THANKS TO ALL OF OUR PAST HUNTERS WHO MAKE LEITHEN VALLEY A SUCCESS
For three generations, the Stewart/Burke Family has protected and preserved what we believe is the finest habitat for world-class trophy game animals in New Zealand. We take pride in providing the discriminating hunter with the vast terrain and expanse necessary for a fair chase trophy experience of a lifetime. Our lodges are located on the South Island of New Zealand. Within a matter of a few hours, you can experience tropical coastlines, rugged mountain peaks and fertile river valleys cloaked by dense forests.

The keynote to our operation is individual attention from first to last; your hunt being attended to personally by Rach and Olly Burke, owners and operators of Leithen Valley Trophy Hunts New Zealand. Our guides know the Leithen Valley area extensively and work hard to give you a hunt that is both memorable and enjoyable. As an experienced hunter yourself, you’ll know that skill plays a big part in any hunt. Our guides are there to make sure that luck, coupled with your own experience, dedication and good equipment, is on your side.

We invite you to become part of our Leithen Valley Family and enjoy our passion for the hunting experience.
Leithen Valley Lodge is a luxury lodge located in a stunning secluded valley overlooking native bush and lush forest with fresh water streams running through to the main rivers.

Leithen Valley Lodge is our own privately-owned ranch on 10,000+ acres where we hunt Red Stag, Fallow Deer, Wapiti, Arapawa Ram and feral goat. Red Deer have been roaming this area since being released in the early 1900s. These deer have been closely managed over the past 30 years. Consequently, some fantastic world-class trophies that score well, with plenty of character, have been produced over the years. There is no question some of the best Fallow Deer in the world will come out of Leithen Valley in the next few years. A common fault is to shoot good animals too young. At Leithen Valley, we try to avoid this. So if they are good at three years, you know at six years and older, they will be world-class.

The lodge offers luxury accommodations with en suite bathrooms and Wi-Fi throughout. Our cook uses only the freshest ingredients with a majority of meals being sourced right on the property. This is coupled with local beer and wine to make your stay at Leithen Valley as memorable for the food as it is for the hunting.

Leithen Valley is an ideal place for hunting companions. The terrain is moderate hill country, and there are plenty of vantage points to view the scenery and game we have to offer. Other activities include farm tours, fishing, duck shooting, bush walks, horse trekking and visits to the small towns around the district.
Maungawera Lodge

Maungawera Lodge is another luxury lodge where guests enjoy a relaxed atmosphere set in the foothills of the Southern Alps of New Zealand.

We base ourselves in this location for hunting the elusive Chamois. The lodge has large en suite bathrooms, huge living areas, a trophy room and generous private rooms.

Situated on the outskirts of Wanaka, a quiet tourist town on the shores of Lake Wanaka, sightseeing, shopping, ski fields, vineyards and fishing are just some of the activities right at our doorstep. Maungawera Lodge is also a great place for hunting companions to stay in luxury while hunters go into the mountains to hunt at our remote Tahr camp.
With over 30,000+ acres of mountainous terrain, this is a challenging stalk hunt, but very rewarding when successful. Tahr are plentiful, and we are 100% on obtaining a mature trophy of a lifetime. After your hunt, you are back in the comforts of our professionally outfitted camp where you will be well fed and enjoy a comfortable night’s sleep.

Access to this area is typically a short helicopter ride, and the road trip to Tahr camp from Maungawera Lodge/Wanaka is breathtaking. You’ll be viewing Mt. Cook, New Zealand’s largest mountain, along with the amazing blue lakes. Adding the Tahr into your trip tops off the ultimate New Zealand hunting adventure.

Our Tahr camp is located in a remote wilderness area in one of the best Tahr hunting areas in the world.
The RED DEER (Cervus elaphus) is one of the largest deer species and inhabits most of Europe. In New Zealand, the Red Deer were introduced along with other deer and game species; many of the 220 introductions used deer originating from Scotland. New Zealand Red Deer produce very large antlers and are regarded as amongst the best in the world by hunters.
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The FALLOW DEER (*Dama dama*) is one of the most attractive of the deer family and were among the first species successfully introduced to New Zealand in 1861. Although several liberations were made, Fallow Deer remain restricted to areas where they were released. Leithen Valley supports a prolific private herd of trophy class Fallow Deer near the South Island’s original liberation point.
The HIMALAYAN TAHR (*Hemitragus jemlahicus*) is a relative to the wild goat and native to the Himalayas. Tahr were introduced to New Zealand in 1904 for sport and have since expanded rapidly in the higher elevations of the Southern Alps.
The CHAMOIS (Rupicapra rupicapra) is an antelope species native to mountains in Europe with exceptional eyesight and the ability to run effortlessly in rough terrain. Introduced to New Zealand in 1907, the Chamois can now be found throughout the South Island.

The WAPITI (Cervus canadensis) is one of the world’s largest species of the deer family. In 1905, a successful liberation took place in the southwest corner of the South Island where the North American Wapiti adapted readily to their new environment.
The ARAPA SHEEP (Ovis aries) is a breed of feral sheep found on Arapawa Island where they have been primarily isolated since they were introduced in 1867. Leithen Valley hosts a large population of the rare Arapawa.

Leithen Valley has always encouraged young and first-time hunters and specializes in catering to families for memorable hunts.

Leithen Valley has been a family business for three generations. The fourth generation, Sam and Zac, are growing up fully immersed in the hunting industry. With a customized family package, we can guarantee the whole family will take away very special memories that will be shared for the rest of your lives. Our references include families that we have hosted more than once. They will be more than happy to talk to you about their experiences.

Leithen Valley has also spent over a decade running a young hunter’s program with youth from around the globe. From the positive experiences and the knowledge gained through our program, you can literally see the transformation in their confidence take place.
Many of our hunters, partners and their families allow one to two weeks to see the sights and fully experience New Zealand. If you enjoy vineyard tours, shopping, massage and pampering at a spa, we have a variety of great places to recommend. You may prefer to take a heli tour around the Southern Alps, down the rugged West Coast and into Milford Sound. We have experienced pilots who will get you there. If you are the more adventurous type, there is no shortage of adrenaline-filled activities in our area. You may like having the freedom of your own rental car. We can help you with a good itinerary allowing you to go at your own pace and see the sights relevant to you. The South Island roads are easy to navigate and safe to drive.

Rach and Olly have years of experience working in New Zealand’s tourism industry for some of the country’s biggest and best tourism operators. So take advantage of their expertise and make the most of your time during your stay in New Zealand.

New Zealand is more than just a great hunting destination. There are many exciting activities for the non-hunter to enjoy as well.
Dear Hunters,

YOU HAVE PROBABLY STARTED FORMING QUESTIONS THAT ARE SO IMPORTANT IN PLANNING A HUNT, SO WE HAVE ANTICIPATED A FEW THAT MAY HELP AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE BROCHURE. OUR QUALITY TROPHIES KEEP GETTING BETTER!

What type of physical shape do I need to be in when I hunt in New Zealand?

The very best possible, considering your age and physical limitations. This is not to say that you have to be in first-class, top condition. Our guides are well-trained and considerate. They will quickly determine your abilities and pace and modify the hunt to suit your ability. All the same, if you can spare the time, some extra activities like walking, biking or gym work will pay off. This particularly applies when hunting Tahr.

What type of boots do I require?

In New Zealand our ground can be undulating, rocky and wet depending on which area you are hunting. Boots need to be waterproof, have good ankle support with plenty of grip and rubber soles. We recommend Kenetrek boots.

Please make sure your boots are clean when entering New Zealand, as our border controls are very strict on dirty boots.

Do I need gaiters?

We find gaiters keep your lower legs dry in our long wet grass, open down the front of the leg are the best for ease of getting them on/off. Kenetrek also makes good gaiters.

Do I bring a pack?

We recommend you bring a backpack to carry binoculars, cameras, drink bottles, etc. while you are out hunting. Some of our Tahr and Chamois spike camps may require a larger pack, so it is ready on your arrival into New Zealand. You will also need an export permit for your trophies. Duck and fishing licenses are required, but these can be bought online while in camp.

How much ammunition should I bring?

At what range should I be sighted in?

Generally, the average shot is 100 to 200 yards. In the mountains for Tahr and Chamois, you can expect to shoot up to 300 yards.

What calibre do you recommend?

We recommend a calibre that you should shoot well. The most commonly used rifles for NZ hunting conditions are between the .270 and .300 Win Mag. We have .270 Win Mag lightweight rifles, a .300 Win Mag and a .300 Ultra Mag in camp that you can ask to borrow. We do ask that you bring two boxes of ammo and leave them with us for the hire or buy ammo in NZ.

Do I need to bring a sleeping bag and pad?

No – We supply bags and pads for our client’s use at Tahr camp. Our other camps don’t require sleeping bags.

Do I require rainwear?

Yes – Good quality Gortex rainwear is important, especially mountain hunting.

Do I require licenses or tags?

Yes, if your guide/camp staff are prepared to go the extra mile and give you a successful and enjoyable hunt, it is worth showing your appreciation. Guiding and camp work is a very specialized profession, so it is important to treat your guides well and appreciate their hard work.

What is the weather like?

New Zealand’s seasons are opposite to those in the Northern Hemisphere, so clothing should be appropriate for cool to cold conditions which may include rain or snow. Here are a few suggestions intended as a guideline, but bring what you feel you need.

- Leather boots with good ankle support and gripping soles are essential.
- Remember your gloves, cap, warm hat, wool socks and rain coat and pants. We recommend Swazi rain gear. We also recommend a layered clothing system to allow for varying temperatures.
- Bring your personal belongings such as a water bottle, binoculars, rifle and ammunition, day backpac, camera (we have adapters for power conversions), name tags for trophies and a roll of duct tape if you plan to take your trophies home with you.
- We have laundry facilities at all our hunting camps and hair dryers in the rooms. Try to limit your gear to one duffle bag if you can.

We hope that we have been able to answer some of your questions in contemplating or preparing to hunt with Leithen Valley Trophy Hunts New Zealand.

Yours in hunting,

The Leithen Valley Team
Usually your trophies will be prepared while you are still in camp. We will also boil and clean your heads to CITES standards so you have the option to take your trophies home on the plane with you (if regulations and drying time allows).

We have a custom-built skinning/crating shed on site. This is a great place to spend some time reflecting on your successful day in the company of fellow hunters and guides while viewing the preparation of your trophies. If you would prefer to freight your trophies home, our experienced staff will custom-build a crate for you, handle all the necessary permits and paperwork, then transport it on to our reputable shipper.