

The Queen Charlotte Walk



Queen Charlotte-the jewel in the crown of the Marlborough Sounds

4 Days, 3 Nights

Moderate Grade



Tour Cost (NZD)

2026 / 2027

Tour Cost: \$2995

Single Supplement: \$580

Tour Highlights

- Stunning coastal views
- Lush native forest
- Fascinating pioneering history
- Support from our experienced guide



Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd, PO Box 13544, Christchurch 8141, New Zealand



www.tuataratours.co.nz



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The Tour at a Glance

The Queen Charlotte Sound is a hidden gem at the top of New Zealand's South Island. The walking track stretches over 70km from Ship Cove to Anakiwa.

Walkers can enjoy a number of secluded bays, coves and inlets, grand ridge-top views and lush coastal forests. The track winds through rolling terrain, with elevations ranging from sea level to 400 metres at its highest point.

Enjoy the challenge of a good days walking-with a comfy bed and a sumptuous dinner at the end of each day.

Trip Grading: Moderate

Ideal for anyone comfortable walking 20 to 25km on formed tracks and off-road trails with some average to steep inclines.

Pre-tour

We recommend a pre tour stay in Picton for an early start on the morning of the tour. Your walk starts at 7.15am on the main town wharf, in front of the Cougarline Office.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 Picton-Ship Cove-Endeavour Inlet **17km**

Day 2 Endeavour Inlet to Camp Bay **12km**

Day 3 Camp Bay to Portage **25km**


Day 4 Portage- Anakiwa-Picton **21km**

About your guide


Our guides are very experienced, friendly walkers and bikers who love to share their knowledge of New Zealand's flora and fauna and local history.

They all hold current first aid certificates, passenger driving licences and are the very best people to ensure your experience will be one to remember.



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Day 1 Picton-Ship Cove-Endeavour Inlet (17km)

Please make your way to the main town wharf in Picton (not the Interislander Ferry terminal). Your guide will meet you at 7:15am in front of the Cougar Line water taxi office.

There'll be a quick tour briefing and a chance to meet your fellow walkers before hopping on the water taxi to the start of the Queen Charlotte Track. Come ready to walk, with everything needed for the day in your day pack—we'll provide lunch and a drink bottle. Your overnight bag will be transported ahead to the lodge.

Today's walk is from Ship Cove to Endeavour Inlet, a scenic journey of around 5 hours, through untouched beech forest and native bush. The track climbs from Ship Cove with sweeping views over Resolution Bay and, on a clear day, even as far as the Kapiti Coast and North Island.

After crossing the Tawa Saddle, soak in more stunning views of Endeavour Inlet, then descend through lush bush and alongside clear streams before reaching the shoreline and your waterfront lodge for the night.

MEALS INCLUDED: L D

Day 2 Endeavour Inlet to Camp Bay (12km)

Day Two is a relaxed walk, covering 11.5km over about 4 hours from Endeavour Inlet to Camp Bay. The track hugs the coastline, winding through native bush filled with the calls of fantails and bellbirds.

Endeavour Head has a rich past—once home to a bustling 1880s stibnite mine that employed over 400 workers, producing antimony for pewter and steel.

From there, the track leads through Big Bay and on to Camp Bay, where the day ends and a peaceful night awaits in this scenic, tucked-away spot. Enjoy relaxing with a cold drink, or maybe take a kayak out for a quick paddle before dinner.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 3 Camp Bay to Portage (25km)

Day Three is the most challenging of the track, with around 8 hours of walking. The track climbs steadily out of Camp Bay to Kenepuru Saddle, then follows an undulating ridgeline for the rest of the day.

It's a solid effort—but the sweeping views over Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds make every step worth it.

Eventually the track descends to Torea Saddle and one final push has you at the Portage Resort, a welcome oasis at the end of a long, but rewarding day.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L D

Day 4 Portage- Anakiwa-Picton (21km)

Day Four offers more stunning views as the trail climbs the main ridge between Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds, covering 20.5km on the way to Anakiwa. Take a moment to reflect on the journey and soak in the final breathtaking panoramas.

The track descends through regenerating forest, home to fantails, weka, wax eyes, and other native birds.

The day ends with an easy 3km stroll through magnificent beech forest to Anakiwa, where a water taxi will ferry you back to Picton. Arrival at the main wharf is around 5pm, marking the end of the tour.

MEALS INCLUDED: B L



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What's Included



All Accommodation in comfortable waterfront lodges with ensuite facilities



All meals during the tour—great local cuisine



Daily luggage portage by water taxi



Water taxi transport to start the walk at Ship Cove Day 1, and to return to Picton Day 4



DOC fees and Queen Charlotte Walk track passes



Fully qualified, knowledgeable guide



Tour Kit Bag with helpful goodies



Please Note:

Rooms are double or twin, either one queen bed or two separate beds. If you have a preference for a twin room please let us know when you make your booking. Solo travellers can choose to share or pay a single supplement for a private room

Dietary needs? We're happy to cater for gluten free, dairy free and vegetarian diets—just let us know at time of booking.

What's Not Included

Alcoholic beverages with meals

Pre and post tour accommodation

Additional water taxi rides—if you'd like a rest day, water taxi transport to the next lodge can be arranged for you (please pay on the spot).



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Your travel check list:

The following is a list of recommended items. Please also use your own experience to supplement this list. If you're unsure about anything, feel free to contact us.

Avoid walking in cotton, jeans, or silk — they dry slowly and can leave you feeling damp and cold. Instead, dress in three layers: a moisture-wicking base (merino or polypropylene), an insulating middle layer, and a waterproof outer layer for wind and rain protection. Coin Laundry facilities are available on nights 2 and 3 of your tour.



<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterproof rain jacket with hood (a must) and waterproof over trousers (if you have them)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boots or sturdy walking shoes with ankle support, spare laces
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thermals (top and bottom) merino or polypropylene are recommended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Polar fleece jacket or top (mid layer)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gloves, warm hat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Woolen or thermal hikers socks 3-4 pair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hiking shorts or zip off long trousers (quick-dry fabric-no jeans). Gaiters, if you have them.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drink bottle (we provide one , you might like to bring a second)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium size (35-40l) day pack with waterproof liner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Camera/ phone and charger/ torch
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sun hat , sun glasses sun block,
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swimsuit and small towel
<input type="checkbox"/>	One set of casual wear for the evening, including casual shoes or sandals
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal toiletries and essential medications, a small personal first aid kit, insect repellent
<input type="checkbox"/>	Walking poles (we can lend you a set if you don't have any)



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Frequently asked questions:

How do I book a tour?

A deposit of \$300 per person confirms your place and can be paid via credit card (Visa or Mastercard, no surcharge) through our website: <https://www.tuataratours.co.nz/make-a-payment/>, or by bank transfer to Tuatara Tours NZ Ltd: 01 0797 0308837 00.

When is the balance due?

The final balance is due 90 days prior to departure. A reminder will be sent via email. You're welcome to pay in instalments, as long as the full amount is received by the due date.

What if I need to cancel?

Our cancellation policy for the Queen Charlotte walk is:

- 91+ days before departure – no fee
- 90–60 days – \$300 per person
- 59–30 days – 30% of total cost
- 29–0 days – 100% of total cost
- After departure – no refund available

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance in case of unforeseen events.

How big are the groups?

Our tours typically accommodate up to 12 people, though we can cater to larger groups on request.

Do I have to share a room? Tours are priced on a twin-share basis (two people per room). Let us know if you prefer a queen bed or two singles. Solo travellers will be paired with another solo of the same gender, or you can opt to pay a single supplement for your own room.

Am I fit enough? This is a moderate-grade walk, best suited to walkers of good fitness, comfortable with 20–25km days on formed tracks with some hills. Two days are under 20km, and two are over, with some steep ups and downs. If you're unsure, chat with our team.

Do I need tramping boots, or can I walk in trainers? The Queen Charlotte Walk is a well-formed track through native forest and rolling terrain, ranging from sea level up to 400 metres. The clay surface can be slippery when wet, with some tree roots and steep sections. All major streams are bridged, so no wet feet, but we do recommend sturdy, broken-in walking boots with good tread and ankle support for your safety and comfort

Can my non-walking partner come? Absolutely! A daily boat service carries people and luggage between lodges. Non-walkers (or anyone wanting a rest day) can hop on for a small fee. There's plenty to enjoy at each lodge — coffee, swimming, a short walk or just relaxing.

When's the best time to go? Our tour season is November to April. January and February are typically the hottest months, so sunblock and a hat are essential. January is also the busiest month as local holiday makers flock to the Sounds over the school holidays. If you prefer a quieter time of year we recommend November, December or later in the season in March or April.

Can you provide vehicle parking in Picton? Unfortunately not. You'll need to arrange parking for the duration of the tour. We suggest the long-term street parking down at the inter island ferry terminal checking with your pre/post-tour accommodation provider.



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What kind of food is included?

You'll enjoy continental breakfasts, packed lunches, and restaurant dinners each night. We cater to most dietary needs — vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free — just let us know when you book.

Do I need breakfast on Day 1?

Yes — Please come having had breakfast. We will provide your packed lunch for the first day when we meet you, and after this all meals on tour are included for you.

Is alcohol provided?

No, but you're welcome to purchase drinks at dinner. As we dine at licensed venues, BYO is not available — it's a great chance to try local!

Do I need to come dressed to walk?

Yes — please arrive ready to walk with your overnight bag packed. You won't have access to your overnight gear during the day, so make sure your day pack includes everything you need (wet weather gear, water, sunhat etc.) We provide your lunch and a 500ml drink bottle, but you may want to bring extra water, as refills aren't readily available on the trail.

How do I get to Picton?

The closest airport is Blenheim and from there it is a shuttle or taxi ride of 30 minutes to get to Picton. We recommend you arrive the day prior to your tour and depart the morning after the tour finishes.

How much luggage can I bring on tour? Space is limited on the water taxis so we would appreciate if you could please keep your luggage to one hand carry (i.e: your day pack) and one overnight bag or suitcase max 15kg.

Do I carry a pack?

On the Queen Charlotte Walk you only carry your day pack. This should be big enough to take your wet weather gear, a drink bottle, sunhat and your packed lunch. We provide you with the packed lunch each day, and at the start of the trip a reusable water bottle of approx. 500ml and a cup for hot drinks. Your overnight luggage goes on ahead of you on the water taxi each day and will be at your accommodation when you arrive.

Do I need hiking boots?

We strongly recommend well-fitting walking boots with good tread and ankle support. The track is mostly clay and can be slippery when wet, with some tree roots and hills, but no stream crossings. Please break in your boots before you come for the walk. A multi-day walk is no time for brand-new footwear!

What's in the tour kit bag?

We like to keep it a surprise — but it includes a few handy items for your trip. You'll receive a thermal drink bottle (approx. 500ml) and a thermal cup for tea or coffee on the trail, so no need to bring your own.

Are all your walking tours guided? Yes — the Queen Charlotte Walk is a fully guided experience. Your guide will bring local knowledge to enhance your journey, and ensure your safety and comfort along the way.

What time do we return to Picton? We will be back in Picton on the final day at around 4.30-5.00pm.



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Meeting Place for your tour:

On the first morning of the Queen Charlotte Walk, we ask all walkers to meet us at the Picton Town Wharf, (just off London Quay) in front of the Cougar Line office at 7.15am. This is where the local water taxis depart from, please do not go to the Interisland ferry terminal.

Your guide will provide a health and safety briefing and then you will head out on the water taxi to Ship Cove to commence the walk.


Please arrive ready to walk with your overnight bag packed for transport. You won't have access to your overnight gear during the day, so make sure your day pack includes your wet weather gear, water, sunhat and any personal items. We provide your lunch, a 500ml drink bottle and a cup for a hot drink, but you may want to bring extra water as refills aren't readily available on the trail.





Tuatara Conservation

We're proud supporters of tuatara conservation. We've adopted "BP"—a juvenile tuatara at Orana Park in Christchurch, helping ensure the future of this amazing native species.



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TERMS & CONDITIONS

Tuatara Tours NZ Limited accepts bookings subject to the following terms:

Contract

This contract is between Tuatara Tours and you, the client—defined as any person travelling or intending to travel on a tour operated by Tuatara Tours. The contract, including all matters arising from it, is governed by New Zealand law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the New Zealand courts. Only employees or directors of Tuatara Tours have the authority to vary or omit any of the terms stated herein.

Cancellation Policy Due to Travel Restrictions

If your trip is impacted by travel restrictions imposed by the New Zealand government or any other government, Tuatara Tours will either work with you to transfer your trip to a future date at no additional cost, or provide a full refund.

Price

All prices are quoted in New Zealand dollars and include 15% GST. Prices are based on rates current at the time of publishing. Tuatara Tours reserves the right to modify prices without notice if deemed necessary or appropriate.

Accommodation on organised tours is based on twin or double share. Solo travellers will be paired with another traveller of the same sex. A single supplement is available upon request.

Confirmation of Booking

Bookings are confirmed upon receipt of the full tour price, which is due 90 days prior to the start of the tour. Tuatara Tours and its agents reserve the right to decline any booking at their discretion.

Cancellation

If a client cancels a tour, the following charges apply (unless otherwise stated):

- 91+ days prior to departure – no fee
- 90–60 days prior to departure – NZD \$300.00 per person
- 59–30 days prior to departure – 30% of the total package cost
- 29–0 days prior to departure – 100% of the total package cost
- After tour commencement – no refund available

These cancellation fees are non-negotiable. We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance.

Travel Insurance

Tuatara Tours strongly recommends that clients take out travel insurance, including tour cancellation cover and any other relevant insurances. It is the client's responsibility to ensure adequate coverage. Tuatara Tours cannot be held liable for any failure to obtain appropriate insurance.

Medical Conditions

You must inform us at the time of booking of any medical condition, history, or medication you are currently taking.

Changes to Tours

Tuatara Tours will make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. However, reasonable changes to the itinerary may be made if deemed necessary or advisable. Clients will be informed of any changes as soon as reasonably possible. Where a tour service must be substituted, a service of similar quality and standard will be provided.

Weather

Adverse weather may prevent planned activities from proceeding as scheduled. The tour guide may decide to alter the itinerary based on weather conditions, prioritising group safety. Tuatara Tours and its contracted suppliers are not responsible for changes resulting from weather-related circumstances.



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General conditions

Tuatara Tours, its agents, contractors and guides do not accept responsibility or liability for loss, damage to, or theft of personal belongings (owners risk) or for any expenses, including medical and transport expenses arising from a personal accident, injury, illness, or hospitalisation. Tuatara Tours and their guides reserve the right to make any alterations to the itinerary in the interest of safety, or unforeseen circumstances due to causes such as weather, illness or misadventure. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to keep to published schedules but no guarantee is given. Tuatara Tours will not be held liable for costs incurred by change, delay or the missing of connecting services. Tuatara Tours reserves the right to exclude a person from a tour at any time, if in the opinion of the guide or operator, that person may be likely to risk the health, safety or comfort (including unsociable behaviour) of other clients, him or herself or the environment. In such circumstances, Tuatara Tours will not be obliged to offer any refund or transfer ticket. These terms and conditions apply to each participant including in a group booking. Where a booking is made on behalf of a group of two or more people then each participant in the group must be made aware of and accept these terms and conditions.

RISK DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In any adventure activity, there is an element of risk involved. Risks in undertaking this activity include (but are not limited to): hypothermia, heat exhaustion, physical injury caused by environment i.e. rock falls, and physical injury caused by self, i.e. falling over.

The staff and management of Tuatara Tours and any of its agency partners take all practicable steps to identify and minimise potential dangers. The Operator makes all arrangements for all tours on the condition that it shall not be liable for any sickness, injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, either directly or indirectly, by reason of any defect in any vehicle, vessel or aircraft, by weather, by any other cause, or through acts of default of a company or person engaged in conveying the passengers, or in carrying out arrangements for these activities.

We strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance prior to your trip.

By participating in this activity, you are expressly assuming those risks and responsibilities and are, to the maximum extent permitted by law releasing the Operator, its officers, employees, directors, agents and any other person associated with us, from any liability, claims, loss, damages or expenses (whatsoever and irrespective of whether direct, indirect or consequential) caused by any event including but not limited to: personal injury or death; property loss or damage; acts which may be construed as negligible or accidental; any other loss, damage, suffering, emotional or nervous disorder suffered by you or any other person in relation to this activity. You accept that you have been advised to obtain adequate travel insurance for all persons named on the booking.

In participating in the activity, the customer agrees to be bound by the following conditions:

- My successors, executors and administrators are bound by the Terms and Conditions;
- I agree not to commence any litigation proceedings in any country in relation to the risks and liabilities set out above and to indemnify the Operator against any claims;
- I confirm and warrant I am physically fit and suffer no medical conditions, which may affect my ability to participate in the activity;
- I confirm I am aware that professional medical assistance may be difficult and/or take some time to access due to the remote areas in which we are travelling;
- I consent to receive medical treatment in the case of injury, accident or illness during the activity and to indemnify the Operator against any claims, costs or expenses in respect of the treatment;
- I agree that any film, sound, video or other recordings taken of or during the activity will not be used in any production, or advertising without prior consent of the Operator, however the Operator may use such recordings itself at its complete discretion without any prior approval; and
- I agree to listen to my driver/guide/host, follow their instructions and make sure any children in my care do the same. Furthermore, the Operator will not be responsible for any personal injury and or property damage caused by you and any costs for such injury / damage will be your responsibility.



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Custom Tours Available

Want to change the itinerary or create something entirely new? We enjoy designing custom adventures for friends, families, work groups and clubs. Get in touch!

Keen to join a tour? Enquire now



New Zealand free dial 0800 377 378

Australia free dial 1800 044 633

World +64 3 962 3280



Email: info@tuataratours.co.nz

Web: www.tuataratours.co.nz

You might also like....

The West Coast Trail Walk

The Akaroa Walk

The Humpridge Track

The Abel Tasman Walk 3 or 5 day



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