

Activating consumer insights to grow off-peak holiday visitation

November 2024

## In this presentation we will cover



Key learnings and how this will influence TNZ activity



Opportunities for industry, by market and season



## What we set out to do



#### **HOW TO WIN**

How can TNZ can grow consideration for NZ as a year-round destination and convert this into off-peak holiday visitation?



#### WHERE TO PLAY

Which audiences should we focus on? What are their needs and motivations?



#### WHAT TO DO

How can NZ own and communicate a 'year-round' or off-peak position with audiences?

#### **METHODOLOGY** - We spoke to approximately 4,300 people across 2 key stages

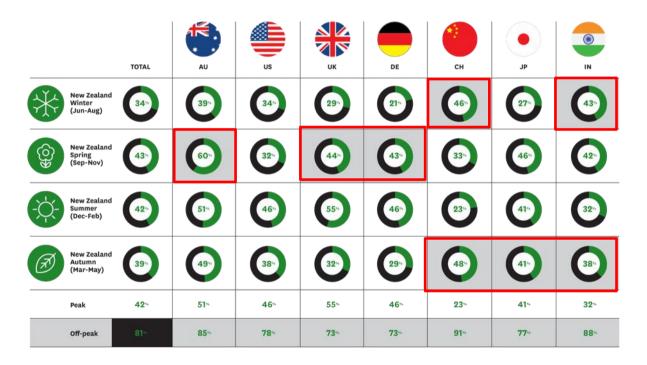
- Quantitative demand and sizing in 7 markets US, AU, UK, CHN, JP, DE, IN
   Assess the opportunities, size demand, motivators and barriers
   N = 300 Active Considerers and 300 Non-Active considerers by market; total n = 4200
- 2. Qualitative deep-dive research in 7 markets US, AU, UK, CHN, JP, DE, IN
  In-depth exploration of barriers, motivations and needs; brand & creative territories
  2 hour focus group conversations 3 per market, 21 in total; total n < 126







## 1. Strong appetite for off-peak





of audiences\* would consider visiting New Zealand in the off-peak period



Most travellers (68%) have a strong preference for travel May-October, overlapping with summer in the Northern hemisphere.



This indicates climate could be a driver to 'escape to' milder weather.



## 2. Destination is the #1 decision



**Destination choice** is the primary factor in holiday planning, followed by time of year to travel

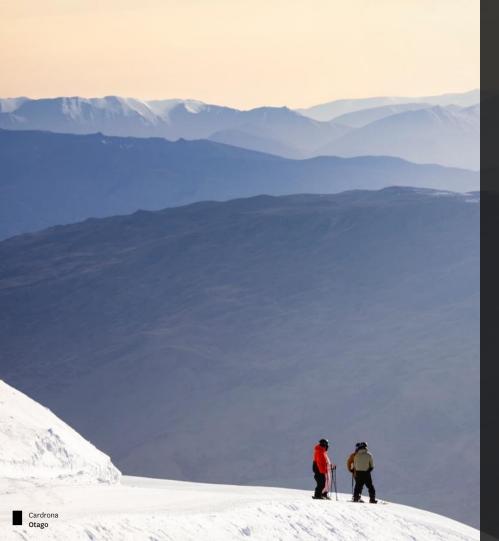


**Seasonality** can be a powerful secondary message, people begin to think about this during discovery/planning.



**Weather** is the most important factor when considering **when** to travel





## 3. NZ is well placed for a 'year-round' positioning



There is a strong perception that New Zealand can be enjoyed in any season



The motivations to travel to NZ align with the perception of NZ as a year-round destination.



There are a broad range of NZ activities seen as year-round

#### **KEY FUNCTIONAL NEEDS**

- Natural landscapes
- Local food
- Wildlife
- Iconic/recognizable attractions
- Outdoor activities
- Cultural experiences
- Opportunities to immerse in local culture

#### **KEY EMOTIVE NEEDS**

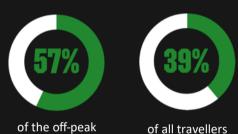
- Unwind/rejuvenate/relax
- Broaden horizons
- Adventure and new experiences
- Activities that bring joy
- Escape the routine
- Sense of freedom and being spontaneous
- Reconnect with people



## 4. New audience opportunity for TNZ's targeted conversion

<u>Three</u> off-peak demand segments present an opportunity for conversion, which we'll target as a combined group.

#### THEY REPRESENT



#### **FLEXIBILITY – 63%**



I am flexible and usually choose the dates based on good flight deals available



I am very flexible. I travel whenever I want to or whenever it suits the people I'm traveling with



prefer off-peak travel

#### % OF SUPER SEGMENT IN EACH COUNTRY



audience



















## 5. Challenges for Tourism New Zealand to be aware of

#### **BROAD BARRIERS**



Cost and distance are still long-haul barriers



Lack of knowledge about New Zealand – whether peak or off-peak



Low awareness of what makes us unique or iconic – critical to social currency and distinctiveness



Desire for a no compromises holiday – travel needs to deliver more and be even more special



## 5. Challenges for Tourism New Zealand to be aware of (continued)

#### **OFF-PEAK MESSAGING WATCH-OUTS**



Weather – Unfavourable weather conditions to explore and enjoy outdoor activities are a strong concern, and a barrier for off-peak travel



Overt seasonality messaging can be limiting and distracting



No negativity around other seasons

— Talking up the benefits of one
season, while criticising another can
be polarising e.g. avoid the
overcrowding of summer



Value/Cost an appealing benefit, but care must be taken about how we talk about this as it risks carrying negative connotations and can be seen as 'less trustworthy' e.g. lower costs in the off-season



Large proportion of considering audiences are families – Ensure they feel represented and can connect to imagery



Balancing the need for peace and relaxation with "too quiet" - core audiences (and families) need variety and a mix of diverse activities and downtime



Over amplifying high adrenaline adventure-based imagery is a watch out. Comparatively, strong appeal for "adventure light" as it appeals more broadly e.g. rafting



## 6. A 'Year-round New Zealand' position

With seasonal detail and in-market activation drives the greatest appeal and conversion to New Zealand

#### NEW ZEALAND HAS GREAT THINGS TO DO ALL YEAR ROUND

What to do, see, taste, discover, experience during...











**Spring** 

Summer

Autumn

Seasonal experiences in New Zealand provides the necessary detail regarding destination New Zealand to support trip planning

There is an opportunity to reframe seasonality as simply the "best times to experience New Zealand" as there is overall low knowledge of New Zealand



## In-market holidays

New Zealand can also benefit from designing product to fit around the key annual leave periods in each market because this is when they can/want to travel





## 7. Drivers of travel timing to address



**Weather** – the #1 issue determining travel timing



**Experience** – allure of better, high-quality experiences



**Availability** - not as widely considered but more real for NZ considerer



**Sustainability** – high potential differentiator with ACs



100% PURE NEW ZEALAND



## What we'll do next



Evolve our TNZ audience and marketing communications strategy



A new message and creative framework to bring off-peak messages to life across our FY25/26 activity



Sharing insights with industry to support the off-peak focus



Use insights to guide the development of the Industry and Product Strategy



We're engaging with in-market teams directly to help bring it all to life and embed this important research into our approach





# Understanding opportunity areas for industry

## Key features of the off-peak group who are primed to take tangible action

AUDIENCE	ACTIVE CONSIDERERS	OFF-PEAK AUDIENCE
Off-peak consideration	<b>69%</b> would travel in the off-peak months	100% would travel in the off-peak months
Demographics	<b>58%</b> Families	<b>54%</b> Sinks and Dinks
	42% Sinks and Dinks	46% Families
		Skew older
	<b>42%</b> are 18-34 years	<b>27%</b> are 18-34 years
	<b>41%</b> are 35-55 years	<b>45%</b> are 35-55 years
	<b>18%</b> 56+ years	<b>28%</b> 56+ years
The kind of NZ holiday and experiences they are after	More relaxation and pamper, with family	More active, adventurous holiday for couples
Activities	Nature and wildlife, Emphasising	Nature and wildlife, Emphasising
	Outdoor activities	Food/culinary experiences
	Water based activities	Iconic attractions and landmarks
	Zoo/wildlife parks Shopping	Immersion in local culture Geothermal sites

## We still need to deliver to our visitors needs year round



## What does the visitor want to feel? (emotive needs)

Relaxation, rejuvenation, peacefulness, heart-felt welcome, authentic & deep connections (to land and people), sense of safety/reassurance



## What do they want the holiday to deliver? (functional needs)

Stunning/Pristine landscapes,
wildlife, culture, iconic
attractions & landmarks, local food,
arts & culture, new
adventures/experiences



## A holiday to NZ says I am... (social/identity needs)

Nature lover, Open & Curious – Leaning into local life, Caring and sustainability-minded – Keen to treat our land with respect



#### **Action**

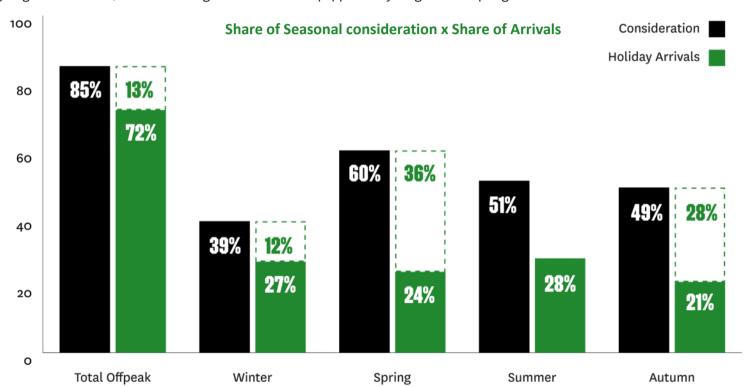
When considering your product experience and how you communicate and sell your product, look at how these attributes are included. Make it clear that this is what they're getting.



## **Market Opportunities - Australia**



Opportunity to grow shoulders; Season with highest consideration/opportunity for growth is Spring







## What makes Australian visitors unique in their off-peak needs?





A New Zealand holiday must deliver to our spectacular landscapes, wildlife experiences, food & culture experiences, and our milder offpeak climate. Additionally,

Australians are drawn to NZ for its....

- · Outdoor adventures
- Iconic attractions
- · Distinct wineries, breweries, distilleries



In addition to looking for adventure new experiences, unwinding rejuvenation, escaping the routine, the sense of escape and joy,

Australians are after experiences that....

- · Deliver a sense of freedom and spontaneity
  - Elevates social currency,
     e.g." social flex" through sharing
     their epic holiday adventures



Across all markets there is interest in our natural attractions – landscapes, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, native forests. Australians are specifically interested in these additional activities....

- Glaciers and alpine areas
  - Hot-pools
  - Geothermal sites
  - Self-driven road trips



## Australians prefer unique activities for each season





#### **NZ Summer**

Beaches & coasts Māori cultural experiences Horse riding Experiencing local towns & main cities Group sightseeing tours Group sightseeing tours Zoo or wildlife park A Live event (e.g. sports, concert, festival)



#### **NZ Autumn**

Visiting a brewery or distillery Film sets or film locations (eg. Hobbiton) Vineyards / wineries Glaciers Bathing in hot pools / mud pools Self-driven road trips Marine reserves (protected conversation areas)



#### **N7** Winter

Multi-day walks and hikes Rock climbing/abseiling Skiing / snowboarding Adventure rides (e.g. Ziplining, luging, tobogganing) Bungy jumping Jet boating or white water rafting Aero sports (e.g. hot air ballooning, skydiving, paragliding)



## **NZ Spring**

Scenic train trips Historical and heritage sites Fjords, e.g. Milford Sounds Stargazing Trying local wine or beer Wildlife experiences (e.g. whale watching, penguin colony)

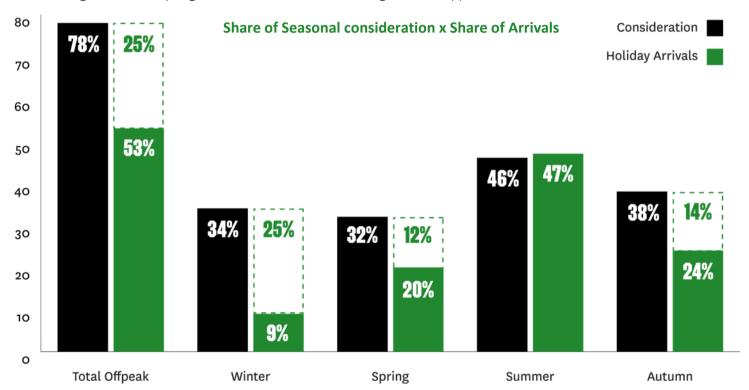




## **Market Opportunities - US**



Insights indicate room to grow Winter, Spring, Autumn - TNZ US teams driving shoulder opportunities a FY25 action.







## What makes US visitors unique in their off-peak needs?





A New Zealand holiday must deliver to our spectacular landscapes, wildlife experiences, food & culture experiences, and our milder off-peak climate. Additionally, US visitors are drawn to NZ for its....

- Cultural experiences
- Outdoor activities
- Relaxation based experiences



In addition to looking for adventure new experiences, unwinding rejuvenation, escaping the routine, the sense of escape and joy,
US visitors are after experiences that....

· Leave a positive experience on communities



Across all markets there is interest in our natural attractions – landscapes, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, native forests. US visitors are more so interested in these activities....

- Coastlines and beaches
- Guided walking tours
  - Boat cruises
  - Exploring cities



## US holiday visitors prefer unique activities for each season





#### **NZ Summer**

Beaches & coasts Water activities (e.g. Snorkelling, diving, surfing, kayaking) Experiencing local towns Group sightseeing tours Adventure rides (e.g. ziplining, luging,

tobogganing)



#### **NZ Autumn**

Visiting a brewery or distillery Trying local wine or beer Vineyards / wineries **Bungy jumping** Theme experience (e.g. All Blacks Experience, Antarctic Centre)



#### **NZ** Winter

Rock climbing / abseiling Skiing / snowboarding



### **NZ Spring**

Beaches & coasts Native forests Lakes, rivers and waterfalls Stargazing Māori cultural experiences Historical sites and heritage sites Museums, observatories & galleries Trying local cuisine Wildlife experiences (e.g. whale watching, penguin colony) Walking tour

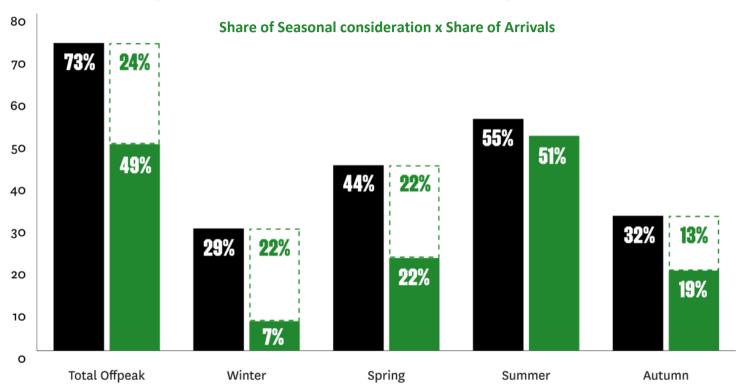




## **Market Opportunities - UK**



Room to convert consideration in Spring, Autumn and Winter for UK market - TNZ UK team focussing on shoulders as a FY25 opportunity







## What makes UK visitors unique in their off-peak needs?





A New Zealand holiday must deliver to our spectacular landscapes, wildlife experiences, food & culture experiences, and our milder offpeak climate. Additionally,

UK visitors are drawn to NZ for its unique....

- Wildlife experiences
- Cultural experiences
- Iconic attractions
- Luxury accommodations



In addition to looking for adventure new experiences, unwinding rejuvenation, escaping the routine, the sense of escape and joy,

UK visitors are after experiences that....

- · Deliver a sense of personal growth
- New experiences that broaden horizons
- Reconnecting with people in order to make lasting memories



Across all markets there is interest in our natural attractions – landscapes, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, native forests. UK Visitors are specifically interested in these additional activities....

- Coastlines and beaches
- Historic and heritage sites
  - · Guided walking tours
- Exploring our main cities
- · Visiting museums, galleries etc.



## UK holiday visitors prefer unique activities for each season





#### **NZ Summer**

Beaches & coasts

Zoo or wildlife park

Jet boating or white water rafting

Horse riding



#### **NZ Autumn**

Golf
Rock climbing / abseiling



#### **NZ Winter**

Bungy jumping
Skiing / snowboarding
Adventure rides

(e.g. ziplining, luging, tobogganing)

Cycling or mountain biking

A Live sports event (e.g. sports, concert, festival)

Aero sports (e.g. hot air ballooning, skydiving, paragliding) Fishing



## **NZ Spring**

Lakes, rivers and waterfalls

Trying local cuisine

Historical sites and heritage sites

Wildlife experiences

(e.g. Whale watching, penguin colony)

Scenic train trip

Experiencing local towns

Native forests

Geothermal sites, e.g. geysers, volcanoes

Glaciers

Museums, observatories & galleries

Stargazing

Fjords, e.g. Milford Sound

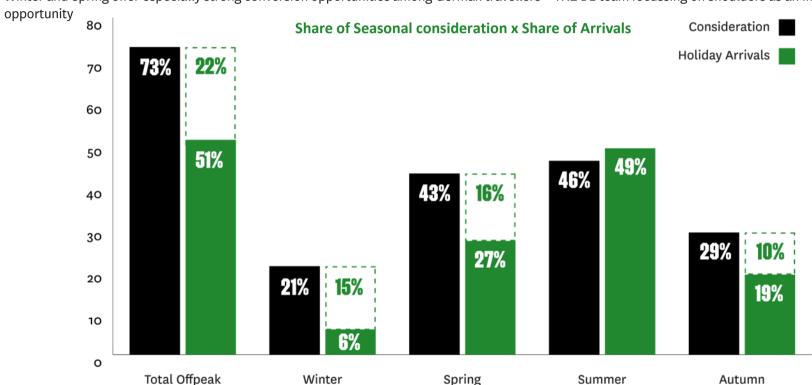




## **Market Opportunities - Germany**



Winter and Spring offer especially strong conversion opportunities among German travellers – TNZ DE team focussing on shoulders as an immediate







## What makes German visitors unique in their off-peak needs?





A New Zealand holiday must deliver to our spectacular landscapes, wildlife experiences, food & culture experiences, and our milder offpeak climate. Additionally,

Germans are drawn to NZ for its....

- Outdoor activities
- · Local culture immersion
- Iconic attractions and landmarks



In addition to looking for adventure new experiences, unwinding rejuvenation, escaping the routine, the sense of escape and joy,

Germans are after experiences that....

- Broaden their horizons
- Deliver a sense of freedom and spontaneity
  - Encourage personal growth



Across all markets there is interest in our natural attractions – landscapes, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, native forests. Germans are specifically interested in these additional activities....

- Day walks and hikes in nature
  - · Trying local cuisine
  - Wildlife experiences
- Historical and heritage sites



## US holiday visitors prefer unique activities for each season





#### **NZ Summer**

Beaches & coasts

Water activities (e.g. Snorkelling, diving, surfing, kayaking)

Lakes, rivers and waterfalls

Scenic boat cruise

Glaciers

Adventure rides (e.g. Ziplining, luging, tobogganing) Bathing in hot pools / mud pools

Trying local cuisine

Nature walks and hikes (up to 8 hours)



#### **NZ Autumn**

Golf

A Live event (e.g. sports, concert, festival)

Scenic train trip

Theme experience (e.g. All Blacks Experience, Antarctic Centre)

> Rock climbing / abseiling Museums, observatories

& galleries



#### **NZ** Winter

Skiing / snowboarding Aero sports (e.g. hot air ballooning, skydiving, paragliding) Bungy jumping



#### **NZ Spring**

Guided walking tour

Native forests

Wildlife experiences (e.g. Whale watching, penguin colony)

Māori cultural experiences

Fjords, e.g. Milford Sound

Geothermal sites,

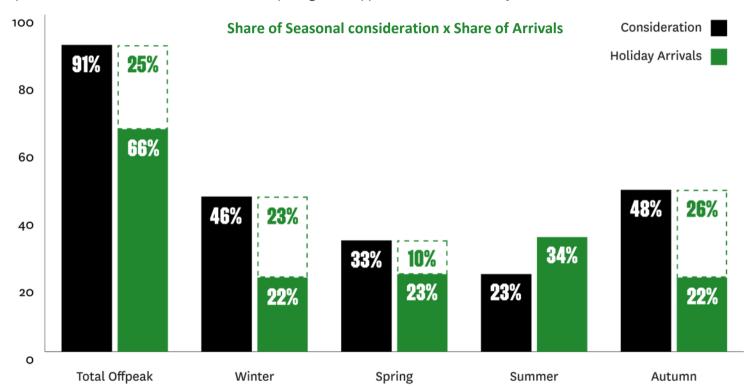
e.g. geysers, volcanoes



## **Market Opportunities - China**



With high off-peak consideration, China offers massive off-peak growth opportunities - Particularly in Autumn and Winter, a focus in FY25







## What makes Chinese visitors unique in their off-peak needs?





A New Zealand holiday must deliver to our spectacular landscapes, wildlife experiences, food & culture experiences, and our milder off-peak climate. Additionally,

Chinese visitors are drawn to NZ for its....

- Events and festivals
- Outdoor activities
- · Bustling cities and urban experiences
  - Iconic attractions and landmarks



In addition to looking for adventure new experiences, unwinding rejuvenation, escaping the routine, the sense of escape and joy,

Chinese visitors are after experiences that....

- · Broaden their horizons
- Allow them to celebrate a special occasion with loved ones
- · Deliver a sense of freedom and spontaneity



Across all markets there is interest in our natural attractions – landscapes, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, native forests. Chinese visitors are specifically interested in these additional activities....

- Beaches and coasts
- Adventure rides
- Geothermal sites
- Water activities



## Chinese holiday visitors prefer unique activities for each season





#### **NZ Summer**

Beaches & coasts Water activities (e.g. Snorkelling, diving, surfing, kayaking) Fjords, e.g. Milford Sound Scenic boat cruise Experiencing local towns & main cities Historical sites and heritage sites Trying local cuisine, wine or beer Marine reserves

(protected conversation areas)



#### **NZ Autumn**

Scenic helicopter or plane flight Fishing Aero sports (e.g. hot air ballooning, skydiving, paragliding)



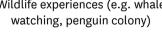
#### **NZ** Winter

Multi-day walks and hikes Adventure rides (e.g. ziplining, luging, tobogganing)



### **NZ Spring**

Geothermal sites. e.g. geysers, volcanoes Stargazing Bathing in hot pools / mud pools Lakes, rivers and waterfalls Theme experience (e.g. All Blacks Experience, Antarctic Centre) Skiing / snowboarding Wildlife experiences (e.g. whale

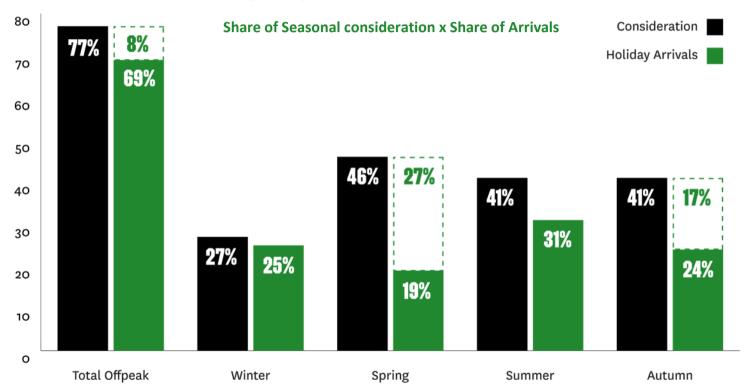




## **Market Opportunities - Japan**



Opportunity to convert Japanese audiences considering a Spring holiday in particular







## What makes Japanese visitors unique in their off-peak needs?





A New Zealand holiday must deliver to our spectacular landscapes, wildlife experiences, food & culture experiences, and our milder offpeak climate. Additionally, Japanese visitors are drawn to NZ for its....

- Iconic attractions
- Bustling cities and urban experiences
- · Opportunities to immerse in local culture
  - Outdoor activities



In addition to looking for adventure new experiences, unwinding rejuvenation, escaping the routine, the sense of escape and joy, Japanese visitors are after experiences that....

- Allow them to reconnect and create lasting memories with loved ones
  - Broaden their horizons
- Deliver a sense of freedom and spontaneity



Across all markets there is interest in our natural attractions – landscapes, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, native forests. Japanese visitors are specifically interested in these additional activities....

- Trying local cuisine
- Beaches and coasts
- Scenic boat cruises
- · Day walks and hikes in nature



## Japanese holiday visitors desire unique activities for each season





#### **NZ Summer**

Glow worm caves

Water activities (e.g. Snorkelling, diving, surfing, kayaking)

Zoo or wildlife park

Beaches & coasts

Nature walks and hikes (up to 8 hours)

Geothermal sites, e.g. geysers, volcanoes

Wildlife experiences (e.g. whale watching, penguin colony)



#### **NZ Autumn**

Fishing Guided walking tour Visiting a brewery or distillery Stargazing Native forests



#### **NZ** Winter

Aero sports (e.g. hot air ballooning, skydiving, paragliding)

Skiing / snowboarding

A Live event (e.g. sports, concert, festival)

Golf

Group sightseeing tours

Film sets or film locations (e.g. Hobbiton)



#### **NZ Spring**

Māori cultural experiences Exploring main cities Scenic boat cruise Trying local cuisine Lakes, rivers and waterfalls

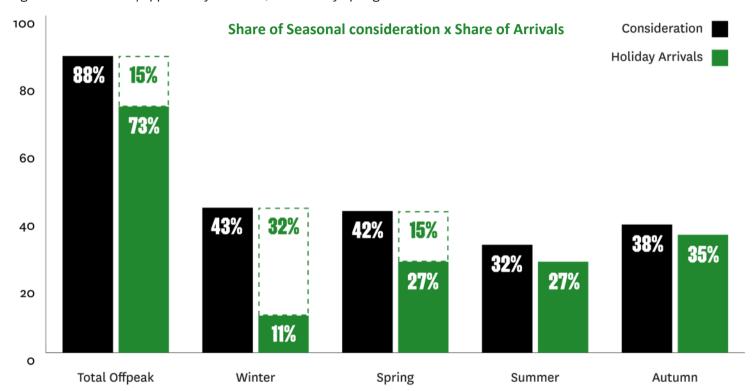




## **Market Opportunities - India**



Season with highest consideration/opportunity is Winter, followed by Spring. Continue to hold Autumn.







## What makes Indian visitors unique in their off-peak needs?





A New Zealand holiday must deliver to our spectacular landscapes, wildlife experiences, food & culture experiences, and our milder offpeak climate. Additionally,

Indian visitors are drawn to NZ for its....

- Bustling cities and urban experiences
  - Outdoor activities
  - · Iconic attractions and landmarks



In addition to looking for adventure new experiences, unwinding rejuvenation, escaping the routine, the sense of escape and joy,
Indian visitors are after experiences that....

- · Broaden their horizons
- Allow them to make a positive impact
  - · Encourage personal growth



Across all markets there is interest in our natural attractions – landscapes, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, native forests. Indian visitors are uniquely interested in these additional activities....

- Mountains and alpine areas
  - Beaches and coasts
  - Trying local cuisine
  - Water activities



## Indian holiday visitors desire unique activities for each season





#### **NZ Summer**

Film sets or film locations (e.g. Hobbiton) Stargazing



#### **NZ Autumn**

A Live sports event (e.g. sports, concert, festival) Guided walking tour Visiting a brewery or distillery Historical sites and heritage sites



#### **N7** Winter

Marine reserves (protected conversation areas)

Geothermal sites, e.g. geysers, volcanoes

Scenic helicopter or plane flight

Bathing in hot pools / mud pools

Nightlife, bars and clubs

Shopping for New Zealand made products, arts and crafts

> Nature walks and hikes (up to 8 hours)

Adventure rides (e.g. ziplining, luging, tobogganing)

Aero sports (e.g. hot air ballooning, skydiving, paragliding)



#### **NZ Spring**

Wildlife experiences (e.g. whale watching, penguin colony)

Vineyards / wineries

Zoo or wildlife park

Lakes, rivers and waterfalls

Exploring main cities and local towns

Fishing

Scenic boat cruise

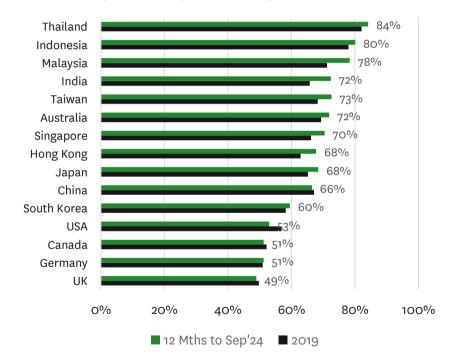




## In summary, there are emerging pathways to reinforce

- The appetite for off-peak travel to New Zealand is strong across all
  markets, with various markets offering more specific seasonal
  opportunities (Autumn is a better opportunity with Asia compared to
  Europe, where Spring is a stronger opportunity)
- Many more say they would consider visiting New Zealand in the offpeak than actual arrivals, providing **pathways for untapped demand**
- Consider the demographic differences: Year-round audiences more evenly dispersed across ages (18-55 years), largely families. Off peak audiences, more independent couples, over-indexing to SINKs and DINKs.
- Still looking for 100% New Zealand: Activities and experience preference vary by market and season, but key to remember that certain activities and audience needs are year-round.
- Using other insights at our disposal: Asian visitors skew towards offpeak arrivals, imperative to consider opportunities here

#### Off-peak Holiday Arrivals % by market vs. 2019\*







How you can use these insights

## **Your Product**

Target markets

Understand your target markets are looking for and align your product to that.

Seasonal variations

Consider what visitors might be looking for at different times of the year and alter the offering to match.

Push seasonal advantage

Identify what changes in your product by season and what the appeal of that may be to visitors.

- No compromises holiday

  Talk about the things that make your experience special.
- Range of Markets

Look at the whether there are visitors from other markets that you could attract to your product.





## **Your Communications**

- Match communications to off-peak traveller

  Have communications that appeal to visitors that are likely to travel in the off-peak. For example, this may include more imagery of families. Talk to the benefit and experience of this
- Value/cost
  Is an appealing benefit, but care must be taken about how we talk about this as it risks carrying negative connotations and is seen as 'less trustworthy' i.e. lower costs in the off-season
- Balancing peace with too quiet
   Quiet doesn't work for core audiences who need variety and a mix of diverse activities and downtime. Be mindful when telling consumers that it is quieter.
- International holidays
   Look at targeting and offerings around key annual leave periods.

## Weather

- No negativity around other seasons
   Talking up the benefits of one season while criticising another was polarising e.g. overcrowding in summer
- Overt seasonality messaging can be limiting and distracting Lead with the positive attributes of the experience rather than messaging on the season or weather.
- Weather is an important factor when choosing when to travel
   The key is that NZ weather isn't too bad and you can still do a wide range of activities. Keep talking about what you
- Weather may impact your experiences
   Is there an opportunity to work with other operators to have good contingency plans if your experience is impacted by negative weather.





## **Other Considerations**

Destination versus experience
 Before someone is committed to a trip it's important to talk to
 New Zealand as a destination. After you know they are coming,
 it's about when and what.

Trade

There may be opportunities for variations in itineraries based on audience drivers.

- Market Snapshots
- Find more information about each of our key markets <u>HERE</u>

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