



FISHING

Backcountry New Zealand Fly Fishing Guides

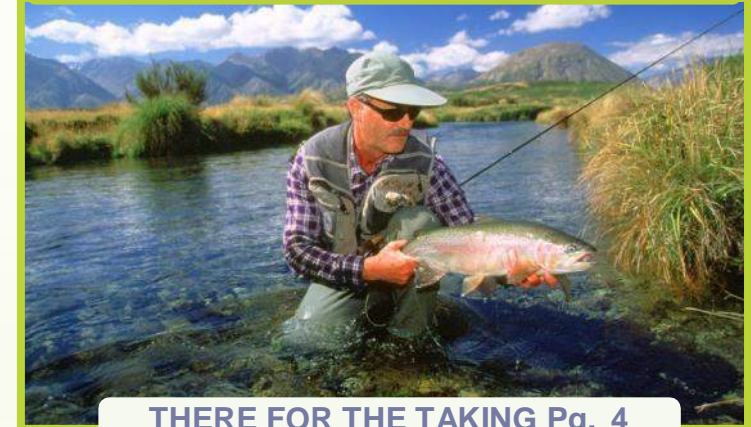


NEW ZEALAND FLY FISHING GUIDING

Experience being professionally guided on the crystal clear waterways of New Zealand... renown for sighted trout angling and known as the pinnacle of fly fishing excitement. If you wish to experience fishing in New Zealand then enquire with us to reduce confusion, get value for money and a fantastic fishing trip!

History speaks for itself! With close to fifty years of combined guiding experience, Backcountry New Zealand guides are well respected globally. They will ensure you understand the options before you book and then make the process simple yet professional. Your guide will teach you the unique style and techniques to be successful in these challenging but highly rewarding fisheries. They will also match your skill to the fishing and weather conditions on the day. With a mix of Rainbow and Brown trout throughout the thousands of rivers in the South Island, no two days will be the same. Choose from one of Backcountry New Zealand's fishing packages or customize a trip to suit. Partner and touring programs are available for the ultimate NZ experience.

PACKAGES - MAKE DECISIONS EASY



THERE FOR THE TAKING Pg. 4



CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND Pg. 6



BACKCOUNTRY NZ GUIDES ARE:

- Members of the NZPFGA
- Very experienced in NZ's rivers
- Friendly, professional, and safe
- Passionate about New Zealand fishing

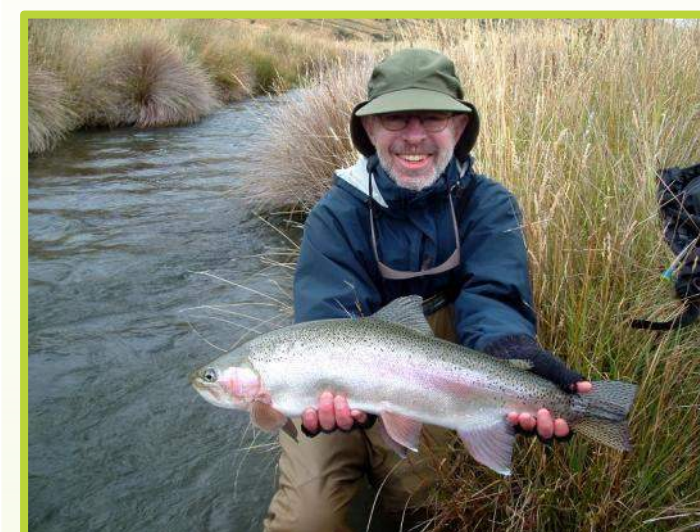


SPRINGS & FREESTONES Pg. 8



NEW ZEALAND GUIDED DAY FISHING TOURS

Many people wish to experience New Zealand's fly fishing as part of their family holiday or business trip. We are all set up to provide day fishing trips from Christchurch, Methven and areas within the Canterbury High Country Region.



It always pays to book in advance, however if you just want to grab a day out on one of our pristine rivers with a great guide who will teach you as best as conditions on the day allow, then give us a try. If we are unable to guide you due to prior bookings, which can be the case during the busy months, then we will always try and suggest other good guides we know. As the outfitting guide service for Grasmere, Wilderness & Flock Hill Lodges, as well as many accommodations in Methven and guides in Christchurch we can cover a large part of the Canterbury region.

FLY FISHING DAY TOURS PRICING:

- Non Fishing Partners Welcome
- Maximum of two people per guide
- Accommodation easily arranged for you
- We recommend guides all over New Zealand
- Per Guide per day - NZ\$835

DAY FISHING TOURS INCLUDE:

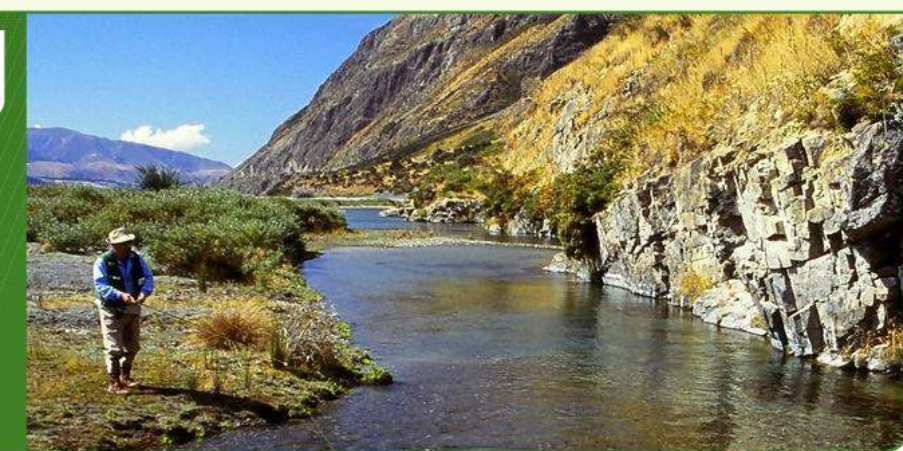
- Departing Christchurch, Ashburton, Methven, Castle Hill, Flock Hill, Grasmere, Arthurs Pass in 4WD transport
- Access, fishing guide, & concession fees
- All fishing equipment if required
- Streamside lunch and refreshments
- Sighted trout fishing & tuition

DAY TRIP OVERVIEW

Mode of Transport:
4WD / Hiking

Trip Duration:
10 Hours on average

Pick Ups:
Christchurch, Methven, Ashburton,
Arthurs Pass.





‘THERE FOR THE TAKING’ FISHING

A seven day fly fishing package that is all inclusive, airport to airport, traveling angling experience. This Backcountry NZ fishing experience is developed for the avid fly fisherman who would rather fish than sleep! Book to secure prime dates.



A unique traveling tour aimed at discovering the heart of New Zealand backcountry with all the comforts of home. This all-inclusive experience utilizes a flexible approach, with your guide determining the fishing locations daily to suit the current weather patterns. Many returning clients express how they love to fish this way. Simple yet comfortable accommodation often includes farm stations, huts, or motels, situated with close access to fishing waters for longer and more flexible fishing days.

‘THERE FOR THE TAKING’ INCLUDES:

- Airport transfers (Christchurch)
- 6 nights’ accommodation, 7 days guiding
- 4WD transport
- Access, fishing guide, & concession fees
- Fishing equipment if required
- All meals and refreshments
- Sighted trout fishing
- Carbon neutral tour

‘THERE FOR THE TAKING’ TRIP PRICING:

- 2 anglers to 1 guide - enquire below
- 1 anglers to 1 guide - enquire below
- Upgrades in accommodation available on request.
- Helicopter day trips available on request.

[ENQUIRE NOW CLICK HERE](#)

PACKAGE OVERVIEW

Mode of Transport:
4WD / Hiking - Traveling trip
Trip Duration:
7 days / 6 nights (7 fishing days)
Accommodation:
Farm stay, motels or cabins
Example: [Red Cottage Staveley](#)





‘CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND’ FISHING

A five day duration angling package utilizing a higher level of accommodation. Designed for those that enjoy the comforts of quality facilities and dining as much as their angling experience. The perfect length tour to get fantastic results.



Backcountry New Zealand understands that for some, dining and enjoying the place they stay is an important facet of their angling holiday. A package constructed with the concept of great fishing, great food, and great sleeps. This tour also has the option of operating in any part of New Zealand’s South Island or a combination of two differing areas by adding on some additional days. Your guides will provide you with the best angling opportunities each day, as well as ensuring that your evenings are relaxed and hassle free.

‘CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND’ PRICING:

- 2 anglers to 1 guide - enquire below
- 1 anglers to 1 guide - enquire below
- Upgrades in accommodation available on request.
- Partner programs available.

[ENQUIRE NOW CLICK HERE](#)

‘CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND’ INCLUDES:

- Airport transfers if required
- 4 nights’ accommodation, 5 days guiding
- 4WD transport
- Access, fishing guide, & concession fees
- Fishing equipment if required
- All meals and refreshments
- Sighted trout fishing
- Carbon neutral tour

PACKAGE OVERVIEW

Mode of Transport:
4WD / Hiking - Traveling trip
Trip Duration:
7 days / 6 nights (7 fishing days)
Accommodation:
Farm stay, motels or cabins
Example: [Flock Hill Lodge](#)





‘SPRINGS & FREESTONES’ FISHING

A great introduction to fly fishing or a short fishing break as part of a New Zealand holiday. This package includes three exhilarating days of angling in the scenic Canterbury high country. Our most popular tour over the past ten years.



A shorter duration fishing tour designed for anglers who want to fish as part of a business trip or family holiday in New Zealand. This all inclusive trout angling experience utilizes comfortable accommodation within 1.5 hours of Christchurch. Day fishing excursions explore the streams and braided river systems of the Canterbury High country, targeting sighted Brown and Rainbow Trout. Dry fly and nymph fishing is common and available from October to April. Learn and try the stalking of sighted trout techniques that New Zealand is famous for.

SPRINGS & FREESTONES PRICING:

- 2 anglers to 1 guide - enquire below
- 1 anglers to 1 guide - enquire below
- Upgrades in accommodation available on request.
- Partner programs available.

[ENQUIRE NOW CLICK HERE](#)

‘SPRINGS & FREESTONES’ INCLUDES:

- 2 nights’ accommodation, 3 days guiding
- 4WD transport
- Access, fishing guide, & concession fees
- Fishing equipment if required
- All meals and refreshments
- Sighted trout fishing

PACKAGE OVERVIEW

Mode of Transport:
4WD / Hiking - Traveling trip
Trip Duration:
7 days / 6 nights (7 fishing days)
Accommodation:
Farm stay, motels or cabins
Example: [Ski Time Apartments](#)





RED COTTAGE STAVELEY INTRO

An introduction two day & two night duration angling package utilizing a unique level of accommodation. Designed for those that enjoy the comforts of quality facilities, and can only stay for a couple of days of extraordinary trout fishing.



Combine the romantic comfort of 'Red Cottage Staveley' near the rural town of Methven, with the array of nearby outstanding trout streams and rivers. Maybe you need a two day and two evening escape, birthday or anniversary gift to share with a friend? Whatever the reason, if you are after a short high quality fly fishing experience in the Canterbury high, then this is what you should be thinking of booking. No hassles, just a fantastic angling experience! Myriam & Nigel at 'Red Cottage Staveley' will ensure your relaxing comfort and our guides will handle the rest.

SPRINGS & FREESTONE PRICING:

- 2 anglers to 1 guide - enquire below
- 1 anglers to 1 guide - enquire below
- Perfect for couples.
- Partner programs available.

[ENQUIRE NOW CLICK HERE](#)

'RED COTTAGE STAVELEY' INCLUDES:

- 2 nights quality accommodation and dining
- 4WD transport
- Access and concession fees
- Fishing equipment and licenses
- 2 days fishing guiding
- All meals and refreshments
-

PACKAGE OVERVIEW

Mode of Transport:
4WD / Hiking
Trip Duration:
2 days / 2 nights
Accommodation:
[Red Cottage Staveley](#)



GRASMERE EXCLUSIVE LODGE FISHING

New Zealand at its finest. An angling package utilizing one of New Zealand's most respected accommodation lodges. A perfect option for those traveling as a couple, or with another couple and wanting fantastic lodgings with trout fishing.



The rivers and lakes around Grasmere lodge offer some of the best fishing that Canterbury has to offer. The fishing itself is often challenging and utilizing a guide to accelerate your learning is critical. Another fishing option from Grasmere is a day fishing trip into the contrasting landscapes of Westland's Podocarp forests and streams. The Lodge accommodation is some of the most comfortable the country has to offer, supplemented by the hosting of Tom Butler and his fantastic team. Many past clients return year after year saying 'we just can't get enough!'

GRASMERE LODGE FISHING:

- 2 anglers to 1 guide - enquire below
- 1 anglers to 1 guide - enquire below
- Additional activities available.
- Partner programs available.

[ENQUIRE NOW CLICK HERE](#)

'GRASMERE FISHING' INCLUDES:

- 2 nights quality accommodation and dining
- 4WD transport & complimentary activities
- Access and concession fees
- Fishing equipment and licenses
- 2 days fishing guiding & tuition
- Sighted trout stalking

PACKAGE OVERVIEW

Mode of Transport:
4WD / Hiking
Trip Duration:
2 days / 2 nights
Accommodation:
[Grasmere Luxury Lodge](#)





LODGE & ACCOMMODATIONS

We have many styles of accommodation on offer, here are a few:

Grasmere Exclusive Luxury Lodge:

Every exclusive New Zealand lodge is unique; each offers something entirely different in both setting and accommodation style. It is futile to say that one is better than the other - that would be comparing apples with pears - but it is fair to say that Grasmere Lodge does have an indefinable quality that isn't replicated anywhere else in New Zealand. By virtue of its dramatic location near Arthurs Pass, its ever-changing climate and its unashamed emphasis on quality and quiet comfort, Grasmere will always be an unparalleled experience. It is a proud member of the prestigious Small Luxury Hotels of the World group, the Lodge Association of New Zealand, and Select Hotels and Resorts. Tom Butler & his team will ensure your stay is unforgettable.



Red Cottage Staveley - Boutique Lodging:

Rustic, romantic and relaxing! The perfect environment you won't want to leave. Open fires, candles, and the warm wooden ambience of this restored & insulated historical cottage create the perfect spark, along with local produce and wine, whilst watching the sun set over the surrounding mountains, after your day stalking trophies.



Flock Hill:

Flock Hill offers a variety of accommodation options including fully self-contained motels and cottages to old shearer's quarters redesigned as backpacker facilities, there is something to suit all needs. Flock Hill Lodge provides quality restaurant and cafe style meals in their newly renovated lodge and bar. It is a perfect place to get away and enjoy a family holiday or a winter ski holiday as it is within very close proximity to four ski fields. Enjoy New Zealand's beautiful high country landscape in the comfort of Flock Hill Lodge. Flock Hill Lodge is located on The Great Alpine Highway between Springfield and Arthur's Pass and is only an hour and a half's drive away from Christchurch or Greymouth.



Grasmere Lodge - New Zealand



N.Z.P.F.G.A. - FLY FISHING GUIDES

Phil Stephenson - NZPFGA

Head guide again for the 2010/11 season, Phil loves living and recreating in New Zealand's mountains. Phil's life revolves around trout streams and snow covered Alps. His knowledge of fishing and skiing, in combination with local familiarity of weather, history, and biogeography enables him to deliver informative and rewarding experiences. Phil has professionally guided many happy Backcountry New Zealand's clients in the Canterbury and West Coast regions since 1995.



Nigel Birt - NZPFGA

Backcountry New Zealand's fishing team is overseen by the company's co-founder, Nigel Birt. Having worked professionally as a fly-fishing guide and instructor since 1988, his knowledge of the sport is outstanding. Trained at an early age by professional guides, he served his apprenticeship at a top New Zealand fishing lodge. Through his experiences, Nigel has developed skills and knowledge that competes with New Zealand's best. Nigel oversees guiding operations and guiding standards.



Neil Goldie - NZPFGA

Backcountry New Zealand's salmon specialist! Many call him the 'Salmon God' and having fished for trout and salmon for 35 years throughout Canterbury and the West Coast of the South Island of New Zealand, Neil has an intimate knowledge of the rivers, streams, and lakes that are found in this region. The Salmon season is from January through until April.





EQUIPMENT

Backcountry New Zealand can provide all equipment for guests. Some people prefer to have their own lightweight waders and boots to ensure a good fit, but ensure they are in a clean and dry condition. Generally clients wish to, and enjoy bringing their own equipment. The following information will help you prepare for your backcountry experience.

Rods

Preferably 5 to 7 weight. Long (8'6" upwards), fast action graphite. The modern three and four piece rods are excellent and, most importantly, are easy to carry on aircraft. Backcountry NZ uses Orvis four piece 'Zero-G Tip-flex' series. The casting is usually short range so it pays to overweight rods by one line weight as a standard practice.

Lines

Floating in dull colors – Rio selective trout WF series are excellent lines. Dull lines avoid line flash over the trout and are essential in clear water fishing for wild brown trout. One line weight higher than your rod.

Leaders

0x to 3x 9' to 12' (Rio, Cortland, Umpqua, Tippet 3x to 7x (Fluro-carbon).

Reels

Any brand with good disk drag and 100m of backing.

Clothing

Dark, natural colors - Browns, darker grays, greens, camo. No bright clothes or hats.

Boots

Rubber soled 'Aqua-stealth' fishing boots are great; Otherwise normal sturdy tramping/hiking boots that support your ankles are fine. Backcountry NZ has a range of boots for clients, and if required please advise of your foot size.

Shirts

Columbia fishing clothing is great in the SPF 30+ Sage Green range.

Thermals

It is good to bring a polypro or Merino top to wear under the shirt against the skin because it can get very cold at times. Bring a fleece jacket as it can get really cold at times.

Rain Jacket

This is compulsory!! Remember dark colored jackets are best, and need to be very waterproof.

Polarized sunglasses

These will let you see the fish. Action Optics by Smith have a nice photochromic amber lens to suit NZ conditions.

Sun Hat & Sun-cream

Dark or tan hat with a wide all-round brim to protect from the sun. Water resistant and minimum SPF30+ sun cream.

Daypack

A small daypack between the two of you can be helpful. Again dark colors.



A FISHING DAY

Fishing Style:

Generally in New Zealand trout fishing takes place on foot, walking the banks of the river with your guide in front, searching with trained eyes for each individual fish. Your guide will then explain the method for you to apply in order to maximize your chances, and offer any helpful advice with your casting/presentation techniques.

If you are practicing your casting prior to visiting New Zealand, focus on first-time accuracy at short distances, into a wind. Most of our fish are hooked with only 5-15 feet of fly line and a 9-12ft leader. Practicing long casts is a waste of time. Concentrate on subtle six-inch presentation variations and expect your guide to tell you to cast six inches to the left of the last cast!!!

An average day:

Would be where your guide 'spots' (locates) 12-30 trout depending on the weather and fishing conditions. Anglers in their first visit will normally have around 10-12 'takes', hooking on average 7 of these fish. The average number of trout landed per day last season was 3-4, averaging 4lbs. It is not uncommon to hook a couple of 5-6lb fish per day and your skill level will determine your chances of landing those trout (and a bit of luck!!). Obviously the fishing and techniques are unique to New Zealand and your ability to listen, learn and adjust your fishing style to suit plays a major role in the number of trout you will catch in a day. The average distance you will walk in a day is approximately 3-5km (2-3 miles) on reasonably easy river stones. Often there could be a walk down a river terrace (40-50m elevation) at the start of the day, which often means a short walk back up at the end of the day. These walks can be steep in some locations, but there isn't a rush and your guide will assist you where required.

'An outstanding day':

Would be a combination of perfect weather conditions, with no wind or cloud, matched with a good, fit angler and good river conditions. A rising or stable barometer is always a bonus! These are the day's guide's dream of, and the reason why anglers continue to fish day after day. The more days spent fishing, the more chances likely of getting 'a outstanding day'. When these days occur it is not uncommon to hook around a dozen fish averaging closer to 6-7lbs, with the occasional opportunity at catching a large fish of 8-11 pounds. There are plenty of opportunities for these days to occur each summer.

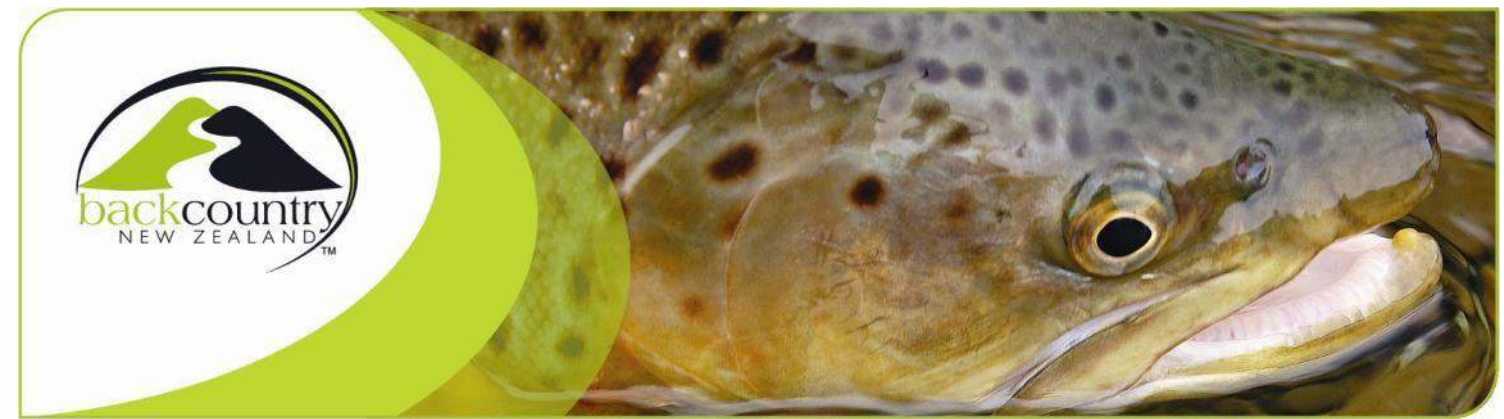
A 'below average day':

Occurs normally as a result of poor weather and a dropping barometer. Your guide may only find 6-12 fish, and these fish may be selectively feeding or relatively inactive. The wind may be strong and your ability may be limited. These days do happen occasionally and getting a fish in the net can be a challenge, but we believe any day out on a river is a learning experience and you will be fishing in unique, stunning landscapes... and not sitting at your desk!!!

Location & Fishing Range:

Backcountry New Zealand is located in Methven, a small town located at the base of the South Islands Southern Alps. They are only a one-hour drive from Christchurch, and the international Airport.

A day fishing excursion is based in the central Canterbury High Country Region, normally between the Rangitata valley as the southern boundary (close to Mt Geraldine) and the Waimakariri Valley to the North (close to Arthur's Pass). Clients can expect an average drive (includes four wheel driving portion) of one hour, and up to two hours maximum in the morning to get to the fishing location. Longer drives are often a result of bad weather conditions. Expect to depart your accommodation between 7.30-9.00am and return to it between 5.00-7.00pm.



FISHING SEASONS

Backcountry New Zealand operates 'Catch & Release' and 'Take only photos, leave only foot prints' policies to sustain our valuable natural resources.

Seasons:

Trout fishing in New Zealand generally has a season of October 1st through to April 31st. A small number of waters have a delayed opening until November 1st, however there is still some great fishing to be had during October.

Good fishing can be had throughout the season. October until December can be unsettled spring weather... however New Zealand with its oceanic climate can have weather of all seasons at any time of the year, and if you strike a fine spell during this time, the fishing will often be some of the best of the year! November and December often have excellent fishing, as do January, February and March. Early January is when New Zealanders go on their annual leave, and during this period it is more likely that you could run into other anglers, or experience trout that are disturbed more than usual.

If you have a limited walking ability, we suggest that you book during the months of October and November when the trout are still high in the catchments after spawning. It is easier for your guide to get you close to the trout at this time of the year.

Generalizations would conclude that:

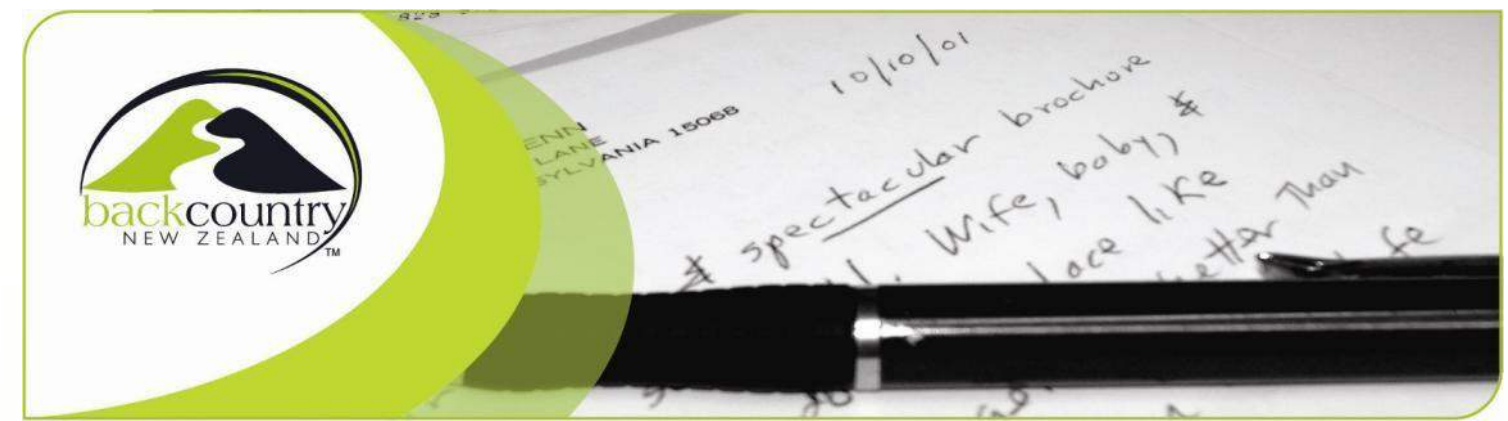
The most trout are caught when the water is cooler - October to Christmas and March to April.

The best-conditioned trout are caught late season prior to spawning - end of February to April.

Surface activity is best in summer – December through March

However - the water is cooler when the weather is cooler, the water is warmer when the sun is stronger and the fishing conditions are most pleasant. Warmer water can make trout more selective. Sun angles in April are low, thus the days can be slightly shorter at each end.





Testimonials

'... I fished with a number of excellent guides while in New Zealand, but none better than Nigel...' - **George Mizner, M.D., Colorado,**

'... I cannot say enough good things about Nigel. He was in good humor despite the conditions. He provided 1st class gear! His fishing knowledge & local knowledge is excellent, as well as NZ history & geology/ecology... In short he worked his arse off, his patience and sense of humor made for a really nice day under less than ideal conditions!' - **Don Bell,**

'... We had such a good holiday in New Zealand and have been telling everyone to go... We all enjoyed your company and help, and it all ran so smoothly; we have many happy memories of the trip, helped by your photographs. We haven't used a guide before, as you know, but one could get used to this standard of hassle free holiday!' - **Romayne & John,**

'... Nigel - very knowledgeable and expert in spotting fish... He was also very personable and patient, and offered advice in a pleasant, no pressure manner! Blake and I enjoyed relaxed fishing and looked forward to each day...' - **Alan Katchur,**

'... I have fished with a fair number of guides in and out of the states. Nigel Birt is the best guide I have had the pleasure to fish with. Excellent in all aspects of the guiding experience. Also provided a CD of the pictures of the fish we caught...' - **Robert J. Slezak,**

'Phil, I can't thank you enough for the time you spent driving me from place to place, listening to my music a few seconds at a time and for making a potentially uncomfortable experience anything but....you were incredibly kind and generous in spirit... Lovely people and truly unforgettable!' - **Britten Jacobs,**

'Liam is without doubt the best guide I have ever had. I don't recall seeing a single other fisherman in the 4 days we were out. You had warned me not to expect a lot of fish and you were right. The rivers all looked to me like they should hold more than they do. Still I caught 7 or 8 trout, Browns and Rainbows and missed at least that many others because I was slow on the hook set or blew the cast. It was overcast 3 of the 4 days and Liam was still seeing the fish well. Even when he pointed them out I did not always see them. I caught only one blind casting while Liam was prospecting ahead. My fish ran from 2 lbs., to 8 lbs., with most being in the 3 lb., range. The 8 lb. Brown measured 27 inches, photo attached. Thank you for a great trip.' - **Kim Pattee,**





ABOUT US:

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Myriam Birt

Myriam heads up the Backcountry NZ office and booking system with husband Nigel. Myriam works closely with the appropriate fishing guides to develop your personalized New Zealand itinerary. She encourages the guides to answer all of your specific fishing questions, coordinating a trip that suits you and then ensures that all the details are correct and arrangements are made. Myriam has years of experience in tourism both in Switzerland and New Zealand, enabling her to fully understand the needs of visitors and organize any last minute changes that



Nigel Birt

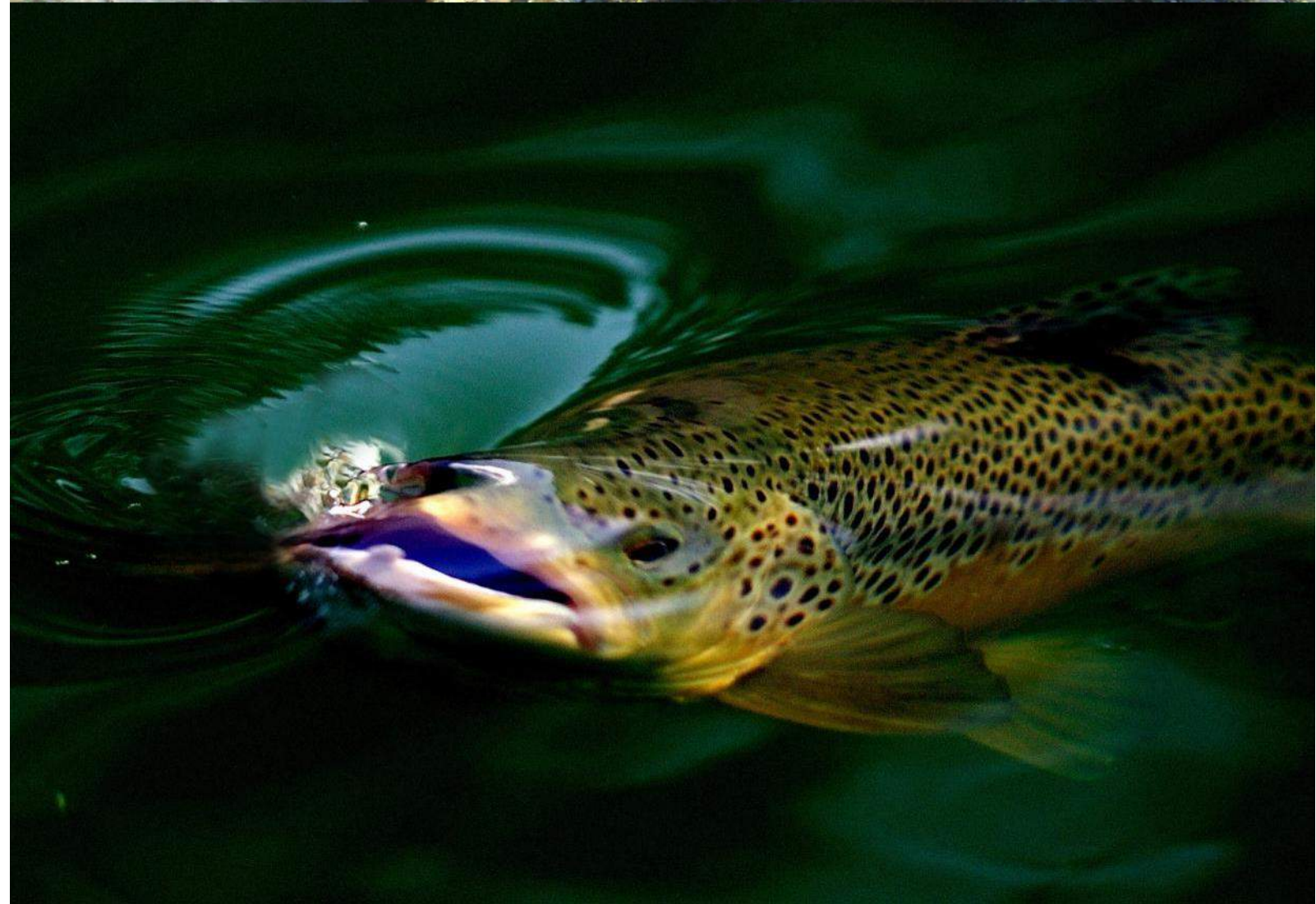
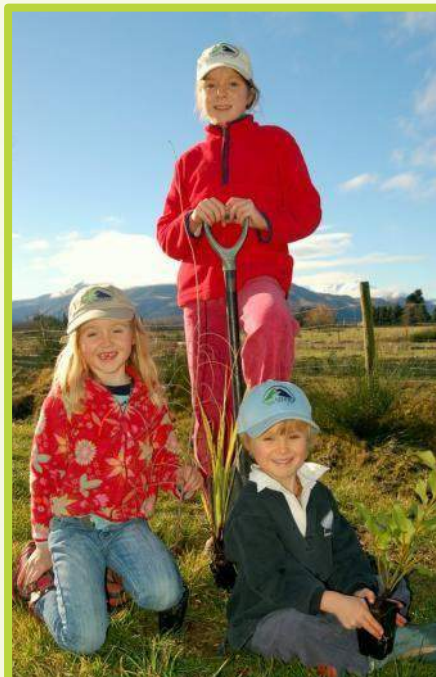
Backcountry New Zealand's hunting team is overseen by the company's original co-founder, Nigel Birt. Nigel oversees guiding operations, standards, training and safety. As well as marketing and liaison with overseas agents. Nigel's past experiences include serving on the New Zealand Professional Fishing Guides Association executive committee for a number of years and general manager of the districts tourism organization.



You're Carbon Neutral Holiday

A first for a New Zealand hunting & fishing guiding outfitter! From 2010 clients visiting us for a multi-day holiday from anywhere in the world can be rest assured that they will be doing so in a manner that is carbon neutral or better! We have generously calculated the carbon footprint of your travel and stay with us for a week long hunting or fishing experience in New Zealand and have calculated how many New Zealand native trees we need to plant to offset your travel. Not only will we purchase the trees and provide the land, but we have some great helpers to plant them!

You can now book with us and have the peace of mind that your holiday will not only be better than carbon neutral, but will benefit the planet and New Zealand's biodiversity. These are the environments we love to recreate within, we should ensure their future as best we can. Backcountry New Zealand is working towards achieving its 'Carbon Zero status' through a measure, manage and mitigate process.





2015/16 SEASON FISHING PRICES

PACKAGES

TO ENQUIRE PRICES CLICK HERE

There for the Taking 7 days 6 nights
2x1
1x1

Central South Island 5 days 4 nights
2x1
1x1

Springs & Freestones 3 days 2 nights
2x1
1x1

RCS Intro 2 days 2 nights
2x1
1x1

Grasmere Fish 2 days 2 nights
2x1
1x1

CONTACT FOR BOOKINGS:

www.backcountrynewzealand.com
Email: mail@backcountry.co.nz
Phone: +64 21 644 507

[TO ENQUIRE PRICES CLICK HERE](#)

Day Rates & Upgrades

DAY GUIDING:

Guiding day rate NZ\$835 max 2x1

Non angling companion - Complementary

[Please click here for a currency converter](#)

2x1 = Price for 2 clients with 1 guide - per person price.

1x1 = Price for 1 client with 1 guide.

Day guiding rate is for 1 or 2 people.

We hold a maximum client to guide ratio of 2:1

* Includes products defined in package descriptions.

Excludes additional activities from those defined.

Excludes Fish & Game licenses (NZ\$22 per day).

* A formal quote will be supplied on enquiry.



CONTACT FOR BOOKINGS:

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