



Celebrity holidays

Jules Lund's NZ PHOTO SA

The *Getaway* presenter goes behind the lens for a change to capture New Zealand's spectacular South Island

I've always loved New Zealand, and a lot of the *Getaway* crew and I have often talked about going on a photo-safari in the past. So when an opportunity came up to combine my photography passion with exploring New Zealand, I jumped at it! Photo-tourism is definitely one of the new travel buzzwords – like staycations and flashpacking, photography trips are now becoming their own thing.

Taking pictures is such a great device to explore other cultures. There's also nothing better to improve your skills than being around passionate people. You sit around at night and show off what you captured that day, then you go out with fresh new ideas.

I had a local photographer along with me and a competition winner from Canon, so it was part-travel and part-photography tutorial! The idea was capturing great images along the way, and just going at our own pace.

INTERVIEW BY WENDY WINKLER. PHOTOGRAPHS BY JULES LUND, WIREIMAGE



ELUSIVE WILDLIFE

We went over to Stewart Island, the southern most island, and saw Kiwi birds. Well, one of the guys saw them – I just saw feathers, footprints and pool. There were other things to photograph though... sweeping sand dunes, local deer hunters to take portraits of, old abandoned huts (far right) where wilderness has overgrown. New Zealand has all that micro detail to take pictures of as well as the big landscapes. We saw yellow-eyed penguins and massive sea lions that were right next to us – giant slugs just metres from us. One came at me and they don't look fast, but they are!



STARTREKKING

The Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track is a phenomenal spot to visit and to photograph. It's a three-day trek, but we cheated and did it faster in a chopper due to time constraints. They've set up this \$3 million boardwalk track. It's a massive mountain ridgeline walk that goes for kilometres, where you walk along the top with your backpack. You camp along the way and end up at Port Craig (pictured) where there are these incredible sunrises over the water to wake up to.





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CITY TO COAST
 We flew to Dunedin and went all the way down to Queenstown – so looking on a map, we went from south-east to south-west. We spent a bit of time in Dunedin at the start; it's got a great young vibe, being a university town. You can be sitting there in a cosmopolitan bar and half an hour later be on the rugged coast with sea lions (left) and penguins. That's phenomenal in itself.

SOUNDS AND SIGHTS
 Milford Sound is up there with some of the best walks in the world. Fiordland National Park is spectacular – think *Lord of the Rings*. We were meant to do a drive but because of a landslide we had to go by chopper (left); there's nothing sexier than being up there in a helicopter. It's mind-blowing in a way words and pictures can't capture. You're going over these mountains like a rollercoaster, and as far as the eye can see it's epic. It slaps you in the face! We went into Milford Sound and it's just full of endless rainbows. We took a boat to the end and got smashed by the waterfalls – it's invigorating! It certainly makes you feel alive.

Jules' Camera Tips:
 You used to have the dreaded slide night, but now you can share your adventure on Facebook and Flickr. I used a Canon 7D – great because you can shoot HD video!

- Get a polarising filter to block out a lot of the reflection off the water.
- Have a shower cap over the camera so it doesn't get too wet!
- Stop and look around – don't be in a rush. Avoid a thousand shots like a machine gun; compose it and imagine the end product.