

Magnificent views

Inspired!

Many Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago landscapes are responsible for creating the stunning scenes of the Lord of the Rings movie trilogy, including the Remarkables, Deer Park Heights in Queenstown, Glenorchy, Skippers Canyon, and the Ida Valley. These sites have proven so popular that tours are offered to the various locations.

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Grahame Sydney is one of Otago's most famous artists. He has been painting for over 30 years, and in 2003 he was awarded an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, (ONZM) for his services to painting. Sydney has painted many famous Otago landscapes and places, and his art remains extremely popular today in both original and print.

You will never find a disappointing view in Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago. It is a distinct and unique landscape characterised by extremes in weather and topography. Deep, glacially carved lakes give way to jagged, snowy peaks, and sprawling mountain ranges dip into expansive plains.

Some of the best places to head to for magnificent views are Queenstown, the Lindis Pass, Cromwell and the Maniototo. Parts of the landscape scarred by tailings created during the goldrushes of the 1860s serve to reinforce the weatherbeaten beauty, especially in places such as Blue Lake in St Bathans. The mountains possess a timeless quality, content with their endless 360 degree view of the land that is spread out around them.

The weather plays a large role in the beauty of the area, creating an ever-changing landscape depending on the season. Rivers bring nourishment and life to valleys filled with orchards and vineyards, snow creates a picturesque winter wonderland, and scorching sun dries the earth and bleaches waving tussock.

The abundance of natural light lends a striking quality to the landscape, and varying cloud cover creates nuances that dramatically change its look. This means the same view at different times of the day can vary greatly. When you are there, pay attention – a new marvel will be waiting around the next bend.



A golden autumn view



Winter view of Butchers Dam near Alexandra



Photo: CDT, www.otagomimes.co.nz