

New Zealand Fly Fishing Report from Dan Hartmann:

My wife and I spent 26 wonderful days in New Zealand and I fished 9 of them. I fished 7 days in the Murchison area and 2 days in the Te Anau/Fiordland area.

Murchison Area:

I had excellent fishing with Scott and I landed 2 "doubles" - an 11.5 lb and 10 lb Brown! Getting two doubles on my first trip was amazing! They were both caught on the same river on a helicopter fly-out to a magical stream deep in a pristine Beech forest. I landed several other beautiful fish in the 2-7 lb as well. I also landed another "trophy", an 8.25 lb beauty, on a drive-to river only 40 minutes from the Lodge. I also 5 other fish over 7 lbs, 6 over 6 lbs and quite a few in the 4-5 lb range. It was the best trout fishing I have ever experienced without question. As a bonus, on the last day my wife Cindy joined us and she landed two 5 lb Browns - one on a dry!..... cabins were very comfortable and the food was excellent!

Te Anau/Fiordland:

I had two good days with some strong wind at times that made the casting challenging. My two best fish were a 7.5 lb Brown and a 6 lb Bow. I lost a 7-8 Bow that was really hot and jumped 3 times before getting off. We saw several really large Browns, but we were unable to get them to eat our fly. I landed quite a few other Bows and Browns in the 2-4 lb range and all of them were extremely strong and fought very hard.

Touring and Relaxing:

Fishing was just part of our trip and we toured the South Island starting in Abel Tasman National Park in the north. We had a wonderful day tour of the park that included a boat ride, kayaking and a hike. We really enjoyed the Park and surrounding areas. We also stayed at Arthur's Pass and Lake Moeraki Wilderness Lodges which are outstanding family owned eco-lodges. Their guided nature tours were very informative and the accommodations and food first class. These are great for couples and families and we met many interesting folks from around the world. We then headed to Te Anau which was our base for touring Fiordland Nation Park. All of the National Parks we visited were unique, beautiful and worth visiting, but Fiordland is the "crown jewel" of the South Island in our opinion. We did day tours of Milford and Doubful Sound - both are magnificent! We also hiked a portion of the famous Kepler Track along the Waiau River to Lake Manapouri. Lake Te Anau and Lake Manapouri are beautiful, deep and crystal clear lakes on the east side of the Park and framed by mountains that stretch for miles. Truly an awe inspiring place! We finished in Queenstown which is on the shore of Lake Wakatipu another huge and beautiful lake surrounded by impressive mountains. Best of all Queenstown is a really fun town with tons to do! My recommendation is you and your partner/spouse plan your dream trip to New Zealand as soon as possible!

We really enjoyed our first trip to New Zealand - the fishing was fantastic, the scenery unforgettable, and the people as friendly as anywhere we've been! We'll be back for sure!

Cindy and Dan Hartman