



NEW ZEALAND – GUIDED WALKING QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK

2011/12



4 or 5-day Guided walking in the Marlborough Sounds

A popular and spectacular walk in the north of the South Island. When English explorer Captain James Cook sailed into the calm waters of the Marlborough Sounds in the late 17th 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 its ever-changing hues accompanied by knowledgeable walking guides. Each night stay at a comfortable accommodation and 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 to extend your experience with an extra day as a 5-day option. And for those wanting a more relaxed pace or if you are travelling with non-walking partners, we can shorten your walking by utilising water taxis and cruising through the beautiful Marlborough Sounds. For a more exclusive walking experience, we offer a **Boutique Lodge** 4-day guided walk on this track.

Departs: Standard 4 & 5-day guided walks depart most Tuesdays, from October 2011 to April 2012

Inclusions: Return transfers/cruising ex Picton, twin share rooms with ensuite, all bedding / towels at lodges, all meals on the track (gourmet packed lunch) and a glass of wine with dinner, experienced walking guide and daily luggage transfers.

Tour Cost in Australian dollars (per person, twin share)

	4 day guided walk	5 day guided walk	Boutique Lodge 4 day walk*
Adult	\$1350	\$1610	\$1695
Single supplement	\$295	\$410	\$410
Child (5-12 years)	\$910	\$1100	

* **Boutique Lodge** guided walks are arranged daily on demand for a minimum of two clients

Queen Charlotte 5-day / 4-night Guided Walk

Stay an extra (well deserved!) night at The Portage Resort Hotel after Day 3 of the 4 Day walk, with the option to just relax, explore on your own, or take an optional one day guided sea kayaking trip (at extra cost, please ask for details).

Boutique Lodge 4-day / 3-night Guided Walk

Explore the Queen Charlotte Track by day & stay in luxury private ensuite rooms at night. Glorious views, food & hospitality await you at the end of every satisfying walking day.

Sea kayak trips are also available: please ask for details

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK **STANDARD 4-DAY / 3-NIGHT GUIDED WALK**

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Ship Cove to Endeavour Inlet (5 hours / 14km)

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. Walk through virgin beech forest with stunning views. Stay overnight in a suite at Furneaux Lodge, comprising the original homestead, restaurant, bar and chalets/units in a picturesque setting.

Day 2: Endeavour Inlet to Punga Cove (4 hours / 12km)

A mainly coastal walk around the inlet through regenerating native bush to the call of NZ native birds. Learn about antimony & the mining industry that thrived there in the 1880s. Stay tonight at Punga Cove resort, nestled amidst the native bush; the resort's well-appointed A-frame chalets/units are perfect for a good night's sleep. The gourmet restaurant and impressive view caps off a perfect day.

Day 3: Punga Cove to The Portage (8 hours / 22.5km)

Note: Optional boat trip to Portage for non-walkers (at own cost). A challenging day, traversing the ridgeline between Punga Cove & Torea Saddle near Portage, where there are grand vistas around every corner. Those who feel like a day's rest are treated to a boat ride around the bays of the Queen Charlotte Sound. Stay tonight either a Hillside Chalet at The Portage.

*For those taking the 5-day / 4-night Queens Charlotte experience you will have an extra night here.

Day 4: The Portage to Anakiwa (7 hours / 20.5km)

Ascend to the ridgeline, enjoying stunning views. Open farmland and a grand native bush section is a fitting finish to Anakiwa. Return to Picton by water taxi late afternoon.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK **BOUTIQUE LODGE 4-DAY / 3-NIGHT GUIDED WALK**

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1 – Ship Cove to Endeavour Inlet (5 hours)

Same start point and route as shown for the standard itinerary above.

Accommodation – No Road Inn: Newly completed for 2008, the No Road Inn is a small waterfront lodge on the only privately owned land in Queen Charlotte Sound where the virgin native forest extends right to the sea. Four spacious suites – the Queen Charlotte Suite, Howden Suite, Resolution Suite and Adventure Suite – await walkers, each with its own super king or twin bed, clawfoot bath and stunning sea and bush views.

Day 2 – Endeavour Inlet to Mahana Lodge, Endeavour Inlet (8 hours or shorter walk of 4 hours)

We follow the above itinerary on the Queen Charlotte Track to join the main track onwards and into Big Bay, working our way towards Camp Bay and Punga Cove. Mahana Homestead is 10-minutes from Punga Cove.

Accommodation – Mahana Lodge: You will find a just reward after your hike today at this stunning historic homestead, where you will be spoilt with superb food, a relaxed atmosphere and attentive hosts. Dine this evening on the verandah, soaking up beautiful views of the bay while enjoying a delicious home cooked meal.

Day 3 – Mahana Lodge to Lochmara Lodge (7 to 8 hours)

We depart Mahana Lodge and return to the Queen Charlotte Track, similar to the above itinerary. We conclude our walk at Torea Bay and transfer by waiting water taxi to our Lochmara Lodge.

Accommodation – Lochmara Lodge Wildlife Recovery & Arts Centre: Set on the tranquil shores of the Queen Charlotte Sound is the Marlborough Sounds' only Wildlife Recovery & Arts Centre. Lochmara Lodge has achieved national and international recognition as one of the best places to stay in New Zealand. A fitting finale to your boutique lodge experience!

Day 4 – Lochmara Lodge to Anakiwa (5 hours) Farewell Lochmara Lodge and ascend to the Queen Charlotte Track once again, enjoying stunning views. Return by boat back to Picton.

Outdoor Travel offer a wide range of guided walking experiences in New Zealand including the Milford Track, Routeburn Walk, Grand Traverse, Hollyford Track, Abel Tasman National Park Walk or the Tongariro Trek on the North Island.

Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations

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