

QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND

5-day / 4-night Marlborough Sounds **SELF-GUIDED** walking in the footsteps of Captain James Cook



This is one of our most popular scenic 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, exploring a vast network of drowned river valleys and lush coastal forests. Unlike some other wilderness walks in New Zealand here you carry only a small daypack during a walking day, making the Queen Charlotte Track an ideal introduction to wilderness walking. These self-guided walks offer quality accommodation (all rooms with private bathroom) and access to a la carte restaurant dining for breakfast or dinner.

Duration: 5-days / 4-nights in either standard or upgraded accommodation.
Departs daily on demand year-round. Minimum 2 travellers.

Cost from: Standard **\$1480** per person twin share Upgrade: **\$1745** per person twin share

Includes: 4 nights' twin share accommodation with private ensuite (Furneaux Lodge, Punga Cove, Portage Hotel and Lochmara Lodge on the **Standard** walk or upgraded, sea-view rooms at Furneaux Lodge, private balcony rooms at Punga Cove and upgrade rooms for 2 nights at Lochmara Lodge on the **Upgrade** walk), water transport to and from track ex Picton, luggage transfers, 4 x packed lunches are included, pre-tour briefing in Picton the day before the walk and an information pack including track guide.

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Ship Cove to Endeavour Inlet / Furneaux Lodge walking @ 17km (6 hours)

Depart from your accommodation in Picton to join the water taxi to Ship Cove to begin walking. This scenic and historic reserve was an anchorage for Captain James Cook during his explorations in the 1770s. You can experience virgin beech forest at its best with stunning views of the Queen Charlotte Sound. Explore the waterfall walk and the Captain Cook memorial and then set off on what is regarded as the premier section of the Queen Charlotte Track where thick ferns and native foliage open on occasion to offer impressive views.

Accommodation: **Furneaux Lodge** comprises the original homestead, restaurant, bar, fully self-contained chalets, and upmarket studio units in a delightfully picturesque setting. Furneaux Lodge has an excellent restaurant for dinner and/or breakfasts.

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Day 2: Endeavour Inlet to Punga Cove**walking @ 12km (4 hours)**

Today's mainly coastal walk takes you around the inlet through regenerating native bush to the call of bellbirds, fantails, and other New Zealand native birds. Pause at the head of the bay to learn more about antimony and the mining industry that thrived in the 1880s. Follow the main track onwards into Big Bay before working your way towards Camp Bay and Punga Cove, where you spend tonight.

Accommodation: **Punga Cove**, 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. If Punga Cove is full then stay at Mahana Lodge, an historic homestead, with only four ensuite rooms in the purpose-built hiker's lodge and lovely views from its shared lounge.

Day 3: Punga Cove to Torea Saddle/The Portage**walking @ 25km (8 hours)**

A challenging day of walking rewarded with splendid views, traversing the ridgeline between Punga Cove/Mahana Lodge and the Torea Saddle with truly grand vistas around every corner. At the end of the day, walk from Torea Saddle down to the Portage Hotel (for the **Standard** walk) or catch the waiting water taxi to your two night's accommodation at Lochmara Lodge (for the **Upgrade** walk). Those who prefer a day's rest can opt for a boat ride around the bays of the Queen Charlotte Sound to Portage Hotel or to Lochmara Lodge (at additional cost, please ask when booking).

Accommodation: **Portage Hotel** is a well-established accommodation place with a fine restaurant and comfortable natural timber chalets, nestled at the narrowest point between Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds. Book in for dinner. Breakfasts are available in the restaurant from 7.00am.

Day 4: The Portage to Lochmara Lodge (Standard) or Rest Day at Lochmara Lodge (Upgrade)

On the **Standard** walk, leave the Portage and ascend to the ridgeline once again, enjoying stunning views. Your walk takes about 3 hours and leads you over some steep hill sections towards Lochmara Lodge. Be sure to watch for the turnoff to your left and follow the private track down to the lodge. For those on the **Upgrade** walk today is a chance to rejuvenate and relax. We can arrange guided sea kayaking tours for those interested. Lunch is included on the Standard tour but not included on the Upgrade today unless you are pre-booked on an organised day tour (at additional cost, please ask when booking).

Accommodation: **Lochmara Lodge** Wildlife Recovery & Arts Centre, set on the tranquil shores of the Queen Charlotte Sound, features quality accommodation as well as aviaries and enclosures with endangered species, an organic vegetable garden and orchard, educational signage, sculpture trail and art gallery. The lodge has a licensed café with a seasonal menu serving breakfast, lunch, dinner, all-day coffee, and house-made treats.

Day 5: Lochmara Lodge to Anakiwa**walking @ 21km (7 hours)**

Ascend the scenic ridgeline once again with views back towards Picton and the turquoise waters of Kenepuru Sound. Walk through open farmland and grand native bush to finish. Return by boat from the Anakiwa Jetty to Picton to complete your journey. Accommodation overnight in Picton is at your own arrangement.



Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations

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