

PLACE TO VISIT

QUEENSTOWN

TASMANIA'S TOWN WITH
A STORY TO TELL



You might think you know Queenstown. But the Queenstown of lutruwita/Tasmania's West Coast rarely reveals itself at first glance.

Tucked between the commanding silhouettes of Mount Owen and Mount Lyell, Queenstown sits deep within one of Australia's most striking landscapes. Once among the richest mining towns in the world, it remains the largest settlement on Tasmania's West Coast, a place shaped as much by its rugged terrain as by the people who continue to call it home.

Getting there is part of the experience. The road winds west through dense rainforest before opening suddenly into Queenstown's sculpted hills, a landscape often compared to a moonscape, yet grounded in a very real and complex past. Rust-coloured slopes sweep toward the town, framed by mountain ranges that seem to hold its stories in place.

From Devonport the drive takes around two and a half hours; from Hobart just under four. But distances here are best measured in moments rather than kilometres: waterfalls glimpsed through the trees, quiet roadside stops, and shared stretches of road that invite conversation and connection. By the time you arrive, the pace has already begun to shift.

Queenstown reveals itself slowly. Visitors are drawn into its rhythm, wandering through streets where murals bring history to life, stepping into small galleries and studios, or taking time to hear the stories behind the buildings that have stood here for generations. There's a quiet but unmistakable creative energy, shaped by both landscape and legacy.

Local artist Raymond Arnold, whose work has long explored the region, reflects this connection: "I am interested in the intersection between industry and wilderness." It's a sentiment that captures Queenstown perfectly, a place where human history and the natural world sit side by side, each shaping the other.

This interplay comes to life during The Unconformity, a biennial festival where artists, musicians and storytellers gather to explore the region's history, resilience and identity. It's an experience that invites reflection as much as celebration, drawing visitors into the deeper narrative of the town.



Beyond the streetscape, Queenstown offers a range of experiences that reward both curiosity and a slower pace of travel. Step aboard the West Coast Wilderness Railway and follow historic tracks through rainforest and river valleys, where the rhythm of the train and the stories shared along the way bring the region's past vividly to life.

For those who prefer to explore on foot, nearby trails offer gentle walks through cool, mossy forest, while scenic drives open up expansive views across Lake Burbury and beyond. There's space here to choose your own pace, whether that's a moment of stillness in nature or a shared sense of discovery around every bend.

Moments in Queenstown are often simple, yet lasting. The distant whistle of the train echoing through the valley. The hush of rain settling over the mountains. A conversation with a local that lingers longer than expected.

Here, connection replaces convenience. Mobile reception fades in and out, and with it, the pull of constant distraction, leaving space instead for shared experiences, quiet reflection, and the kind of memories that unfold naturally.

Spend a few days and Queenstown begins to reveal its deeper character, not just as a former mining town, nor simply as a stop along the way, but as a destination in its own right. A place where history is worn openly, where creativity thrives in unexpected ways, and where the journey is just as meaningful as the destination.

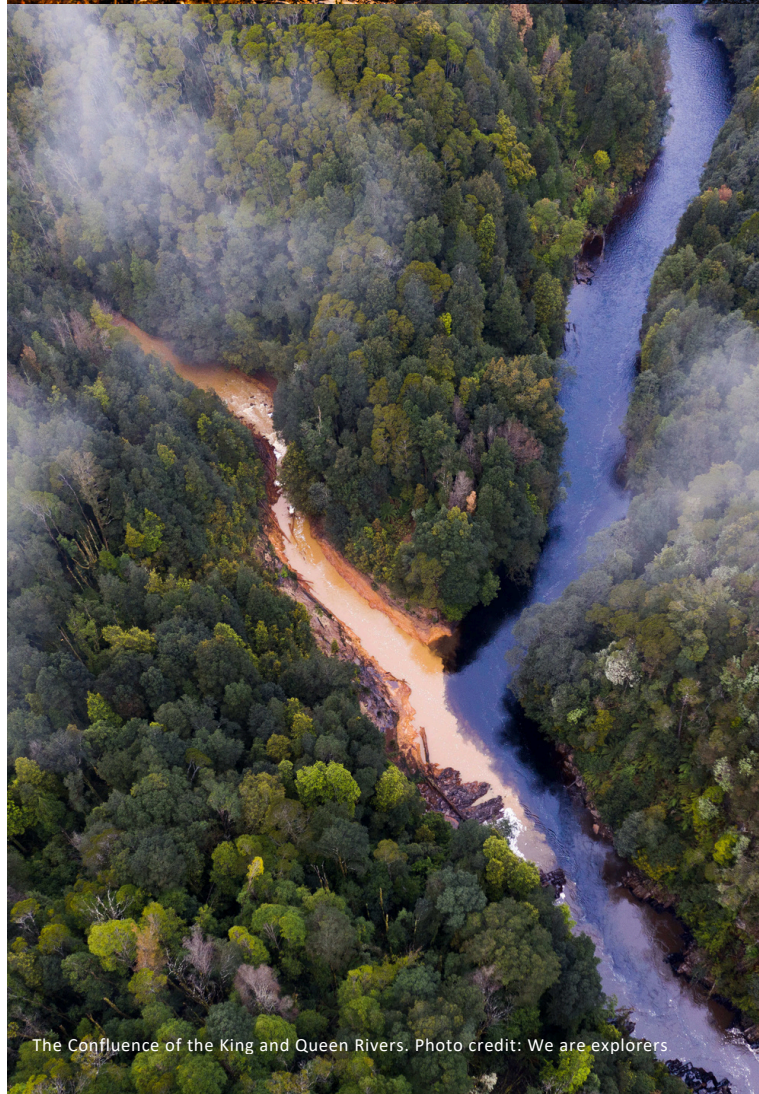
In Queenstown, the stories are real, the landscape is unforgettable, and the experience stays with you long after the road winds back out again.



Queenstown Gravel football field. Photo credit: The Unconformity



Queenstown Mountain Bike Trails, Mt Owen.



The Confluence of the King and Queen Rivers. Photo credit: We are explorers