

## QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND – NORTH OF THE SOUTH ISLAND

4 or 5-day Marlborough Sounds GUIDED walking... in the footsteps of Captain James Cook



This is one of our most popular, scenic guided walking holidays, in the north of New Zealand's South Island. When English explorer Captain James Cook sailed into the calm waters of the Marlborough Sounds in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century, he must have believed he was in paradise. Today you can follow in Cook's footsteps along the scenic 71km of the Queen Charlotte Track. Explore the vast network of drowned river valleys, lush coastal beech and tree fern forests with their ever-changing hues accompanied by knowledgeable walking guides.

Each night stay in comfortable accommodation in a superb setting, complete with a private bathroom and access to restaurant meals and fine local wines. Carrying only a small daypack during a walking day, this is the ideal introduction to the New Zealand wilderness in comfort. Our guided walks feature quality hotel-style accommodation and gourmet a la carte restaurant dining.

We offer you the choice of exploring the Queen Charlotte Track in 4 days, or extending your experience with an extra day, for a 5-day option. For those wanting a more relaxed pace or travelling with non-walking partners, we can shorten your walking by utilising water taxis and cruising through the beautiful Marlborough Sounds.

**Departs:** 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 October 2024      5, 12, 19 & 26 November 2024  
3, 10, 17, 27 & 31 December 2024  
7, 14, 21 & 28 January 2025      4, 11, 18 & 25 February 2025  
4, 11, 18 & 25 March 2025      1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 April 2025

<b>Tour Costs (per person, twin share) from:</b>	<b>4 day Guided Walk</b>	<b>5 day Guided Walk</b>
<b>Adult</b>	\$2330	\$2875
<b>Single supplement</b>	\$875	\$1310

**Note:** Information & rates for families with children available on request. Please ask for details.

**Inclusions:** Return transfers/cruising ex Picton, twin share rooms with ensuite, all bedding / towels at lodges, all meals on the track (packed lunch daily, except on the free day of 5-day walks), experienced walking guide and daily luggage transfers.

**Accommodation:** Stay in private units (sea view suite at Furneaux Lodge, suite in the hiker's lodge at Mahana Lodge (or if fully booked, at nearby Punga Cove) and water view unit at Portage Resort).

Sea kayaking trips are also available – contact us for details.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

# SUGGESTED ITINERARY 4-DAY / 3-NIGHT GUIDED WALK

## Day 1: Ship Cove to Endeavour Inlet

walking @ 17km, 6 hours

Early morning pick up in Picton, then cruise to Motuara Island en route to Ship Cove — an anchorage used by Captain Cook in the 1770s. If weather permits, take a short walk on Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary to the lookout with a 360-degree view of the Marlborough Sounds and look for many of New Zealand's endangered bird species.

Arrive late morning at Ship Cove to begin the Queen Charlotte Track. This scenic and historic reserve was a favourite anchorage for Captain Cook during his explorations in the 1770s as well as being a site of significance for local Maori. Walk along what is often regarded as the premier section of the Queen Charlotte Track, through virgin beech and podocarp forest, where the thick ferns and native foliage open on occasion to offer impressive views. Stay overnight in a suite at Furneaux Lodge, comprising the original homestead, restaurant, bar and chalets/units in a picturesque setting.

**Accommodation: Furneaux Lodge** comprises the original homestead, restaurant, bar and fully self-contained chalets in a delightfully picturesque setting, backing onto natural bushland and looking out over the waters of Endeavour Inlet. The lodge has an award-winning restaurant for dinner and/or breakfasts.

## Day 2: Endeavour Inlet to Punga Cove / Mahana Lodge

walking @ 12km, 4 hours

A mostly coastal walk today takes us around the inlet through regenerating bush, accompanied by the call of bellbirds, fantails and other native birds. Learn about antimony and the mining industry that thrived there in the 1880s. We follow the main Queen Charlotte Track onwards and into Big Bay with its pristine native beech forest, working our way towards Camp Bay and Punga Cove. Mahana Homestead is in a secluded cove just 5 minutes' walk from Punga Cove.

**Accommodation: Mahana Lodge** is an historic homestead, with a reputation for superb food, a relaxed atmosphere and attentive hosts. There are only four ensuite rooms in the purpose-built hikers' lodge with lovely views from its shared lounge and breakfast room. Dine this evening in the delightful conservatory, with a delicious home cooked meal.

## Day 3: Mahana Lodge to Torea Saddle / Portage Hotel

walking @ 23km, 8 hours

A challenging day of walking rewarded with splendid views, traversing the ridgeline between Mahana Lodge and the Torea Saddle. If you prefer a day's rest you can choose a boat ride around the peaceful and scenic bays of the Queen Charlotte Sound (optional, at extra cost). Portage Hotel is nestled at the narrowest point between Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds with a wonderful view into Kenepuru Sound. This well-established place has a reputation for a fine restaurant and features natural timber chalets. Overnight in a unit with water views and ensuite bathroom.

\* **For those taking the 5-day / 4-night Queen Charlotte** walk you will have an extra night here. Lunch is at your own arrangement. There are many activities to enjoy on this day including a guided sea kayaking tour (at extra cost – ask for details when you make your walk booking) or you may just choose to unwind, relax and enjoy the unique beauty of the Sounds.

## Day 4: Portage Hotel to Anakiwa

walking @ 21km, 7 hours

Ascend to the ridgeline, enjoying impressive views back towards Picton as well as into the turquoise waters of the Kenepuru Sound. Open farmland and a grand native bush section is a fitting finish to Anakiwa. Take time for a photo stop at the picturesque Davies Bay. Return to Picton by boat in the late afternoon.

**Outdoor Travel** offers a wide range of walking experiences in New Zealand including the **Milford Sound Track**, **Hollyford Track** or the **Abel Tasman National Park Walk**.

We also offer guided or self-guided walking holidays in Australia, most places in Europe, the UK and in North America.

**Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations:**

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