

PRELIMINARY PLANNING – NEW ZEALAND

Steps in the process:

1. So many options.....what interests you most in NZ – touring and seeing the country, golf (some world class courses), wine country visits, experience fly fishing, visit Fiordland – Milford Sound, etc etc. Sometimes, narrowing (or discovering) your interests involves discussion of the possibilities.
2. Maybe you've had “must do” or “must see” recommendations from friends or from your own research.....if so, those must be considered.
3. Are we budget oriented or want the best possible experience? What level of comfort and service will you pay for?
4. Try to do both islands or concentrate on the South Island? The single most dominating and attractive element in NZ are the Alps that run the western side of the South Island. Spectacular! Generally, unless you have special interests on the North Island (like the coastal golf courses), we like to stick to the South Island, unless you have 2 ½ weeks or more.
5. Logistics are a critical element in a well planned itinerary.....how everything lines up for a comfortable trip.
6. How much time can you spend in NZ.....or does that depend primarily on how much interest you have in the options available? Can easily fill a month, but two to two and a half weeks is generally a good timeframe.

Regarding the fly fishing options, the first question is how important is the fly fishing element in the flow of your NZ experience? Do you want to fish half of your days in NZ, a third, two thirds, etc. The fly fishing options can blend with the touring options that are detailed below.

To give you some idea of what one popular approach has been, this is one of our favorite non-fishing itineraries. There are options and spin-offs that may be added and included, but this is a basic flow that is a good one! This is best reviewed with a map of the South Island in front of you. NOTE: the links provided below are for the “activities” or “experiences” pages on each website to give you a sense of what is available while staying at this location.

- Arrive in Auckland (North Island) and transfer to Christchurch on the South Island.
- Pick up a rental vehicle and drive to Arthur's Pass in the Alps. First stop is Wilderness Lodge, Arthur's Pass - <https://www.wildernesslodge.co.nz/new-zealand/arthurs-pass-wilderness-lodge/arthurs-pass-activities>
- Drive out of the Alps to the west coast and south to Wilderness Lodge, Lake Moeraki - <https://www.wildernesslodge.co.nz/new-zealand/lake-moeraki-wilderness-lodge/lake-moeraki-activities>
- Continue moving south.....almost everyone enjoys a short stay in Queenstown. Many choices of accommodation from a mid-priced downtown motel like the Dairy Private <https://thedairy.co.nz/queenstownactivities> or a choice of 5 star properties like Matakauri Lodge and Spa <https://www.robertsonlodges.com/the-lodges/matakauri/experiences>
- Now, south again to the town of Te Anau and Fiordland National Park. Our favorite spot to stay is Fiordland Lodge. Also, for the many different tours <https://www.fiordlandlodge.co.nz/experiences.htm> available here, our clients have enjoyed using Trips and Tramps as their guide for the different possibilities <http://www.tripsandtramps.com>

So much for the initial process of planning a NZ experience. Things begin to take shape with a Q & A session, either in person or via phone.

Don Muelrath
Fly Fishing Adventures
www.flyfishingadventures.org
888-347-4896