

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 \$1060 per person twin share Deluxe lodge upgrade: \$2050 per person twin share

Includes: 4 nights twin share accommodation with private ensuite (Furneaux Lodge, Mahana Lodge or Punga Cove, Portage Hotel and Lochmara Lodge on Standard walk or upgraded, sea-view rooms at Furneaux Lodge, Mahana Lodge and Lochmara Lodge on Upgrade walk), water transport to and from track ex Picton, luggage transfers, 5 x packed lunches are included on the Standard walk, (Upgrade tour includes 4 x breakfasts, 4 x lunches, 4 x dinners), 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 @ 15km (5 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.

Day 2: Endeavour Inlet to Punga Cove Mahana Lodge **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. Mahana Homestead is in a secluded cove just 5 minutes' walk from Punga Cove.

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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. If Mahana is full then stay at Punga Cove, nestled amidst the native bush with well-appointed individual chalets. The gourmet restaurant with an impressive view over the bay caps off a perfect day and is also open for breakfast.

Day 3: Mahana Lodge/Punga Cove to Torea Saddle/The Portage **walking @ 24km (8 hours)**

A challenging day of walking rewarded with splendid views, traversing the ridgeline between 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 (Standard walk) or catch the waiting water taxi to your two night's accommodation at Lochmara Lodge (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 - Nestled at the narrowest point between Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds, the Portage Hotel is a well-established accommodation place with a fine restaurant and comfortable natural timber chalets. 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 not included 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 is the Marlborough Sounds' only Wildlife Recovery and Arts Centre. Lochmara Lodge 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. Our Upgrade walkers stay in the luxurious suites each with own ensuite and view to the sea. The lodge features a licensed café with a seasonal menu serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and all-day coffee and house-made treats.

Day 5: Portage Hotel / Lochmara Lodge to Anakiwa **walking @ 18km (6 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.



Outdoor Travel offers a wide range of walking experiences in New Zealand including the **Milford Sound Track, Routeburn Walk, Grand Traverse, Akaroa / Banks Peninsular walk, Hollyford Track**, or the **Abel Tasman National Park Walk**. We also offer guided or self-guided walking holidays in Australia, Europe and America.

Contact Outdoor Travel direct for more details and reservations

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