

Mackenzie Region blurbs

(updated February 2022)

The Mackenzie

The Mackenzie is home to New Zealand's highest mountain, longest glacier, and the world's largest gold dark sky reserve. It's an elevated plateau ringed by mountains in every direction with a tri-colour palette: turquoise lakes, white snow-capped mountains and golden grasslands.

Spectacular scenery, spacious runs and family-friendly vibes create the ultimate snow holiday. There are three ski areas that are perfect for families with a laid-back vibe, uncrowded terrain and some of the best views in the world. Take in the stunning surroundings and skip the lift queues.

Step into the great wide open and discover the Legendary Mackenzie!

Lake Tekapo

Lake Tekapo is well-known for the famous Church of the Good Shepherd on the lakefront. There are a range of activities to choose from: horse trekking, paddleboarding, hot pools, scenic flights, stargazing tours and more. Dine and drink in scenic locations to suit all styles and budgets. Simply strolling along the shores of this beautiful turquoise-coloured lake is a sublime way to take in the peace and tranquillity of this alpine village.

Aoraki/Mount Cook

A visit to the Mackenzie Region isn't complete without a pilgrimage to New Zealand's tallest mountain, the mighty Aoraki/Mount Cook! There are many walking and hiking tracks, most of which are suitable for the people of all ages and fitness levels. The Hooker Valley track is one of the most popular with spectacular mountain views, alpine streams and impressive swing bridges. The village has a range of accommodation, cafes, restaurants and activities as well as an excellent DOC visitor centre.

Twizel

Twizel is the Mackenzie Region's largest town – featuring many excellent cafés, bars, restaurants, and shops. There are epic views of mountains in all directions and the town is close to five lakes – handy for boating, fishing and swimming. By night it is a stargazer's delight – Twizel is located in the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve. You can cycle some of the world-famous Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail with several day trips near town. Twizel is just a 45-minute drive to either Aoraki/Mount Cook or Lake Tekapo – making it a perfect place to base yourself as you explore the area