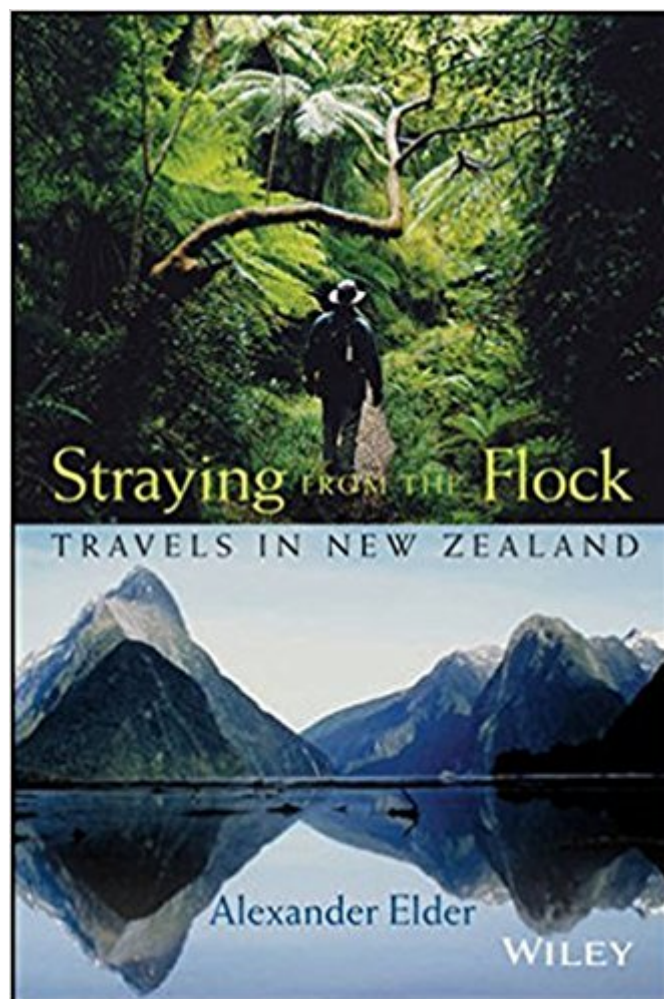


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Straying From The Flock: Travels In New Zealand



Synopsis

An illuminating road trip through the history, life, and attractions of one of the most beautiful countries in the southern hemisphere. The beauty and grandeur of New Zealand has captured the imagination of movie-goers over the past couple of years, and the country is a dream destination for many around the world. *Straying from the Flock* is an intimate and personal account of one passionate traveler's visit to this incredible country, its mountains and beaches, fjords, rainforests, vineyards, and hidden eateries. Each of the fifty chapters describes one day in his travels—fishing, flying, cattle herding, befriending locals at every turn. Filled with colorful stories and memorable personalities, the book not only describes the trip of a lifetime, but captures a life-altering experience for its writer. From mountains and rainforests to cities and beaches, *Straying from the Flock* is both a moving memoir and personal travel guide to this amazing country.

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Customer Reviews

Straying from the Flock The beauty and grandeur of New Zealand have captured the imagination of countless people, making it a dream destination for many around the world. In *Straying from the Flock*, Dr. Alexander Elder offers an intimate and personal account of his visit to this incredible country, elegantly detailing its mountains and beaches, fjords and rainforests, vineyards, and hidden eateries. Filled with colorful stories and memorable personalities, each chapter of this book describes one day in the life of this passionate traveler, as he experiences the history, culture, and attractions of one of the most beautiful countries in the Southern Hemisphere. Both a moving memoir and personal travel guide to this amazing country, *Straying from the Flock* offers an

inspiring look at the trip of a lifetime.

DR. ALEXANDER ELDER is a professional trader, an expert in technical analysis, and a practicing psychiatrist. He is the founder of Financial Trading Inc., a firm that provides intensive training camps for traders worldwide. His two previous books went on to become international bestsellers: *Trading for a Living* (Wiley) was translated into nine languages, and *Come Into My Trading Room* (Wiley) was named a 2003 Book of the Year by Barron's. To see Dr. Elder's snapshots from his New Zealand journey please visit www.elder.com/nz.

Straying from the Flock; Travels in New Zealand made me feel as if I'd actually visited the country. Each time I put it down, I was surprised to find that I was not in New Zealand. This is not a guidebook; it is a description of a trip taken by a wealthy person. Mr. Elder's vacation included comfortable lodgings, sampling wines, renting fishing boats, and taking a helicopter trip to a volcano. (Mine would include backpacking, sleeping outdoors, visiting a couple of museums, and only one extravagance: swimming with dolphins.) Even though this book won't help me plan my trip, I found it worth reading because it conveyed the beauty of the country and friendliness of its inhabitants. I enjoyed the book, but I can understand why it received some negative reviews. Several times, the author puts in writing comments about people that most of us would only whisper-- if we said them at all. The very first chapter starts with several unkind observations. Fortunately for readers, he admires nearly all of the people he meets and he loves New Zealand. (Perhaps his "honesty" put me inside his head, and that is the reason I felt as if I was sharing his trip through New Zealand.) It is nice when Mr. Elder mocks his own foibles. One of them is his obsession with the lack of guard rails at the sides of New Zealand roads; he mentions the topic so many times that it made me laugh, too. His comparison of Australia's and New Zealand's histories and cultures is intriguing, but almost certainly exaggerated and unfair to Australians. The kiss-and-tell in chapter 41 seemed out of place; I did not want to know about it and I'm sure the object of his affections would prefer that he hadn't shared their private evening, her real name, and the town she lives in. So why did I give the book four stars?~ He spoke with many different people and he must be a great conversationalist because he learned an amazing amount about New Zealand, including its culture, economy, history, politics, and agriculture.~ He is a very good writer. The fact that English is his second language only highlights that fact. His descriptions of scenery are vivid, whether he is in the mountains or on a beach, in someone's living room or on a boat.~ While many of his travel suggestions are extravagant (only fly business class?! \$\$\$), all of them strike me as good advice.~ His recollections

of his earlier trips to New Zealand with his children are very sweet.~ Finally, his love of New Zealand is palpable. The book was so engaging that I feel as if I have visited New Zealand. And I can't wait to visit again.

I bought this book because it was the first novel I have ever seen about New Zealand. Basically every other book has been a travel guide, some of which are useful, but none of which are a narrative of a person's experience in New Zealand. Alexander Elder is a frequent traveler to New Zealand and he relates his story of traveling from the south tip to the northernmost tip of the country over the course of eight weeks (with a few days in Fiji and Australia). He meets new people and visits old friends along the way. I really enjoyed this book, my only issues were that I couldn't completely relate to his way of traveling. He travels in a style where laying down several hundred dollars to get a guided trip a few times in a week is no issue. I tend to be on a much more restricted budget. He also has a bit of a different attitude than myself, more strict about superb service and attention than I probably would be, but it's his story not my own :) He does give a good impression of the hospitality that is present in most New Zealanders as well as the beauty of the land itself. I often felt like I was right along side of him during his trip. This is a good read for anyone interested in New Zealand, especially being a tourist there. He also provides a link to his website where he posted the photos (non-professional) that he took during the course of this trip, a nice little addition to enhance the story.

With a title like "Straying from the Flock" and a cover with an epic scenery and a hiker, I thought that this travelogue would be someone's off the beaten trail type travels. Instead, it was the dryly written travel diary of a rich American snob's boring travels. He writes of private ski lessons and expensive B&B's. He's extremely judgmental of all the people he meets and has expectations of people that I find to be quite pompous. He expects the people at the B&B to carry his luggage, make reservations for him and serve his every whim like a high end hotel, but also to feed him their best home cooked meals while entertaining him around their fire with intelligent conversations like they're old friends. He writes of moments when he's incredibly rude and opinionated to someone as if he's high and mighty and it was the best, most civilized thing to do. The only relevant piece of travel information that I received was that people in New Zealand are apparently really nice, because even when he's being a rude tourist they're quite friendly with him.

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