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- THE LONELY PLANET

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COME SEE US IN AUCKLAND

Drop in to meet the team, chat about your trip over a cup of tea or coffee or use the FREE WiFi and our computers to help you organise your trip.

Stray Travel Shop
50 Fort Street,
Auckland CBD
Ph: (09) 917 4090

GET IN TOUCH WITH RESERVATIONS

For support pre-trip or when you're out on the road, call or email Reservations to book travel dates, confirm pick-up locations, or with any questions you have.

Ph: +64 (0)9 526 2140
reservations@straytravel.co.nz
www.straytravel.co.nz



Kia Ora



“ **stray** / strei / verb

1. to deviate from direct course, leave the proper place, to **move** without conscious or intentional effort, to go **beyond** the proper limits”

”

Welcome to our totally biased travel guide to getting further off the beaten track in New Zealand.

Within these pages you will find lots of useful information about NZ's history, geography, destinations, top tips and fun facts to ensure you make the most out of your time in our great country.

15 Years of the Stray Way

Since we began straying back in 2002, our sole mission has been to give adventurous travellers a once-in-a-lifetime experience exploring New Zealand in a way they never imagined. That means taking you to not only the iconic places you've probably heard of, but more importantly giving you a taste of the real New Zealand and some of our off the beaten track gems that cannot be experienced any other way than with Stray.

What you can expect from the Stray travel network

- + A fully guided hop-on, hop-off bus network where you travel at your own pace and spend time exploring the places you love.
- + Our route provides extensive coverage of NZ, covering the 'must do' stops along with way with some truly unique, otherwise unreachable destinations where only Stray goes.
- + A dedicated crew of driver guides who are hugely passionate about showing you the best parts of NZ.
- + A community of Stray travellers from all over the world who share a common desire to maximise their trip by getting involved and being more than just tourists.

- + Pay-as-you-go dorm-style accommodation, with reserved beds at Stray's designated overnight stops.
- + Reserved spaces and great discounts exclusive to Stray travellers on popular adventure activities.
- + Multiple departures per week in summer and a minimum of 3 departures per week year round.
- + To 'Stray' is as much about the journey as it is about the destination, so we take our time on travel days to do walks and other activities.
- + Passes are valid for 12 months so you can take your time, or for those with less time stay on board for a tour-type look around.

So buckle up and get ready to 'get amongst it' (as we Kiwis say), do stuff that will blow your mind and share the adventure with people that more often than not, become friends for life. Get ready to see New Zealand the Stray way!

**Cheers,
The Stray Team**

PLEASE NOTE: this magazine is just a guide - activities, times, routes, destinations and/or prices may change depending on the group, driver, season, weather and/or what's happening in the world. It's all an adventure, just enjoy the ride!!



In a Nutshell:

Choose your pass based on what parts of NZ you want to see



Book your travel dates online or with Stray Mate

Activities and hostels can be booked with your driver



Hop-off anywhere along the way for as long as you want



Hop-on the next bus when you are ready to continue (remember to book)



Stray NZ for up to 12 months and have the time of your life!

SHORT ON TIME? NO WORRIES!

You can use your Stray pass like a tour and complete the itinerary in its minimum days. You'll get the same outstanding experience with all of our unique Stray locations, and there are non-travel days incorporated to break up your journey.

RESERVATIONS DETAILS:

email: reservations@straytravel.co.nz

phone: 09 526 2140

How it Works

How to manage your pass

Since Stray is hop-on, hop-off and not a set tour, it is your responsibility to book your travel dates. We recommend booking your seat in advance whenever possible – this lets the drivers know when and where to expect you.

How to book your travel dates:

1) Book online using STRAY MATE, the online booking system (**Recommended**)

- Book each travel sector and pick-up location on your preferred travel dates.
- If you hop-off or change plans, remember to update your booking online. (If we don't hear from you and you miss the bus, your future bookings will automatically be cleared.)

2) Call or email the Reservations team - if online isn't your thing or you have any questions

Last minute changes

No worries if you change your mind on the day you're due to travel - just notify the office of your plans and they can update your booking for you.

Standby

Should the bus be fully booked on a particular journey, you can request to be put on standby with our office. Standby seats will appear in YELLOW in STRAY MATE. When seats become available, people on standby will automatically be promoted. We find that 9 times out of 10 your seat will be confirmed by your intended travel date. Remember that Stray is a hop-on, hop-off service and people change their travel plans frequently.



Re-travelling

Your Stray pass is valid for 12 months from the day you start travelling, and you are welcome to re-travel most parts of the route on a 'space available' basis. Reservations can advise you of availability. Re-travel is not offered for routes north of Auckland or the Christchurch to Greymouth sector.

Tips to help you Stray

- **Departure:** Be ready at the designated pick-up location at least 10 minutes prior to the published departure time.
- **Peak season (November - March):** Buses can be very busy and we strongly recommend that you book your travel legs in advance to avoid disappointment. Remember that you can always book and change it later!
- **Bookings after 5pm:** The drivers' passenger lists are usually printed at 5pm the day before and if you book after that, the driver won't always know to expect you. Please go to the main Stray stop 10 minutes early to check in.
- **Hopping on/off somewhere unusual:** Be sure to re-confirm your next pick-up location and time with Reservations. It's a good idea to provide a contact mobile number in case the driver or office team need to get in touch with you.

Timetables & departure times

The bus timetable changes seasonally - you can find future seasons in Stray Mate or on our website.

Sometimes buses may be delayed or cancelled due to forces beyond our control, but we will contact you when that happens.

Book online with STRAY MATE

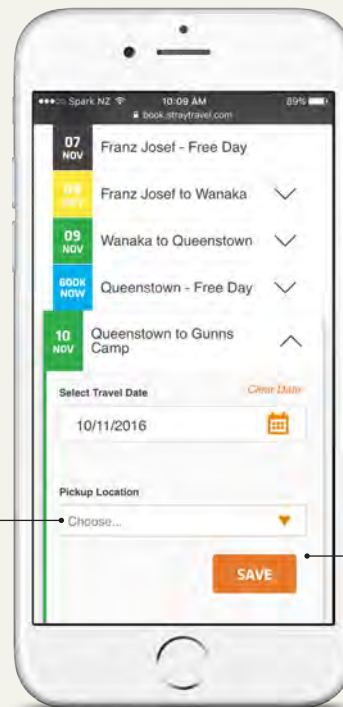
book.straytravel.com/nz

You'll receive your login details with your booking confirmation.

Manage your trip with Stray Mate!

- + Make and manage your bookings
- + Swipe through your daily itinerary
- + Check your WiFi usage and top-up
- + Handy travel resources and destination guides
- + Access Stray Mate on Stray's WiFi network (no data required)

TRIP MANAGER



Green = Confirmed
Blue = Unbooked
Grey = Past
Yellow = Standby

Don't forget to update your pickup location!

Book several dates and click **SAVE** once to save all changes.

- + You can choose to view overnight stops only, or for more detail view all in-between stops on the route.

STRAY TOP TIP:
Save Stray Mate to the home screen of your phone so you can access it again quickly and easily!

Stray's Unique Stops

A quintessential Kiwi holiday hotspot overlooking a marine reserve. Hike to Cathedral Cove or head to Hot Water beach to dig a natural spa bath.



1. Hahei



2. Raglan

A world renowned surfing hot spot, with dramatic cliffs, sweeping beaches and a little hippy township with a great vibe. People of all abilities flock here for the perfect wave.



3. Lake Aniwhenua

Nestled on a lake edge deep in the central North Island, this overnight stop tells the story of a remote township with a big heart. Get immersed into the past, present and future of real New Zealanders, learning the ways and beliefs of the local Maori.

4. Whakahoro



Rated one of Stray's top stops, Blue Duck Station offers a truly unique insight into life on a high country station. By day explore the farm and by night share stories around the camp fire.

5. Tongariro Crossing



Voted one of the world's best one day walks, hike between rocky volcanic peaks and Emerald Lakes. Not to be missed!



7. Mt. Cook National Park

Stay at the base of New Zealand's highest peak, renowned for its majestic alpine scenery and glacial lakes.



This place is the definition of paradise, where luscious native bush and walking tracks meander along a picturesque coastline. Explore the many coves by foot, kayak or sailboat.



6. Abel Tasman (Marahau)

9. Gunn's Camp



On the edge of Fiordland, stay in a rustic camping ground and hike up to Key Summit for postcard quality scenery.

8. Rangitata



A historic sheep station, famous for its 'Lord of the Rings' surroundings. Explore via foot, horseback or head out white water rafting.



Stray New Zealand

Everything from the latest news on our drivers, to travel tips, inspirational photos, useful blogs and chances to win cool stuff! Make sure you **LIKE** us and **TAG** us during your adventures! Make sure to give us a like!



straynz

Connect with other Stray passengers using the **#straynz** hashtag. Ask a question, follow the chat or join the banter!



Stray Travel

We have some awesome 60 second videos showcasing Stray's unique stops. Check them out on youtube!



straynz

We share the very best travel photos created by our passengers from hashtags **#StrayNZ**. Get tagging and get inspired!



Connected travellers are **happy** travellers

Selfie your heart out on our LTE 4G Wi-Fi network available across the Stray fleet.



- **FREE 150MB data pack for all new starters**
- **FREE access to Stray's website and Stray Mate (online booking tool)**
- **Top-up online if you need more data**
- **Data moves with you from bus to bus**
- **Stray's supersonic network offers better coverage than mobile networks**

www.straytravel.com/wifi

ABOUT THE NETWORK:

- The data packs are activated by your unique logins so when you change buses your data will move with you.
- The high speed 4G network uses commercial grade hardware meaning the Wi-Fi service and coverage will be superior to any personal mobile device using NZ's cellular network.
- Some sectors of our route will not have coverage due to the 'off the beaten track' nature of Stray's product. Your driver will advise of these areas.
- Wi-Fi is available on all Hop-on Hop-off Stray owned buses across the network. On occasion it may not be available as from time to time we use a contracted bus when our own fleet is being serviced.



General NZ

Travel Info



Passports & Immigration

- To visit NZ, your passport must be valid for at least three months past the date you intend to leave the country.
- If you're thinking about extending your stay (we don't blame you!), visit the New Zealand Immigration website for more information about your options www.immigration.govt.nz



Time Differences

- New Zealand is 12 hours ahead of GMT.
- Daylight Saving Time begins on the last Sunday in September, when clocks go forward one hour to GMT+13. It ends on the first Sunday of the following April, when clocks go back an hour.



Seasons & Weather

- The climate in the north of NZ is subtropical, while the south is temperate.
- Summer sizzles from December to February, with average temperatures of 20-30°C (68-86°F).
- Winter's chill lasts from June to August, with temperatures averaging 10-15°C (50-59°F).
- Best weather website: New Zealand Met Service - www.metser vice.co.nz



TOP TIP FROM STRAY DRIVER NAT:

NZ's sun is super strong and people even get burnt on cloudy days. If you're heading outside make sure you 'slip, slop, slap & wrap' with at least SPF30.



Money Matters

Banking

- Banks are usually open 9.00am - 4.30pm, Monday to Friday (with a few open on Saturdays).
- ATMs are widely available at banks, along main shopping streets and in malls.
- International credit cards and ATM cards should work as long as they have a four-digit PIN encoded (and you remembered to tell your bank you are travelling!).

Currency

- Currency = New Zealand Dollar (NZ\$).
- Coins: 10, 20 and 50 cents, \$1 and \$2.
- Notes: \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100.
- There is no restriction on how much foreign currency can be brought in or taken out of New Zealand, but people carrying more than NZ\$10,000 in cash are required to complete a Border Cash Report.
- Foreign currency can easily be exchanged at banks and Bureau de Change kiosks, which are found at international airports and most city centres.
- All major credit cards can be used in New Zealand.

Goods and Services Tax

- All goods and services are subject to a 15% Goods and Services Tax (GST), which is included in the displayed price.
- Visitors cannot claim this tax back, but when a supplier ships a major purchase to a visitor's home address they will not be charged GST.

Orange is the new green



Did you know?

Stray was the first adventure bus operator to be awarded the prestigious Qualmark Enviro Gold Award (NZ Tourism's official mark of quality), which we've now held for three years.

We live in the most beautiful country in the world (in our opinion), and we want to keep it that way for you and the future generations of Stray travellers. We believe it is part of our responsibility to promote the conservation and protection of New Zealand's truly amazing natural environment. That's why Stray encourages eco-friendly practices on our buses and supports conservation and community projects along the route.

Some of the good stuff Stray is involved with:



Tree Planting: Since 2004, Stray has planted 45,000 native trees in Akaroa and Stray passengers have left their own lasting legacy helping to plant many more in the beautiful Abel Tasman National Park.



Polish My Pipi' (a pipi is a New Zealand shellfish) is a cool little Stray program, where drivers get their Stray groups involved in a clean-up of the areas where they are staying.



Community Project: At Kohutapu Lodge at Lake Aniwhenua, we package up food parcels to deliver to a local school for lunch for underprivileged kids. Stray passengers often spend mornings at the school helping to broaden the students' minds about the world they live in.



Trapping: We sponsor 20 pest traps at Blue Duck Station (a Stray overnight stop) as part of the conservation project to protect the critically endangered Kiwi birds and Blue Ducks.



31 rats



13 rabbits



6 hedgehogs



1 mouse



1 weasel



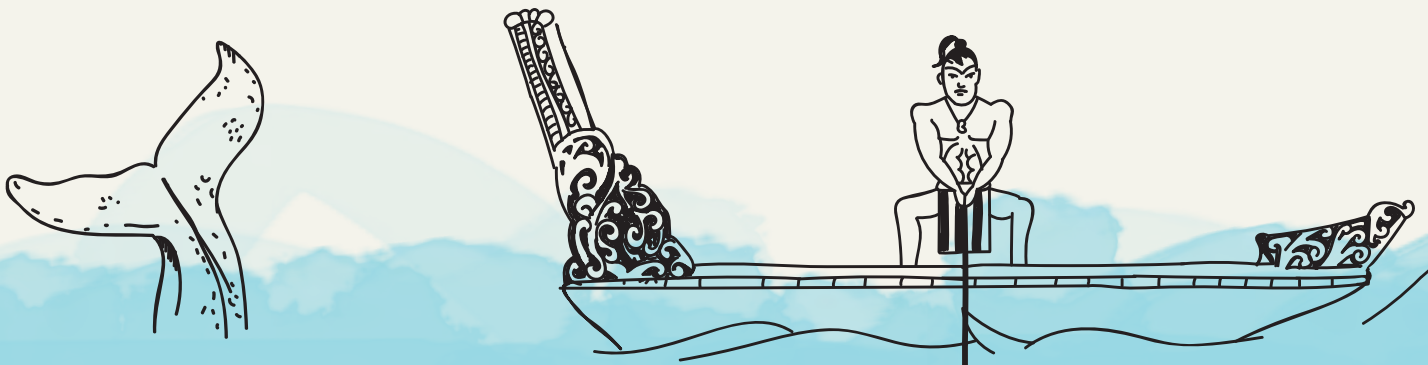
Stray was one of the first commercial operators to run a bus on cooking oil.



We track our carbon emissions and currently our annual emissions are equivalent to that produced by 440 dairy cows.



Most NZ tap water is drinkable! And if for any reason it's not, it will be clearly signposted. Save some money and save the environment by re-filling your bottle at the tap.



New Zealand History

The Creation Story

Maori folklore tells us that the North Island of New Zealand was actually a fish that was caught by a legendary demigod Maui, from his fishing canoe - the South Island.

Maui had ventured out with his brothers on a fishing trip with a special fishhook he had secretly made from the jaw bone of his grandmother. It wasn't long after he had lowered his line that he felt the tug of what was no ordinary fish. It took all the strength of the brothers to pull up Te Ika a Maui (the fish of Maui), which became the North Island.

If you look at the North Island you can see its resemblance to a fish, in which Wellington is the head, Lake Taupo the eye and Auckland the tail. Maui recognised the significance of what he had caught and knew he should make peace with the god of the sea, Tangaroa. However while making peace, his brothers grew impatient and started carving up the fish for themselves. These are now the valleys, mountains and rugged coastline of the North Island.

The South Island is Te Waka a Maui (the canoe of Maui) where the mountains are the piles of fish previously caught by Maui's brothers. Finally Stewart Island, which lies at the very bottom of New Zealand, is known as Te Punga a Maui (Maui's anchor).





1350AD

Maori Settlement

It is believed that the Maori first migrated to New Zealand around 1350AD from islands in eastern Polynesia. Maori oral tradition tells of an ancestral home of Hawaiki, which today is believed to be in the area of the Cook Islands. Traditional storytelling tells of the arrival of a 'great fleet' of eight large waka (canoes), although it appears that migration took place over a number of intentional voyages.

Over time these Polynesian settlers formed a distinct culture as they adjusted to the new land. With no native mammals to hunt, the first Maori settlers were dependant on fishing and catching native birds for protein. In the early days Maori feasted on the moa - the bird, not the delicious craft beer we now drink today! The Moa was one of the biggest birds known to man (growing up to 3m tall and weighing around 250kg) was eventually hunted to extinction. As food sources became harder to find, the Maori became increasingly dependent on fishing and farming taro, uwahi (yams) and kumara (sweet potato) brought over from Polynesia. Food was typically cooked in a 'hangi', wrapped in leaves and cooked on hot stones underground.

Maori society was divided into whanau (family) and hapu (subtribe) groups which, over time, merged into large iwi (tribes) for political organisation. A complex system of law was developed based on reciprocity and barter. Trade for resources between iwi and hapu became common, as did intertribal warfare which led to the development of fortified pa, or defensive settlements.

1642

Dutch Discovery

Portuguese and Spanish ships began crossing the Pacific Ocean in the 1500s, but it was not until 1642 that a Dutch explorer named Abel Tasman first discovered New Zealand.

Tasman anchored off the South Island in an area now known as Golden Bay and sent a scouting party towards shore. However, the native Maori were wary of these pale skinned visitors and may have mistaken them for patupaiarehe, fair-skinned fairy folk or ghosts, who were deemed as bad omens.

The Maori launched a bloody attack by ramming one of their waka into the Dutch scouting boat, killing four of its sailors. The Dutch hastily weighed anchor and retreated from NZ's shores. Abel Tasman went on to name the bay 'Moordenaers Baij,' or Murderers Bay, but never actually stepped ashore. (This was still enough for a national park named in his honour.) Later a Dutch mapmaker named the land Tasman had discovered 'Nieuw Zeeland.'

A very brief NZ history

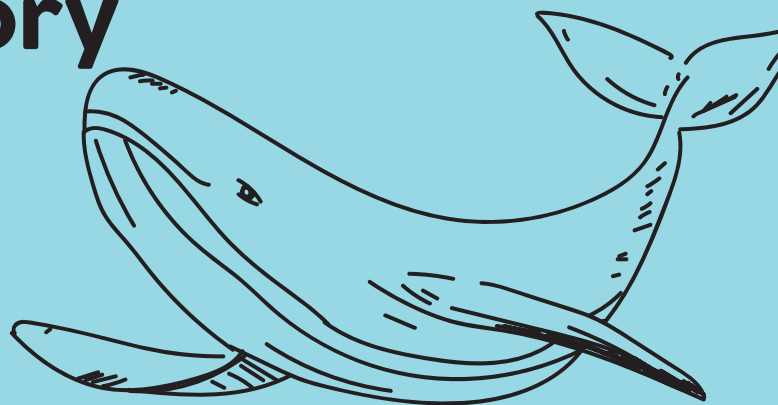
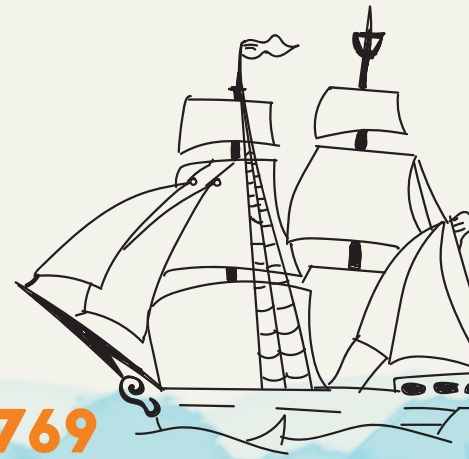
1769

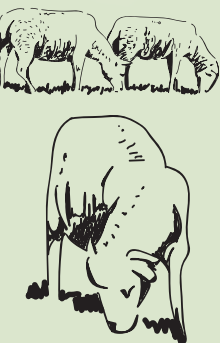
Captain James Cook - the first European to land

New Zealand was not revisited by Europeans until over 100 years after Abel Tasman's first discovery. Captian James Cook sailed from England on the Endeavour as part of a naval research expedition. After arriving in Poverty Bay in 1769, Cook was the first European to actually set foot on New Zealand soil. Like Tasman before him, his first meeting with the Maori people became hostile. However after this incident, Cook and his men made friendly contact with Māori, with both groups seeing the mutual benefits that trade could offer.

Cook went on to spend six months successfully circumnavigating the North and South Island. He was an excellent navigator and charted the coastline with amazing accuracy and detail considering the tools he had available. Cook is also attributed with conquering scurvy, a fatal disease that had long plagued seafaring voyages. Cook beat the disease (caused by a lack of vitamin C) by insisting fresh fruit and vegetables were incorporated into the sailors' diets.

He later returned to New Zealand on two other expeditions while further exploring the pacific.





1820

European Settlers Arrive

The charting work done by Captain Cook opened New Zealand for whalers, sealers and timber traders, which led to the establishment of the first permanent European settlement at Russell in the Bay of Islands. The rough character of these first settlers earned Russell a bad reputation, and it became known as the 'hell hole of the Pacific,' notorious for its drinking, fighting and prostitution. You can still visit one of the original pubs, the Duke of Marlborough, in Russell today, although it has calmed down considerably since the early days.

The next settlers to follow were Christian missionaries, who also played a prominent role in colonisation. The missionaries were more successful in earning the respect of Maori leaders due to their dress and teachings. However, religion was not the only thing that Europeans brought to this country. They also introduced pigs (some are still called Captain Cookers), new diseases and guns. As the Maori previously lacked long-range weapons, muskets were seen by Maori as a method of asserting tribal dominance. Thus, the arrival of Europeans led to a brutal period of intertribal warfare known as the 'Musket Wars,' which lasted from 1820-1830.

1840

The Treaty of Waitangi and its effects

By 1840, the British government perceived a need for a formal agreement between the British and Maori. Maori still controlled the resources and power in New Zealand with settlers numbering just 2000. The British government lacked a system to assert control over its own increasingly lawless settlers and wished to gain control over Maori land. In 1840, Captain William Hobson convened a meeting of local chiefs in Waitangi on the 5th February, 1840. The next day, the Treaty of Waitangi was signed, guaranteeing Maori land rights in exchange for British sovereignty. The 6th of February is now recognised by a national public holiday, aptly called Waitangi Day. The treaty remains New Zealand's most important and controversial document to this day. It consisted of two versions, a Maori translation and English translation, with important differences about whether the Maori gave up 'the right to rule.' At the time, the Treaty of Waitangi was used by the British to assert rule over New Zealand.

British immigration to New Zealand soon boomed with the promises of cheap land and discovery of gold. By 1858, settlers numbered 115,000 and outnumbered the Maori. The influx of British immigrants and attempts to impose British law over Maori led to ongoing disputes. In 1845, Hone Heke, the first Maori chief to sign the Treaty, chopped down the British flag pole in protest against the British Crown. Attempts to arrest Hone Heke sparked conflict, which grew during the 1850s as more and more land was dubiously sold to the settlers. By the 1860s, the North Island was launched into the infamous 'Land Wars' between a number of Maori tribes and the fledgling New Zealand government. Interestingly, this is where the British learnt the Maori invention of 'trench warfare.' By the war's end, 500 British and colonial forces and 2000 Maori had been killed. Around one million hectares of land was claimed from Maori by the Crown and sold off to European settlers.

What Happened Next

At the end of the Land Wars, the settlers had gained ownership of significant tracks of quality agriculture areas, marking the start of major changes and fast moving progress. Sealing, whaling and the felling of great kauri trees gave way to farming the land, mainly because all the other resources had been totally plundered. Eventually, the sheep was introduced and began to dominate the economy. At its peak in the 1980s, there were 70 million sheep versus 3 million people. More recently, sheep farming has waned under the growth of dairy and forestry. However, New Zealand still remains the world's second largest exporter of wool after Australia.

As a member of the Commonwealth, NZ followed Britain into war in WWI and WWII. However, over the course of the 20th Century, NZ has developed a strong sense of national identity priding itself on its hard work ethic and ingenuity.

Stray Adventures

ADD ON AN
ADVENTURE!
BOOK WITH YOUR
DRIVER

Get off the beaten track and fully immersed in New Zealand communities and conservation by adding a Stray Adventure on to your pass.

These short special interest tours will take you to remote 'off the beaten track' destinations to connect with real New Zealanders. Accommodation, delicious meals and activities are all included.

www.straytravel.com/adventures

Blue Duck Station, Whakahoro

Blue Duck Station

Start/Finish: Whakahoro | Duration: 2 days/2 nights

Sign up for the ultimate outdoor enthusiast's adventure on a working high country station. Located on the edge of the magnificent Whanganui River, spend time at Blue Duck Station and get a true appreciation for rural life in New Zealand's outback. Opt in for horse trekking over the rolling countryside, a 4WD eco-Safari, jet boating and kayaking or try your hand at hunting local pests. Consistently rated as Stray's #1 destination this is a 'must do' adventure for the intrepid traveller.

Includes:

- + 2 nights' lodge accommodation (4-6 share)
- + Select 2 activities from: Jet boating & river kayaking, station horse trek, 4WD eco-safari or hunting
- + Clay bird shooting
- + 2 dinners, 1 lunch, 2 breakfasts

\$399 NZD
PER PERSON

Lake Aniwhenua

Start/Finish: Lake Aniwhenua | Duration: 1 night

As one of Stray's top-rated experiences, a visit to Lake Aniwhenua has a sense of magic that simply can't be missed. Get off the tourist trail and venture into the remote heartland of the Central North Island. Get involved in an inspiring community project* that brightens the lives of local school children. Be guided to a sacred archaeological site, visit the local Marae (Maori meeting house) and learn about the region's fascinating history, its people and their culture from a respected local elder.

Includes:

- + 1 night lakeside accommodation (dorm share)
- + Dinner (Hangi feast), afternoon tea and buffet breakfast
- + Guided walk to sacred Maori rock carvings in a forest
- + Involvement in a community program with a local school
- + Visit a Marae (Maori meeting house), meet the local tribe, learn about their protocols and beliefs.

*Community project in local school is available during weekdays and school semester only

\$95 NZD
PER PERSON

Tongariro National Park

NZ Geography, Walks, Trails and Cycleways

New Zealand is renowned for its beautiful landscape and vast wilderness, from rugged snow capped peaks to subtropical forests, cascading rivers to deep gorges and wide open valleys.

top 5 facts about nz geography



highest point:
Aoraki Mount
Cook 3,724m



largest lake:
Lake Taupo
616sq km



longest river:
Waikato River
425km



largest glacier:
Tasman Glacier
27km long
4km wide
600m deep



length of nz coastline:
15,134km

More interesting stuff:

New Zealand lies precariously across two tectonic plates which is why we have plenty of natural hot springs, bubbling mud pits, hundreds of volcanoes and the odd eruption.

Get up close to the action in Rotorua or Taupo.



No part of NZ is more than **128km** from the coast which is why you can easily surf and snowboard all in one action pack day!



20% of NZ is covered in national parks, forests and reserves with an extensive network of tracks and trails to explore.



National Parks, Tracks, Walks & Cycleways

Our 14 national parks contain an incredible variety of unspoiled landscape and vegetation. The parks are administered and maintained by the 'Department of Conservation' (DOC). Remember to read their signs and respect their rules. They are designed to protect you and the native wildlife.



The nine Great Walks of New Zealand

are some of the best ways to explore the country's stunning and diverse scenery, and Stray can drop you off in or near each of them. These premier multi-day tracks and trails are managed by the Department of Conservation, so you must make the proper arrangements through DOC's website or at a DOC office. www.doc.govt.nz



Why walk when you can ride?

In 2009, New Zealand launched a national project to build a world class network of cycle trails. It continues to grow each year, with trails to suit all riding abilities and ranging from short half day rides to multi-day adventures. For more detailed information, check out the official website:

www.nzcycletrail.com.

NORTH ISLAND

National Parks



2

Tongariro National Park

Stray hop off: National Park Village

Key fact: This is New Zealand's first national park and includes the three active volcanoes, Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro.

Great Walk: Tongariro Northern Circuit (includes Tongariro Alpine Crossing)

Duration: 3-4 days

Distance: 43 km

Environment: Tramp a diverse landscape which ranges from alpine fields to desert-like plateaux with active volcanoes and crater lakes.

One of the world's top 1 day walks!

Established in 1887, Tongariro was the fourth national park to be established in the world after Yellowstone (USA), Royal National Park (Australia) and Banff National Park (Canada). It was granted UNESCO Dual World Heritage status in 1993 for its cultural and natural significance.

The 'must do' Tongariro Alpine Crossing (19km hike) is one of the North Island's most popular attractions. This unforgettable walk takes you up an alpine valley, ascending onto a volcanic plateau, past emerald green mineral lakes before descending into dense native bush.





1

Te Urewera National Park

Stray hop off: Rotorua or Lake Aniwhenua

Key fact: Together with the neighbouring Whirinaki Forest Park, this is the largest remaining area of native forest in the North Island.

Great Walk: Lake Waikaremoana

Duration: 3-4 days

Distance: 46 km

Environment: Traverse the scenic shoreline of Lake Waikaremoana, with lush forest and plenty of remote beaches for swimming.



3

Whanganui National Park

Stray hop off: Whakahoro or National Park Village

Key fact: Bordering the Whanganui River, it incorporates areas of Crown land, former State Forest and a number of former reserves.

Great Walk: Whanganui Journey

Duration: 3-5 days

Distance: 145 km

Environment: Travel via canoe or kayak (so less walking and more paddling) through green hilled landscapes and bush clad valleys along the river.

Best cycle trails in and around these National Parks



GREAT LAKE TRAIL

Stray Hop off: Taupo

Duration: 2 days

Distance: 71km

Grade: Intermediate

Experience: Revel in the stunning views of Tongariro National Park whilst riding through native forest along the shores of Lake Taupo.

TIMBER TRAIL

Stray Hop off: Taupo (additional transport to trail required)

Duration: 2 days

Distance: 87km

Grade: Easy - Intermediate

Experience: Follow old tram lines down a specially designed track over eight suspension bridges and through the ancient forests of the central North Island.

MOUNTAINS TO SEA

Stray Hop off: National Park Village

Duration: 4-6 days

Distance: 317km

Grade: Intermediate (with reasonable fitness required)

Experience: Crossing through Tongariro and Whanganui National Parks takes riders from the stark Central Plateau through lush green forests to the sea in Whanganui.



fun fact:
TWO-THIRDS OF THE SOUTH
ISLAND IS MOUNTAINS.



SOUTH ISLAND

National Parks

1



Abel Tasman National Park

Stray hop off: Marahau

Key fact: New Zealand's smallest national park is named after the first European explorer to set eyes on NZ.

Great Walk: Abel Tasman Coast Track

Duration: 3-5 days

Distance: 60 km

Environment: This coastal track hugs tidal inlets with crystal clear waters, golden sand beaches and lush coastal forest. You can walk, kayak, sail or water taxi to various parts of the track or walk the whole thing.

2

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park

Stray hop off: Mt Cook Village

Key fact: This alpine park contains NZ's highest mountain, Aoraki/Mt Cook, and longest glacier, Tasman Glacier, and is home to world class mountaineering and scenic flights.

NZ Cycle Trail: Alps 2 Ocean Trail

Duration: 6 days

Distance: 301 km

Grade: Easy - Intermediate

Experience: Take the longest continuous ride in NZ from Aoraki/Mt Cook through to coastal Oamaru, peddling by glacial-fed lakes, hydro dams, limestone cliffs and golden tussock land along the way.



World Heritage Site: Te Wahipounamu - South West New Zealand

This incorporates Fiordland, Mt Aspiring, Westland and Mt Cook National Parks. The area features a dramatic landscape shaped by successive glaciations, fiords, towering cliffs, lakes and waterfalls. Two-thirds of the park is covered by forest, including specimens more than 800 years old. The kea, the only alpine parrot in the world, lives in the area, as does the endangered takahe, a large flightless bird.



3

Fiordland National Park

Stray hop off: Te Anau (best place for transport connections)

Key fact: The largest of NZ's national parks and one of the largest in the world, it is also home to NZ's most famous tourist destination, the stunning Milford Sound.

Great Walks: Milford, Routeburn and Kepler Tracks - see page 64 for details.

Environment: This place has true 'wow' factor with its towering mountains which plunge into the deep green fiords. Waterfalls tumble from the cliff faces above and marine life can be seen in abundance. It is this grandeur scenery that has earned Fiordland international recognition as a World Heritage area.



Best cycle trails in other parts of the South Island



QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK

Stray Hop off: Picton

Duration: 2-3 days

Distance: 70km

Grade: Intermediate - Advanced

Experience: Stretching from legendary Ship Cove/ Meretoto to Anakiwa, this track rides through coastal forest, skyline ridges and historic bays in the heart of Marlborough Sound (a popular holiday and boating destination for many South Islanders).

OTAGO CENTRAL RAIL TRAIL

Stray Hop off: Cromwell (additional transport to trail required)

Duration: 1-5 days

Distance: 150km

Grade: Very Easy - Easy

Experience: New Zealand's original 'Great Ride', the rail trail is steeped in history and travels through ever-changing mountains, rocky landscapes, high country sheep stations, spectacular river gorges,

4



Rakiura National Park

Stray hop off: Stewart Island

Key fact: The newest of the national parks, it makes up about 85% of Stewart Island's land area. Ferries to Stewart Island depart from Bluff with crossings taking approx 1 hour (which can be quite rough).

Great Walk: Rakiura Track

Duration: 3 days

Distance: 32 km

Environment: With idyllic native bush and beaches and a relatively small human population on the island, this untouched environment is an amazing sanctuary for native birds and is the closest to what New Zealand was prior to human settlement.

Auckland City

Auckland

at a glance

- + NZ's largest city
- + Population: approximately 1.49 million (1/3 of NZ's total 4.6 million people)
- + Also known as: City of Sails
- + Nickname for people who live here: Aucklander, Jafa (Just Another F'n Aucklander)
- + Estimated number of volcanoes: 50



Auckland is built on the narrow piece of land between the Manukau and Waitemata Harbours. Its narrowest point is a mere 16kms. On the Waitemata Harbour you will see the area's youngest volcano, Rangitoto Island, which was formed in an eruption only 600 years ago. The landscape of Auckland is dominated by a series of volcanoes. From a central viewing point you can still easily make out about 20 volcanic cones around the city. Two outstanding examples are One Tree Hill (or No Tree Hill, since the tree was cut down by an activist) and Mt Eden, a short bus or train ride from the city centre. You will also see boats of all shapes and sizes dotted across the harbour, with an estimated one in four Aucklanders owning a boat. With more boats per a capita than anywhere else, Auckland is often referred to as the 'City of Sails'.

History

A number of different Maori tribes fought for the land that we now know as Auckland before the European settlers came and also attempted to lay claim. The land, which came to be known as Tamaki-makau-rau ('the spouse sought by a hundred lovers'), became the prize of numerous battles. Kiwi Tamaki ruled this area from One Tree Hill where he had established a three-thousand-strong pa (defensive fort) until 1750, when Ngati Whatua attacked and killed the chief, wiped out the tribe, and took many of his followers as slaves. The Ngati Whatua was still in possession when the first Europeans, two Anglican missionaries arrived in 1820.

New Zealand's Lieutenant Governor, Captain William Hobson first hoisted the British flag in September 1840, at the fort of Point Britomart when a thin piece of land was purchased from the Maori for the sum of £55 and some blankets. Auckland was chosen as the name after Lord Auckland, who gave Captain Hobson command of the HMS Rattlesnake to visit NZ in 1837. Hobson returned to New Zealand in 1839 to secure sovereignty for Britain. A key part of his job was convincing Maori tribes to sign the Treaty of Waitangi. Refer to the 'NZ history' page for more background on the Treaty.

fun fact:

THE SKY TOWER AT 328M IS THE TALLEST BUILDING IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE



FUN FACT FROM STRAY DRIVER LEGO:

More people live in Auckland than the entire South Island.



Things to do in Auckland

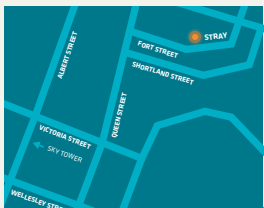
Auckland Skywalk

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Just a boat ride away

Auckland isn't called the 'City of Sails' for nothing. Catch a ferry from the downtown ferry terminal across the harbour to **Devonport** (sailings every half hour) for access to the cute township, Torpedo Bay Navy Museum and North Head lookout, which offers spectacular views of the city, harbour and surrounding gulf.

Rangitoto Island (sailings three times daily) is best for exploring native bush and lava caves on Auckland's youngest volcano.

Waiheke Island (sailings every hour) is only a 40 minute trip to what Lonely Planet recently ranked as the 5th best destination in the world. Home to fantastic vineyards and beaches, Waiheke can be explored by foot, bicycle, scooter, bus or hire car.

Finally, if you have a few free days to spare, check out **Great Barrier Island** (the ferry leaves infrequently so check the timetable online). A four hour trip takes you to a very wild and remote place with great walks, native bush and pristine beaches that is definitely worth the effort to get there.

Around town

Visit the **Auckland Domain**. It's a great central park with a view out to the harbour, but the main attraction is the Greco-Roman style **Auckland Museum** (Te Papa Whakahiku - \$25 for repeated one day entry). It contains one of the finest collections of Māori and Pacific art and treasures.

The shops: The main street of Auckland is **Queen Street**, the commerce and business centre for the city. Running parallel to Queen St is High Street, home to designer clothing stores, upmarket restaurants and cafes. At the top end of Queen St is **Karangahape Road (aka K'Road)**, where you will find alternative shops, some of the best nightclubs in the city and Auckland's attempt at a 'Red Light' district.

If you head to the bottom (waterfront) end of Queen St and go left past the transport centre, you'll find the **Viaduct Basin**, flash restaurants, yachts (the old America's Cup Village) and the **National Maritime Museum**. If you want to explore further out, try the Link bus, which connects the shopping areas of Parnell, Ponsonby and Newmarket.

For adventure: Why not jump off one of Auckland's icons like the **Sky Tower** or the **Harbour Bridge**? You can also do a guided climb over the bridge for the best views of the cityscape. If you love marine life (and who doesn't?), check out a cruise around the nearby **Hauraki Gulf Marine Park** for a chance to see whales, dolphins and birdlife up close. Other adventures options include learning to sail on a real America's Cup racing yacht or head out to the **West Coast (Waitakere region)** for some serious surfing and spectacular walks along the rugged coast line.



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Cape Reinga Lighthouse, Northland

North of Auckland

Northland

Sometimes referred to as the “winterless north,” this subtropical region is known for long stretches of sun soaked beaches, ancient kauri trees that rule the forests, and New Zealand’s earliest settlement history.

Must see and do

- + Hug a giant kauri tree
- + Hop off in Whangarei for world class diving
- + See the clashing of two oceans at Cape Reinga
- + Drive on Ninety Mile Beach
- + Cruise or kayak around the Bay of Islands



AT A GLANCE:

Start your Stray adventure heading northbound from Auckland to the beautiful Bay of Islands. Stop for a swim in scenic Waipu Cove (summer only) and have lunch in Whangarei before arriving at your overnight destination and home base for all the Bay's great activities, the seaside township of Paihia.

WHERE WE STAY:

Paihia - hostel near the beach.

THINGS TO DO:

Catch the ferry to historic Russell, skydiving, Hole in the Rock cruise, kayaking.

FREE STUFF:

Hug the kauri trees at Parry Kauri Forest.

TRAVEL DAY:

Auckland to Paihia

If you don't head over the Harbour Bridge within the first hour of your trip north, tap your driver on the shoulder as you may be heading south towards Raglan.

The journey starts with introductions and an outline of what's happening over the day and what your options are for the days ahead. The first scheduled stop will be Waipu Cove for a stroll on the beach and chance to swim for anyone who's keen (summer only). The amount of time that we play here is dependent on you, the weather and what else we want to do today.

From there we cruise up the east coast to arrive in Whangarei in time for lunch. You may choose to hop off here to explore Jacques Cousteau's well-loved diving spot, the Poor Knights Islands.

It will take one more hour to reach Paihia, where your driver will take you on a tiki tour of this quaint seaside town before stopping off at the Fullers office to confirm any activities you have chosen. Your driver will drop you at your accommodation afterwards and then the afternoon is free for you to explore. In winter, we skip Waipu Cove in favour of a brief stop at the Parry Kauri Forest and cruise up to Paihia arriving at approximately midday. The afternoon is yours to relax or participate in some fishing off the shore.

Regardless of season, our recommendations for the afternoon are a walk to the Haruru Falls, explore the Waitangi grounds for \$25, take a ferry across the bay to Russell, or try kayaking.

Parry Kauri Park - After flax and whale blubber, kauri timber and gum was our third major export for early settlers. The tall, straight, rot resistant timber was sought after for ships' masts amongst other things. Unfortunately the trees grow very slowly and this meant that many of the forests were quickly destroyed. This makes it special that some of the trees in this park are over 600 years old.

Whangarei - Settlement dates back to 1839, but when war broke out in the Bay of Islands, the 48 Europeans living here fled for the safety of Auckland. Originally settled for kauri timber and gum, today Northland's economy is based on tourism, dairy and

sheep farming and citrus orchards. Whangarei is a good base to access Poor Knights Islands - a diving mecca in the Marine Reserve.

Kawakawa - has a unique entrance sign constructed in the style of Frederick Hundertwasser. This Austrian born designer lived here for 25 years and his major contribution is the very prominent public toilets. Designed in 1998 they are literally a work of art, with notable tile mosaics, bottle glass windows, copper handwork and a living tree integrated into the structure.

Paihia - was first settled by Europeans when the Reverend Henry Williams was seeking a suitable site for a mission station. Apparently the name came about when he looked out along the golden beaches and island studded bay and said PAI (meaning good in Maori) and the English word 'Here'.

Russell - named after Lord John Russell, secretary of the State of Colonies and later Prime Minister of Great Britain. Whaling ships began calling here in the early 1800s. By 1840, Russell was the largest European settlement in the country, and despite the missionary station nearby, became known as 'the hellhole of the Pacific,' a rough hang out at the end of the known world. Russell was the first capital of New Zealand, but in 1841 this title was moved to Auckland where it remained until 1865 (when it was moved to Wellington to be more central).

Haruru Falls - Haruru means 'big noise.' Maori legend states that a taniwha (water monster) lives in the lagoon below so be careful. You can walk to Haruru Falls along the Waitangi walking track, or kayak from the beach at Waitangi up the river.

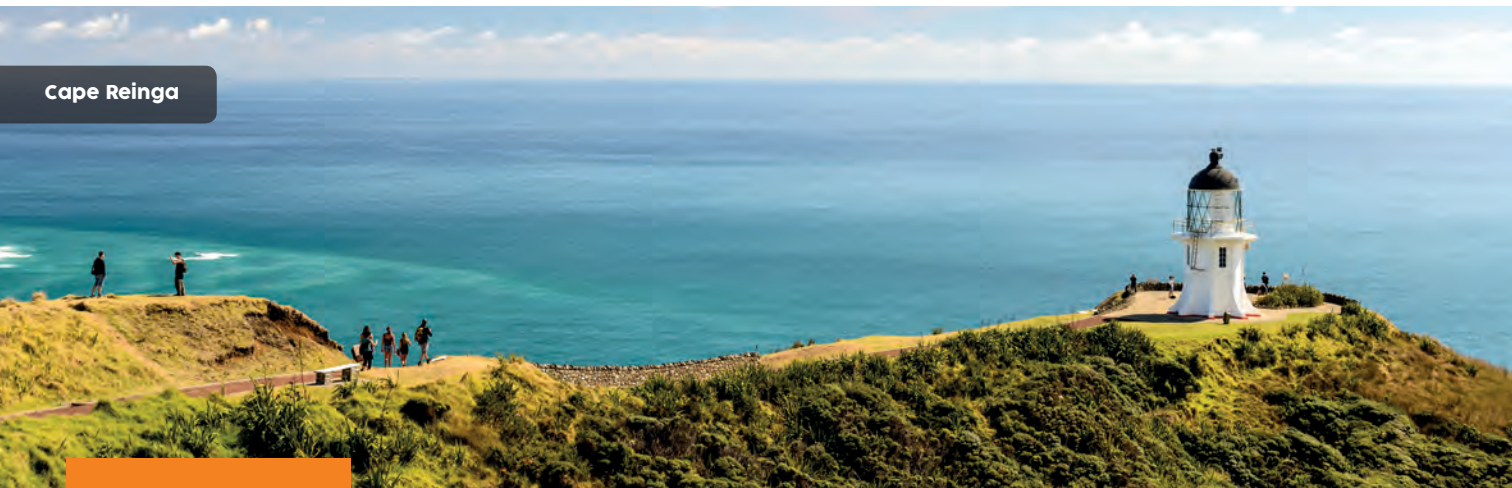
Waitangi - Waitangi is one of the most important historical places in New Zealand. On 6 February, 1840, the Treaty of Waitangi was signed between the British Crown and Maori chiefs as an attempt to control the sale and ownership of land. As an official agreement between the natives and settlers, the day is now recognised with a national public holiday. However, the document remains both controversial and central to race relations in New Zealand, and Waitangi Day is often marked with protest and demonstrations.



Sandboarding at Te Paki Stream



Cape Reinga



Cape Reinga

Paihia

Auckland

WHERE WE STAY:

Paihia - hostel near the beach.

DAY TRIP:

Cape Reinga

NB. You can't hop off the bus on the Cape Reinga travel day as this trip is part of another operator's tour.

Today we head to the top of New Zealand.

The first stop is the mighty kauri forests then through Kaitia to Ninety Mile Beach (which is actually 55 miles long!) on the western coast. Here we drive along the beach and through the surf until we reach Te Paki Stream and some of New Zealand's biggest sand dunes where you'll get to try a bit of dune surfing and sandboarding. We stop for lunch and a swim before we head to Cape Reinga. Take in the iconic lighthouse, rugged scenery and watch the clashing of two oceans. In the afternoon, we return to Paihia via the east coast, stopping in Mangonui for a feast of fish and chips en-route (optional). Accommodation is in Paihia, same as the previous night

Ninety Mile Beach - a stretch of almost endless sand flanked by the Tasman Sea in the west and by forests in the east. It's closer to 90km than 90 miles and isn't even NZ's longest beach. It is classified as a public highway, which is why we can drive on it, but we recommend leaving the driving to the pros because vehicles have been known to get caught out by the incoming tides!

Cape Reinga - it overlooks the meeting place of the Tasman Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Legend has it that it is the departure point for Maori souls from NZ (Te Rerenga Wairua) back to their spiritual homeland Hawaiki. The pohutukawa tree, from which souls make their final leap, grows out from the face of the Cape and is said to be 800 years old. The lighthouse is one of New Zealand's most powerful lights, visible for up to 50km.



Bay of Islands

**WHERE WE STAY:**

Auckland - Central City
Hostel.

TRAVEL DAY:

Paihia to Auckland

Today, enjoy a morning at leisure to try any of the activities on offer in Paihia, including the Hole in the Rock cruise, sailing, kayaking, skydiving, dolphin swimming, fishing, diving, ferrying to Russell, walking the Waitangi Treaty grounds or just relaxing on the beach.

We leave by mid-afternoon to express back to Auckland via Whangarei and Wellsford. We drop off at central city hostels in the early evening, so there's time to do some shopping or head out on the town.



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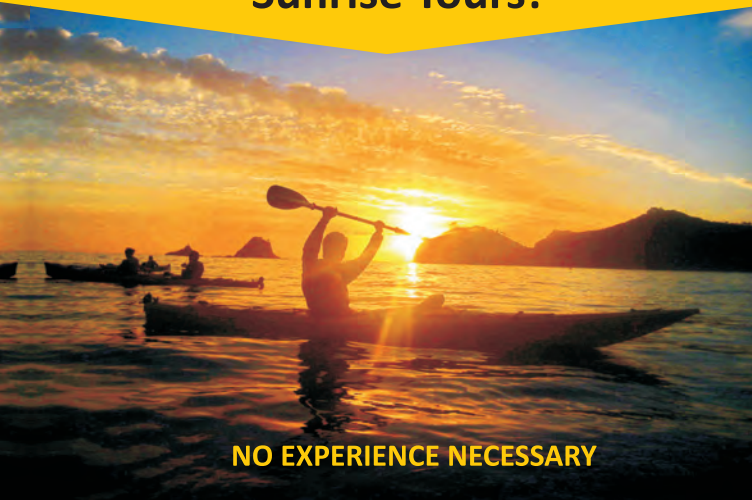
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Ngarunui Beach, Raglan

South of Auckland

The North Island

Although smaller than the South Island, the North Island packs some serious punch. Rich in Maori culture, geothermal wonders, impressive volcanoes and an incredible coastline of untouched beaches, it's equally as impressive as its bigger brother.

must see and do

- + Walk or kayak to stunning Cathedral Cove
- + Learn to surf on the world famous Raglan surf break
- + Underground adventures at Waitomo Caves
- + Get a whiff of the geothermal wonders in Rotorua
- + Contribute to a local community project at Lake Aniwhenua
- + Jump out of a plane over Lake Taupo
- + Discover your inner cowboy/girl at Blue Duck Station
- + Hike over active volcanoes on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing
- + Visit Te Papa Museum in windy, wonderful capital of Wellington





Cathedral Cove, Hahei



TRAVEL DAY:

Auckland to Hahei

We start the day with pickups around Auckland city before hitting the southbound motorway. Your driver will give you a run down about how Stray's trips work, i.e. a reminder of how you book on and off buses and how we book accommodation and activities.

Leaving busy Auckland behind us, we travel across to the Coromandel Peninsula via the old colonial town of Thames, where we'll stop to pick up supplies for the next couple of days. We then climb over the Coromandel Ranges on our way to Hahei, where we'll spend two nights. It's the perfect place to kick back and relax for a couple of days, with nearby attractions Cathedral Cove and Hot Water Beach waiting to be explored. On our first night as a group, you have the option to join in a classic Kiwi BBQ for dinner.

On your free day in Hahei, we recommend the Cathedral Cove walk, a 2 hour return scenic walk past limestone caves and cliffs to one of New Zealand's most beautiful white sand beaches (it was featured in the movie 'Chronicles of Narnia'), the Cathedral Cove sea kayaking trip to take in more of this amazing coastline's beaches or a scenic Hahei Explorer boat tour to discover a spectacular natural blowhole and hidden sea caves. There's also the option of another truly unique activity - digging

holes in the sand of the appropriately named 'Hot Water Beach' and sitting in the hot water which comes up from natural springs (tide dependent).

Thames - Once a thriving trade centre due to the gold rush in 1867 and demand for kauri timber, many of the original buildings still stand. You are welcome to hop off in Thames - we recommend the canyoning in Sleeping God Canyon for adventure seekers or try the excellent cycling trip along the scenic Hauraki Rail Trail.

The Coromandel Peninsula - Well known for its fantastic beaches and as a popular holiday destination for New Zealanders (although most Kiwis visit over the Christmas and New Year's holidays). The first European settlers were those who came searching for gold and kauri timber. When both of these things began to run out, the population dramatically declined.

Hahei - Translates to 'the breath of Hei', named for one of the early Maori chiefs. Hahei is one of the best beaches on the Peninsula, being quieter, more remote and untouched than the larger places. Climbing the surrounding hills provides a great view of Mercury Bay, so called by Captain James Cook after he anchored here in 1769 and observed the passage of the planet Mercury in the night sky.

AT A GLANCE:

Start your trip south from Auckland by travelling to popular Kiwi holiday hot spot and our first two night destination, Hahei in the Coromandel Peninsula.

WHERE WE STAY:

Hahei - exclusive Stray accommodation by the waterfront.

THINGS TO DO:

Kayaking, scenic boat tour, scuba diving.

FREE STUFF:

Walk to Cathedral Cove, visit Hot Water Beach (tide & weather dependent), explore old cultural sites, snorkelling.

THE ORIGINAL

EST 1992

HAHEI EXPLORER

Hahei, Coromandel Peninsula, NZ

CATHEDRAL COVE BOAT TOUR



See all the highlights of this magnificent volcanic coastline in one hour.

View the stunning movie locations from the Narnia movie Prince Caspian. Visit world famous Cathedral Cove, amazing sea caves and when the tide is right the tour ventures into the spectacular hidden underground blowhole - a photographers dream.

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We depart from the south end of Hahei Beach next to the Hahei Holiday Resort .

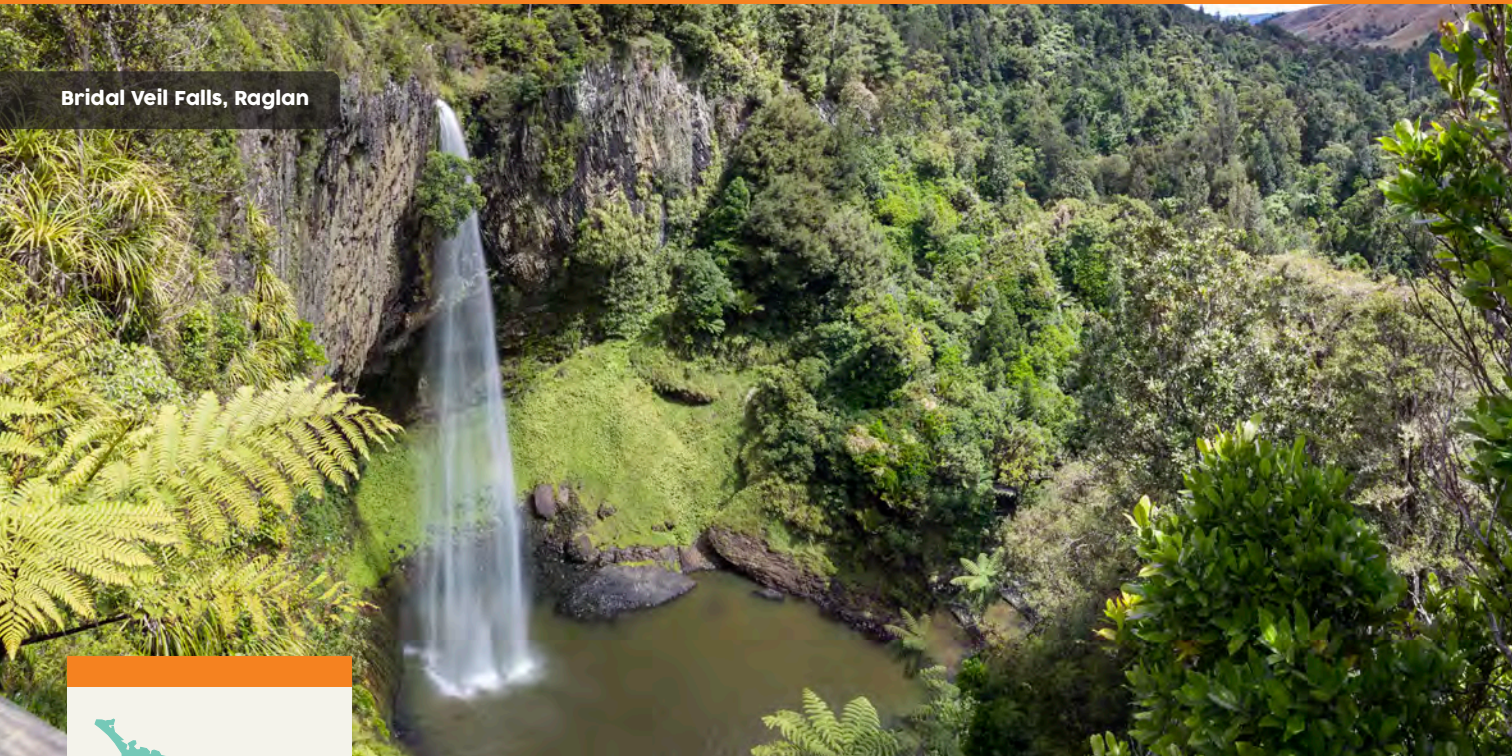


This kiwi favourite will be
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Bridal Veil Falls, Raglan



AT A GLANCE:

Travel south into the rural Waikato region. Get a true taste of Kiwi surf culture at our overnight destination and one of NZ's most famous surf spots, Raglan.

WHERE WE STAY:

Raglan - an eco-lodge nestled in native bush overlooking Whale Bay.

THINGS TO DO:

Learn to surf, hire a surfboard, sunset cruise around Raglan Harbour.

FREE STUFF:

Walk to Bridal Veil Falls, bush walk around Mt Karioi, relax on a black sand beach, spot glowworms in the bush, watch a West Coast sunset at Inspiration Point.

TRAVEL DAY:

Hahei to Raglan

We head south towards the Waikato, the most productive dairy farming land in the world (measured by butter fat output per cow...isn't that great to know?!). This is why you'll see heaps of cows (don't stress, you country boys, you'll see plenty of sheep soon enough). We pass around Hamilton, New Zealand's fourth largest city which used to have the great slogan of 'Better than you'd expect', before heading out towards our overnight and activity stop of Raglan.

We have an option of a short walk to the remote and scenic Bridal Veil Falls (unless the surf's up), before we stop in Raglan township for supplies. Your options this afternoon are soaking up the sun on a black sand beach, walking in the bush on Mount Karioi, or surfing - this is a world-famous surf spot after all. You can choose from simply hiring a surfboard or taking excellent lessons provided by the surf school - they guarantee that you will stand up! You should seriously consider hopping off the bus here to spend extra time in one of New Zealand's great alternative towns. There are plenty of cool shops, cafes and a lively music scene.

Waikato River - means 'flowing water' and is the longest in New Zealand, flowing 425km from Ruapehu to Port Waikato. For the Maori this was a

well-used travel route for small hunting canoes and large war canoes. During the 19th century wars, British gunboats and troop carriers steamed up the waterway and its banks became the scene of some fierce and gruesome battles.

Bridal Veil Falls - so named because someone thought that it looked like a bride's veil. It's a 5 minute walk to the top of the falls and a 15 minute walk to the base for an even more impressive view. The falls are 55 metres high. The Maori name Waireinga translates to 'leaping waters'.

Raglan - named after Lord Raglan after it was used as a base during the Land Wars. The town's known history goes back as far as 1000 years when the Tainui waka of the local Maori people first landed here during the Great Migration. Legend has it that they saw Mt Karioi in the distance and travelled for what seemed like ages before they finally got there. They named this area Whaingaroa, meaning 'the long pursuit', as a result. The thing that really sets Raglan apart is its relaxed atmosphere and huge reputation for surfing. It is one of the few great surf towns that have maintained its style. The left hand surf break (which you can see from our lodge) is reputed to be one of the best in the world and was featured in the classic surf film 'The Endless Summer'.

STRAY

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- Share accommodation at the surf school base 'the Karioi Lodge'

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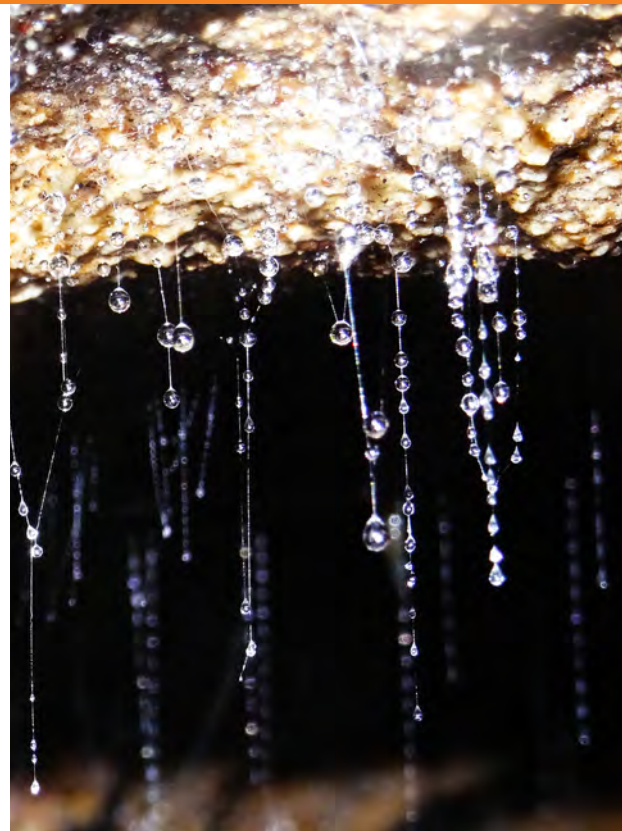
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Waitomo Caves



TRAVEL DAY:

Raglan (via Waitomo) to Rotorua

We take a back road through the Waikato down to the amazing town of Waitomo, famous for the huge network of caves throughout the area. The extra cool feature that will blow you away is the thousands of glow-worms that light up these impressive caves.

There is a range of options for exploring the Waitomo area, from easy walks to adrenaline-spiking underground adventures. The local adventure companies offer options for black water rafting, caving and abseiling for thrill seekers; but if you're after something gentler, you can take a walk or boat cruise through the magnificent limestone caves to check out the glow-worms. Bear in mind that the guided trips are your only option for really exploring the caves, and no matter which trip you, do you will be blown away. We spend about four hours in Waitomo so people can complete the caving adventures. There is accommodation here if you want to hop off, but you will need to book that independently.

After getting our fill of glow-worms, you have the option to visit the world famous Hobbiton Movie Set

and explore the hills, gardens and hobbit holes used in Peter Jackson's epic trilogies. Those who don't want to geek out at the Green Dragon will continue on to our next overnight stop Rotorua to settle in at this epicentre of Maori culture and geothermal activity.

Waitomo Caves - The largely uncharted network of caves under Waitomo was created by water running through the soft limestone. The water, which continues to flow through the network, creates stalactites (which form downwards) as the lime in the water reforms from drips from the roof and stalagmites (which form upwards) as the water hits the floor. The Maori name 'Waitomo' means 'water hole'.

Glow-worms - tiny cave larvae that emit light to attract food. The four stage lifecycle (egg, larva, pupa, adult) takes about 11 months to complete. They remain in the glowing larvae stage for about nine months. If you have seen glow-worms in Australia you will notice that the New Zealand glow-worm is a lot larger in size (of course).

AT A GLANCE:

Moving inland from the coast, get ready for a day chocka-full of adventures in Waitomo's glow-worm caves followed by your chance to visit world famous Hobbiton.

WHERE WE STAY:

Rotorua - Comfortable central hostel.

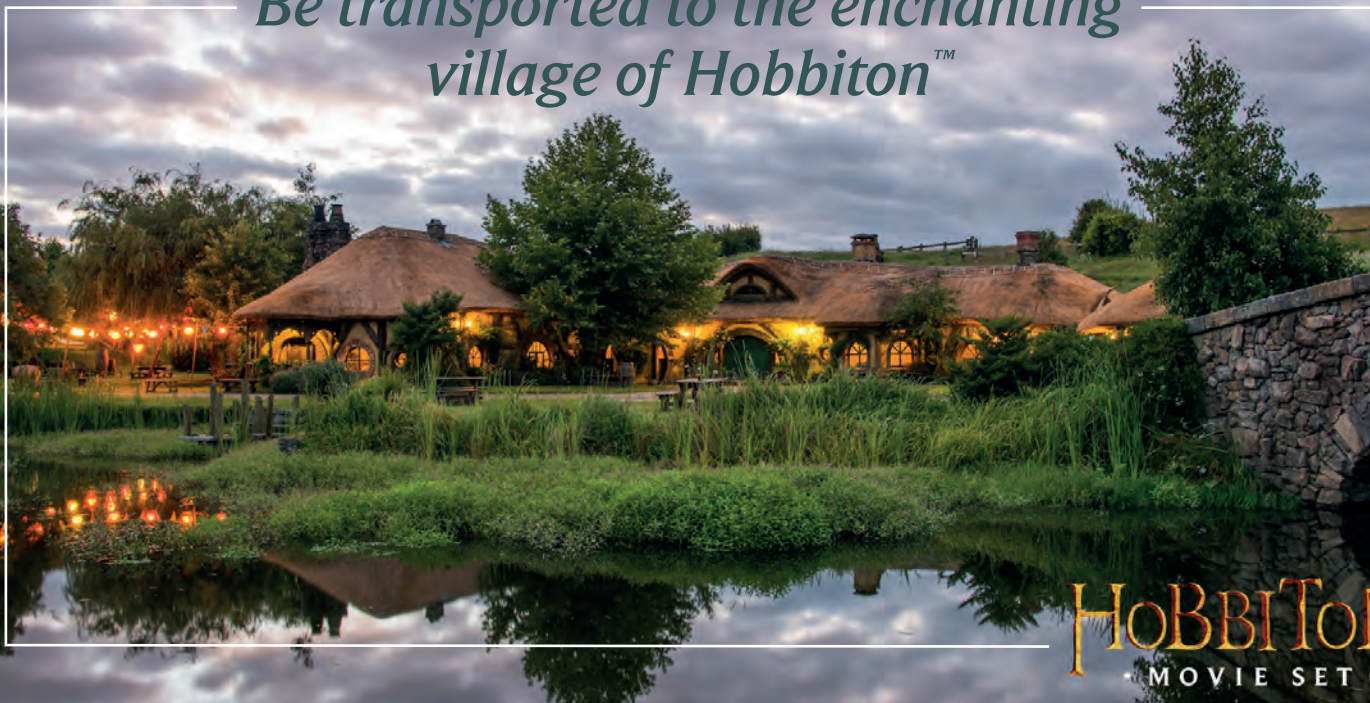
THINGS TO DO:

Must-do caving adventures in Waitomo, tour Hobbiton Movie Set, Tamaki Maori Village.

FREE STUFF:

Walk around Ruakuri Reserve, Waitomo Valley Caves walk, explore Rotorua.

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Tamaki Maori Village, Rotorua

Rotorua

As an adventure tourism mecca, Rotorua is one of the most popular spots for Stray passengers to hop off and spend an extra couple of days. All those connecting to the East Coaster tour will hop off here for a taste of the East Cape.

Activity options in Rotorua include taking a walk around Kuirau Park for free geothermal activity, rafting or sledging over the highest commercially rafted waterfall in the world, zip-lining or mountain biking through native ancient forests, visiting the geothermal attractions to discover the source of that distinct smell, and checking out the exhilarating activities at Agroventures Adventure Park. That's just naming a few!

Rotorua - in Maori 'roto' means lake, and 'rua' means two, so Rotorua is the second lake. The full name is Rotorua Nui a Kuhumatamoemoe, the second great lake of Kuhumatamoemoe (who was the uncle of Ihenga the explorer). Over 35% of the population in the area is Maori, so you will see plenty of their culture. You'll also notice the smell of rotten eggs from the abundant sulphur, which is caused by the Earth's crust being thin here and leading to a lot of geothermal activity. The Maori culture, the boiling mud pools and shooting geysers make Rotorua one of New Zealand's biggest tourist destinations.



fun fact:
 ROTORUA EARNED THE NICKNAME 'ROTOVEGAS' BASED ON ITS POPULARITY AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, - THERE'S EVEN A 'WELCOME TO ROTOVEGAS' SIGN MODELLED AFTER THE FAMOUS LAS VEGAS LANDMARK AT THE TOP OF THE SKYLINE GONDOLA.



Pink and White Terraces - Prior to the turn of the Century, Rotorua was already becoming world famous for a natural attraction, the Pink and White Terraces that were located near Mount Tarawera on the edge of Lake Rotomahana. Considered to be the eighth wonder of the world, they drew visitors from all over at a time when New Zealand was (at best) very difficult to get to. They were made up of silica-based terraces filled with geothermal water. This great attraction was destroyed by the eruption of Mount Tarawera in 1886, which also destroyed nearby villages and killed about 120 people.

Kaingaroa Forest - This is the largest hand planted forest in the Southern Hemisphere. During the 1930s, the government hired cheap labour (available because of the Depression) to plant Radiata Pines, a Californian native which usually reaches maturity in 50 years but only half this time in New Zealand. The trees on the highway between Rotorua and Taupo are between 20-25 years old and will be used for timber, paper and pulp.



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East Coaster Tour

summer only option to explore the remote eastern corner of the north island!

The East Cape is a special place. Not only does it have amazing scenery - particularly its beaches - it is rich in Maori culture in arguably the purest form. It is also the birthplace of New Zealand history, where the first Polynesian migration canoes landed, where Captain Cook first set foot, and where Maori and European people first encountered each other.

Day 1: Rotorua to Te Kaha

We stay: Seaside homestay lodge

Things to do: Guided fishing trip, fresh seafood dinner

Free stuff: Snorkelling, waterfront walk, seaside spa pool

Depart Rotorua in the morning, heading east through the Bay of Plenty to our remote coastal destination Te Kaha. We'll receive a traditional Maori greeting from the hosts at our local homestay. Enjoy a free afternoon to go fishing, snorkelling or just relax, but don't miss out on the fresh seafood dinner option tonight!

Day 2: Te Kaha to Tatapouri (Gisborne)

We stay: Tranquil hostel with unbeatable views

Things to do: Horse riding.

Free stuff: East Cape Lighthouse walk, swimming, beach bonfire

Set out early around the eastern point of the Cape, stopping in Te Araroa for lunch supplies before visiting the East Cape Lighthouse, the furthest

eastern lighthouse in NZ. The hike to the lighthouse is well worth the stunning coastal views. We also stop for a dip at Tolaga Bay Wharf, NZ's longest pier, before reaching our overnight stop on the outskirts of Gisborne.

Day 3: Tatapouri (Gisborne) to Rotorua

We stay: Rotorua central city hostel

Thing to do: Surfing, stingray feeding (tide permitting), White Island Tour

Free stuff: Swimming, walks, explore Gisborne township

Watch the 'first sunrise in the world' right in the front yard and then spend a free morning on the activity of your choice. Go surfing, hand feed stingrays or head into Gisborne for a wander. We start our scenic drive back to Rotorua in the afternoon and stop in Whakatane to drop off those doing the spectacular White Island Volcanic Tour.

3 Best Bits of the East Cape

1

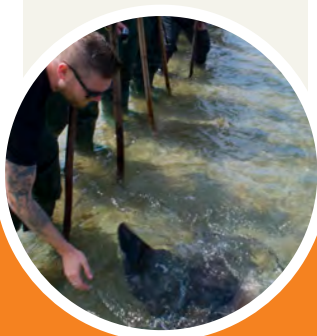
Hand feeding stingrays - "like giant puppy dog stingrays that want a good cuddle"

2

Wake up each morning and be the first in the world to see the sunrise!

3

Walk up to the East Cape lighthouse - 768 steps that are totally worth the view



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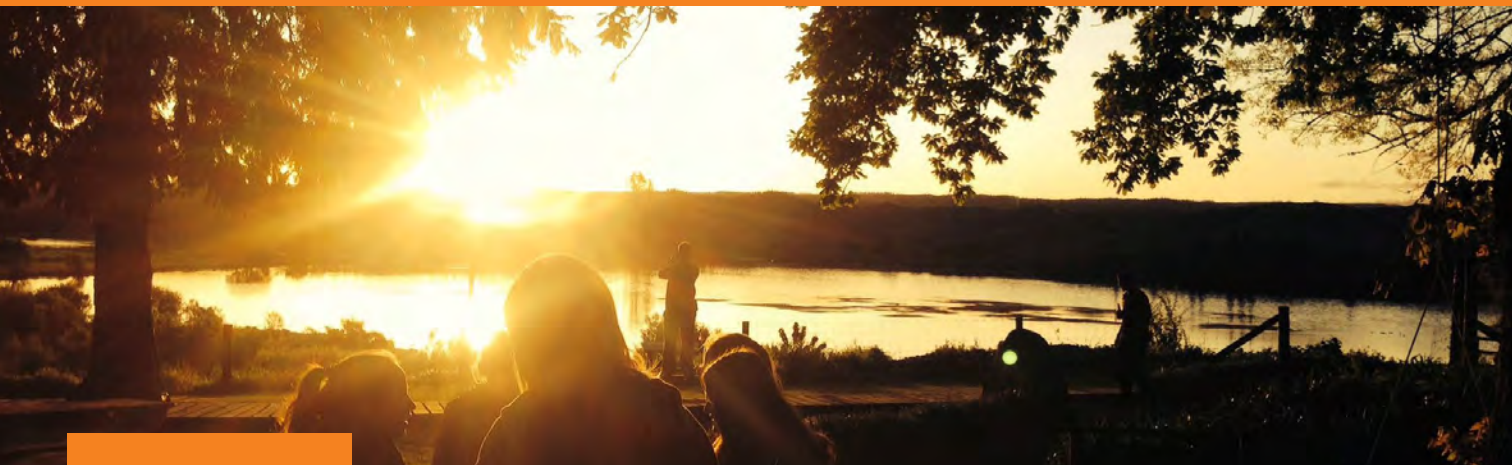
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AT A GLANCE:

Leave the tourists and the distinct smell of Rotorua behind as we take a big leap off the beaten track to visit a hidden gem in Lake Aniwhenua, home to sacred Maori sites and a truly inspiring community.

WHERE WE STAY:

Lake Aniwhenua

-serene lakefront lodge

THINGS TO DO:

Night eeling, flax weaving.

TRAVEL DAY:

Rotorua to Lake Aniwhenua

Spend a free morning getting involved in Rotorua's many activities. This afternoon, our trip takes us further off the beaten track when we head to our overnight stop at Lake Aniwhenua.

We pick up our Maori guide and take a walk down a hidden track to see NZ's oldest Maori stone carvings, hear tales of battle and revenge, as well as stories of the water guardians (taniwhas) that protect the local people and the waterways.

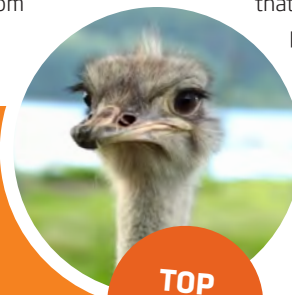
As we approach the township, we will visit the local Marae (Maori meeting house) to spend time learning about the Maori's cultural beliefs and traditional song and dance over afternoon tea.

When we reach the beautiful lakeside lodge where we will stay this evening, you will learn how to prepare a Hangi, a traditional ground cooked feast that is definitely something you must try while in NZ. After dinner, there is storytelling around the outdoor fireplace with a wise elder from the Ngati Manawa tribe who has a wicked sense of humour!

Murupara - Located 65km southeast of Rotorua in an isolated part of the Bay of Plenty between the Kaingaroa Forest and Te Urewera National Park, where the Ngati Manawa tribes have lived for centuries. Aside from the thriving Maori culture and important historic sites, Murupara is also an entry point for the Whirinaki Forest Park, which offers walking tracks for anyone with basic fitness.

Lake Aniwhenua - The pristine man-made lake was formed by a hydro-electric dam on the Rangitaiki River near Murupara. Long and narrow, the lake is mostly shallow (the average depth is 2.5m) and home to plenty of brown and rainbow trout, in addition to the eels, making it an ideal fishing spot.

Giving back to the community - Our hosts at Lake Aniwhenua are real visionaries who understand the positive impact tourism can have on a struggling community. Stray has teamed up with Kohutapu Lodge to support a local program that sees Stray passengers delivering hand packed food parcels to the local school. Stray travellers spend time in the classroom with the children to help expand their thinking beyond the confines of Murupara.



**TOP
RATED**

lake aniwhenua

Includes:

- + 1 night lakeside accommodation
- + Dinner (underground cooked Hangi feast), afternoon tea & buffet breakfast
- + Guided walk to sacred Maori sites
- + Visit a Marae, meet the local tribe, learn about their protocols and beliefs
- + Participation in a community programme with local school.

As one of our top-rated stops, Lake Aniwhenua will leave a lasting impression. In this remote community you will not only learn about the fascinating history of the region and its rise and fall, you will also experience first-hand the positive impact tourism can have on a struggling township.

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Huka Falls, Taupo

fun fact:

LAKE TAUPŌ IS ROUGHLY THE SAME SIZE AS THE LAND AREA OF SINGAPORE!



TRAVEL DAY:

Lake Aniwhenua (via Taupo) to Whakahoro

Upon departing the lodge this morning, our hosts will take you into one of the local schools to meet the children from the tribe, enjoy a performance by the kids and deliver hangi meals for the kids' lunches - providing you with another very real insight into the colourful community that is Murupara.

If school holidays or other events are scheduled during your stay, the hangi meals will be delivered on your behalf to the local kaumatua and kuia (elders of the tribe).

Next, we head around Lake Taupo towards the most remote part of the North Island. We stop on the way for a short walk to look at the impressive Huka Falls. Weather permitting, you get a chance to do what is one of our most popular activities, skydiving. Skydiving is so popular here because of the amazing lake views and nearby mountain scenery, but also because it is New Zealand's largest commercial skydive drop zone. With access to great hiking and biking trails nearby and the lake activities available, Taupo is also a very popular place to get off the bus for a couple days.

Our destination today is Blue Duck Station, a 7,200 acre high country farm that is both a working station and an environmental conservation leader. Blue Duck Station is consistently ranked as Stray's #1 destination, and once you arrive, you'll see why. Getting off the grid (there's no mobile reception!) and out into the New Zealand bush to experience real station life is a highlight you don't want to miss. Upon arrival, you will be greeted by our hosts

and hear the story of this amazing property over an afternoon cuppa. We recommend taking a walk around the property after you settle in. Spend the evening sitting around a fire learning more about the local wildlife and history of this unique and incredibly remote region.

Lake Taupo - has a violent past, which comes from lying within the crater of a supervolcano (also called a 'caldera'). In 181AD, the volcanic crater erupted, causing such a mess that its effects on the weather and sky were recorded in ancient Rome and China. After the massive explosion of the crater, the resulting hole filled with water and created Lake Taupo, the largest freshwater lake in Australasia. The Maori pronunciation of Taupō is "toepaw". The full name of the lake is Taupō -nui-a-Tia, which means "The Great Garment of Tia." Tia was one of the Polynesian chiefs who came to our shores from Tahiti in the canoe Arawa, who believed one of the cliffs resembled the flax cape (taupo) he was wearing.

Huka Falls - New Zealand's most visited and photographed natural attraction. Located on the Waikato River and whilst only 11m high, they are famous for the speed and volume of water they produce. Every three seconds enough water flows through the falls to fill an Olympic sized swimming pool.



TOP TIP FROM STRAY DRIVER NATALIE:

If skydiving, make sure you are wearing shoes that won't come off at 200km/hour!

AT A GLANCE:

It's a relatively short trip across the central North Island today as we travel via Great Lake Taupo to Stray's #1 overnight destination, Blue Duck Station.

WHERE WE STAY:

Blue Duck Station - rustic country lodge.

THINGS TO DO:

Skydiving, bungy, swing.

FREE STUFF:

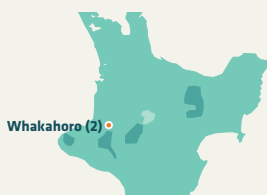
Huka Falls, Spa Road walk.

TOM PASS:

For those travelling on the Tom Pass, you will spend a night in Taupo and catch the northbound bus back to Auckland.

Whakahoro

Blue Duck Station



Whakahoro (2)

THINGS TO DO:

4WD bush safari, guided horse trekking, pest control, kayaking, jet boating, clay bird shooting.

FREE STUFF:

Walk around the station, walk to Kaiwhakauka waterfall, stargazing on a clear night (with no obstructive unnatural lights).

Whakahoro (Blue Duck Station) - This area is an outdoor enthusiast and nature lover's playground. Located in the Ruapehu District on the banks of the Whanganui and Retaruke Rivers and surrounded by Whanganui National Park, Whakahoro has a very colourful history, both Maori and European. You can still find remnants of this all around Blue Duck Station. However, their big focus is a huge conservation effort to protect the native birdlife, in particular their namesake the critically endangered blue duck (or 'whio' in Maori). The rare blue ducks can be observed while kayaking down the Retaruke River or walking along the Kaiwhakauka track above the waterfall. You can get involved in the various conservation projects when you stay at Blue Duck Station, from surveying the kiwi and whio populations to helping restore some of the historic buildings in the area, which were abandoned by the early farmers. If you feel connected with their conservation efforts, you can sponsor a pest trap and keep in touch by monitoring its success online.

We stay two nights at Blue Duck Station so you have an entire free day to experience the magic of this place. Here's your chance for an environmentally focused bush safari, a half day horse trek, a guided wild animal hunt, a paddle down the Whanganui River by kayak and jet boat back or firing a gun at clay birds. This is also home to our Blue Duck Stray Adventure, which you can book through your driver (details on page 13).

A word of warning - you may fall in love with Blue Duck Station. There have been several Stray passengers to hop off and spend a few weeks, months and even longer working here!



FUN FACT FROM STRAY DRIVER NATALIE:

Country Calendar a rural NZ TV show, is the second longest running show in the world, behind 'Coronation Street'! Our very own Stray stop, Blue Duck Station was a feature in one episode.



Tongariro Alpine Crossing



TRAVEL DAY:

Whakahoro to National Park

Today's departure time depends on season and weather, so double check with your driver.

If the conditions allow (meaning not too much rain, wind or snow) you get a chance to do what is rated as one of the world's best one day walks - the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. The Crossing crosses the National Park's scenically amazing volcanic plateau, complete with steaming craters. It is not to be taken lightly because of its remoteness, length and height above sea level (which makes for changeable weather). Your driver/guide will make sure that you are properly prepared by going through a checklist of what you need to take and ensuring you get suitable food supplies.

At the end of the day we head back to National Park Village where we stay in a beautiful alpine lodge, complete with blazing fire to sit around and toast your achievement! This is a great area to hop off the bus to stay longer with options of excellent mountain biking, rafting, canoeing or skiing/snowboarding in winter.

Tongariro National Park - The Tongariro National Park was New Zealand's first national park, and is a Dual World Heritage Area. The park was created in 1887 when Te Heuheu Tukino IV, paramount chief of the Ngati Tuwharetoa, gifted its three volcanoes, Ruapehu, Tongariro, and Ngauruhoe, to the people of New Zealand. Ruapehu is the most active of the volcanoes. It has a simmering crater lake and last erupted in 2007 sending a mudflow of debris down the mountain.

Now entering Mordor - Fans of the Lord of the Rings films will most likely recognise many places in Tongariro National Park. The stark and slightly eerie volcanic plateau scenery made it the perfect location for filming many of the Mordor scenes. The most obvious example is Mt Ngauruhoe, which served as the infamous 'Mt Doom' in the films. Another one popular with fans is Tawhai Falls, which is the waterfall where Gollum caught a fish.

AT A GLANCE:

We won't travel far by bus today, but if the weather cooperates, we spend a big day hiking the famous Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

WHERE WE STAY:

National Park - beautiful alpine lodge with view of the iconic volcanoes.

THINGS TO DO:

The Tongariro Alpine Crossing, mountain biking, skiing or snowboarding in winter.

FREE STUFF:

Taranaki Falls walk, visit the Volcanic Centre, Tawhai Falls (Gollum's pool).

Things to know about doing the Tongariro Alpine Crossing:

Distance: 19.4km

Highest point: Red Crater - 1,886m

Time to complete: 5.5 - 7.5 hours (on average)

- No food or water is available once on the track, so pack accordingly.
- There is a transport/concession fee in summer.
- In winter, additional equipment and a guide are required for safety reasons, so the fee is higher.
- This is an active volcanic area!

For those not doing the walk - or on days that the walk isn't possible - we spend the day exploring the National Park with a couple of shorter walks and visit the Volcanic Centre Museum. In winter, you also have the option to ski or snowboard at Mt Ruapehu (NZ's largest ski area).

TRAVEL DAY:**National Park to Wellington**

We head to Wellington by heading round the mountains to Ohakune. This great little ski village has the distinction of being the 'Carrot Capital of New Zealand.' You may consider hopping off in Ohakune to take in more of the National Park (or for skiing and nightlife in the winter). We then cruise down to the bottom of the Desert Road and through the charming rural towns of Taihape and Bulls.

Our destination this afternoon is New Zealand's capital city, Wellington. We strongly recommend walking along Oriental Parade for views of the harbour or visiting Te Papa, the national museum. Wellington has been called the 'coolest little capital in the world,' and it's not hard to see why. Although it is the seat of NZ's government, it is also home to a thriving arts scene, vibrant café culture and growing craft brewery movement. Wellington is a great place to hop off when you need a break from the road to return to 'civilisation' for a few days or if you are looking for work in a café or bar.

Taihape - is locally famous as a down-to-earth Kiwi farming town. Depending on the group and timing, we sometimes stop to celebrate this with a bit of gumboot throwing.

Bulls - caused a stir during World War II when milk exported from here labelled 'Milk from Bulls' got everyone guessing. Recently Bulls made international news when a proposed architectural design for the new public toilets resembled a bull's rear end from the air. People paying a visit to the Bulls public toilet would walk up the tail of the bull and enter between the cheeks. The proposed design was to cost the town more than \$226,000. Check out the awesome puns and murals around town - they're increda-bull!

Wellington - Wellington is our third largest city and has been the capital and home of the New Zealand government since 1865. It is named after the first Duke of Wellington, Arthur Wellesley, who commanded the British army against Napoleon and

was also British Prime Minister (which must have seemed like good reasons to name a town in a place on the opposite side of the world after him). New Zealand's capital was originally up north in Russell, then moved to Auckland before being moved south to a more central location.

The centre city is jammed between the hills and the harbour, so is relatively small and is easy to walk around. It is known as the 'Windy City' (the local rugby team is fittingly called the Hurricanes). Wind is channelled through the Cook Strait, which is the only gap in New Zealand's 1400km chain of mountains. The city is located on a major fault line and Wellington leads the world (they hope) in the development and application of technology to create earthquake resistant buildings.

Wellington is home to Te Papa, New Zealand's National Museum, which is free to enter (although a donation is much appreciated). Inside its walls you will find exhibitions detailing New Zealand's precarious position on the tectonic plates, its birds and marine life, cultural history, a contemporary designed marae, and copies of the Treaty of Waitangi. It also hosts many temporary exhibitions as well (that sometimes have a small charge). The Wellington area is also home of Peter Jackson and his Weta Studios of Lord of the Rings, King Kong and The Hobbit fame. Forget Holly wood and Bollywood, we now have Welly wood!

Cook Strait - is only 23km wide at its narrowest point. Crossing Wellington Harbour on one side and through Marlborough Sounds on the other, the average ferry trip takes roughly 3.5 hours. The fastest recorded time for someone swimming the Strait is 4 hours and 37 minutes, a record held by Casey Glover, who was only 21 years old when he swam the Strait on the 13 April 2008. His time equates to nearly 6kmh and compares roughly with how long it takes the ferries to make the crossing (although they take a slightly longer route).

**AT A GLANCE:**

Today is mostly an express day to get to Wellington for the sights of the capital, but we stop in a few of the charming NZ character towns along the way.

WHERE WE STAY:

Wellington - central hostel within walking distance of the main attractions.

THINGS TO DO:

Lord of the Rings tour, check out the great cafes and bars.

FREE STUFF:

Walk Oriental Parade, head up Mt Victoria for fantastic views, visit Te Papa National Museum, gumboot throwing.

**FUN FACT FROM STRAY DRIVER NATALIE:**

Wellington City Council wanted to make a Hollywood-styled 'WELLYWOOD' sign for the Miramar hillside in Wellington, due to Peter Jackson's and Weta Workshop's movie fame. Wellingtonians like to think they're a bit classier than that, so after a public vote, the sign was changed to "WELLING T O N" with the last few letters looking like they are getting blown away. Hence being known as the 'City of Gales' and keeping in theme with Auckland's 'City of Sails'!



Abel Tasman National Park

South Island

New Zealand's South Island has been described with the grandest of words: breathtaking, jaw dropping, epic – just to name a few. But once you see it for yourself, you'll see that words simply don't do it justice.

must see and do

- + Explore the golden sands and vivid blue waters of sun soaked Abel Tasman National Park
- + Take a guided glacier trip to get up close and personal with Franz Josef Glacier
- + Choose your own adventure activity in Queenstown, the adventure capital of the world!
- + Travel through stunning Fiordland National Park, home to world famous walking tracks and Milford Sound
- + Stay overnight on Stewart Island for a taste of how New Zealand was before human settlement
- + Walk the alpine tracks near NZ's highest mountain, Aoraki/Mt Cook
- + View the 'Lord of the Rings' scenery around Rangitata as you raft down the river
- + Go wild with the abundant marine wildlife in Kaikoura



TRAVEL DAY:

Wellington/Picton to Marahau (Abel Tasman)

AT A GLANCE:

We cross the Cook Strait to start our adventures on the South Island, travelling through the renowned Marlborough wine country to reach our next two night stop, Abel Tasman National Park.

WHERE WE STAY:

Marahau - Unique Stray accommodation on the edge of the national park.

THINGS TO DO:

Wine tasting, skydiving, sailing, kayaking, canyoning, water taxi, hang gliding, stand-up paddle boarding.

FREE STUFF:

Walk the national park, mussel tasting, stargazing.

We need to be at the Bluebridge Ferry Terminal by 7am to catch the 8am ferry (the ferry costs between \$51-75). Ask your driver or at the hostel reception to explain the options for getting to the terminal from where you are staying.

We pick up our new coach in Picton and depart from the Bluebridge Ferry Terminal at 11.45am - this is particularly important for people who have not carried on with the same driver, are just starting their trip, or those who have flown over, who will be dropped off at the ferry terminal as well.

Our journey today passes through the famous Marlborough vineyard region, the area that put New Zealand on the international wine world's radar by making some of the best Sauvignon Blancs on the market. Depending on the group's wishes, we may stop to do a bit of a wine tasting to judge for ourselves. We also stop at the coastal city of Nelson, a cool relaxed town to hop off and stay longer if you have time. We stock up on supplies in Motueka before arriving at our night stop, Marahau. This is a relatively remote place right at the edge of the stunning Abel Tasman National Park, named after the first European to lay eyes on New Zealand in

nearby Golden Bay. This is a popular place to get off the bus and spend an extra day or two exploring and/or relaxing. However, we already built a two night stay into the itinerary so everyone has a chance to play in the national park.

After a long day of travel, your driver will offer free mussel tasting around the campfire to those interested in sampling a local delicacy.

Abel Tasman National Park - famous for beautiful golden sand beaches and boasting to have the most hours of sunshine in the country. The track that follows the coastline through Abel Tasman National Park is one of the nine Great Walks of NZ, so this is an ideal spot to hop off for 2-3 days and do the whole track. For those with just one day, the best option is to take an aqua taxi, sail boat or guided kayaking trip into the park and wander back to our accommodation at your own pace. For the more adventurous, there is skydiving (you can view both the North and South Islands on a clear day) or exploring the secluded waterways by or exploring the secluded waterways with an exhilarating canyoning excursion.



AT A GLANCE:

Get your first taste of the rugged West Coast of the South Island as we make our way from Marahau to the former mining boom town of Westport.

WHERE WE STAY:

Westport - charming character villa in the centre of town

THINGS TO DO:

Surfing, caving, craft brewery tour.

FREE STUFF:

Westport seal colony, West Coast sunset, Truman Track walk.

TRAVEL DAY:

Marahau to Westport

The drive today will pass the Kahurangi National Park to stop for lunch in Murchison before continuing south through the Buller Gorge to the 'wild' West Coast, which stretches over 600km. If weather permits, we'll walk the coastal track of Cape Foulwind to spot the seals dotting the rocks. From Westport, you can hit the surf in Tauranga Bay or learn how the local craft beers are produced on a brewery tour (sampling encouraged!). A sight not to be missed on the West Coast is the sun setting into the Tasman Sea, so keep your camera handy.

The Buller Gorge - The Buller River's Maori name 'Kawatiri', meaning 'swift and deep', gives an idea of what an obstacle it used to be. It used to take travellers up to seven weeks to get through the gorge - the only way to cross the river was by boat until 1890.

Westport - set at the mouth of the Buller River, this relaxed port town is the largest centre of the

northern West Coast with a population of about 6,000. In 1858, a surveyor named John Rochford discovered coal and gold in the region. Westport was infamous for having some 60 hotels on the main street in its heyday; now there are only a dozen or so left and they remain the centre of town social activity. The town was primarily founded on gold and later coal which is still mined. However the future of "King Coal" is uncertain as it seems the coal industry is now in decline.

West Coast - The major influx of settlers arrived between 1864 and 1867 when gold fever drove the population from 250 to 26,000. Coal was also discovered during the same period and led to the establishment of a more stable and ongoing industry. The relative isolation (mobile phones still don't work in parts of the region) means that West Coasters really are a breed apart from the rest of the country - rock solid and hearty characters.



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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE

West Coast

Hokitika - a town that owes its existence to the gold rushes of the 1860s. Despite the treacherous bar at the river mouth, the port briefly became the country's busiest. Hokitika is exceptionally well known in New Zealand for greenstone (or pounamu as the Maori know it).

Pounamu - Pounamu has always been held in high regard by New Zealand Maori. It has high spiritual significance and is worn in remembrance of passed ancestors (tipuna), with the tiki often regarded as holding the power (mana) of the previous owners. Greenstone took the place of metals in carving tools, weapons and jewellery.

Poutini - is the name in Maori for the West Coast. Legend has it that Poutini is also the name given to a taniwha (monster) which swims up and down the West Coast of the South Island protecting both the people and the spiritual essence of pounamu, the greenstone.

The Wild Food Festival - held every March, what began as a simple celebration of the wild food tastes of the West Coast now attracts crowds of tens of thousands who flock to sample everything from the well-known local delicacy of whitebait fritters to the scar y option of stuffed and fried sheep testicles.



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AT A GLANCE:

We travel down the coast from Westport, with each scenic view better than the last as we make our way via the old gold and coal mining towns to Franz Josef, home to NZ's most famous glacier.

WHERE WE STAY:

Franz Josef - lodge in the rainforest at the base of the mountains

THINGS TO DO:

Guided trip onto the glacier (entry to hot pools included), kayaking, skydiving.

FREE STUFF:

Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and the mighty blow-holes.

TRAVEL DAY:

Westport to Franz Josef

Over the next couple of days we will be travelling down State Highway 6 that stretches over 1,000 kilometres from Westport to Haast. It weaves in and out of amazing rugged shoreline to lush rainforest and was recently rated as one of the top ten drives in the world by Lonely Planet.

One stop that's not to be missed is Punakaiki, best known for its 'Pancake Rocks' and the blowholes associated with the rock formations. If you have days to spare you may choose to hop off here and explore this little West Coast gem. Our next stop is Greymouth where we pick up people joining us from Christchurch, then on to Hokitika where time almost stands still. We take time to stop at the pounamu (greenstone) factory for those searching for the perfect NZ souvenir. We then travel onto our two night stop of Franz Josef, a town set in rainforest squashed between the Tasman Sea and the mighty Franz Josef Glacier, the head of which can be seen from the town itself.

Punakaiki & Paparoa National Park - with 30,000 ha of rainforest, cliffs and caves, Punakaiki is the service centre for Paparoa National Park. The most famous feature is the Pancake Rocks and Blowholes. These are made up of soft and hard layers of rock, which have been eroded by the sea to leave formations that look like stacks of pancakes. The sea still roars through the formations creating huge blowholes that shoot impressive sprays of water into the air. There is a great 20 minute loop walk around the formations. The community surrounding Punakaiki is made up of many laidback artists, potters, carvers, glass blowers and weavers all inspired by the rugged beauty and mystery of this region.

The bush - this coastal area is plant paradise. There are hardly any frosts, over 2,000 hours of sunshine and 2,000mm of rain every year. The forest is made of a variety of broadleaf trees and used to be dominated by bigger trees, but the area was extensively logged in the past.

**WHERE WE STAY:**

Franz Josef - lodge in the rainforest at the base of the mountains

TRAVEL DAY:

Christchurch to Franz Josef (via Greymouth) (valid with Q and Short Q passes only)

PLEASE NOTE: The 1st sector of this day is not on the Stray bus so please call the Stray office (+64 (0)9 526 2140) at least 48 hours before departure to confirm pick up details.

Atomic Shuttle - Pick-up from the Christchurch Bus Exchange at 72 Lichfield Street is at 8.15am, but be waiting by 8am. The Atomic Shuttle heads over the stunning Arthur's Pass to the West Coast town of Greymouth, where you'll connect with the Stray bus.

Tranz-Alpine Train - For a more comfortable journey and one of the top 10 rail rides in the world, you have the option to upgrade to travel on the Tranz-Alpine Railway. Make your own way to the Christchurch Railway Station on Troup Drive, Addington by 7.45am. The train departs at 8.15am sharp.

Both options arrive into Greymouth in time for you to meet the Stray bus outside the train station by the bus stop.

NB: Please contact Stray if your bus/train is running late

Greymouth - with a current population of about 14,000 it is much smaller than it would have been during the gold rush, but it's still the largest town on the West Coast. One of our great annual sporting events starts just south of here at Kumara Beach each February. The 'Coast to Coast' is (as the name suggests) a race from the West Coast of New Zealand to the east. The real challenge is that the Southern Alps happen to be between these two points.

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MAORI LEGEND OF 'THE TEARS OF HINEHUKATERE'

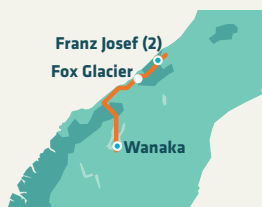
According to Maori legend, the glacier is actually the frozen tears of a maiden called Hinehukaterere. They were made from her crying for the one she loved. She made her man (Tane) climb the mountains with her but unfortunately near the top he slipped and fell to his death. Hinehukaterere was heartbroken and with her crying at such a high altitude her tears turned to ice and formed the glacier we see today.

franz Josef

Franz Josef - The township is a cool little place in the rainforest which contains little more than a couple of cafes, booking offices, a gas station, a supermarket, and an internet cafe.

The name Franz Josef was given to the glacier by the geologist Julius von Haast to honour the emperor of his native Austria. The glacier itself is 12 kilometres long and is currently in a 'retreat' phase, meaning it is shrinking. Since 2012, the only way to walk on Franz Josef Glacier is by taking a short helicopter ride past the terminal face to a more stable part of the glacier, meaning you must do one of the guided trips, which we recommend anyway due to the changeable and difficult conditions. Not only will you be shown the right way to go, but more importantly you get flash shoes with steel grips and an ice pick for some fantastic photos.

Activity options - A visit to Franz Josef is not complete without viewing the glacier itself. However, as we are on the West Coast, the weather determines the outcome of your free day. There are many walks in the Westland National Park to view the ice in addition to the guided trips. If a hike on a glacier isn't your cup of tea, eco-kayaking on Lake Mapourika with the Glacier County Kayaks offers stunning views of the Southern Alps whilst paddling around the rarest kiwi bird habitat in NZ.



TRAVEL DAY:

Franz Josef to Wanaka

This morning you have the option of skydiving over Fox Glacier before we depart.

The bus will collect you as we pass through the town en-route to Lake Matheson for some amazing upside-down scenery viewing. Today we will be leaving the West Coast behind us and making our way through the mountainous Haast Pass and Mount Aspiring National Park. This is one of the most scenic drives you'll ever do.

This area is so rugged that the road (vitally important as it completes the South Island circuit) was only opened in 1965 and fully sealed in 1995. Have your walking shoes and raincoats ready as there are a few great short walk options including Ships Creek, Thunder Creek Falls and Blue Pools (watch out for nibbling sandflies). We visit the remote town of Makarora on the edge of Mt Aspiring National Park, where you are welcome to hop off if you are keen to do the amazing walks in the area.

We pass the beautiful Lakes Wanaka and Hawea and aim to arrive in Wanaka by late afternoon (depending on how many walks we do). Tonight you may like to head down to the lake to take photos or maybe check out a film at the funky, cool Paradiso cinema.

Knights Point - named after a dog belonging to one of the men who worked on the road. The Haast Road was started in 1929 as part of a government employment scheme. It follows what was a track used by Maori who used to wander over the West Coast searching for greenstone. The war and engineering problems meant that it wasn't finished until 1965.

Haast - is probably the most remote wilderness area that you can drive to relatively easily in New Zealand. It's a landscape of rainforest, wetlands, sand dunes and shingle beaches. The area is part of the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area. The township has little more than a pub, a gas station and an information centre. You can see 800-year-old rimu trees, kahikatea (New Zealand's tallest tree), kowhai and manuka trees and flax.

Haast Pass - The road reaches 564m at its highest point. A simple glance out the bus window is all you need to understand why it took so long to turn an old Maori track into a sealed road. It cuts straight across the rugged main divide. It was named by a bloke called Julius Von Haast who was apparently the second white man to cross over the pass. The road was opened in 1965, but was only fully sealed in 1995, which is quite significant when you remember that this is the only way to cross the Southern Alps for 400km.

WHERE WE STAY:

Wanaka - central hostel close to the lake.

THINGS TO DO:

Skydiving, scenic flights, mountain biking.

FREE STUFF:

Lake Matheson walk, Ship Creek walk, Blue Pools walk, Thundercreek Falls walk.

Wanaka

Lake Wanaka - As you drive through the gorge past the lakes, you will see long horizontal lines carved into the mountainsides. These were created by the large glaciers which led to the formation of the large lakes as the rocks they pushed blocked the valleys. At 45km long and 312m deep, Lake Wanaka is the third largest of the Southern Lakes after Te Anau and Wakatipu. It is fed by the Makarora and Matukituki Rivers and is the source of the Clutha River, which is the longest river in the South Island. Nearby Lake Hawea is 35km long and 410m deep.

Wanaka - is a summer holiday town for Kiwis and travellers alike and a winter base for access to Mount Aspiring National Park, and the Cardrona and Treblecone ski fields. Wanaka is like a sister city to Queenstown and is a good place to jump off the bus for a couple of days, no matter what time of year. It's a great place to chill out, with lots of hiking and mountain biking options around the lake.

MAORI LEGEND OF LAKES WANAKA AND HAWEA

Legend has it that the great chief Te Rakaihautu carved out the beds of Lake Wanaka and Lake Hawea with his mighty Ko, or digging stick, piling up the debris to form mountain ranges.

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TRAVEL DAY:

Wanaka to Queenstown

This morning you have the option of hiking to the summit of Mt Iron (1.5 hours), getting disorientated at Puzzling World, flying your own plane or skydiving over beautiful Lake Wanaka. We make our way through the rugged rocky Kawarau Gorge and visit a historical suspension bridge where AJ Hackett set up the first commercially operated bungy jump in 1988. We have time for you to take the plunge here or sign up for the epic 134m Nevis bungy jump or swing before heading to Queenstown.

There is a wide range of adventure activities accessible here, more than anywhere else in the world. The region offers a number of multi-day treks, as well as great shorter walks and amazing mountain biking...and if this all sounds a bit much, you can just sit and stare at some of the world's most awe-inspiring scenery. Queenstown offers an optional big (make that huge) night out with excellent restaurants, pubs and live music. Whilst here take the time to indulge in an incredible Fergburger, voted as the best burger in the world by BBC, CNN and Lonely Planet!

Queenstown - It was gold which brought the first settlers to the area, followed by sheep stations, but all of this has now been totally outdone by adventure tourism development. Coronet Peak Ski area (one of the two closest ski fields) was opened in the 1950s. In the 1970s, the now hugely successful Shotover Jet opened the world's first commercial jet boat operation. The jet used an invention by a Kiwi guy called Bill Hamilton, which is basically a powerful water pump for propulsion that enables specially designed boats to be really manoeuvrable and to

be driven in rocky rivers with a depth of as little as 10cm. Quick to follow were white water rafting and the AJ Hackett Bungy development. These iconic activities have been draw cards for years and have made it possible for many other lesser-known activities to become viable.

Kawarau Suspension Bridge - was originally built in the 1880s to provide access to the goldfields around Lake Wakatipu. The bridge then fell into disrepair and was deemed unsafe until Henry van Asch and AJ Hackett applied for a one-month license to use the bridge commercially for bungy jumping in 1988...and so it became the location of the world's first fulltime commercial bungy operation. A fee is paid to the Department of Conservation for every jump by AJ Hackett Bungy to maintain the site.

Bungy Jumping - created by New Zealanders Henry van Asch and AJ Hackett. They were inspired by the Oxford University Dangerous Sports Club who tried jumping off bridges while holding onto big rubber bands back in the 70s. It was also similar to the ancient passage to manhood ritual of the people of Vanuatu in the Pacific who throw themselves from huge towers with vines tied to their feet (yes, it hurts). Henry and AJ did much testing and experimentation to come up with the ideal latex cord and attachment system then set off around the world to do some high profile jumps first in Tignes, France from a ski area gondola 91 metres above the snow, followed by the Eiffel Tower and the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. This gained them a huge profile from the start and they still dominate the world of Bungy.



WHERE WE STAY:

Queenstown - Central hostel close to all the action.

THINGS TO DO:

Puzzling World, skydiving, bungy jumping, pilot your own stunt plane or learn to fly and take a friend for free.

FREE STUFF:

Walk Mt Iron, watch people jumping off a bridge!

Bungy over Queenstown

Queenstown

Adventure capital of the world



THINGS TO DO:

Name an adventure activity and you can find it here!

FREE STUFF:

Walk to the top of the gondola for the best view in town, stroll along the lakefront, spend a few days recovering from all the adrenaline.

Queenstown is a great place to spend some extra time no matter what you choose to do with it.

You should have at least one non-travel day in Queenstown to explore, but you are welcome to break your journey for as long as you want. Many Stray travellers choose to stay for as long as their budget will allow.

Options include: great local walks, taking a side trip to Dunedin and any adventure activity that you can think of (and probably a few you could never imagine). If time allows you should take the opportunity to do one of the many multi-day adventure activities or walks in the area. Alternatively, you can catch a public bus to nearby Arrowtown to wander around the charming historic village or head over to Glenorchy at the northern end of Lake Wakatipu for even more outdoor activities. If you only have limited time, make sure to look at doing a one day Milford Sound or Doubtful Sound trip before you go.

Lake Wakatipu - New Zealand's third largest lake after Taupo and Te Anau. The temperature of the lake only varies by a few degrees from the hottest summer to the coldest winter. The name Wakatipu means 'Space of the Demon' relating to a Maori legend of the lake.



MAORI LEGEND OF THE BREATHING LAKE

The story goes that a giant called Matau kidnapped the local chief's beautiful daughter Manata. There was a brave warrior called Matakauri who'd been trying to court Manata but was told by her father he wasn't worthy enough to marry her. So when the chief said that whoever rescued his daughter could marry her, Matakauri jumped at the chance. When he found them, Matau was asleep and Manata was tied to him with flax ropes. Matakauri tried unsuccessfully to cut the ropes with his greenstone axe. Manata began crying for fear the giant would wake up and an amazing thing happened - her tears dissolved the rope. They got away and the chief allowed them to marry.

But the story doesn't end there. Matakauri knew no one was safe while the giant lived. While Matau slept, Matakauri surrounded him with piles of flax and set it on fire. The fire burned so strongly it destroyed the giant, burned a big hole in the ground, and melted the snow on the mountains. The melting snow filled the hole, thus creating Lake Wakatipu.

Apparently you can never destroy a giant's heart, and it still beats at the bottom of the lake creating a tidal effect. We know this legend is true, because when you look at a map of the lake you can see the outline of a sleeping giant.

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NGĀI TAHU Tourism



AT A GLANCE:

It's an early start to get to NZ's most famous destination, Milford Sound, in time for an afternoon cruise. Once you're on the bus, you'll be mesmerised by the epic scenery of Fiordland National Park.

WHERE WE STAY:

Gunn's Camp - historic camp in the heart of Fiordland National Park.

THINGS TO DO:

Milford Sound Cruise.

FREE STUFF:

Visit the historic museum or take in the incredible surroundings at Gunn's Camp, Chasm walk.

TRAVEL DAY:

Queenstown to Gunn's Camp (via Milford Sound)

NB. The loop around the Deep South is not included in every Stray pass, but can easily be added on through your driver.

Enjoy a scenic drive alongside Lake Wakatipu before we arrive into Te Anau, the gateway to a walker's paradise and three of New Zealand's Great Walks, which is why some people choose to jump off here. Due to our remote overnight accommodation, we need to gather a few supplies before we leave civilisation, including our Milford Cruise and Stewart Island ferry tickets. (NB. Bed spaces are limited on Stewart Island so we will book your accommodation at the backpackers today.)

Passing through the farmlands of Southland, the scenery shifts into mountain valleys carved by glaciers as we climb up to the Homer Tunnel and descend on the other side. Along the way we stop for a couple of short walks and amazing photo opportunities in NZ's largest national park. Once we arrive into Milford, you have the option of a scenic cruise to really appreciate this stunning fiord. Upon the return from the cruise, we travel to our unique overnight stop at Gunn's Camp, a historic camp on the edge of the Hollyford Track.

The Homer Tunnel - was named after Harry Homer, the bloke who started the construction project. It began in 1935 as a work project for the unemployed during the Depression. The tunnel was entirely carved out by hand - which as you can imagine was not an easy task - and explains why it is not one smooth curve. The tunnel is 1,200m long and has a gradient of 1:10. There are no lights in the tunnel and the traffic lights are a very recent addition. The view at the exit is one of the most spectacular that you will see. The weather proved to be the biggest hazard to the workers during the Milford Road project. The terrain was also harsh, high in altitude, rugged and steep and plagued by floods and deadly avalanches. The route to Milford was not finished until 1952 and was shut every winter until the 1970s.



Mitre Peak, Milford Sound

Milford Sound

Fiordland

Milford Sound - is actually a fiord. This is an absolutely stunning place, considered a 'must see' when you come to NZ. Its most well-known feature is Mitre Peak, the world's highest sea cliff at 1692m. It was given the name Mitre Peak by early explorers because it resembled the mitre headwear worn by bishops. The fiord is 290m deep in the middle but only 120m at the sea entrance. This is because it was the terminal point of the glacier which created it. The fiords in this area have a 2-4m layer of fresh water which sits above the salt water because it is so calm and only weak light filters through to below. This means that there is a great deal of sea life which would usually only be found in very deep water relatively near the surface. You could see wildlife at and above the surface including fur seals, crested penguins, bottlenose and dusky dolphins.

Initial development in this area is largely attributed to a guy called Donald Sutherland (not the actor) who was an old sea dog that settled here in the late 1800s and became known as the 'Hermit of Milford'. When he discovered a huge waterfall, which he named after himself, he claimed that the Sutherland Falls were over 1,000m high and the highest in the world. This was a great trick as it attracted tourists and he was able to build the first hotel in the Sound and went from living like a hermit to being the host of people from around the world. While indeed high and spectacular, the falls are actually 581m and are not the highest in the world.



NZ Takahē

The takahē - one of New Zealand's rarest birds. It is about 25cm tall, has dark blue feathers and a red beak and legs. Like all of our favourite birds it cannot fly. For over half a century, they were thought to be extinct and were only rediscovered in Fiordland in 1948. A large part of the park is closed off to minimise disturbance to the bird.

Lake Manapouri - located en-route to Doubtful Sound, this is New Zealand's second deepest lake at 444m (after Lake Hauroko which is the deepest at 463m) and is regarded by many as one of the most scenic.

Doubtful Sound - the deepest of all fiords. It is three times longer than Milford and over 10 times the area. Its remoteness and physical grandeur, with towering peaks, huge waterfalls (some over 600m), and calmness created by the protection of the steep walls, mean that this is a pretty mind blowing place. It was named by Captain Cook who did not actually enter the sound as he was 'doubtful' he would be able to sail out.

Lake Manapouri and Doubtful Sound are joined by a man-made tunnel which takes water from the lake through an underground power station and on to Deep Cove in Doubtful Sound. Ask your driver guide for day and overnight packages on offer - spaces are limited.

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MILFORD SOUND



Great Walks in Fiordland

There are many walks and tramping trails within Fiordland National Park, including not one but three of the most popular Great Walks. Remember that in peak season (October to late April) limited spaces are available and you must book in advance at www.booking.doc.govt.nz before starting your walk to ensure you have a place to sleep for the night.



Kepler Track

Duration: 3-4 days

Distance: 60 km

Stray hop off: Te Anau

Start/Finish: Close to Te Anau

Experience: This circuit takes you through the spectacular scenery along the shores of Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri. It can be walked in either direction (although anti-clockwise is recommended) and approximately 8,000 walkers complete it each year. It was originally established to take pressure off the Routeburn and Milford Tracks, but is now one of New Zealand's Great Walks in its own right.

Routeburn Track

Duration: 2-4 days (most walkers take 3 days)

Distance: 33km

Stray hop off: Queenstown, Te Anau

Start/Finish: Routeburn Shelter (Mt Aspiring end of the track), The Divide (Fiordland end of the track) - track can be walked one way in either direction

Experience: Traverse over the majestic Southern Alps of both Mount Aspiring and Fiordland National Parks. This is not a circuit track and there are about 350km of road transport between the ends. It is accessed by road at either end of the track, with public transport servicing both ends. It has about 13,000 walkers each year.



Milford Track

Duration: 4 days

Distance: 53.5km

Stray hop off: Te Anau

Start/Finish: Head of Lake Te Anau, Milford Sound - can only be walked in one direction

Experience: Our most famous hike takes you past Fiordland's rugged mountain peaks, sheer canyons and majestic waterfalls and finishes at spectacular Milford Sound. With approximately 14,000 people walking it each year, it has been described as the finest walk in the world. During the bookable walking season (late October to late April), a maximum of 40 independent walkers are permitted to start the track each day. You will need a bus or private transport to Te Anau Downs, then boat transport to Glade Wharf. Boat transport is also required from Sandfly Point (the end of the track) to Milford Sound.



Things to remember:

- **Tell someone where you're going** - cell phone coverage is not guaranteed in most areas.
- **Weather is unpredictable in Fiordland** - as one of NZ's wettest regions, you should prepare for at least one wet day on these walks. What starts as a sunny day in Fiordland can turn cold, wet and even snowy at a moment's notice (but it also works the other way too).
- **Correct clothing is essential** - Wind gusts of up to 80km per hour are possible in this alpine area, so be prepared for anything.



TOP TIP FROM STRAY DRIVER NATALIE:

Want to do a one of NZ's Great Hikes but didn't book a year in advance? Keep an eye on the DOC website as cancellations do happen and you may get lucky.



AT A GLANCE:

Journey from one remote corner of the South Island to another as you make your way to Invercargill, NZ's southernmost city, with the option to visit Stewart Island for an idea of what New Zealand looked like before humans arrived.

WHERE WE STAY:

Invercargill -

comfortable central hostel or

Stewart Island - island backpackers.

THINGS TO DO:

Stewart Island Ferry, Te Anau Wildlife Centre.

FREE STUFF:

Key Summit walk, Humboldt Falls walk, Viewing Gantry walk.

TRAVEL DAY:

Gunn's Camp to Invercargill / Stewart Island

We start the morning with a great hike up to the Key Summit Track for stunning views over the Fiordland Mountains (weather dependent). We then head across the farmlands of Southland to Invercargill and Bluff. Next stop: Stewart Island, New Zealand's '3rd island.' We catch the ferry from Bluff in the afternoon, which takes an hour. The ferry times vary seasonally so check the time with your driver.

For those not heading to Stewart Island the bus will drop you off at our hostel in Invercargill on the way through to Bluff. However, we strongly recommend that you head over to the island (there are great combo deals for the ferry and Milford Sound cruise - ask your driver about them). There are many activity options available on Stewart Island, including incredible walks, fishing trips (which people rave about), a cruise to Ulva Island (an open air bird sanctuary), a night time walk to try and spot a kiwi bird, a guided tour to explore this remote oasis to explore this remote oasis, or even a great white shark wilderness cruise!

Bluff - The first Europeans to visit the area were Sydney merchants in about 1813. They were keen to set up a flax milling industry to supply rope for ships. Unfortunately while there was heaps of flax in the area there was no wood, which was needed to burn the flax to get the fibre out.

Oysters - Bluff Oysters are a New Zealand delicacy. They drift on the seabed throughout New Zealand. They are found in their biggest quantities and in the best quality in the Foveaux Strait (the bit of water between the South Island and Stewart Island). They have a limited harvest season each year from March to August which may be restricted further if it is a poor season. We recommend trying them naturally or beer battered if you can get them.

TOP TIP FROM STRAY DRIVER NATALIE:

The famous AA sign at Bluff says it is 1401kms to Cape Reinga, but the sign at Cape Reinga says it is 1452kms to Bluff! Did someone buy their tape measure at the \$2 shop?





Stewart Island

Stewart Island

The anchor stone from Maui's canoe (see the earlier legend of the fishing up of New Zealand) is definitely worth a visit. It has over 85% conservation land and only a small human population of mostly fishermen who live around the township of Halfmoon Bay. The town of Oban has the island's only pub, also well worth a visit. There is only 20km of road on Stewart Island with a large part being a bird sanctuary. All introduced predators were removed (mainly rats and cats) so the bird life is amazing and is a lot like New Zealand would have been before human settlement.

The first settlers were whalers in the 1830s and there are some cool ruins from this early settlement, which can be seen on a number of the well signposted walks. Stewart Island is also home to the most southern of the Great Walks, the Rakiura Track, which is one of the reasons many people choose to hop off here. You can go to Stewart Island for a night without breaking your journey with Stray, but you'll probably fall in love with the island and want to extend your stay. Accommodation can be an issue on the island so make sure that you sort something out before you go.



Stewart Island Pub - the one and only Stewart Island Pub is a 'must do' if you want to meet the highly interesting locals, a unique cultural experience in and of itself. A few years back the pub made national news headlines when it forgot to renew its liquor license, which forced the whole island to go dry and caused havoc for the beer loving locals. More recently, the pub was in the news again when Prince Harry of England attended the weekly pub quiz with his entourage on his entourage on a visit to New Zealand.

Ulva Island - sits in Paterson Inlet below Halfmoon Bay. It used to be the home of naturalist Charles Traill, who combined the running of a general store with a passion for botany, birdlife and the study of shells. Charles was appointed postmaster for 'the most southerly post office in the world'. The post office lasted until the island was made into a bird sanctuary. There is

a great boat trip to Ulva Island which allows you to take in the relatively untouched plant and bird life. With no predators, the island has one of the most thriving kiwi bird populations in New Zealand.

Muttonbirds - birds that hang out mainly on the islands to the southwest of Stewart Island that are not surprisingly called the Muttonbird Islands. They are a traditional Maori delicacy, and every year in April and May, Maori with direct historical connections to the area are permitted on the islands to catch the chicks, which are so fat they cannot fly. Up to 250,000 are taken from the islands each year and sent to shops throughout the country.

STEWART ISLAND

Encounter kiwi in the wild

or your money back!



Depart Oban at dusk and cruise across Paterson Inlet to Little Glory Cove. See historic settlement sites, and learn about Stewart Island rich history along the way. Once there, take a short guided bush walk by torchlight through spectacular coastal forest to a secluded sandy beach. Here, in the darkness you'll get up close to the Southern brown kiwi in its unspoilt natural habitat. Guaranteed*.

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 **Stewart
Island
Experience**



AT A GLANCE:

Whether you stayed on the mainland or visited Stewart Island, today is your day to get out and search for native NZ wildlife before we express back to Queenstown in the evening.

WHERE WE STAY:

Queenstown - central hostel close to all the action.

THINGS TO DO:

Stewart Island: fishing, Village & Bays tour, go to Ulva Island.

FREE STUFF:

Explore native park-land and view amazing birdlife on Stewart Island; sea-lion, penguin, dolphin spotting at Waipapa Point, find Burt Munro's World's Fastest Indian, Bluff Hill walk, visit Henry the 118-year-old tuatara in Invercargill.

TRAVEL DAY:

Stewart Island/Invercargill to Queenstown

If you stayed in Invercargill, we depart mid-morning and head to Waipapa Point for some sea lion spotting. We then head to Bluff where we meet up with the island-goers before expressing back to Queenstown in the evening. Back in Queenstown, you can break up your trip by hopping off or get ready to carry on northbound for Aoraki/Mt Cook - just make sure you've pre-booked your seat since you will most likely have a new driver on your next bus.

Invercargill - is New Zealand's southernmost city. The upside is that it gets long daylight hours in summer. The downside is that it has the lowest average temperature, the lowest annual average of sunshine hours, and the highest number of rain days. Invercargill shares much of its history with Dunedin and both cities have very distinct Scottish influences as they were both initially surveyed by Scottish companies looking to create settlements in the new world. White settlement in Invercargill was always focused on being a service town for beef and dairy farming in the area. Recently there

FUN FACT FROM STRAY DRIVER LEGO:

In 2009, Invercargill's most famous resident Henry the tuatara became a father for the first time at the ripe old age of 111. (A tuatara is a reptile native to New Zealand.)

has been relatively significant growth in the number of dairy farms in the area, as land has become too expensive to be viable for milk production in the Waikato and many farmers moved south. A lot of the recent rejuvenation of the town can be put down to its mayor Tim Shadbolt, a colourful character known throughout New Zealand. It is thanks to his efforts in introducing the free fees scheme to the local polytechnic that attracted young people to the South and a breath of life into the city. The mayor and the town featured in a Hollywood movie 'The World's Fastest Indian' starring Anthony Hopkins, which is a true story about a local who set out to break the speed record for motorbikes of less than 1000cc. In fact, you can see a replica of 'the Indian', the bike which he rode to achieve this, on display in a local hardware store.

RECOMMENDED BY STRAY DRIVER NATALIE:

Cheesy Rolls are a Deep South delicacy. Make sure you get one while you are down here, because you won't find them on the North Island.



Mt Cook Alpine Lodge

TRAVEL DAY:

Queenstown to Aoraki/Mt Cook

We make our journey north today, passing back through the Kawarau Gorge and turning inland over the Lindis Pass through to Mackenzie Country. After stopping for lunch in Omarama, we turn off the highway to drive to our amazing stop at Mt Cook, where breathtaking views of Lake Pukaki will blow you away.

We arrive into Mt Cook Village in the early afternoon and you have time to check out the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre, take an off-road Argo tour or do one of the many great short walks in the park. There are also some incredible longer walks in this stunning area if you want to hop off the bus and stay for a few days (we recommend you leave climbing Mt Cook to the mountaineers though).

Lindis Pass - The dramatic Lindis Pass with its tussock covered hills links the Mackenzie Basin with Central Otago. The actual pass crosses a saddle between the valleys of the Lindis and Ahuriri Rivers at an altitude of 971m above sea level. For many months of the year, you can expect to see snow in this mountainous area, often down to the roadside.

Omarama - Omarama is known as a world-class gliding area, hosting the 1995 World Gliding Championships and 2006 Gliding Grand Prix. Its name translated from Maori means 'place of light', some say because the sky is so clear here. The statue of the ram represents the area's tradition of sheep farming and is a great photo opportunity.

Mackenzie Country - The Mt Cook region is sometimes referred to as MacKenzie Country, situated in the high inland basin beneath the Southern Alps and Aoraki/Mount Cook, south west of Christchurch. It has an interesting history - the area was named after Jock Mackenzie, New Zealand's most notorious sheep rustler, who used a secret route through the mountains to move his stolen flock. Now it's known for its amazing scenery, turquoise lakes, tussock covered hills and great off the beaten track ski areas.

Aoraki/Mt Cook - at 3,724m, it is the highest of the 23 mountains in New Zealand that are over 3,000 metres. The area, which was designated a national park in 1953 includes 19 peaks over 3,000m and the largest and longest of NZ's glaciers, the Tasman Glacier. By way of comparison (and because we like to beat the Australians) Mt Cook is more than 1,500m higher than Australia's highest peak, Mt Kosciuszko. It was named after Captain James Cook, the first European to set foot in New Zealand.



AT A GLANCE:

Head north from Queenstown through the picturesque Mackenzie Country to a mountain lover's paradise, Aoraki/Mt Cook.

WHERE WE STAY:

Mt Cook - stunning alpine lodge at the base of NZ's highest mountain.

THINGS TO DO:

Argo tour of the alpine region, visit the Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre.

FREE STUFF:

Take photos of awe-inspiring scenery, do one of the many great short walks to the Hooker Glacial Lake (weather dependent).

MAORI LEGEND
OF AORAKI

According to legend, Aoraki was a young boy whose canoe 'Te Waka o Aoraki' became stranded on a reef. When the canoe tilted to one side, Aoraki and his three brothers climbed onto the higher side. The cold south wind froze them where they sat and they turned to stone, with Aoraki becoming the tallest mountain and his brothers creating the Southern Alps, or 'Ka Tiritiri o te Moana', around him.



AT A GLANCE:

From Mt Cook we make our way to turquoise Lake Tekapo, then on through true 'Lord of the Rings' scenery to Rangitata Peel Forest.

WHERE WE STAY:

Rangitata - one of Canterbury's original sheep stations.

THINGS TO DO:

White water rafting (summer only), horse trekking; in winter, visit Tekapo Hot Springs, go ice skating or snow tubing.

FREE STUFF:

Some of the best stargazing in the world.

TRAVEL DAY:

Mt Cook to Rangitata (Peel Forest)

We head past the scenic Lake Tekapo, with time for a photo of the turquoise lake and the picturesque Church of the Good Shepherd.

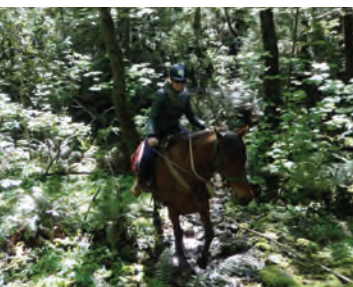
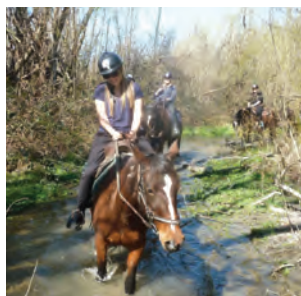
We arrive late morning in Geraldine and then head through to our night stop of Rangitata Peel Forest to take in some incredible Lord of the Rings scenery. You have options of doing one of the best rafting trips in the country (October to April only - make sure you have your swimwear in your day pack) or a horse trek through the Peel Forest. In winter we will depart a little later from Mt Cook and, depending on the group, we can stop in Tekapo for the chance to ice skate, snow tube or soak in the hot pools.

Lake Tekapo - Lake Tekapo is New Zealand's highest lake at 710m and is the largest of the three lakes in the Mackenzie area (the others are Lake Ohau and Lake Pukaki.) Tekapo is a Maori word meaning 'night sleep place', deriving from the words 'Taka' or 'Tekā' (sleeping mat) and 'Po' (night). It was named the world's largest International Dark Sky Reserve in 2012 due to being almost completely free

from light pollution. You will not find a better place to stargaze.

Finely ground rock from the glaciers in the Southern Alps feed via the rivers to the lake give Lake Tekapo its beautiful turquoise colour. On the shores of the lake are two iconic features: the dog statue, dedicated to the working collie dogs of the Mackenzie Country, and the Church of the Good Shepherd, built in 1935. It was the first church in the area and is now a favourite location for weddings (just in case you meet someone nice on your travels!)

Rangitata River - Rangitata means 'low sky' in Maori. The river passes from the Southern Alps through the Rangitata Gorge in the alpine foothills and then out to the Pacific Ocean. This is an incredibly scenic area at the base of the Southern Alps. Lord of the Rings fans will recognise the valley and surrounding area as the filming location for Edoras in The Two Towers and The Return of the King.



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RANGITATA RAFTS

A black and white photograph showing several people in a raft navigating through white-water rapids. They are wearing helmets and life jackets, and some are holding paddles. The water is splashing and turbulent. The raft has 'RANGITATA RAFTS' written on its side.

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Whale Watching, Kaikoura



TRAVEL DAY:

Rangitata to Kaikoura (via Christchurch)

This morning we leave early to express across the Canterbury Plains to Christchurch. If you are stopping here for the night, make sure you have pre-booked your accommodation as it is still somewhat limited since the 2011 earthquakes.

For travellers whose Stray adventure is coming to an end, we arrive at Christchurch International Airport by 9.30am. If you pass finishes in Christchurch, but you would like to continue, speak to your driver about upgrading your pass. It is only \$35 to add on a Christchurch - Kaikoura sector. There are a number of transport options from Kaikoura back to Christchurch, as well as from the airport into the city.

Note: Stray only picks up and drops off from the Christchurch International Airport. We welcome any new travellers starting their trip with us today.

For those travelling on to Kaikoura, we leave the South Island's largest city behind and cruise up the scenic coast to Kaikoura. We arrive in the afternoon in time to participate in the major activities which feature some of the world's best wildlife viewing. The main draws here are whale watching or dolphin swimming/watching, but other options include albatross viewing, catching your own fish for dinner, seal swimming (summer only) or walking around the Kaikoura Peninsula to the seal colony.

Christchurch - Christchurch is known as the 'Garden City' and is the South Island's largest city, and New Zealand's second largest. European settlement started with the English, who arrived in large numbers starting from 1850, and the city still shows huge signs of their influence from the street names to the River Avon which runs through the middle of town, to the early gothic architecture including what was the fantastic Cathedral in the town's square (imaginatively named 'Cathedral Square').

Christchurch became a city by Royal Charter on July 31, 1856, making it officially the oldest established city in New Zealand.

On February 22, 2011, a major magnitude 6.3 earthquake struck the Canterbury region, forever altering the beautiful city of Christchurch. The earthquake caused widespread damage across Christchurch, especially in the central city and eastern suburbs. The city has undergone a massive facelift, with lots of chic restaurants, urban bars, and funky new cafes being built. Although much of the city's heritage architecture was damaged during the earthquake, including its iconic Cathedral, the city still displays some traditional English charm. The rebuild started the day after the quake hit and they still have a long way to go, but Cantabrians are a resilient lot and are committed to rebuilding their city and restoring it to its former glory.

Kaikoura - means 'meal of crayfish' in Maori. The name derives from the abundant supply of food that supports a large array of marine life found in Kaikoura's coastal waters. This is in large part due to the unique deep-water canyon very close to shore called the Hikurangi Trench. Kaikoura started as a whaling base and you could say that it still is, but now people come to watch the whales rather than catch them.

Dolphins - the Kaikoura region is home of many dusky dolphins. They are very friendly and can be seen year round. These playful dolphins are known for being quite acrobatic, so be prepared to see some spectacular leaps and flips, something attributed to their fun personalities and how they practice for catching prey. They are also highly social and live in pods sometimes numbering in the hundreds and even thousands. The large concentration of animals in the area is why Kaikoura is one of the world's best places to observe and interact with wild dolphins.



AT A GLANCE:

We start the morning expressing to Christchurch to do drop offs and pickups at the airport before carrying on up the coast to Kaikoura, renowned for some of the best marine wildlife watching in the world.

WHERE WE STAY:

Kaikoura - warm modern hostel within walking distance of all the major activities.

THINGS TO DO:

Whale watching, swimming with dolphins, go fishing and eat your spoils.

FREE STUFF:

Walk around the peninsula and up to the lookout.



Albatross - the region is unique in having 12 species of albatross visit the coastline, including the one with the largest wingspan in the world at 3.4m, the Wandering Albatross. It takes its name because of the huge distances they can cover in one day just to find some food and return to the chick on their nest.

Described as the best place in New Zealand - if not the world - to view albatross, Kaikoura's rich food supply in the Hikurangi Trench just offshore means these spectacular ocean going birds can be viewed easily at close proximity. Albatross tours have grown in popularity as a result of increased awareness of how precious some of these species are.

Some of the regularly sighted species in Kaikoura are in decline due to high mortality rates resulting from fishing practices in the Southern Ocean, mainly being caught on hooks from long line fishing vessels. Much research has been undertaken to find safer methods of setting lines to prevent seabirds from dying in this way.

Whaling - was the first big export industry for New Zealand and much of the first European settlement was with whaling bases. The first one in Kaikoura was established in 1842 by Robert Fyffe. The whales were sought mainly for oil. At first, the whaling stations were very successful, but in many places whales quickly became rare so the business slowed down significantly by the 1850s.

There are over 79 species of whale and dolphin in the world today. About 34 of these have been sighted in New Zealand waters, over half of these in the waters off Kaikoura. Sperm whales are the most common seen in Kaikoura, but you sometimes also see orca/killer whales, humpback whales, right whales, minke whales and even giant blue whales. The humpback whales pass through Kaikoura on the annual migration to Antarctic waters to feed.

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**AT A GLANCE:**

Cruise up the coast via Blenheim to reach Picton, where you will stay the night if you are continuing on the South Island, or catch the afternoon ferry to Wellington if you are making your way back north.

WHERE WE STAY:

Wellington - central city hostel or **Picton** - cosy character villa.

FREE STUFF:

Seal colony; Queen Charlotte Sound view walk, mountain biking, fishing or relax in the villa spa (Picton); explore the city (Wellington).

TRAVEL DAY:

Kaikoura to Picton/Wellington

Thirty minutes from Kaikoura, we stop at a seal colony for a photo op before we continue winding our way up the rugged coastal road, passing through Blenheim en-route to Picton.

If you are staying in this port town tonight, your driver will organise a bed for you. The afternoon could be spent walking to the Queen Charlotte Sound view lookout or using a free mountain bike or fishing gear from the accommodation.

Those heading to Wellington will catch the Bluebridge Ferry crossing the Cook Strait to arrive early

evening into the capital. Your new bus will be waiting at the terminal to escort you to your accommodation. See page 45 for more information about Wellington.

Blenheim - lies deep in the heart of the Marlborough region, an area which is world famous for the quality of its wines, in particular its Sauvignon Blancs. Blenheim's original name was Beaver Town, a name gained when the first survey party to the area were caught in a flood and had to sit on piles of wood to escape the water like beavers on a dam. The town still has a beaver as its mascot.

**AT A GLANCE:**

We leave Wellington pretty early in order to get to Auckland by early evening, stopping stopping in Taupo along the way.

TRAVEL DAY:

Wellington to Auckland (via Taupo)

We leave the capital nice and early to get into the central parts of the North Island before midday. We stop in Taupo before heading through the Waikato and back to the 'big smoke' of Auckland in the early evening. You are welcome to hop off anywhere else along the route if you so choose, but most people will be finishing their Stray adventure in Auckland today.



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Australia next?

Loka - Hop-on Hop-off Adventures

If you enjoyed the Stray style of travel and your next port of call is Australia then you will want to check out Loka. Loka is Australia's guided, hop-on hop-off network on the East Coast, founded on the same principles of flexible, adventurous, social travel. For an East Coast roadie that is a little different from the norm book on Loka for #travelwithmeaning.

All those who've travelled with Stray are entitled to a **5% discount on Loka products**.

Spaceships - Self-drive Stray's sister company Spaceships Campervans (you may have noticed them out on the road) also operate in Australia, the UK and Europe. If you are planning to travel as a couple, these compact two berth campervans, known as the Swiss Army Knife of campers, has everything you could possibly need.

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Pacific Islands next?

Awesome Adventures Fiji

Want a Pacific Island holiday before you head home? Get one of the cheap flights from NZ to Fiji and chill out island style for a while! Fiji is right on New Zealand's doorstep (only 3 hours from Auckland) and is made up of over 300 tropical islands set in unbelievably crystal clear waters with palm fringed, white sandy beaches, coral reefs and lagoons. Each island has its own vibe so do a bit of homework to work out which suits you. (See below for a few ideas.)

For more info on any of the above companies, ask your Stray driver or visit our travel experts at the Stray Travel Shop, 50 Fort St, Auckland CBD.

More info www.straytravel.com/loyal

Southeast Asia next?

Stray Asia (overview - page 80)

Once you've filled your boots on New Zealand's mountains, glaciers and native rainforest, there is still more Straying to do. The Stray hop-on, hop-off network extends across five countries in Southeast Asia where epic beaches, incredible street food, energetic cities and ancient Buddhist temples form the basis of the next 'must do' adventure on this side of the world.



Get up close with sharks & manta rays in Fiji!

There's no doubt our fear of sharks is almost every time equalled by our curiosity about these ocean predators.

Despite their anxiety factor, visitors to Fiji are now actually invited into the water with sharks and, wait for it, there is also the opportunity to swim with manta rays (more about that after the sharks)!

Billed as the 'Ultimate Encounter', the recently launched shark adventure is available from Awesome Adventures Fiji as a day trip from Port Denarau, or staying two or three nights at Barefoot Kuata (sharks circling nearby).

The encounter gets snorkelers to swim with black tip and white tip reef sharks measuring up to 1.8m in length. White tips are the dominant species and by nature inquisitive so not afraid to get up close and friendly, while the black tips are quite timid.

Experienced guides with 100s of hours of getting to know the resident sharks and monitoring their behaviour accompany each excursion. Snorkelers can expect to see from one to six sharks, and while most forget to look anywhere else other than at the circling denizens, there are also spectacular corals to see.

Kuata Island is a hidden small gem in the Yasawa Island archipelago, a two hour scenic cruise from Port Denarau. This is where beaches are postcard perfect, the water transparent turquoise, and the island's tall rock formations tower above. A newly constructed bar and restaurant, a three-tiered swimming pool and an ablutions block allow for replenishment and a freshen-up before the cruise back to the bars and restaurants at Port Denarau.

And so to the north Drawaqa Island,

three hours by Yasawa Flyer from Port Denarau...

Here are the beautifully balletic manta rays that visit from May to October annually. They come to dine on plankton and, um, make babies!

Visitors can swim alongside these beautiful marine creatures as they cruise the channels and reefs, which are now an official reserve ensuring the manta rays a safe and fruitful visit each year.

Awesome Adventures Fiji offers a range of accommodation options at nearby resorts, including Barefoot Manta and Manta Ray Resort, plus transfers aboard the Yasawa Flyer.

For bookings and passes go to
www.awesomefiji.com

TRAVELLING TO FIJI?

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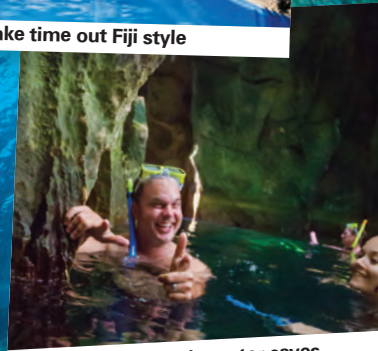
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STRAY

Southeast Asia

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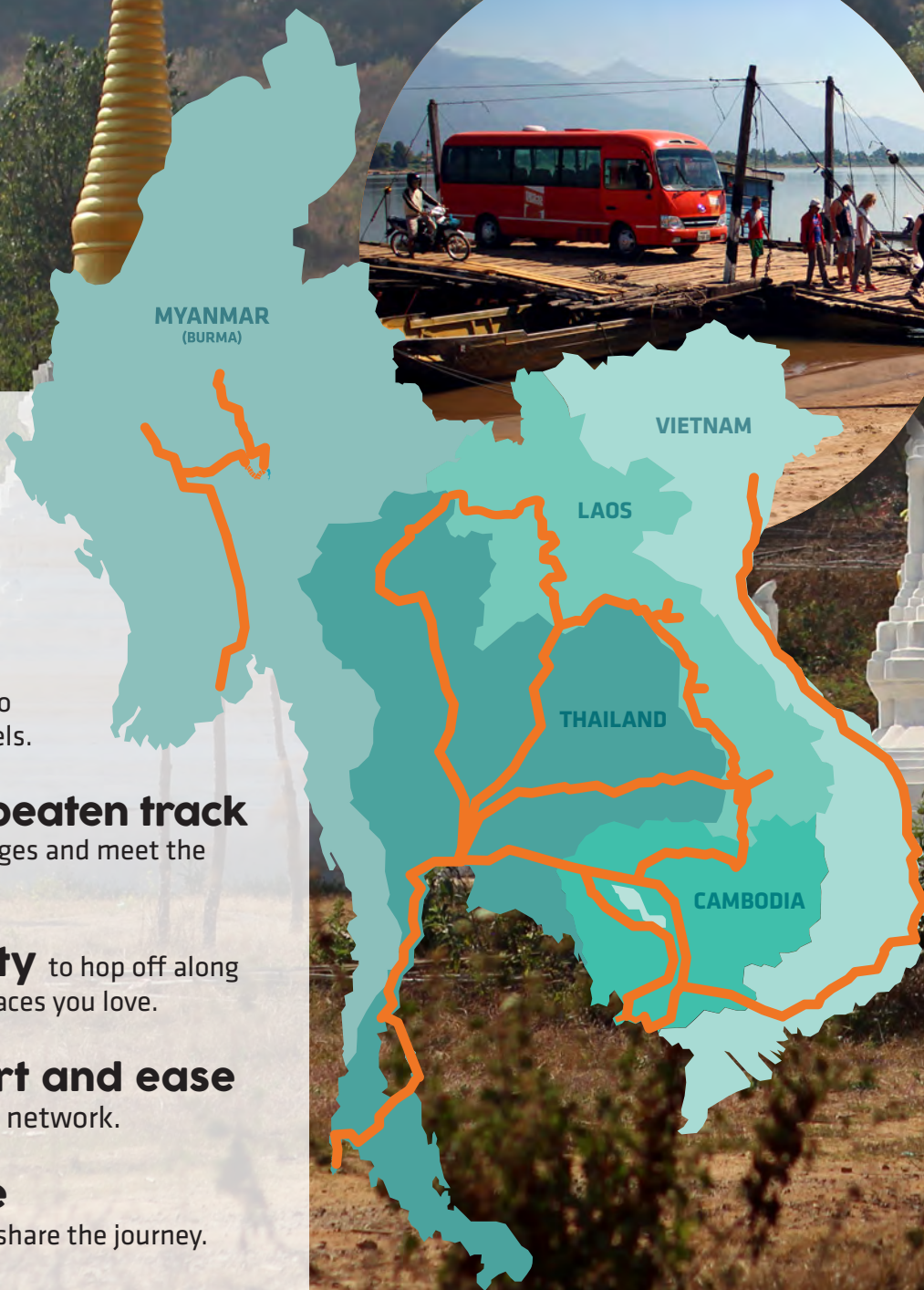
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Stray Asia



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Start: Bangkok Finish: Hanoi



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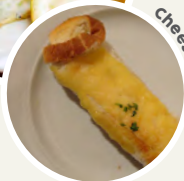
Jaffas



Whitebait Fritters



Cheese Rolls



What's the story with the silver fern?

The silver fern, or 'ponga' in Maori, is a native fern with a distinctive silver-white colouring on the underside. It was once used by Maori warriors to mark trails at night because the silver underside would reflect moonlight. The NZ armed forces later adopted the silver fern symbol to distinguish Kiwis from Australian and British troops. It is used by many organisations in New Zealand today, but most popularly associated with our national sports teams.



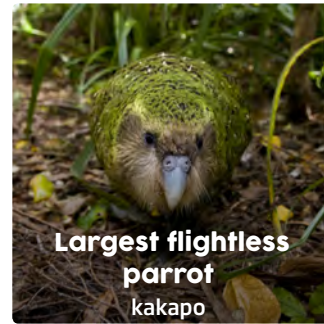
'jandals' are what Kiwis call flip-flops, which comes from shortening 'Japanese Sandal' into one word. (Just don't call them 'thongs' like the Aussies!)

Flora & Fauna



Smallest dolphin
Hector's dolphin

Did you know? NZ is home to the worlds...



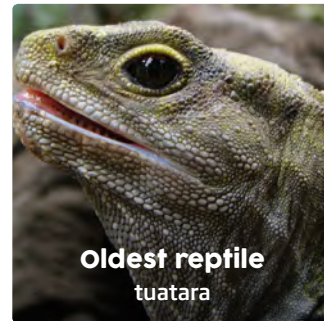
Largest flightless parrot
kakapo



Heaviest insect
weta
(weighs up to 70g)



Rarest sea lion
Hooker's Sea Lion



Oldest reptile
tuatara



Confused when it comes to ordering a coffee in NZ? Try a Flat White, with 1-2 shots of espresso coffee topped up with steamed milk (minimal foam).



The only land mammals native to NZ are bats, the rest were introduced by the Maori and Europeans.

Beast or Brew?

Do you know if these are a native NZ animal or native NZ beverage?

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Tui | 5. Tuatara |
| 2. Moa | 6. Keruru |
| 3. Weka | 7. Parrot Dog |
| 4. Kokako | 8. Blue Duck |

Word Jumble

Unscramble the following to get the names of some NZ icons.

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. btousmgo | 5. ilsrve nefr |
| 2. daslnaj | 6. ngerensoet |
| 3. wiik | 7. ial sclabk |
| 4. epesh | 8. yrast sbu |

ANSWERS

Word Jumble: 1. Gumboots 2. Jandals 3. Kiwi 4. Sheep 5. Silver fern 6. Greenstone 7. All Blacks 8. Stray Bus
Beast or Brew: 1. Tui - bird & beer 2. Moa - bird & beer 3. Weka - bird & coffee 4. Kokako - bird & coffee 5. Tuatara - reptile & beer 6. Keruru - bird & beer 7. Parrot Dog - beer (because a Parrot Dog just sounds silly) 8. Blue Duck - bird & vodka

How to Speak 'Kiwi'

Yes, technically we Kiwis speak English. However, in order to relate to the locals and fit in you'll need to learn a bit of the lingo.



Kiwi Brett: "Hey cuz!"

British Kate: "Hello."



Kiwi Brett: "Those jandals you're wearing are choice. I had a pair like that back in the day."

British Kate: "Thank you."



Kiwi Brett: "No wakas! Cuz, I've got to gap it down to the dairy to meet some cuzzies and get some chips, they're mean as. Chur!"

British Kate: "Goodbye?"



Did you follow that? No? Keep reading. You have much to learn.

common kiwi lingo

"Eh/Aye" - compulsory addition to the end of a rhetorical question "Last night was bloody good, eh?"

"Heaps" - used instead of "lots" e.g. "We saw heaps of dolphins in Kaikoura."

"ie" - added to the end of shortened words e.g. hottie, tantie, cuzzie

"as" - also added to the end of words: "cold as", "fun as", "drunk as", "mean as", "sweet as."

"Sweet as" - as in "sweet as pie" meaning all good

"Choice/Sweet" - good

"Gap it" - to leave, sometimes it might mean leaving in a hurry.

"No worries/no wakas" - no problems

"Dairy" - a corner shop or news agent that sells milk, ice creams, newspapers and a lot more.

"Chips" - these are crisps and not to be mistaken for "hot chips".

"Pants" - pants are trousers, not underwear

"Cuz" - friend (guy or girl), cousin

"Chur bro" - cheers, thanks or that's cool my friend. You might also hear "chur" on its own as "thanks"

"She'll be right, mate" - It'll be OK, don't worry about it.

"Back in the day" - an undetermined amount of time in the past, anything from a week to the start of time.

"Not even, ow!" - No, that can't be true!

"True" - as a question, it means "is it true?" or "really?" Answered back as a confirmation it means "yes, it is true".

"Togs" - swimsuit, for a man or woman

"Jandals" - flip-flops (definitely not "thongs" like the Aussies say)

"Suss" - to figure out

"Wop-wops" - out in the back country (middle of nowhere)

"Piker" - someone who backs out of doing something

"Tiki tour" - to drive around taking the scenic route

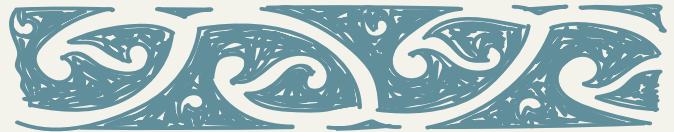
"Gawk" - to stare

"Pack a sad" - to get upset and sulk

"Dag" - a piece of dried up sheep dung attached to the sheep's bum. A dag is also a hard case character e.g. "that Sheryl is a dag!"

"Hard case" - someone or something that is a bit quirky, rough around the edges, usually pretty funny.

"Nek Minute" - "next" minute; used to create suspense when telling a really great story



Te Reo (maori) Language

New Zealand is a bilingual country and Te Reo is our other national language. It's not as widely spoken as English, but you might hear some of these words come up in conversation.

Kia ora - Hello, Goodbye, Thank you.

Haere Mai - Welcome

Haere ra - Goodbye

Whanau - Family; not necessarily just immediate family, but everyone considered close.

Whare - House

Kai - Food

Kai moana - Seafood

Kia ora tatou - Hello everyone

Tena koe - Greetings to you (said to one person)

Tena koutou - Greeting to you all

Kei te pehea koe? - How's it going?

Kei te pai - Good

Tino pai - Really good

Ka kite ano - Until I see you again (bye)

Hei konei ra - See you later

Mana - respect, status earned through actions

Ka Pai! - Good work!



Ka Mate

THE WAR CHALLENGE KNOWN AS "THE HAKA"

There are many different hakas, and they are used in many situations. However, Ka Mate is by far the most well-known haka after being made famous by the reigning Rugby World Champions, the mighty All Blacks!

A haka is performed by the All Blacks as a challenge prior to each international rugby match. The tradition started in the 1880s during a New Zealand football tour. Ka Mate was first performed by the All Blacks in 1905.

"Ka mate! Ka mate! Ka ora! Ka ora!
Ka mate! Ka mate! Ka ora! Ka ora!
Tenei te tangata puhuru huru
Nana nei i tiki mai
Whakawhiti te ra
A upa ... ne! ka upa ... ne!
A upane kaupane whiti te ra!
Hi!!"

English translation

"I die! I die! I live! I live!
I die! I die! I live! I live!
This is the hairy man
Who fetched the sun
And caused it to shine again
One upward step!
Another upward step!
An upward step, another..
The sun shines!!"

The origins of the Haka

It is said that Ka Mate was composed by a war chief named Te Rauparaha around 1820, when he was in the midst of a war somewhere in the Taupo region.

As his pursuers arrived, Te Rauparaha muttered "Ka mate! Ka mate!" under his breath (I die! I die!). When the local tribal chief indicated that the man they sought had gone to Rangipo, Te Rauparaha murmured "Ka ora! Ka ora!" (I live! I live!). However when Tauteka doubted the words of the chief, he gloomily muttered "Ka mate! Ka mate!" once again. When his pursuers were eventually convinced he was not in the pa, but had made for Taranaki, Te Rauparaha exclaimed "Ka ora, ka ora! Tenei te tangata puhuru huru nana nei i tiki mai whakawhiti te ra!" which translates to "I live, I live! For this is the hairy man who has fetched the sun and caused it to shine again!". The 'hairy man' in the haka in fact refers to the cloacal chief who gave Te Rauparaha protection despite his wish not to be involved.

SPOT YOUR Driver

BEST TRAVEL ADVICE:

“Whatever the weather in NZ... your time will only be as good as your attitude.”

Postie



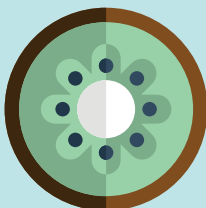
PERSONAL QUOTE:

“Live it up while you’re here!”

skins



Heemi



cookie



seagull



Natalie



BEST TRAVELADVICE:

“It’s all about the journey each day not the destination.”



SUMMARIZED IN 3 WORDS:

“Must have coffee.”





Lego

PERSONAL QUOTE:

“Everything is awesome!”



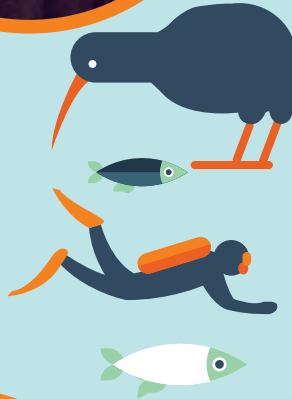
Lantern

PERSONAL QUOTE:

“Good times and positive vibes.”



Twinkles



Leftie

BEST TRAVEL ADVICE:

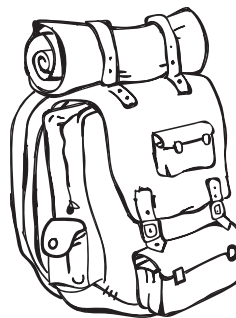
“Go home broke, then you know you did every possible thing you could.”



Muesli



STRAY Accommodation Directory



North Island



AUCKLAND

Base - ACB

Level 3, 229 Queen Street, Auckland
Ph 0800 227369

Nomads Auckland

16-22 Fort Street, Auckland
Ph 0800 220198

Fat Camel

Cnr Gore / Fort Street, Auckland
Ph 0800 220198

PAIHIA

Base - Pipi Patch Lodge

18 Kings Road, Paihia
Ph 09 402 7 111

Haka Lodge Paihia

76 Marsden Road, Paihia
Ph 09 402 5637

HAHEI

Hahei Holiday Resort

41 Harsant Avenue, Hahei
Ph 0800 2 42434

RAGLAN

Karioi Lodge*

5B Whaanga Road, Whale Bay, Raglan
Ph 0800 867873

ROTORUA

YHA Rotorua

1278 Haupapa Street, Rotorua
Ph 07 349 4088

LAKE ANIWHENUA

Kohutapu Lodge & Tribal Tours

3836 Galatea Road, Galatea
Ph: 07 366 47 7 7

TAUPO

Urban Retreat

65 Heuheu Street, Taupo
Ph 07 378 6124

Base Taupo

7 Tuwharetoa Street, Taupo
Ph 07 37 7 4 464

WHAKAHORO

Blue Duck Lodge*

4265 Oio Road, Whakahoro, RD2
Owhango 3990
Ph 07 895 6276

NATIONAL PARK

Pukenui Lodge

1 Millar Street, National Park
Ph 0800 785 368

WELLINGTON

Nomads Capital

118 Wakefield Street, Wellington,
6001
Ph 04 978 7800

South Island



PICTON

Picton Villa

34 Auckland Street, Picton
Ph 03 573 6598

MARAHAU

The Barn

Harveys Road, Marahau
Ph 03 527 8043

WESTPORT

Trip Inn - YHA Westport

72 Queen Street, Westport
Ph 0800 73 77 73

FRANZ JOSEF

Rainforest Retreat

State Highway 6, Franz Josef
Ph 0800 435 673

WANAKA

Base Wanaka

73 Brownston Street, Wanaka
Ph 03 4 43 4291

QUEENSTOWN

Base - Discovery Lodge

40 Shotover Street, Queenstown
Ph 03 4 41 1185

Nomads Queenstown

5-11 Church Street, Queenstown
Ph 03 4 41 3922

FIORLAND

Gunn's Camp*

Hollyford Valley Rd, Fiordland NP.
No phone, gunnscamp@ruralinzone.net

INVERCARGILL

Tuatara Lodge

30 Dee Street, Invercargill
Ph 03 214 0954

STEWART ISLAND

Stewart Island Backpackers

Ayr St, Oban
Ph 03 219 1114

MT COOK

Mt Cook Backpacker Lodge

11 Motel Access Rd
Mt Cook National Park
Ph 0800 100 512

RANGITATA

Rangitata Rafts

Peel Forest RD20
South Canterbury
Ph 03 696 3534

CHRISTCHURCH

(NOTE: All pickups and drop offs for Stray are from the Christchurch International Airport).

All Stars Inn on Bealey

Bealey Avenue, Christchurch
Ph 0800 255 78277

YHA Christchurch

36 Hereford Street, Christchurch
Ph 03 379 6662

KAIKOURA

The Lazy Shag Backpackers

37 Beach Road
Kaikoura
Ph 03 319 6662

PLEASE NOTE:

Once you're travelling on the Stray bus your guide will organise your first night's accommodation at each stop. Simply tell them you need accommodation, they book it and you pay as you go.

We guarantee a dorm share bed, but will try our best to get you a twin or double room if you request one. In peak season, twin and double rooms have limited availability.

All accommodation is at backpacker hostel rates (about \$26-\$32 per night for a dorm bed and \$60-\$80 for a double or twin room).

* = no cellphone coverage

Activity Directory

STRAY

With so much to see and do in New Zealand you'll want to allocate your pennies accordingly and get the most out of your time! As prices change regularly and are often dependent on the season, we've included a pricing key for a rough guide as to how much you can expect to pay for the activities you choose to do.

Book your activities through your Stray Driver to get our 'mates-rates'!

North Island

Pahia (Bay of Islands)

Skydive Bay of Islands **\$250+**
Ferry from Paihia to Russell **\$1-50**
Hole in the Rock Cruise **\$51-150**
Dolphin Eco Cruise **\$51-150**
Cape Reinga Day Trip **\$51-150**

Auckland

Auckland SkyWalk **\$51-150**
Skydive Auckland **\$250+**
Auckland Skyjump **\$151-250**
Auckland Bungy & Bridge Climb **\$51-150**
Big Night Out Pub Crawl **\$1-50**

Hahei

Cathedral Cove Kayak Tour **\$51-150**
Hahei Explorer Boat Tour **\$51-150**
Cathedral Cove Walk **FREE**

Raglan

Raglan Surf School **\$1-50 - \$51-150**
Sunset Cruise **\$1-50**
Hike Mount Karioi **FREE**
Spend time at the beach **FREE**
Bridal Veil Falls (Time Permitting) **FREE**

Waitomo Caves

Spell Bound **\$51-150**
Waitomo Adventure Centre
\$151-250 - \$250+
Ruakuri Walk (Stray Activity) **FREE**

Rotorua

Kaitiaki Rafting **\$51-150**
Zorb **\$1-50**
Agroventures **\$1-50 - \$51-150**
Hells Gate Thermal Pools
\$1-50 - \$51-150
Canopy Tours **\$51-150**
Hobbiton **\$51-150**
Tamaki Maori Village **\$51-150**

Rotorua cont.

Kuirau Thermal Park **FREE**
Government Gardens **FREE**

Lake Aniwhenua

Maori Weaving **\$1-50**
Cooking Lesson **\$1-50**
Kayaking **\$1-50**
Night Eeling **\$1-50**
Volleyball **FREE**

Taupo

Skydive Taupo **\$151-250 - \$250+**
Bungy **\$51-150 - \$250+**
Spa Park Swim **FREE**
Lake Front Walk **FREE**
Huka Falls Walk **FREE**

Whakahoro - Blue Duck Station

Horse Trek **\$51-150**
Kayak / Jet Boat **\$51-150**
4WD Eco Bush Tour **\$51-150**

Whakahoro cont.

Clay Shooting **\$1-50**
Guided Goat Hunt **\$51-150**
Jetboating **\$51-150**
Waterfall Walk **FREE**

National Park

Adrift - Tongariro Crossing (Summer) **\$1-50**
Adrift - Tongariro Crossing (Winter) **\$51-150**
Mountain biking **\$51-150**
Tawhai Falls **FREE**
Taranaki Falls **FREE**
Tama Lakes **FREE**

Wellington

Te Papa Tongarewa Museum **FREE**
Wellington Movie Tour **\$1-50 - \$51-150**

South Island

Abel Tasman National Park

Abel Tasman Canyons **\$151-250+**
Abel Tasman Kayaks **\$51-150**
Abel Tasman Paddle-boarding
\$1-50 - \$51-150
Abel Tasman Sailing **\$51-150 - \$151-250**
Aqua Taxis **\$1-50 - \$51-150**
Skydive Abel Tasman **\$250+**
Tasman Sky Adventures **\$151-250**
Hike in the National Park **FREE**

Westport

West Coast Brewery Tour **\$1-50**
West Coast Surf **\$1-50 - \$51-150**
Underworld Norwest Adventures -
Cave Tours and Rafting
\$51-150 - \$151-250
Cape Foulwind Walk **FREE**

Greymouth

Pancake Rocks - Punakaiki **FREE**
Coal Creek **FREE**
Pt. Elizabeth Walk **FREE**

Franz Josef

Franz Josef Glacier Guides
\$51-150 - \$250+
Glacier Country Kayaks **\$51-150**
South Westland Horse Treks **\$51-150**
Gorge Walk **FREE**

Franz Josef cont.

Peters Pool **FREE**
Sentinel Rock **FREE**
Helicopter Line **\$151-250 - \$250+**

Fox Glacier

Skydive Fox Glacier **\$250+**

Wanaka

Skydive Lake Wanaka **\$250+**
Puzzling World **\$1-50**
MTB Wanaka (Mountain Biking)
\$1-50 - \$250+
Mount Iron Walk **FREE**
Lakefront Walk **FREE**
Lake Matheson **FREE**
Ship Creek **FREE**
Thunder Creek Falls **FREE**
Blue Pools **FREE**

Queenstown

AJ Hackett Bungy **\$51-150 - \$151-250**
Shotover Canyon Swing **\$151-250**
Canyoning Queenstown **\$151-250**
Dart River Jet Safari **\$250+**
Serious Fun Riversurfing **\$151-250**
Ziptrek Ecotours **\$51-150 - \$151-250**
Shotover Jet **\$51-150**
NZone Skydive **\$250+**
Luging **\$1-50 - \$51-150**

Queenstown cont.

Ski or Snowboard Packages **\$51-150 - \$151-250**
Whitewater Rafting **\$151-250**
Bob's Peak Walk **FREE**
Queenstown Hill View Point **FREE**
Ben Lommond Walk **FREE**
Real Journeys: Doubtful Sound
Cruise **\$51-150**

Gunn's Camp - Fiordland

Real Journeys: Milford Sound Cruise
\$51-150
Key Summit Walk **FREE**

Stewart Island

Stewart Island Experience **\$151-250**
Loloma Fishing Trip **\$51-150**
Guided Walks **\$1-50**
Bike Hire **\$1-50**
Hiking (lots of options) **FREE**

Invercargill

(to those not visiting Stewart Island)
Catlins Tour **FREE**
Local Museums **FREE**
Demolition World **\$51-150**
Burt Monroe's Motorcycles **FREE**

Mt Cook

Helicopter Line **\$151-250**
Glacier Explorer **\$151-250**
Tasman Valley Tour (Argo Tour)
\$51-150
Hooker Valley **FREE**
Governors Bush **FREE**
Stargazing **\$51-150**

Lake Tekapo

Tekapo Springs Hot Pools **\$1-50**
Tekapo Springs Iceskating **\$1-50**
Snow Tubing **\$1-50**
Mt John Walk **FREE**

Rangitata

Peel Forest Horse Trekking **\$51-150**
Rangitata Rafting **\$151-250**
Big Tree Walk **FREE**
Walk to River **FREE**

Kaikoura

Dolphin Encounter **\$51-150 - \$151-250**
Koura Bay Fishing Charters **\$51-150**
Top Spot Seal Swim **\$51-150**
Whale Watch Kaikoura **\$51-150**
Peninsula Walkway **FREE**

STRAY Trip Planner



MON	MON	MON	MON
TUE	TUE	TUE	TUE
WED	WED	WED	WED
THU	THU	THU	THU
FRI	FRI	FRI	FRI
SAT	SAT	SAT	SAT
SUN	SUN	SUN	SUN
MON	MON	MON	MON
TUE	TUE	TUE	TUE
WED	WED	WED	WED
THU	THU	THU	THU
FRI	FRI	FRI	FRI
SAT	SAT	SAT	SAT
SUN	SUN	SUN	SUN



to do

-
-
-
-
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-
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notes



MEMORABLE ADVENTUROUS TRULY AWESOME EXPERIENCES



SWIM
WITH THE
DOLPHINS



ASK
ABOUT
THE PATCH
PASS



DAY IN THE BAY
DOLPHINS + ISLANDS



CAPE
REINGA
90 MILE
BEACH



BOOK WITH YOUR DRIVER
awesomez

STRAY'T

INTO THE ACTION



SAVE

\$15 ON ANY
BUNGY OR
SWING

\$20 ON ANY
COMBO!
WHEN YOU BOOK
WITH YOUR DRIVER

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AJ Hackett
BUNGY
NEW ZEALAND