

QUEENSTOWN

An aerial photograph of a winding asphalt road that snakes through a rugged, dark volcanic landscape. The terrain is steep and rocky, with some sparse vegetation. The road has white dashed lines on the edges and curves through the valley. In the background, a small stream flows through a narrow channel. The overall scene is dramatic and scenic.

3 Day / 2 Night Self-Drive Itinerary Queenstown, Tasmania

Target Market: The Journey Builder

For those who travel not just to see, but to feel, this journey into Queenstown is about connection. To landscape, to story, and to each other. It's a place that reveals itself, rewarding those willing to slow down and stay awhile.



Day 1

8.30am | Strahan to Queenstown, approx. 45 minutes

There's a subtle shift as you leave Strahan behind. The road begins to wind, the rainforest thickens, and the sense of the everyday gently fades. By the time Queenstown's sculpted hills appear, you're already somewhere different.

9.30am – Coffee and arrival ritual

Ease into the morning with a coffee at Tracks Café. There's no rush here - just time to pause before the day unfolds.



10.00am | Stories on the rails

Board the West Coast Wilderness Railway for the Rinadeena, Rack & Rainforest journey. As the steam train pulls away, the outside world slips further from view. Rainforest presses close, rivers appear and disappear, and the stories of those who built this railway begin to take shape.

Upgrade to the premium carriage and step out onto the balcony with a glass in hand - the cool air, the rhythm of the train, and the vastness of the landscape create a moment that lingers.



1.30pm | Wander and discover the town

Return to Queenstown and spend the afternoon exploring on foot. Wander the main street and seek out the town's ever-evolving mural trail, before stepping into creative spaces such as The Unconformity HQ, Soggy Brolly, Press West and Q Bank Gallery. These intimate encounters offer insight into Queenstown's thriving arts scene and the stories that shape it.

4.30pm | Arrive somewhere special

Check in at Penghana Bed & Breakfast, a grand heritage home perched above the town. Once the residence of the railway manager during Queenstown's mining heyday, the house carries a quiet connection to the very tracks you travelled earlier in the day.

Today, it offers a different kind of journey, one of comfort, character and considered detail. Settle in, take in the sweeping views over Queenstown, and allow yourself a moment to pause. It's the kind of place where the past lingers gently, adding depth to your stay rather than defining it.

6.30pm | An evening to savour

As dusk settles, head to Moonscape Wine Bar. Share a bottle of Tasmanian wine, linger over dinner, and let the conversation stretch into the evening.



Day 2

9.00am | Choose your adventure

Today is about going deeper.

Leave the car behind for a day and join RoamWild Tasmania and spend the day with local guide Anthony, a former miner whose connection to this place runs deep. This is not just a tour; it's an invitation into Queenstown's layered past and living landscape.

Venture underground into old mining tunnels, stand among ancient pines, or travel by 4WD into remote areas shaped by both industry and conservation. Along the way, stories unfold, of hardship, protest, ingenuity and change. There's no need to rush. This is a full, immersive day, where the pace is set by curiosity rather than the clock.

4.30pm | Return and reflect

Arrive back in town and step into the warmth of the Paragon Theatre. Sink into a sofa, order a drink, and let the afternoon soften into evening.

5.00pm | A story that stays with you

Watch Franklin on the big screen, a powerful, personal account of the fight to protect the Franklin River. After a day spent in the landscape itself, the story lands differently. It connects past to present in a way that feels immediate and deeply human.

7.00pm | Simple, satisfying, shared

Dinner at Empire Hotel is everything it should be: generous, unpretentious and grounding. The kind of place where stories from the day are shared across the table and linger long after the plates are cleared.





Day 3

8.00am | A slower start

Wake to the stillness of Queenstown. After breakfast, take your time packing up, there's no need to hurry just yet.

9.00am | A quiet walk with meaning

A short and rewarding rainforest walk, the Confluence Track reveals the meeting point of the Queen and King Rivers. The contrast in water colour offers a powerful visual reminder of the region's mining history and environmental recovery.

10.30am | One last look

Before you leave, take in a few final moments that define Queenstown:

- Stand at the Iron Blow Lookout, where the scale of early mining efforts is laid bare against the vast wilderness beyond
- Pause at the gravel oval, home to the Queenstown Crows, famously noted by Cate Blanchett as a place where "real footballers" are made
- If time allows, take the short walk to Horsetail Falls, especially after rain, when water cascades down the mountainside in full force.

Departure

Drive the winding 99 Bends, a journey in itself. As the road winds away from Queenstown, the landscape shifts once more. But something stays with you: a story, a feeling, a connection that's hard to define, but impossible to forget.

