

The Queen Charlotte Walk / Boat Stay



Spend time on the Queen Charlotte Track in paradise with native birds, flora and fabulous company

tour highlights

- Pristine panoramas
 - Tranquility
- Fantastic meals
- Ancient forests
- Great company

tour cost

2019/ 2020

Starting in Picton : NZD\$1849



the tour

The Queen Charlotte Walk / Cruise is a truly unique and exciting way to explore the treasure that is the Marlborough Sounds, the shining jewel of the South Island of New Zealand.

Join us onboard the small cruising ship the Affinity for a cruise that will leave you with a lifetime of memories and new friends.

The advantages of walking and living aboard Affinity is that your accommodation follows you and is there at the end of your days walk with a hot shower and the same bed. All your meals are cooked for you. If you are going ashore over the lunch period a packed lunch will be sent with you.

You don't have to worry about your luggage as it is still in your cabin and you have no heavy packs to carry every day.

Please note: The walk/ cruise tour is unguided but full track route and notes are provided.

at a glance

DAY 1 PICTON

DAY 2 MOTUARA ISLAND, SHIP COVE, ENDEAVOUR INLET

DAY 3 ENDEAVOUR INLET TO CAMP BAY

DAY 4 CAMP BAY TO TOREA BAY

DAY 5 TOREA BAY TO ANAKIWA

DAY 6 ANAKIWA TO PICTON

Activities: Walking
Accommodation: Ship: Affinity

Trip Duration: 6 Days, 5 Nights
Grade : Moderate





frequently asked questions

Q. How long have you been operating?
A. Affinity Cruises have been operating since 1996.

Q. What are the cabins like?
A. Seven cabins can be either double (double bed on the bottom with a single bed above the foot) or twin share (two single bunk style beds with the second bed above the foot of the bottom bed). One cabin is either just a single or double, does not have bed across the foot of the other bed.

Q. What bedding / linen is provided?
A. Each bed is made ready for your arrival with sheets and duvets. You are allocated two towels for a seven day cruise, this is to reduce the effect on the environment.

Q. What if I have special dietary requirements?
A. There is a place on the booking form that covers your requirements. We will do our very best to accommodate your requirements but in some cases we may ask you to bring along some of your favourites.

Q. What is there to buy in your on board shop?
A. Items such as T-Shirts, hats, coasters, drink bottles, key rings etc...

Q. I often suffer from seasickness - what can you suggest to help me?
A. Ginger is known to contain properties to alleviate nausea. There is also other options from pharmacies and supermarkets (sea legs tablets, pressure bands etc...) If you are feeling unwell talk to one of the crew as soon as possible.

Q. Am I limited to the amount of luggage I can bring?
A. As there is limited room onboard we recommend 1 medium sized bag per person.

Q. What is the temperature in the Marlborough Sounds?
A. Average temperature over summer in the sounds can range between 20 – 30°C

Q. Is there secure car storage while I am onboard?
A. Yes in Picton please ask for contact details when enquiring

There are no laundry facilities available. Small items can be hand washed.
Mobile phone coverage: In the Marlborough Sounds coverage is sporadic.



The Queen Charlotte Walk / Cruise



Spend time on the Queen Charlotte Track in paradise with native birds, flora and fabulous company

what's included

Accommodation (See next page for layout)
Accommodation is onboard the vessel in eight cabins (twin share – bed and bunk or double bed)
3 bathroom facilities with a good supply of hot water
Air conditioning
Spacious vessel both inside and out, including a comfortable lounge area

Food

- 5 Continental Breakfasts – Cereals, fruit, yoghurt, toast and spreads.
- 5 Lunches – these are packed hikers lunches if you are walking on the track, or if you prefer a rest (non-walking) day, lunch will be served onboard.
- 5 Pre-Dinner nibbles – Selection of cheese, crackers, chips, dips & dried fruit
- 5 Dinners – these are generally home style meals of meat and seasonal vegetables, sauces and gravies. Meats are generally; Roasted chicken quarters, baked salmon, steak, corn silverside, tasty casseroles.
- 5 Desserts – These range from pavlova, apple sponge, fruit salad and ice cream, trifle etc...

Tea, Coffee and Juice are available as well.

If you have any dietary issues or food allergies, we are happy to cater for these, please advise the office of details when you make your booking.

All meals are included in your tour cost. Wine and other beverages are available to be purchased during dinners.

Tour Kit Bag - Exclusive to Tuatara Tours

To ensure you get the very best out of your journey with the least of fuss, we provide you with a calico kit bag full of useful goodies. This will be given to you at the start of your tour.

Access and Concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation

NZ Goods and Service Tax (GST)



The Queen Charlotte Walk / Cruise

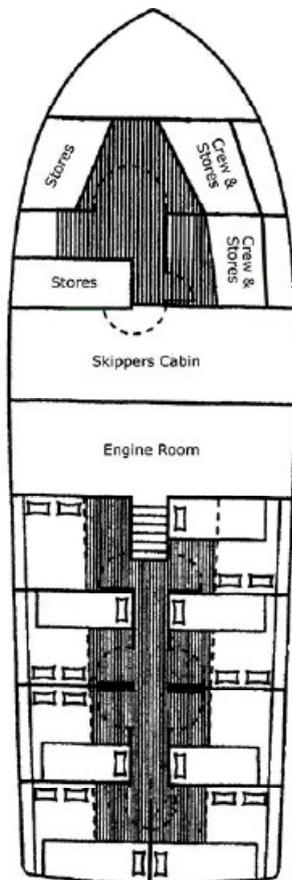


Spend time on the Queen Charlotte Track in paradise with native birds, flora and fabulous company

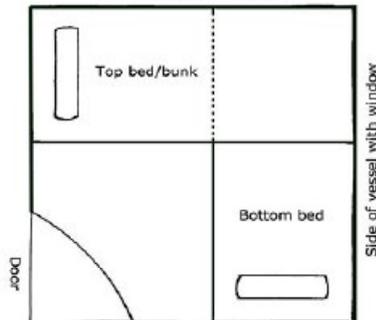
Vessel

The vessel Affinity was purpose built in Picton by Carey's Boatyard for the type of cruising that she does. Affinity has 8 guest cabins, a comfortable lounge for dining and relaxing and a spacious deck.

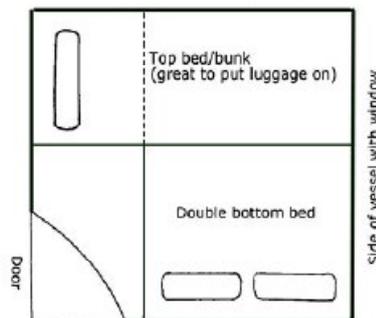
- The cruise is fully catered for and all linen is supplied
- Spacious vessel both inside and out, including a comfortable lounge area
- Lots of interesting books to read, as well as a few board games
- Easy access both on and off the vessel, and with both platform steps at the stern of the vessel
- 4-meter inflatable tender for shore excursions and for use when divers are in the water
- Use of gumboots for on deck and going ashore
- First aid certificates held by crew members plus an oxygen cylinder onboard
- Vessel applies with all safety regulations and holds all appropriate licenses



Single Cabin Arrangement



Double Cabin Arrangement





The Queen Charlotte Walk / Cruise



Spend time on the Queen Charlotte Track in paradise with native birds, flora and fabulous company

frequently asked questions

Some tips for training:

Undertake your training using the clothing and footwear you intend to complete the tour in, this will give you the opportunity to make sure they will be suitable for the purpose and to break in your foot wear so as to avoid any discomfort. Train with your pack or day pack on so you get used to bearing the weight and include a variety of terrain in your training including hills and off road. As much as we'd like to we can't guarantee fine weather on your tour so don't hesitate to get outdoors and train on the rainy days as well.

What will the weather be like?

New Zealand is known to have four seasons in a day so you should always be prepared for sudden changes in weather or temperature and have the appropriate gear with you at all times. Rain can be expected at any time throughout the year.

Spring (September-November) and Autumn (March-May) are generally cooler months for experiencing the outdoors with temperatures averaging 15-25 degrees during the day.

Summer (December-February) is usually warmer with averages of 20-30 degrees and longer sunshine hours due to daylight saving. As New Zealand has very little air pollution, UV rays are strong during the summer months and a good sunscreen and a hat are recommended for outdoor activities during the heat of the day.

itinerary

Day 1 Picton

Welcome aboard for the beginning of your Cruise and Walk in the Queen Charlotte Sound. Once all passengers are on-board and we've had a safety briefing by the Captain we cruise leisurely into the Sound visiting bays and coves that are not visible from the track, whilst you indulge in some sunset nibbles.

We will then find suitable anchorage in a sheltered bay for the evening and dinner will be served around 7pm.

Day 2 Motuara Island, Ship Cove to Endeavour Inlet.

After breakfast we cruise towards Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary, home to friendly Robins and rare South Island Saddlebacks, here you have the opportunity to go ashore and see these birds as well as amazing views of Queen Charlotte Sound (approximately one hour ashore).

Once back onboard we will cruise to Ship Cove, where the explorer Captain James Cook visited in the 1770's.

From Ship Cove you now head off on the track and walk to Furneaux Lodge in Endeavour Inlet being the first section of the track. (Walk time approx 5 hours, 15km). Affinity will be waiting at Endeavour Inlet for your return and we will then find suitable anchorage in a sheltered bay for the evening.

Day 3 Endeavour Inlet to Camp Bay.

This morning after breakfast you go ashore at Furneaux Lodge and walk to Camp Bay where Affinity will be awaiting your return. (walk time approx 4 hours, 12.7km).

On this section of the track you will follow the coastline as well as walking through regenerating native bush with a predominance of manuka and kanuka with a good range of wildlife.





The Queen Charlotte Walk / Cruise



Spend time on the Queen Charlotte Track in paradise with native birds, flora and fabulous company

itinerary cont'd

Once back on board we will cruise around Endeavour Inlet and find a suitable overnight anchorage for the night. If conditions are favorable you might like to try your hand at catching a fish for dinner.

Day 4 Camp Bay to Torea Bay

Day Four of the Queen Charlotte Walk provides walkers with more spectacular views as you climb the main ridge between Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds covering a distance of approx 23.7km. Take the time to look back over the distance covered during your walk and take in the breathtaking vistas.

Day 5: Torea Bay - Anakiwa

After breakfast you go ashore to complete your Queen Charlotte walk. The first part of your day takes you from Torea Bay to Mistletoe Bay, approx 7.6 km

The two highest points on the way are over 400m. From their summits you get a strong feeling that Kenepuru, Mahau and Queen Charlotte Sounds are indeed the sunken valleys between the peaks and ridges you are walking on.

The final section of the walk through to Anakiwa (approx 4 hours, 13km) follows an old bridle path, through beautiful regeneration and mature native forest alive with Fantails, Waxeyes, Tomtits, Finches and Weka.

Once more your Captain will choose a safe anchorage for the night and you can relax and celebrate your achievements.

Day 6: Anakiwa- Picton

Congratulations you have walked 70 kms on the Queen Charlotte Track.

After breakfast we will leisurely cruise back to Picton (approximate arrival time 10.00am) where the crew will bid you farewell and a safe journey home.

Please note the itinerary is subject to change due to weather/sea conditions and time available.

If you prefer not to walk a day, you are welcome to relax on-board the boat instead.





The Queen Charlotte Walk / Cruise



Spend time on the Queen Charlotte Track in paradise with native birds, flora and fabulous company

responsible travel

None of us could deny the benefits of travel in broadening our horizons and our way of thinking about the world we all share; travel breaks down barriers and provides valuable insights into other ways of life, it challenges us to step outside our comfort zone and to learn from those around us.

Our responsibility as participants in this journey is to acknowledge our impact on the environment and the communities in which we travel and to consider our individual contribution now and for the benefit of future generations.

We are Qualmark endorsed; New Zealand tourism's official benchmark for environmental standards and quality control. Wherever possible our company utilises local products and services, we support conservation efforts to preserve our natural and cultural heritage and we respect and care for the unique environment we travel in. Make your commitment to responsible travel with us.

trip grading

To determine the grade of a particular adventure we consider a number of factors.

These include the condition of the terrain, the altitude, the number of pass crossings and the length of the trip.

The Queen Charlotte Walk is graded moderate. An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are mentally flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise.

If you are uncertain about your suitability for this tour, speak with us and we can help guide you in the right direction

pre and post tour accommodation

If you would like some help booking pre/post tour accommodation we can help

Contact us at

- ▶ New Zealand: 0800 377 378
- ▶ Australia: 1 800 044 633
- ▶ World: +64 3 962 3280
- ▶ Email: info@tuataratours.co.nz
- ▶ Web: www.tuataratours.co.nz

what's not included

- pre and post tour accommodation
- alcoholic drinks with meals
- personal expenses
- gratuities, tipping is not expected in NZ but gratefully received. It is at your discretion whether or not to reward for excellent service

custom tours

▶ We Can Customise Existing Tours To Suit.

You may want to spend an extra day or you may want to add another element to your tour!

▶ We Can Design A New Tour Just For You.

We have years of experience in creating custom-made tours for groups, so if you are planning a tour for your friends, family, club, corporate workplace.... contact us now.





The Queen Charlotte Walk / Cruise



Spend time on the Queen Charlotte Track in paradise with native birds, flora and fabulous company

have you considered?

New Zealand Walking Tours

The Akaroa Walk
 The Franz Josef Trail
 The Mesopotamia High Country Walk
 The Queen Charlotte Walk
 The West Coast Trail
 The Kaikoura Trail
 The Kenepuru Trail
 The Hump Ridge Track Walk
 The Coromandel Explorer Walk
 The Tongariro Crossing Walk
 The Lake Waikaremoana Walk
 The Abel Tasman Walk - 3 Days
 The Abel Tasman Walk - 5 Days
 The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 3 Days
 The Abel Tasman Walk/Kayak - 5 Days

New Zealand Hiking Tours

The Heaphy Track
 The Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk
 The Stewart Island Track
 The Tongariro Crossing Walk

New Zealand Cycling Tours

The Hanmer Cycle Trail
 The Kaikoura Trail
 The Kenepuru Trail
 The Tekapo Canal Trail
 The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail
 The Molesworth Cycle Trail
 The Westland Wilderness Cycle Trail
 The Otago Rail Trail

Japan Walking Tours

All of these tours and more available at www.tuataratours.co.nz

pre tour checklist

Please ensure you have the following compulsory items for your walk:
 Gear will be checked prior to departure.

- Medium size day pack with waterproof liner
- Waterproof rain jacket with hood
- Boots or sturdy walking shoes, preferably with ankle support
- Woollen (merino) or polypro thermals (top and bottom)
- Polar fleece jacket or top
- Warm hat and gloves-fleece or woollen
- Pair of shorts / long trousers (preferably quick-dry fabric, no jeans)
- Woollen or thermal socks-three or four pairs

The following are highly recommended but not compulsory:

- Walking poles
- Waterproof over trousers
- Gaiters
- Swimsuit
- Sun hat and sun glasses
- Spare boot laces
- Pair of light shoes or sandals for the evening
- A change of clothing for the evening
- Sunscreen, insect repellent
- Personal first aid items-including blister block or foot fleece
- Personal toiletries
- Small torch
- Camera
- Water bottle (we supply you with one bottle, but you may wish to bring another.)

We do not recommend you walk in cotton garments, jeans or silk. These fabrics take much longer to dry after perspiration or wet weather and you may feel damp and cold, even inside the best raincoat.

Plan around three layers of clothing, your inner or core layer which should be wool (merino) or polypro to trap warmth against the skin, a middle layer, and a top waterproof layer to protect from rain and wind.





The Queen Charlotte Walk / Cruise



Spend time on the Queen Charlotte Track in paradise with native birds, flora and fabulous company

Tuatara Tours - experienced and innovative!

Tuatara Tours is an experienced and innovative walking and cycling adventure company, based in the South Island of New Zealand. The vision at Tuatara Tours is to encourage as many people as possible to be involved in fun, adventure and the outdoors. We ourselves walk, run, mountain bike, road bike and occasionally participate in multi-sport adventure races... to the best of our ability. We are not champions – but we are out there! We understand the outdoors and we revel in the country, people and climate that we work with

our team is here to provide the best experience

We only have one world and we have to share it with each other. Much of the attraction for our clients is to experience unspoiled and un-crowded landscapes. It is our challenge to ensure that in this sharing of the experience, we minimise where possible, the impact of our business.

Through the introduction of strict environmental guidelines, we minimise our impact on the environment we live and work in.

subscribe to our newsletter

Our newsletter will be emailed to you monthly on the first working day of every month.

- latest trips
- travel advice
- events & attractions
- and more!

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz and click the free subscription button.

how to book

Go to www.tuataratours.co.nz, click the enquiry button and submit your booking request using the form provided.

We enjoy talking to people about their travel interests. So feel free to contact us directly if you'd rather not fill out a form.

- ▶ New Zealand: 0800 377 378
- ▶ Australia: 1 800 044 633
- ▶ World: +64 3 962 3280
- ▶ Email: info@tuataratours.co.nz
- ▶ Web: www.tuataratours.co.nz





The Queen Charlotte Walk / Cruise



Spend time on the Queen Charlotte Track in paradise with native birds, flora and fabulous company

Tuatara Conservation

Tuatara Tours are proud to be actively involved in Tuatara Conservation.

Tuatara Tours has formally adopted "BP" a male juvenile tuatara who resides at Orana Park in Christchurch and is part of the conservation programme to ensure the safe future of these amazing reptiles.



country information

Culture

New Zealand has a diverse multi-cultural population, the majority of whom are of British descent. New Zealand's indigenous Maori make up around 14 percent of the population. The culture of its indigenous Maori people affects the language, the arts, and even the accents of all New Zealanders. New Zealanders embrace new technology and culture, but they also have a background of quiet but rugged individualism, self-reliance and a passion for invention. Many New Zealanders travel extensively and thrive on learning and experiencing other cultures. They are renowned for their openness, ingenuity and "easy-going" nature.

Environment

Fourteen spectacular national parks preserve New Zealand's natural heritage enshrining a huge variety of landscapes, vegetation and wildlife, New Zealand encompasses rich farmland, mountains, rivers and unsurpassed scenery. The country is slightly bigger than the UK in size. Three-quarters of the population live in the North Island with more than a third of New Zealand's population living in the largest city, Auckland.

The South Island - with its lakes, fiords and spectacular outdoor scenery is the most popular destination for tourists. The gateway to the South Island is Christchurch - a city of approximately 340,000 people.

Recreation

New Zealand's stunning landscapes, lush forests, amazing wildlife and pleasant climate make it a haven for many outdoor activities, and a great place to relax and enjoy life. New Zealanders love the outdoors, especially tramping, camping, skiing and snowboarding. Sailing, surfing and swimming are also favourite pursuits. New Zealand's sports and recreation facilities are inexpensive, abundant and very accessible.

