

# 10 Day Full North Island (ANI10)

## North Island Stray Journeys Itinerary

**Start location / day:** Auckland / Sundays

**Finish location / day:** Auckland / Tuesdays

**Duration:** 10 days / 9 nights

**Departure dates:** 07/10/18 - 28/04/19

### Day 1: Auckland to Paihia

Nau mai, haere mai (welcome)! Your journey kicks off in New Zealand's largest city, Auckland. Pick-ups start at your accommodation bright and early before we head north to the seaside town of Paihia. We stop en-route to hug some of the world's mightiest trees, the native kauri, enjoy a hike to a beautiful waterfall and stop for lunch and a swim at scenic Waipu Cove. This is followed by a trip to the historic Waitangi Treaty Grounds (own expense), before settling into our accommodation where you'll have a group meal and the evening free to relax in Paihia. (D)

**Accommodation included:** Beachfront hostel

**Activities included:** Tree hugging huge kauri trees at Parry Kauri Forest, Waipu Cove

**Optional activities:** Waitangi Treaty Grounds

### Day 2: Paihia to Hokianga

This morning we take a scenic cruise around the beautiful Bay of Islands, a collection of 144 islands bursting with marine life, and there's no better way to see it than by boat. Keep a watchful eye out and you may see wild dolphins!

In the afternoon it's off to the Hokianga Harbour, where we will see the huge sand dunes. Tonight you have the option to take part in a Maori-guided twilight encounter, where you'll visit the Waipoua Forest, learn about Maori legends and the spiritual inhabitants of the forest, and visit the largest kauri tree in the world, the "God of the Forest" Tane Mahuta (own expense). Finish the day with a Kiwi classic for dinner, traditional fish and chips. (B,D)

**Accommodation included:** Waterside lodge

**Activities included:** Hole in the Rock cruise

**Optional activities:** Footprints Waipoua twilight encounter, bone carving

### Day 3: Hokianga to Auckland

We start the morning with a ferry ride across the Hokianga Harbour to experience the thrill of sand boarding down massive dunes (weather dependant) before we start to make our way south through the mighty Waipoua Forest. Here we will have the opportunity to visit NZ's largest kauri trees. We visit the idyllic Kai Iwi Lakes for a swim in the beautiful crystal clear waters surrounded by a pure white sandy beach, before returning to the 'big smoke' for a late afternoon arrival. (B)

**Accommodation included:** Central city hostel

**Activities included:** Hokianga Ferry ride, sand boarding, visit Waipoua Forest (NZ's largest kauri trees), swim in the Kai Iwi Lakes

#### Day 4: Auckland to Hahei

We depart Auckland and head south east to the pristine sands of Hahei Beach, from which you can access the famous Cathedral Cove. Accessible only by foot, boat or kayak, you'll discover some of New Zealand's most spectacular scenery and stunning sea views in this beautiful coastal spot. Cathedral Cove is a definite 'must see' on the Coromandel Peninsula.

After an afternoon of seaside exploration, we gather as a group for an entertaining hands-on cooking demonstration to prepare some delicious 'kai' (Maori for 'food') together for dinner. (D)

**Accommodation included:** Comfortable beachside accommodation

**Activities included:** Walk to Cathedral Cove, Kai cooking demonstration

**Optional activities:** Cathedral Cove Kayaks

#### Day 5: Hahei to Rotorua

Today we start by driving to Hot Water Beach, a unique surf beach where you can dig a hole in the sand to create in your own personal spa pool (tide dependent). After the beach, we'll make our way towards Rotorua, stopping on the way to drop off those who want to visit the hobbit holes at the world-famous Hobbiton Movie Set. For those who choose to head straight to Rotorua, we'll stop before we get to town to stretch our legs with an easy walk to watch white water rafters navigate the waterfalls of the Kaituna River.

This evening you will be welcomed into the authentic Tamaki Maori Village, where you will discover Maori art, ancient rituals and traditions. Tonight we dine on a delicious hangi (Maori feast), enjoy an interactive cultural performance and the company of our Maori hosts. (B,D)

**Accommodation included:** Central city lodge

**Activities included:** Dig your own spa pool at Hot Water Beach (tide dependent), Kaituna waterfall walk, Tamaki cultural experience with traditional hangi meal, Kapa Haka (Maori song and dance) and interactive cultural performance

**Optional activities:** Visit Hobbiton

#### Day 6: Full day in Rotorua

You have a full free day in Rotorua to discover an area well-known for its Maori heritage, adventure activities and geothermal wonders. Here you have plenty of great optional activities to choose from, such as a visit to the Hobbiton Movie Set, white water rafting, ziplining through native bush, mountain biking and much more. A great option to finish the day is to spend the evening soaking in the hot pools at the luxurious Polynesian Spa. (B)

**Accommodation included:** Central city lodge

**Optional activities:** Visit Hobbiton, white water rafting, Zorbing, the luge, ziplining, mountain biking, Polynesian Spa

## Day 7: Rotorua to National Park

It's a very early start this morning so we can make our way to the UNESCO World Heritage Site Tongariro National Park, where you'll get the chance to do what is rated as one of the world's best one day walks, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. Trek through dramatic natural scenery past volcanic peaks, vast craters and stunning turquoise lakes on one of the most spectacular treks in New Zealand. Alternatively you can go on one of the shorter walks within this volcanic region or visit the Volcanic Centre Museum. (B,L,D)

**Accommodation included:** Alpine lodge

**Activities included:** Tongariro Alpine Crossing and transfers, or Taranaki Falls walk and Tawhai Falls (Gollum's Pool)

## Day 8: National Park to Blue Duck Station

After your big day of hiking, you get a chance to sleep in because we won't depart until mid-morning. Our destination today is one of the most remote parts of the North Island accessible by road. We're heading for the award winning Blue Duck Station in Whakahoro, a 7,200 acre high country farm that is both a working sheep and beef station and an environmental conservation leader. This afternoon you get the opportunity to take part in a 4WD Bush Safari and farm adventure, where you'll explore this vast land and the New Zealand native bush, discover the remains of an unbelievable local history, and learn about the farm's conservation efforts. Your dinner tonight is cooked using local produce. (B,D)

**Accommodation included:** Remote country station lodge

**Activities included:** 4WD eco-wilderness farm adventure

## Day 9: Blue Duck Station to Wellington

We depart early to arrive into Wellington around midday. Wellington is known as the 'coolest little capital in the world' thanks to Lonely Planet, and it's a great place to check out the lively arts, shopping and craft beer and café culture scene. As New Zealand's capital city, it is home to New Zealand's parliament and the iconic Beehive government building. This afternoon, you have the option to tour the world famous Weta Workshop, marvel at the natural and cultural wonders of Te Papa National Museum or wander along the waterfront Oriental Parade. (B)

**Accommodation included:** Central city hostel

**Optional activities:** Weta Workshop Tour, Te Papa National Museum, craft beer sampling

## Day 10: Wellington to Auckland

Today is an express day via National Park back to New Zealand's largest city, Auckland. We stop along the way for photo opportunities and have lunch in National Park village, before heading back to Auckland for a late afternoon arrival. We hope you had a blast on your New Zealand journey! (B)

## What's Included

+ Experienced tour guide

- + 9 nights' accommodation
- + Meals: 8 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners
- + Multi-share accommodation (or upgrade to twin/double/single)

#### Activities Included

- + Tree hugging at Parry Kauri Forest, Northland
- + Swim at Waipu Cove, Northland
- + Hole in the Rock cruise, Paihia
- + Hokianga ferry ride and sand boarding, Hokianga
- + Visit Waipoua Forest and Tane Mahuta (NZ's largest kauri tree), Hokianga
- + Swim at Kai Iwi Lakes, Northland
- + Walk to Cathedral Cove, Hahei
- + Kai cooking demonstration, Hahei
- + Hot Water Beach, Hahei
- + Maori cultural experience, including traditional hangi meal and interactive performance, Rotorua
- + 4WD eco-wilderness farm adventure, Blue Duck Station
- + Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Tongariro National Park

#### What to Bring

- + Camera
- + Sturdy walking shoes/boots
- + Warm layered clothing
- + Waterproof jacket
- + Hat & sunscreen
- + Bathers/towel
- + Water bottle
- + Toiletries
- + Motion sickness tablets
- + Insect repellent

#### Note:

- ^Upgrade accommodation is excluded in Hahei.
- \*Standard accommodation is 6-share in Whakahoro.
- Tours should be reconfirmed at least 48 hours in advance by calling +64 9 526 2140.
- Luggage should be restricted to 15kg in a single bag, plus a small day pack.