

Bungy jumping

X *X marks the spot*

The Kawarau Bridge bungy can be found on State Highway 6, 23km east of Queenstown. The Ledge Urban Swing is at the top of the Skyline gondola in Queenstown. The Nevis Highwire is situated in the Nevis river valley, and transport to get there is provided by A J Hackett Bungy, as the access is over private farmland.

?! *What the...?!*

If it's a thrill you are after, look no further than the Nevis Highwire! Jumping from a glass-bottomed gondola strung out 134m above the Nevis river includes 8.5 seconds of freefall. Or you can try the 3thrillo, which involves tackling all three Queenstown bungy sites in one day – make sure you have a light lunch!

Those were the days...

Back in 1988 when A J Hackett Bungy first opened in the Kawarau Gorge, the Department of Conservation granted them a 30 day operating licence for the year. Over the duration of the 30 day period, 28 people experienced the bungy phenomenon for \$75 each. Now, around 30,000 people bungy at this site per year, each paying \$160 for the jump and a commemorative t-shirt!

Queenstown is, without doubt, the adventure capital of New Zealand, and possibly the world. Where else can you indulge in so many death-defying acts all within such a small area?

In 1988 the first commercial bungy jump operation was opened by A J Hackett Bungy on the Kawarau Bridge. Hackett and his business partner Henry Van Asch were the first in the world to share this adrenaline packed experience with the general public.

The business got off to a roaring start when Hackett executed a jump off the Eiffel Tower in Paris and was subsequently arrested. From these beginnings, the company has grown from strength to strength, opening the highest bungy in the southern hemisphere, the Nevis Highwire, in 1999. The jump from this bungy site is a breathtaking 134m high. One year later, the Ledge Urban Swing bungy opened at the Queenstown gondola site, allowing jumpers to swing 400m above Queenstown, with a stunning panoramic view of the town and lake below.

The A J Hackett brand has long expanded out of Queenstown, to places as far away as France, Germany, Malaysia, and Indonesia, but the original Kawarau Bridge site is still going strong – welcoming visitors into Queenstown and introducing them to what is in store.



The Ledge Urban Swing



Overlooking the Nevis Highwire

