





# NEW ZEALAND SOUTH

The Māori people tell of a legend where the wife of Kupe, the first Polynesian to discover New Zealand, first spotted Aotearoa, “land of the long white cloud.” Today, this continent’s vast wilderness tempts the traveler’s spirit to escape and rejuvenate in a paradise few can refuse. But to experience the heart of New Zealand, Queenstown takes the cake with being called the “heartbeat of the Wakatipu Basin.” Nestled perfectly on the shores of crystal clear Lake Wakatipu and surrounded by majestic cliffs, it’s easy to lose yourself in the stunning majesty of it all. Whether you’re a tourist listening for the Kookaburra birds to “laugh” or soaking in the beauty of Queenstown, New Zealand, know that you will never want to escape from paradise!

1. Milford Sound resides within Fiordland National Park, which was not discovered until 1812 due to many explorers fearing that escape would be impossible due to the narrowness of the cliffs and low winds to help ships sail back out to the ocean.
2. There are about 10 sheep to every person living here, around 39 million sheep.
3. Dating back to the 13th century, Lawn Bowls is a sport, similar to bocce, where one rolls a ball as close as they can to a smaller ball for higher points.
4. Queenstown Fallen Soldiers Memorial is a WWI memorial archway sitting at the entrance of the Queenstown Gardens and has the words “Service Above Self” carved in stone.
5. Encounter Nature Cruise gets up close and personal near the sheer rock cliffs and you maybe can even drink pure glacial water straight from the waterfalls.
6. Residing in the southwest of the south island of N.Z., the Fjords of New Zealand are a long, narrow inlet with steep sides or cliffs, created by a glacier. 15 in total.
7. Skyline Gondola is the steepest cable car lift in the Southern Hemisphere which rises above Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu at the top of Bob’s Peak.
8. The current New Zealand Flag was adopted in 1902 and has not changed, even with many debates over the years in changing it.
9. Bathhouse Café resides along the beachy shores of Lake Wakatipu and has been standing since 1911 as a historical gem.
10. Kookaburra birds have a distinct call that sounds like a laugh, or the sound you hear in lots of jungle movies.
11. Kiwi, which is also the nickname of New Zealanders, is a local bird with an excellent memory. For instance, it can be fooled by a recorded kiwi call on tape, but only once.
12. The Eichardt’s Queen’s Arm Hotel, became the historic landmark it is today thanks to gold being discovered near Shotover River in the 1860’s, making this building a resource for all gold enthusiasts.
13. The takahē bird was once thought to be extinct in 1898. However, Geoffrey Orbell rediscovered them fifty years later in 1948, isolated in a valley of the South Island’s Murchison Mountains.
14. Queenstown in New Zealand was one of the filming spots in one of the Mission Impossible movies.
15. Hongi is the traditional Māori greeting where two people press their noses together, sometimes their foreheads. It symbolizes sharing the breath of life, which is considered to have come directly from the gods.
16. The Te wero or “The challenge” is an interesting ritual held by the New Zealand Māori for visitors. First the lead Māori warrior advances toward the leader of the visitor with fierce eyes and a wooden staff in hand. He then carefully lays down a token of greenery at the foot of the leader from the visiting party. Then it is up to the visitors in how they receive the token, peacefully or with hostility.