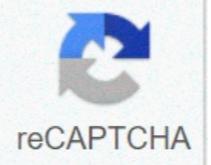


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Queenstown to manapouri

The attractive town of Te Anau lies nestled on the edge of beautiful Lake Te Anau the largest lake in the South Island and second largest in NZ, and is bordered on its western shore by lush virgin forest. Te Anau is the main visitor base for the glacier-carved wilderness that is Fiordland National Park offering spectacular ice-carved fiords, lakes and valleys, rugged granite tops and pristine mountain to sea vistas. Whether you love tramping, kayaking, hunting, fishing, mountain running, or enjoying our amazing wilderness by boat, plane or helicopter or just by sitting and gazing at our wonderful views from a lake-front bench, this is a full-on natural paradise that suits everyone's needs. Visit the Te Anau Glowworm Caves which begins with a cruise to the western shores of Lake Te Anau before experiencing a mysterious underground world of rushing water before drifting in silent darkness beneath the luminous shimmer of hundreds of glowworms. At the Department of Conservation Visitor Centre you can make plans to walk the Milford, Routeburn or Kepler Tracks & the town is home to a wide range of accommodation including lodges, hotels and campgrounds. Te Anau is the perfect place to stay when visiting Milford Sound. Restaurants are plentiful and give visitors the opportunity to sample delicious local fare like venison, lobster and seafood. Regularly scheduled bus services link Te Anau to Queenstown, Christchurch and Dunedin. Patea / Doubtful Sound spans a staggering 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the head of the fiord to the Tasman Sea. It is the deepest of New Zealand's 14 fiords and its immense size leaves all who visit feeling humbled yet uplifted by its powerful physical presence. The fiord branches into three arms which provide opportunity for scenic cruise boat passengers to explore up-close sheer cliff faces, impressive waterfalls and tranquil overnight moorings. Patea / Doubtful Sound also provides shelter to New Zealand's southernmost population of bottlenose dolphins and tawaki, the Fiordland Crested Penguin. Spend just a short amount of time immersed in Patea / Doubtful Sound and it is easy to understand why early Māori named the fiord, Patea-meaning 'place of silence'. Here, visitors find silence amongst a dramatic landscape with echoing birdsong or cascading waterfalls the only sound to break the stillness. With no road to the fiord, the experience of getting to Doubtful Sound is an adventure in itself. Patea / Doubtful Sound is only accessible to visitors by a tour excursion departing from Manapouri. Patea / Doubtful Sound's English name was inspired when Captain James Cook approached the entrance of the fiord during his voyage of 1770. The vast fiord was only just visible from the sea and Cook decided if they ventured into the fiord it would be "doubtful" they would be able to sail back out against the prevailing westerly wind. He named it 'Doubtful Harbour' and carried on up the coast. The area was renamed Doubtful Sound many years later by whalers and sealers. Today, visitors to the fiord bear witness to scenery much unchanged since the time of early Māori and Cook's cautious exploration. Patea / Doubtful Sound has kept its stunning beauty well hidden and shares it with those who truly seek a wilderness experience. Patea reflections - credit Real Journeys INCREDIBLE Patea / Doubtful Sound EXPERIENCES larger, yet less visited than its neighbour Piopiotahi / Milford Sound. Patea / Doubtful Sound is a popular choice for wildlife seekers and those willing to go a little further to see a little more. Day cruises and overnight trips from Patea / Doubtful Sound and Deep Cove are home to an educational centre and a small fleet of fishing boats which work just 120 minutes apart to bring you pristine cod and crayfish (rock lobsters) and many other ways to experience Patea / Doubtful Sound. Tours depart Manapouri daily. Fiordland Cruises in Patea / Doubtful Sound offer the chance to relax and savour this special place and to literally experience the 'sound of silence'. Incredible day and overnight Patea / Doubtful Sound kayak trips operate throughout the summer months. Budget accommodation available at Deep Cove Hostel Outdoor Education Centre. Take a scenic flight from Te Anau, Manapouri, or Queenstown by fixed wing airplane, seaplane (including landing on the fiord) or helicopter. GETTING TO Patea / Doubtful Sound Patea / Doubtful Sound is accessible by boat transfer departing from Pearl Harbour in Manapouri to West Arm. Here you will be awed by the hydro-electric power station of the Save Manapouri Campaign fame, and although tours are not available to the power station, you will have the chance to spend time at the information centre. You will then travel over the Wilmot Pass to Deep Cove where you will board your Patea / Doubtful Sound cruise boat. The Wilmot Pass is a 671m-high (230ft) pass connecting the west arm of Lake Manapouri to Deep Cove in Patea / Doubtful Sound. Day trips and overnight trips to Patea / Doubtful Sound include your transport by boat and bus. Patea / Doubtful Sound's inaccessibility is its crowning glory. While a Patea / Doubtful Sound tour will take a whole day, it is well worth dedicating the time to soaking up this epic landscape. DOUBTFUL SOUND WEATHER GLORIOUS on sunny days and breathtaking on rainy days, does it really matter what the weather is like in Patea / Doubtful Sound? Just like its famous neighbour Piopiotahi / Milford Sound, Patea / Doubtful Sound receives a huge amount of annual rainfall (around 6 metres/20 feet) and luckily for you, there's a good chance it will rain when you visit. So, pack your raincoat, your sunscreen and prepare for whatever may come. Sept-Nov: Spring in Patea / Doubtful Sound can bring higher rainfall and even snow to sea-level. The first forest flowers start to emerge - keep a lookout for the lovely white native clematis. The equinox period you can expect unsettled weather patterns including the occasional exciting storm! Daylight savings starts in October, making the evenings longer. Dec-Feb: The warmest months of the year in Fiordland. During the summer months Milford Sound often experiences a cool day breeze as the warm air rises. The best times of day to explore Milford are early morning or late afternoon and evening. Daylight hours are much longer so you won't miss out! Keep a look out for the Fiordland Christmas tree - the southern rates has bright red flowers, not to be confused with the pohutukawa found further north. March-May: You won't notice an change to the colours of the trees as Fiordland native forest is ever-green however the days will start to draw in and be cooler in the mornings and evenings creating moody misty scenes. The weather during the day is still a pleasant temperature but bring layers to beat the morning and evening chill. June-Aug: Surprisingly, winter in Patea / Doubtful Sound is the most settled time of year. Although the daylight hours are much shorter the skies are often blue and cloudless. The air is crisp and fresh, and snow is seen on the mountains. A trip into Patea / Doubtful Sound is a spectacular event with snow to low levels and sometimes even ice on the fiord! Bring lots of layers, including a warm hat and gloves and you will feel more alive than ever. Nestled on the edge of the South Island's largest lake, Te Anau is the spectacular stepping off point for those exploring the wilderness of Fiordland or those wanting to savor a place of peace and relaxation. With a full range of shops and accommodation providers, Te Anau is the perfect place to stay and experience the friendliness of small town New Zealand. Stock up on all you need for outdoor adventures, then stay for restaurants, lake cruises, glow worm caves, jet boating or even a glimpse of the rare, flightless takahē at Punanga Manu o Te Anau - Te Anau's Bird Sanctuary. Just a 20-minute drive from Te Anau, you will find the idyllic township of Manapouri sitting on the lakeshore at Fraser's Beach. Manapouri delivers a feast for the eyes. Thirty-three small islands dot the lake along with countless bush-clad coves and beaches framed by the majestic backdrop of Fiordland ranges which span as far as the eye can see. Te Anau is the point to begin your self-drive or coach and cruise tour to Piopiotahi / Milford Sound. Trips to Patea/Doubtful Sound depart from Manapouri with tour operators offering coach and cruise/kayak options from Te Anau or Queenstown. Lake Manapouri - credit Kendall DeLyser ACTIVITIES IN TE ANAU AND MANAPOURI The proximity of three of New Zealand's ten Great Walks places Te Anau firmly on the map as New Zealand's walking capital. Here, you can set off on the Milford Track, Kepler Track and Routeburn Track and other multi-day hikes. Many of Te Anau's activities are focused around its stunning lake and easy access to Fiordland National Park. Activities include: Lake cruises Glowworm cave tours Jet boating Fishing Scenic flights Find a full list of activities in Te Anau and Manapouri here. Te Anau's accommodation options range from backpacker hostels right through to luxury lodges. During the peak summer season, it is advisable to book well in advance as demand is high. Manapouri offers a small selection of accommodation options, but travellers will find everything from motels and private home rentals to a luxury lodge also. WEATHER & SEASONS Sept-Nov: This is the equinox period and a time when Fiordland often experiences unsettled weather patterns, including more wind and rain than at other times of the year. It is also common to experience the occasional storm which may bring snow to low levels. Around Fiordland, you will see lambs, daffodils and cherry blossoms. Daylight savings starts in October, making the evenings even longer. Dec-Feb: These are the warmest months of the year where temperatures can reach up to 30 degrees Celsius (80 degrees Fahrenheit). Although wind and rain are still common, it is likely that there will be longer periods of settled weather in summer. Daylight hours are long with dawn at about 5.30 am and dusk at about 9.30 pm. In the height of summer, the hottest hours of the day are from about 3.30 pm. Join the local children and families at any of the beaches for a BBQ and an evening swim. You might even like to jump off Te Anau's famous wharf. March-May: Autumn continues to bring pleasant weather with March is often warm and things generally begin to cool down towards the end of April and into May. Daylight hours start to shorten, and although the native forest remains green, the exotic trees in the townships start to change to vibrant colours. Late autumn brings the crispness of early morning frosts and mist. The senses start to come alive as temperatures begin to drop. June-Aug: Surprisingly, winter in Fiordland is the most settled time of year. Although the daylight hours are much shorter with sunrise being about 8.30 am and sunset about 4.30 pm the skies are often blue and cloudless. The air is crisp and fresh, and snow is seen on the mountains. A trip into Piopiotahi / Milford Sound is a spectacular event with snow to low levels. Bring lots of layers, including a warm hat and gloves and you will feel more alive than ever. GETTING HERE Access to Te Anau is via State Highway 6 and State Highway 94 from Queenstown, State Highways 1 and 94 from Dunedin or via the Southern Scenic Route from Invercargill. All roads leading to Te Anau and Manapouri travel through diverse terrain and interesting scenery - don't rush it! For information on getting to Piopiotahi / Milford Sound from Te Anau, read about the Milford Road here. Distances Te Anau to Milford Sound 120 kms (74.5 miles) allow 2 hours driving from Queenstown to Te Anau 170 kms (105.5 miles) allow 2 hours driving Invercargill to Te Anau 152 kms (94.5 miles) allow 2 hours driving Dunedin to Te Anau 290 kms (180 miles) allow 4 hours driving Manapouri to Te Anau 20 kms (12.5 miles) allow 20 mins driving Christchurch to Te Anau 652 kms (405 miles) allow 8 hours driving Skip to content Visit Doubtful Sound on a day trip from Queenstown. Cruise across Lake Manapouri, journey over Wilmot Pass, and discover the Fiordland National Park on a 2.75-hour cruise. Mobile ticketing Use your phone or print your voucher. Duration 765 minutes. Check availability to see starting times. Discover Doubtful Sound on a day trip from Queenstown Travel by luxury bus and enjoy informative commentary from your friendly driver. Cruise across Lake Manapouri and journey over Wilmot Pass to reach the fiord. Explore the waterways of the serene and isolated fiord on a 2.75-hour cruise. Be on the lookout for dolphins, seals, and even penguins. Due to health and safety regulations, this itinerary may change. See Know before you go for the latest updates. Visit Doubtful Sound on a full-day trip from Queenstown. You will board a luxury bus and travel along the shores of Lake Wakatipu, through the rolling countryside to Manapouri. Enjoy informative commentary along the way from your friendly driver. From Manapouri, you will cruise across the crystal waters of Lake Manapouri to West Arm. Then board a coach to cross the alpine route of the Wilmot Pass, through some of Fiordland National Park's most dense rainforest. On reaching Deep Cove, you will climb aboard a modern catamaran for a 2.75-hour cruise, exploring the waterways of this serene and isolated fiord. See waterfalls, rainforest, mountains, and wildlife. Your knowledgeable nature guides will provide you with engaging and informative commentary throughout. You will be treated to the sound of silence when the vessel's engines are turned off. Experience floating on the fiord, with only the rush of waterfalls and birdsong to break the silence. Bring your own lunch, or you may purchase snacks on board in the vessel's cafes. If you would like to pre-order a picnic lunch, you may contact the local partner directly after booking. When it rains in Fiordland, the landscape is especially dramatic. The scenery is spectacular, and you will stay dry and comfortable from your vantage point on the catamaran. At the end of your cruise, return over Wilmot Pass by coach and cruise across Lake Manapouri before the bus journey back to Queenstown. Round-trip coach transport Round-trip Lake Manapouri crossing 2.75-hour cruise of Doubtful Sound Commentary by your drivers and knowledgeable nature guides Complimentary tea and coffee on board. Drinks from the licensed bar on the cruise vessel. Safety measures in place. All areas that customers touch are frequently cleaned. The number of visitors is limited to reduce crowds. Please arrive 15 minutes before departure at the Visitor Centre, 37 Camp Street, Queenstown. Open in Google Maps — Product ID: 179873

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