



A WARMER WINTER FAMILY TRIPS ON THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK WALKING AND BIKING FACT SHEET

We know how difficult planning a family holiday can be. Catering to the differing needs of young children, teenagers and parents ensuring that your holiday option appeals to all can be challenging. Our Warmer Winter Family Trips on the Queen Charlotte Track are designed to be fun for all (see below re guidelines for ages). The option to catch a boat on any given day always gives you the option for a rest if young or old legs are getting tired and the comfort of the hotel accommodation at Furneaux Lodge, Punga Cove Resort and Portage Resort Hotel is sure to revive any flagging energy levels.

Located at the top of the South Island, in the Marlborough Sounds, The Queen Charlotte Track is quickly becoming one of New Zealand's classic tracks. This 71km walking and mountain biking track is renowned for its panoramic coastal views, lush coastal forest, resort accommodation and excellent water transport services – creating an experience that is challenging yet comfortable. The terrain varies from sea-level to a maximum 407 metres and the best way to describe this track is that it is not a steep track, but a long track.

The water taxi services allow a group with differing fitness levels to enjoy the walk because some may opt to take a boat one day, while others walk or bike. No matter which option you take, you all end up at your accommodation together at the end of the day. Each night your hotel room will cater to either your whole family, or dependent upon numbers, some family members may be in a separate room. Dining each night is in the restaurant, there is no self-catering facilities in these rooms.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss the best option for your family adventure.

*We recommend that minimum age for children walking is 8 years old and 13 years old for mountain biking. These are indicative ages only and in some cases children who are used to outdoor adventures may find these activities suitable.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

please note that this is a single track therefore narrow, with a variety of track surfaces including some steps, rocks, tree roots etc.

The Long Weekend Ride – 3 Days, 2 Nights

Guideline for your family: this is a good option for families with children as young as 10 years old, as long as they have had reasonable mountain biking experience. The first day is relatively short, second day more challenging and third day achievable if road is ridden for the first part.

Option 1. (allows for arrival in Picton and some riding on the same day)

Day One – Ship Cove to Furneaux Lodge (2.5 hour ride – 15km)

Arrive in Picton in time to catch the 1.30pm Cougar Line boat transfer to Ship Cove. Your journey begins with a 1 hour boat ride to Ship Cove. Disembarking at Ship Cove, you will need to push your bike for the first part of the track as the incline is steep. You then have a good rapid descent into Resolution Bay with a long but moderate climb out of Resolution Bay to Tawa Saddle and slow downhill to Furneaux Lodge. Arrive at Furneaux Lodge around 5.00pm.

Day Two – Furneaux Lodge to Portage Resort Hotel (3.5 to 4 hour ride – 23.6km)

Rewarding ride around the head of Endeavour Inlet with some technical sections caused by tree roots and drop offs around Camp Bay. Climbing away steeply from Punga Cove the sweeping views begin to appear as you bike along the ridge between the Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sound. The track is very undulating and therefore can be challenging for some people. The track is wide but quite steep in places. Watch for drop offs and rocky areas. You can ride the road on this day if you prefer.

Day Three – Portage Resort Hotel to Anakiwa (3.25 to 4 hours – 20.7km)

Portage to Waterfall Bay – begins with long steep climb, lots of pushing, switch backs on descent. Some may prefer to take the road for this section. Waterfall Bay to Anakiwa – narrow undulating track at first, wider and more moderate mid section, then long descent into Anakiwa. Riding down to sea level you will come upon some particularly beautiful virgin native bush which leaves you with a lasting impression of what must have been before man arrived. The harbour of Anakiwa comes into view and so too does the end of the Queen Charlotte Track. Your water transport collects you and, as you travel back to Picton, you can relax and reminisce on the magic of the last three days.



Option 2. – (allows for overnight in Picton before riding the next day)

Guideline for your family: the first day is longer than Option 1, but the 2nd day is shorter so balances out and third day achievable if road is ridden for the first part.

Day One – Ship Cove to Punga Cove Resort (3.5-4 hour ride – 26.5km)

Arrive at our office half an hour prior to your boat departure. Your journey begins with a 1 hour boat ride to Resolution Bay. (Although the track officially starts at Ship Cove the ride out of Ship Cove is quite steep and therefore we recommend that you start at Resolution Bay). You have a long but moderate climb out of Resolution Bay to Tawa Saddle and slow downhill to Furneaux Lodge. Rewarding ride around the head of Endeavour Inlet with some technical sections caused by tree roats and drop offs around Camp Bay. Overnight at Punga Cove Resort (see rates below for room options)

Day Two – Punga Cove Resort to Portage Resort Hotel (3.5 to 4 hour ride – 23.6km)

Climbing away steeply from Punga Cove the sweeping views begin to appear as you bike along the ridge between the Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sound. The track is very undulating and therefore can be challenging for some people. The track is wide but quite steep in places. Watch for drop offs and rocky areas. You can ride the road on this day if you prefer.

Day Three – Portage Resort Hotel to Anakiwa (3.25 to 4 hours – 20.7km)

Portage to Waterfall Bay – begins with long steep climb, lots of pushing, switch backs on descent. Some may prefer to take the road for this section. Waterfall Bay to Anakiwa – narrow undulating track at first, wider and more moderate mid section, then long descent into Anakiwa. Riding down to sea level you will come upon some particularly beautiful virgin native bush which leaves you with a lasting impression of what must have been before man arrived. The harbour of Anakiwa comes into view and so too does the end of the Queen Charlotte Track. Your water transport collects you and, as you travel back to Picton, you can relax and reminisce on the magic of the last three days.

The Weekender – 2 Days, 1 Night

Guideline for your family: this itinerary would be challenging for children younger than 13 years, unless they have had extensive experience. There are other two day options – see note below.

Day One – Ship Cove to Punga Cove Resort (3.5-4 hour ride – 26.5km)

Arrive at our office half an hour prior to your boat departure. Your journey begins with a 1 hour boat ride to Resolution Bay. (Although the track officially starts at Ship Cove the ride out of Ship Cove is quite steep and therefore we recommend that you start at Resolution Bay). You have a long but moderate climb out of Resolution Bay to Tawa Saddle and slow downhill to Furneaux Lodge. Rewarding ride around the head of Endeavour Inlet with some technical sections caused by tree roats and drop offs around Camp Bay. Overnight at Punga Cove Resort (see rates below for room options)

Day Two – Punga Cove Resort to Anakiwa (up to 7hour ride – 44.3km)

Climbing away steeply from Punga Cove the sweeping views begin to appear as you bike along the ridge between the Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sound. The track is very undulating and therefore can be challenging for some people. The track is wide but quite steep in places. Watch for drop offs and rocky areas. You can ride the road on this day if you prefer. Torea Saddle to Waterfall Bay – begins with long steep climb, lots of pushing, switch backs on descent. Some may prefer to take the road for this section. Waterfall Bay to Anakiwa – narrow undulating track at first, wider and more moderate mid section, then long descent into Anakiwa. Riding down to sea level you will come upon some particularly beautiful virgin native bush which leaves you with a lasting impression of what must have been before man arrived. The harbour of Anakiwa comes into view and so too does the end of the Queen Charlotte Track. Your water transport collects you and, as you travel back to Picton, you can relax and reminisce on the magic of the last two days.

NB – there are variations on this itinerary such as riding Ship Cove to Portage Resort Hotel on Day 1, Portage Resort Hotel to Anakiwa on Day 2. We can discuss the best option for you upon request.



WALKING

4 & 5 Day Freedom Walk

Day One – Ship Cove to Furneaux Lodge (5 hour walk – 14km)

There is no better way to start your walk than boarding The Cougar Line catamaran in Picton and enjoying their award winning service en-route to Ship Cove. Ship Cove is of world wide historical significance being the one place that Captain Cook visited 5 times to re-provision his ships. As you sweep into Ship Cove you will understand why. A steady climb out of Ship Cove provides unsurpassed views to the North Island. Follow the track down into Resolution Bay and through to Endeavour Inlet where you spy Furneaux Lodge with its broad sweeping lawns. This historic homestead has a restaurant and bar with chalet accommodation.

Day Two – Furneaux Lodge to Punga Cove Resort (4 hour walk – 12km)

This gentle coastal part of the track provides a good opportunity for taking a leisurely lunch and stopping to enjoy the plentiful birdlife along the way. Punga Cove Resort, your accommodation tonight, has individual chalets set amongst the bush clad hillside providing stunning views across Endeavour Inlet. Perhaps you might like to soak in the spa or swim in the solar-heated pool before adjourning for wine and dinner in their award winning restaurant.

Day Three – Punga Cove to Portage Resort Hotel (8 hour walk – 24.5km)

This section is the most challenging and rewarding of the track. Climbing away steeply from Punga Cove the sweeping views begin to appear as you walk along the ridge between the Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sound. The track is very undulating and therefore can be challenging for some people. As in the old days, Portage Resort Hotel is a welcome respite after a long day. The modern chalet-style units have all facilities required for your comfort and their restaurant is renowned for their barbecues and seafood.

Day Four – Portage Resort Hotel to Anakiwa (7 hour walk – 20km)

Once again the track follows the ridge climbing up to the highest point on the track at 400m. From the summit you have unsurpassed views into the surrounding Sounds. Winding down to sea level you will come upon some particularly beautiful virgin native bush which leaves you with a lasting impression of what must have been before man arrived. The harbour of Anakiwa comes into view and so too does the end of the Queen Charlotte Track. Your water transport collects you and, as you travel back to Picton, you can relax and reminisce on the magic of the last four days.

5 DAY FREEDOM WALK

Turn this walk into a true holiday and take a rest on the 4th day at Portage Resort Hotel. Sleep-in, have a leisurely breakfast, read a book for the day, rest and relax or transfer back to Picton for the day and take a wine tour in the Wairau Valley (30 minute drive from Picton). Daily departures from Picton with Sounds Connection www.soundsconnection.co.nz. No packed lunch is provided on the rest day.



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST AND WHAT IS INCLUDED?

Mountain Biking

Family group (2 adults and 2 children 17 years and under)

The Long Weekend – 3 day ride \$995 per family Additional child \$150
The Weekender – 2 day ride \$785 per family Additional child \$135
Children stay free but charges are included for their water transfers and daily packed lunches

Walking

Family group (2 adults and 2 children 17 years and under)

4 day walk \$1265 Additional child \$165
5 day walk \$1440 Additional child \$165
Children stay free but charges are included for their water transfers and daily packed lunches

Package includes:

- Upgrades to premier twin share en-suite rooms at Furneaux Lodge, Punga Cove Resort, Portage Resort Hotel.
- Packed lunch each day
- Water transport to the track and transfer of luggage each day
- Transfer back to Picton
- Complete information pack for use whilst walking/biking the track

Upgrades to the premier rooms at each hotel are a feature of this package and the following rooms are included:

Furneaux Lodge - Studio Suite
Punga Cove Resort Kiwi or Weka Suite
Portage Resort Hotel Kowhai Lodge Suite

Please note that alternative rooms may be used subject to the make-up of the family group and room availability.

MOUNTAIN BIKE RENTAL

We can provide quality mountain bikes for hire at \$50 per person per day. Rental includes:

- Specialised mountain bikes, front suspension, 24 gears, hydraulic disc brakes
- Tool kit
- Pump
- Helmet
- Water bottle carrier
- Map

Rental Conditions

Please be at our office at least half an hour prior to departure, for a bike fit out and briefing. If it has been raining, we may recommend that you walk on the first day as the track can be too slippery to ride. A \$400 per bike bond is required. We take an imprint of your credit card and hold these details on your file. A registration and indemnity form will also be completed during briefing.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY

A non-refundable deposit of \$100 per person is required to confirm your booking. Final payment is required 30 days prior to departure date if applicable. Cancellations received 30 days and up to 7 days from day of trip departure - 50% of trip value refund. Cancellations received 7 days or less from date of departure - no refund. We do understand that cancellations can occur due to illness or unexpected events. Therefore we recommend that you take out comprehensive travel insurance





TRIP CONDITIONS

- Rates assume that children will be sharing a suite with parents. This is dependent upon numbers of children in family and some may possibly be on a pull out bed.
- **Booking is subject to accommodation availability on the track.**
- **\$100 non refundable deposit is required to confirm booking. Final payment is required 30 days prior to departure date. Cancellations received 30 days and up to 7 days from day of trip departure - 50% of trip value refund. Cancellations received 7 days or less from date of departure - no refund.**
- **Single supplements do apply.**
- **Dinner, breakfast and refreshment costs are to be met by client. As you are staying at licensed resorts they request that you do not take alcohol onto the property.**
- **Additional water transport costs, if required, are to be met by client.**
- **Upon arrival at our office you will be asked to complete a registration form. You must understand that you are taking a self-guided trip, there you are responsible for your own safety and well-being for the duration. Any additional costs incurred during your trip, due to illness or accident, are to be met by yourselves.**

HOW TO BOOK

Check availability for our warmer winter walks on our website www.marlboroughsounds.co.nz and book over the web. Your booking will be confirmed immediately and you will be asked for credit card details. Your card will not be debited until we have re-confirmed the booking with you.

PRE TRIP INFORMATION

After receiving your booking we will send you pre-trip information which details how to get here, what to bring, arrival times and assistance with pre or post trip accommodation.