

NEW ZEALAND - CLIENT COMMENTS

Well, we are home, and had a most wonderful time. As I've mentioned previously, you really understood what we wanted to do on our first New Zealand trip and planned it accordingly. Needless to say, the sight fishing was extraordinary. I think we may have run into a little more bad weather than usual, but that is fishing. We would love to give you all of our impressions....., in the meantime, I have been busily organizing our return trip 2007.

--Barbara and Charlie Renfrew

Again, Don, thank you so very much for planning and orchestrating our introduction to NZ fly fishing. It was our best vacation ever and certainly an experience, extraordinary in every way, never to be forgotten as we relive it in the retelling to friends and family. Let's do it again!

--Nancy and Wayne Badovinus

Thanks for the organization of our introduction to New Zealand. You served up just what we wanted on all points, not necessarily easy with old, grumpy travelers accustomed to the comforts of home, wanting the adventures of our youth, but without hardship or inconvenience.

With that in mind, I would suggest that traveling business class on Air New Zealand as the perfect beginning to any NZ trip. Frank Murphy (our first stop) expressed great surprise at our condition on arrival. We fished a full day after reaching the lodge, walked the river, climbed the fences and showed no sign of fatigue. Yes, we're in reasonable condition for folks in their late 70's, but I'd give considerable credit to the beds and service of ANZ. Feeling well rested on arrival and ready to fish were practical benefits of considerable value.

Frank Murphy and his house are a good way to begin. He seems to epitomize NZ.

Walking the river with him is a lesson in botany, zoology, and trout. The intimacy of the river, it's claim to privacy, more than compensated for the weather generated muddy Motu river. I was more than satisfied with Tony (Frank's son) as my guide to bringing in 8 browns on my first day, one eight pounds plus. Two other beauties were hooked but lost on logs. Days two and three brought five more.

Four Peaks surprised us all with the elegance of quarters, sophistication of cuisine, and overwhelming attention of the hosts. They are remarkable and spoiled us rotten. In this area, we visited the wildest, most beautiful, breathtaking valleys and rivers. Paul guided me to my 10 pounder and twelve other fish.

Motueka was in the Four Peaks mode – luxurious in all respects and with a host and assistant who couldn't have been more attentive or pleasing. And finally, Lake Rotoroa Lodge. What to say....splendid lodge. For me, fine guide, staff and lodge excellent in every respect. I must say they went far, far out of their way to take care of me with a spirit hard to find these days. I'd go back there in a minute too.

I did have a marvelous time. I loved seeing the country and meeting the friendly New Zealanders. Your suggestions on future trips to Alaska or Newfoundland are welcome....and of course, I hope we can do the Belize mothership trip.

Many thanks again, Don

--David Sheldon

TRIP REPORT

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