



This is a report that includes far more than references to some of New Zealand's classic trophy trout stalking experiences. In the Beard family, only father Ben and son Nate pursue the passion of fly fishing. The family as a whole are all adventure seekers who challenged most of the high adventure activities of the Kiwi's and Aussies during an ambitious three-plus week itinerary over the holiday period. With Ben and Nate (23) were mother, Linda, Josh (21), and Catherine (16). Photo from left to right: Catherine, Mom and Dad, Josh, and Nate.



Since this is a Fly Fishing Adventures report, naturally, we begin with the fishing pursuits. Mostly, they had decent conditions which allowed for their outstanding results. Ben and Nate stalked, hooked, and released an average of six fish a day on their guided fishing days with an average weight of four pounds. By New Zealand standards, averaging six fish released a day are exceptional results. Of course, they would be the first to give some of the credit to two of the most reknowned independent NZ guides they fished with and the excellent waters they worked.

Below, l to r: Nate and guide discuss presentation strategy to feeding fish; fish to net; brown in net; Ben with brown; casting to sighted fish on Fiordland river while guide observes fish's response.



Below, l to r: at both ends, Nate displays browns which were about average size; we like to say that New Zealand streams come in three basic forms – mountain rivers, farm waters, and stunning giant river valleys.....when fishing farm streams, you often have an audience like below; brown released; spotting fish.



As they moved down the west coast of New Zealand's South Island, they spent time at one of the famous glaciers, rock formations, and stayed in a coastal, nature oriented wilderness lodge.

Below, l to r: boarding a copter for a heli-hike on the glacier. On the flight up, views were spectacular including some shots of the South Island Alps which cover the western side of the island. Ice caves were part of the attraction of hiking on the glacier. The heli-hike was a highlight of the trip, but whenever copters are involved in NZ, whether its for touring or fishing, weather dictates if they can fly.



Below: l to r: the unique formations of the coastal Pancake Rocks; beach combing and tide pools observing are part of spending time on the spectacular western coast line.



The Queenstown area of NZ is promoted as the “Outdoor Adventure Capital of the World”. Maybe that is a bit overstated, but certainly this area has more than it’s share of outdoor adventure activities. Below, l to r: Catherine on her way down, bungy-jumping off a bridge – Nate took this plunge also; Mom and Nate, after taking a ski lift to the top of the mountain, used a parasail to get to the bottom; Josh is an accomplished rock climber while Dad is more of a beginner. A qualified guide can make rock climbing work for both beginner and expert, with climbs with different degrees of difficulty. Dad on the rock; Josh on a very challenging rock cliff; Josh and one of the excellent rock climbing guides they worked with.



In Fiordland, there was the day spent in the area of Milford Sound. That day included an expertly guided tour which allowed for some hikes on beautiful mountain trails. The centerpiece of this day was a luncheon boat ride on the sound. After spending two weeks moving from north to south on the western side of the South Island, the Beards made the jump across the Tasman Sea to the land of the Kangaroo.



Getting to know the creatures of Australia was part of the plan. Below, l to r: Catherine makes friends with a small kangaroo while Linda bottle feeds one that looks large enough to have outgrown the bottle; Linda provides some temporary comfort to a possum; Catherine entertains one of the larger species of reptiles; Josh and Nate found a very friendly koala bear that loved to cuddle.



Below, l to r: hiking allowed a close up view of the Australian countryside; the water is a big attraction in Australia and exploring the coastline and snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef are popular activities: Josh found some challenging rock faces to climb in the Blue Mountains; “skiing” down the slope of giant sand dunes is something you can’t do every day in our Rocky Mountains (the Beards are from Colorado).



Sailing on Sydney Bay allowed for a photo of the famous Sydney Opera House.



Ben summed up the trip with this thought: “If we could do it over, we wouldn’t change a thing. Not sure that all 5 of us would agree on that, but it would really be difficult to improve on it.”



Either phone or drop us an e-mail if you have questions or would like more information about any of our destinations.

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