta and on to the Old Lower Shotover Bridge, which is well worth a stop to take a photo and read the information signs. The trail then rejoins the Kawarau River on the other side of the Shotover Delta, where it meanders alongside sparkling waters. There are a few steady climbs and fishing and picnic spots along the way before the trail ends at Morven Ferry Road, where it connects to the Arrow River Bridges Trail, which continues on to either Arrowtown or Gibbston.

Arrow River Bridges Trail

13.7 km / 2–3 hr (one way)

Start: Dudley's Cottage, Arrowtown

Finish: Kawarau Suspension Bridge



This trail heads along the picturesque banks of the Arrow River, along the Arrowtown Millenium Walkway (#18) and continues along the river, crossing two impressive suspension bridges high above the Arrow River. The trail finishes at the historic Kawarau Suspension Bridge, which is now used for bungy jumping, or continue via the Gibbston River Trail through to the vineyards at Gibbston.



Gibbston River Trail

8.7 km / 2 hr – 2 hr 30 min (one way)

Start: Kawarau Suspension Bridge

Finish: Gibbston Back Road



Wind along high above the Kawarau River and through the dramatic scenery of the Gibbston valley's vineyards and Central Otago landscape. A small detour takes you to the historic Rum Currie's Hut, which takes its name from a returned war veteran who lived in this hut around the time of the Great Depression. The trail connects to the Peregrine Loop Track (#26), which is suitable for walkers.

Countryside Trail

13.5 km / 2–3 hr (one way)

Start: Dudley's Cottage, Arrowtown

Finish: Old Lower Shotover Bridge



This trail takes in the quiet countryside, Millbrook's avenue of trees and the rolling hills of the Whakatipu basin with a backdrop of towering mountains. For an additional loop, add the Lake Hayes Walkway (#25) or cross the Old Lower Shotover Bridge and take the Tucker Beach Trail.



Tucker Beach Trail

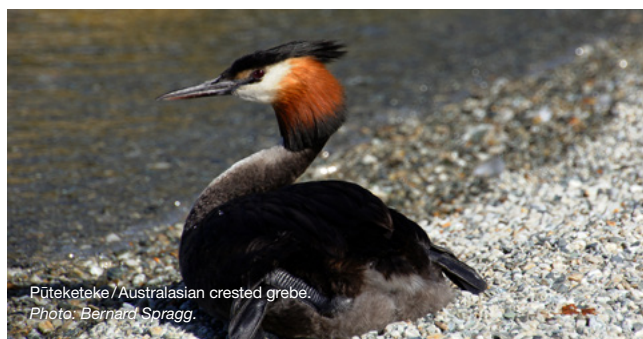
3.3 km / 20 min (one way)

Start: True right of the Old Lower Shotover Bridge

Finish: Tucker Beach Wildlife Management Reserve



This scenic trail heads around the bluffs above the Shotover River and along to Tucker Beach Wildlife Management Reserve. The reserve is undergoing an ecological restoration plan and is home to rare ground-nesting birds, so it is important to stick to the trails and keep all dogs on lead during the nesting season (August to February). From Tucker Beach, return or join the new Kimi-ākau / Shotover Gorge Trail to Arthurs Point (6.8 km) featuring a repurposed mining tunnel.



The maps in this brochure should be used as a guide only and are not for navigational purposes. The topographical maps for this area are NZTopo50 CC10, CC11, CB11 and CC12.

All times and distances given are one way and based on walking, unless otherwise stated. The times given are an approximate guide only – allow extra time for slower walkers or adverse weather conditions.

Acknowledgements

The maintenance and care of several of the tracks in this brochure, in addition to the DOC tracks, are thanks to the work, dedication and contributions of the Queenstown Trails Trust, Queenstown Lakes District Council, Mahu Whenua Covenant Tracks and Queenstown Mountain Bike Club.

The environmental restoration work in this area is thanks to the hard work of many local volunteer community groups. This work is ongoing and important for the future of the local environment. To find out more about this work, contact the Whakatipu-wai-Māori / Queenstown Visitor Centre.

Care for Aotearoa



Protect nature

Keep your distance and don't feed wildlife. Follow any rules restricting dogs, fires, drones or vehicles.



Be prepared

Stay safe in the outdoors by planning and preparing for your trip.



Keep New Zealand clean

Use toilets where provided.
Take all rubbish with you.



Show respect

Respect others, respect culture.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government

