



*Connecting You with Extraordinary Hunting & Fishing Adventures Worldwide!*

## *Wanganui, North Island New Zealand, NZH2 2008 Trip Report*

My trip through Outdoor Connection was the most enjoyable hunting trip I have experienced. I was in Auckland for business and was able to book a direct flight right into Wanganui. From there I was picked up by Paul, the outfitter. It was a comfortable hour drive through the mountains to the hunting lodge. When I arrived the friendly staff made me feel right at home. The rooms were spacious and had their own private baths and a great view out into the native!

I got right down to business and was able to get in an evening hunt. I was after my first red stag and wasn't sure what to expect. We drove 4-wheeler (or the bike for the locals) to an area where a large stag had been spotted a week prior. I didn't find a stag I wanted to take but the hunt was very successful in that I was able to see an abundance of wildlife from fallow deer, wild pigs, Arapawa sheep, and goats. Back at the lodge I arrived to a set table and a delicious home cooked meal prepared by Gail, the cook. We exchanged hunting stories and had a few laughs before calling it a night.

The second day we woke up early and my guide said we were going to go on a 'little walk'. Little did I know 'little walk' is another term for hike through the mountainside. But that's exactly what I wanted from the trip. We headed straight into the bush and saw all kinds of animals. The neat part about the guides is they can customize the hikes for hunters that might not want to do a 12 hour hike. I brought plenty of water and we took breaks to relax and enjoy the view when we needed them. My guide was very knowledgeable about the land and was always pointing out tracks/signs of wildlife I wouldn't have noticed. Later in the day, a couple guides came out with the six-wheeler, offering a ride back to the lodge. I was tired from the long day but determined to find my stag. About 20 mins later out of the corner of my eye I saw a huge rack of antlers! I decided this was the stag I had been waiting for. I pulled up and shot from about 100 yards and dropped the stag with one shot. It was a rush I will never forget and just when I thought the hunt was over I had my stag just like that!

Back at the lodge we celebrated with a few beers and with another hunter that was able to get a stag himself that night too. All in all the hunt was very good. The food was great and plentiful, the guides were knowledgeable and very professional and the view was spectacular. I will be back to New Zealand! Next time for tahr and chamois on the south island. Cheers to Outdoor Connection and this great north island outfitter for an experience of a lifetime!

*Derek*



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