



NEW ZEALAND

TEN STEPS IN THE PRELIMINARY PLANNING PROCESS

Questions that need answers:

1. 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.
2. Are you traveling with a non-fishing spouse? Obviously, if the answer is “yes,” their interests play a large role. At least half of our itineraries are this type and combine touring with fly fishing.
3. So many options.....what interests you most in NZ? If fly fishing in the crystalline streams and rivers, with some of the world’s top fly fishing guides, is high on your priority list, what percentage of your days do you want to fish? A hard-core fishing itinerary maxes out every possible fishing opportunity, but generally, clients like to mix in some touring and seeing the country.
4. If you want to also do some touring and seeing the country, what other interests do you have? Eco-touring, golf (some world class courses), wine country visits, visit Fiordland – Milford Sound, etc etc. Discovering and/or creating the list of your interests usually involves discussion of the possibilities.
5. Maybe you’ve had “must do” or “must see” recommendations from friends or from your own research.....if so, those must be considered.
6. Are we budget oriented or want the best possible experience? What level of comfort and service will you pay for?
7. 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. If you have enough time, maybe we incorporate one or two North Island stops.
8. Logistics are a critical element in a well planned itinerary.....how everything lines up for a comfortable trip.
9. Timing – which month to go? We have clients in NZ from October through April. The heart of their summer is late January through mid-March; that is also the time when NZ is most crowded.
10. The advantage of the early or late season is there are far less people/anglers in NZ. While the weather may be a bit more “iffy,” there is some advantage to less pressure on the waters and the top lodges and guides are more available during those periods. Many of the top guides have over half their calendar filled each year by regular clients of theirs that return every year and are difficult to book.

A visit to the New Zealand page on our website can be helpful in stimulating your thinking – that link is www.flyfishingadventures.org/fish-new-zealand

Those are the initial questions involved in planning a NZ experience. We do have sample itineraries you can view – just ask. Things begin to take shape with a Q & A session, either in person or via phone.

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