

7 Day Best of the North (NH7)

North Island Stray Journeys Itinerary

Start location / day:	Auckland / Wednesdays
Finish location / day:	Auckland / Tuesdays
Duration:	7 days / 6 nights
Departure dates:	10/10/18 – 01/05/19

Day 1: Auckland to Hahei

Nau mai, haere mai (welcome)! Your journey kicks off in New Zealand's largest city, Auckland. 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 2: 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 3: 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 4: 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 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 5: 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 6: 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 7: 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
- + 6 nights' accommodation
- + Meals: 5 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners
- + Multi-share accommodation (or upgrade to twin/double/single)

Activities Included

- + 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.