

Media Visit Summary

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Contents of Article/Programme (Translation)	<p>An Affair with the Queen Taking Air New Zealand flight to New Zealand, I found that the seat can be converted completely flat. Having a relaxing nap after the meal, I was awakened by the stewardess after, I feel, only a short period of time. In fact, the 10 hour journey has come to an end. This gave me the feeling of travelling through the time. After boarding, I told myself, this is going to be an extraordinary journey.</p> <p><i>A two-page background photo shows the author and friend enjoyed sight in Lake Wakaputi.</i></p> <p>Dream House After arriving at Auckland, I took another 2 hour flight to Queenstown in south island. The weather here was extremely cool despite that it was early March, the end of summer in New Zealand. The guys from the car rental company was surprised at my short-sleeved T-shirt and said: "It is forecasted that there will be a dropping temperature today, possibly snowing! But if you don't have enough winter clothes, don't worry, New Zealand is famous for its wool and you can get a knitted sweater at anytime."</p> <p>I resided in Rees Hotel in Queenstown. Looking out from its lobby's floor windows, there is a tremendous lake view. After I went into my room, I felt that this is my dream house. For years I have been searching on a detached house at the seaside. And here the Wakaputi Lake has same wide view as the sea.</p> <p>I woke up at 7 am with shining, bright moonlight shed on me. Went out to the terrace, I saw the mountain peaks on the other side of lake are all covered with white pure snow. The peaceful lake looked like a mirror, clearly reflected the majestic view of the peaks. All is quiet, and I can feel the extreme excitement inside my heart.</p> <p>I walked around the lake and found a young Asian man, Ibnu. As an Indonesian photography professional, he went here 2 years ago and fell in love with this place immediately. I admired his courage of getting his own way and he replied: "After you realize the beauty of Queenstown, you will understand it."</p> <p>Really? Farewell to Ibnu, I walked to the hotel restaurant for breakfast. After chatting with the restaurant manager Mark, I discovered that Queenstown, vast and little populated, only has 20,000 residents. Since movie "Lord of the Ring" introduced Queenstown, many tourists visited here for natural scenery in summer and skiing in winter. And the driving route to view the beautiful scenery is very simple. Because of the small population here, there is only one traffic light. Keep driving on the road and you will reach wherever you want.</p> <p><i>A two-page background photo overlooks the golf course and sheep farm within.</i></p> <p>Pro-am The main target for this trip is the Pro-am for "Michael Hills New Zealand Open". David Smail, a local player represented NZ in Mission Hills world cup last year lead us in the team. He has been playing PGA tour Japan for the past</p>

10 years and has earned a strong record. Actually, he started career with his wife in Japan from 1990s. Up till now, he has won the Japan tour 6th times and his wife made it in 1995.

A half page photo shows the magnificent scenery view of Jack's point.

Skippers Canyon Ancient Mine

The Skippers Canyon used to be a gold mine more than 100 years ago. Before we loaded, the driver told us to avoid window seats if we are fear of height, as both side of the road are surrounded with sharp and deep cliffs with no barriers. However, I noticed there were mountain bikes passing by every few minutes. The riders were almost all over 50 year old, strong and happy, with a contented smile on their faces. It seems that in New Zealand, outdoor sports are not only for young people.

Skippers Canyon is an ancient gold mine, which means it is not running its old business anymore. Instead, what it attracts me was its magnificent view along the cliffs and various kinds of adventurous games: drifting boats, jetboats, bungee, etc.

A photo of an old person sitting on the cable car.

Jack's Point

There are 5 golf courses within half an hours' drive from Queenstown: Jack's point, Millbrook, Kevin Height, The Hills and Arrowtown. Jack's point is the one with best natural scenery.

Jack's point felt like my favourite Misson Hills course at first sight. Green field, beautiful blue lake surrounds most of the fairways with the sight of distant white snow mountains. Based on my experience in more than 50 out of the top 100 golf courses worldwide, this course has the top-grade landscape with a relatively low green fee. It really worth it! There is a sheep farm on the fairway; players have to hit a 200 yard drive to pass the obstacle.

A half page photo shooting the Shotover valley, where Skippers Canyon ancient gold mine used to be.

No Exit

Queenstown had been used for the "Lord of the ring" shooting and Glenorchy is one of the most accessible places, only half an hours' drive from downtown area. This is a small town with only about 200 residents and few visitors. Its stunning beauty and peaceful environment make it feels like heaven. When I had this idea, I saw a board writing "no exit". There is no need to exit from this heaven. All I want to do is to stay here forever.

Eight in the morning, light fog surrounded the lake created a hazy and illusionary view. We visited the small town and found out that it has almost everything: library, bar, school and a 9-hole golf course! Most standard facilities like Proshop are avoided in this mini golf course, even the green fees are to be put into a mailbox by oneself. Life in town is so free and easy.

On the return flight, I kept browsing thousands of photos taken in Queenstown and remained sleepless. I am fascinated by what I have seen these days and feels like having an "affair" with the beautiful small town. I promised myself I will come back again in future.

A half page photo of a young man on a bike in front of the lake.