

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 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 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 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, cruising through the beautiful Marlborough Sounds.

Departs: 7, 14, 21, 28 October, 4, 11, 18 November, 2, 9, 16, 30 December 2025
6, 13 January, 3, 17 February, 3, 10, 19, 31 March, 7, 14, 21, 28 April 2026

Tour Costs (per person, twin share) from:	4 day Guided Walk	5 day Guided Walk
Adult	\$2570	\$3070
Single supplement	\$935	\$1245
Child (5-12 years)	\$2125	\$2505

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.



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

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: Punga Cove is nestled amidst the native bush with well-appointed individual chalets and great views out over the bay. The gourmet restaurant with an impressive view over the bay caps off a perfect day and is also open for breakfast.

Day 3: Punga Cove to Torea Saddle / Portage Hotel

walking @ 25km, 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 can choose a boat ride around the peaceful and scenic bays of the Queen Charlotte Sound (optional, at extra cost).

Accommodation: 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

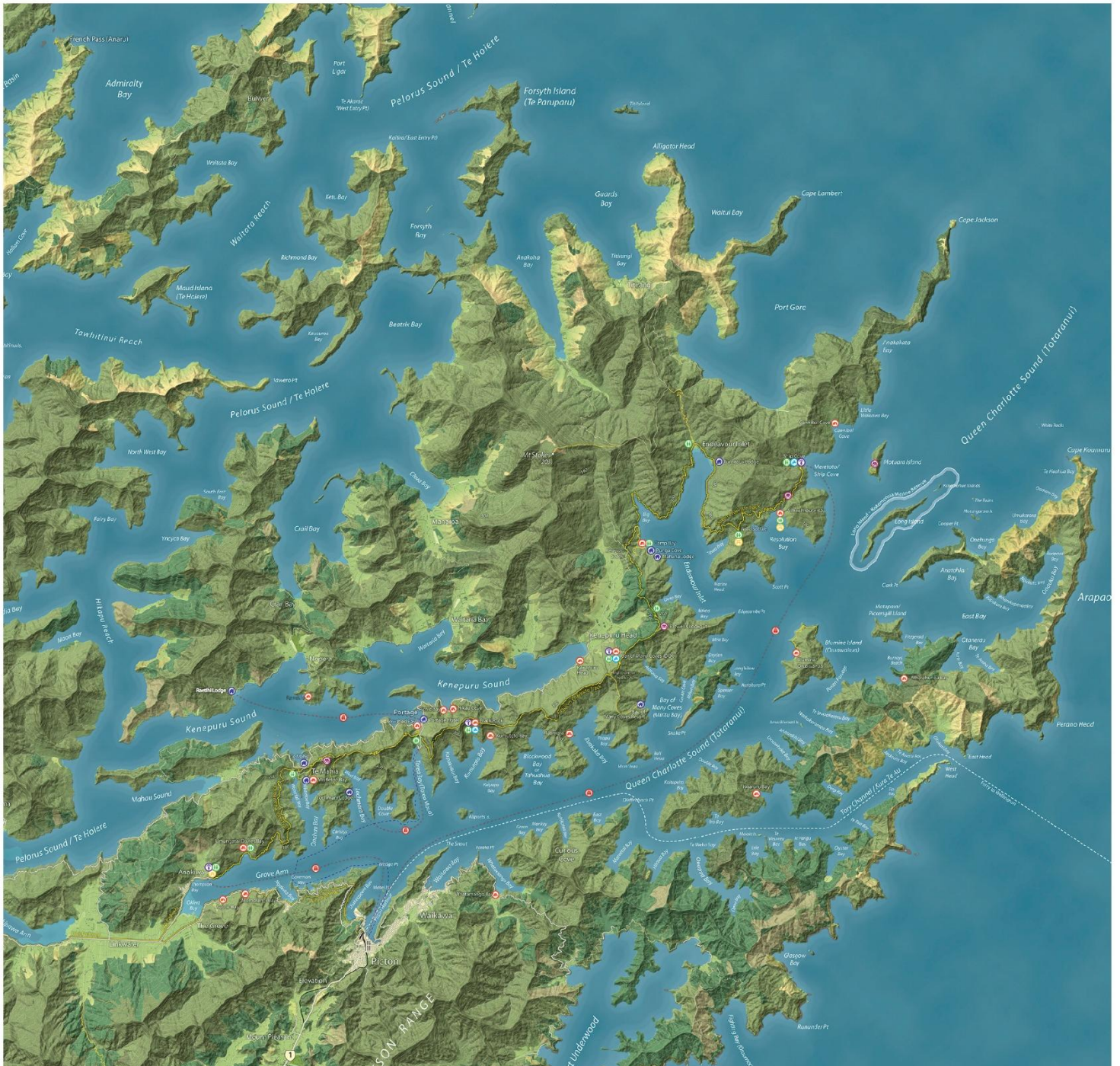
Ascend to the ridgeline, enjoying impressive views back towards Picton as well as into the turquoise waters of the Kenepuru Sound. Open farmland and a grand native bush section is a fitting finish to Anakiwa. Take time for a photo stop at the picturesque Davies Bay. Return to Picton by boat in the late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

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

Outdoor Travel offers a wide range of walking experiences in New Zealand including the **Milford Sound Track, Routeburn Walk, Grand Traverse, 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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