

Queen Charlotte and Abel Tasman

8 Day Walking Tour



Spend four days on the Queen Charlotte Track in paradise with native birds, flora and fabulous company followed by a scenic cruise, and 3 days of easy walking in lush native forest, pristine bays and golden sandy beaches.

tour highlights

- Pristine panoramas
- Tranquility Beaches to die for
- Sweeping bays
- Amazing flora and fauna
- Fantastic meals
- Ancient forests
- Great company
- Experienced attentive guide

tours run

Tours run: November - April (On Demand)

tour cost

2019 / 2020

Starting in Picton

Shoulder Season	NZD\$3970
Regular Season	NZD\$4120

Shoulder Season Dates are:

1 - 31 October, 20 - 31 January, 1 - 30 April

options & supplements

Single Supplement: NZD\$495
Queen Charlotte Walk Only

fast facts

Custom Groups: Options are available for this tour*

Activities

Walking

Accommodation

Lodges, Hotel

Trip Duration

8 Days, 7 Night

Grade

Mild to Moderate

*Please enquire for further information



the tour

The Queen Charlotte Walk 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. Spend four days on the Queen Charlotte Track in paradise with native birds, flora and fabulous company, while witnessing unsurpassed views of the Queen Charlotte Sound.

Abel Tasman walking is through lush native forest and golden sandy beaches from Totaranui in the north to Marahau in the south. It's pleasant walking, with no point higher than 150 m. We'll take care of the details, leaving you free to enjoy. Our guides and hosts will help you make the most of each day.

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.

at a glance

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| DAY 1 | PICTON TO ENDEAVOUR INLET |
| DAY 2 | ENDEAVOUR INLET TO CAMP BAY |
| DAY 3 | CAMPBAY TO THE RAETIHI LODGE |
| DAY 4 | RAETIHI LODGE TO PICTON |
| DAY 5 | PICTON TO NELSON |
| DAY 6 | NELSON / MOTUEKA TO AWAROA VIA TOTARANUI |
| DAY 7 | AWAROA TO TORRENT BAY |
| DAY 8 | TORRENT BAY TO MOTUEKA / NELSON |





frequently asked questions

What do I carry while on my tour and what happens to the rest of my luggage?

On a walking, cycling or kayak tour your extra luggage will be transported for you each day to your accommodation that night. All you need to have with you is your daypack with your lunch, clothing requirements, camera and incidentals. For cyclists, this can be left in the support vehicle while you are cycling as this is always close by for ready access. Please ensure the luggage you are sending on ahead is limited to one item and is packed in an easily transported overnight bag or suitcase.

On a hiking tour where huts and lodges are less accessible by vehicle, you may be asked to carry your own luggage for some or all of the days of the tour, please refer to your itinerary for details. For this reason we recommend you pack as lightly as possible and carry only the items suggested on your gear check list. For any of our tours, we recommend the use of a waterproof pack liner to keep your personal items as dry as possible.

Do I really need thermals and a fleece, even in summer?

Yes, as some of the areas visited can be exposed, and New Zealand weather can be notoriously changeable, you must be prepared for all weather conditions.

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what's included

- Accommodation

Day One: Lodge
Day Two: Lodge
Day Three: Lodge
Day Four: Comfortable Motel
Day Five: Comfortable Motel
Day Six: Private Lodge
Day Seven: Private Lodge

All accommodation is private rooms with ensuite bathrooms.

Lodges on nights 6 and 7 operate on a tab system so any payments for drinks etc are settled at the end of the tour.

- Food

You will enjoy great local cuisine; continental breakfasts and hearty packed lunches during the day, and either restaurant meals or wholesome home-cooked fare prepared by your host/hostess in the evenings. 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. Alcohol is not included in the tour cost, but is available for purchase with your evening meal.

Dinner is at your expense on Day 4 and lunch and dinner on Day 5.

- Luggage

Tuatara Tours transports all your luggage for the duration of the tour. Please limit this to 1 bag per person of no more than 15kg in weight. All you carry is a small day pack with your personal gear, drink and lunch. We do the Rest.

- 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.

- An experienced guide

- All transport

- Access and Concession fees paid to the Department of Conservation

- NZ Goods and Service Tax (GST)

- Safety and Risk Management

To ensure maximum safety for all, our guides are certified first aiders and fully qualified drivers. Tuatara Tours operate under a Safety and Risk Management Plan which is regularly audited and approved by a qualified and independent auditor.





frequently asked questions

How many people are in each group?

Typically, we take a maximum of twelve people on each tour. We feel this gives you the best opportunity to gain as much from your experience as possible and keeps the feel of each tour relaxed and friendly. We are happy to discuss options for groups of more than twelve with you.

How fit do I need to be?

The main purpose of a guided tour is to enjoy your surroundings and learn from your local guide, it's not a race, however the more you can prepare for a tour, the better the experience will be for you. As a general guideline we suggest the following activity level guide for our tours.

Easy: An average level of fitness, Walk 7km, Bike 15km on well-formed tracks and roads with very little incline.

Mild: An average level of fitness, Walk 12km, Bike 25km on well-formed tracks and roads with average incline.

Moderate: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20km, Bike 45km on formed tracks and roads with some average to steep inclines at times.

Challenging: An above average level of fitness, Walk 20+ km , Bike 50+km on partially formed tracks and roads, some off-road , some steep inclines, some easy river and creek crossings.



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itinerary

Day 1 Picton to Endeavour Inlet



Day One of **The Queen Charlotte Walk** leads walkers from Ship Cove to Endeavour Inlet, a walk through virgin beech forest and bush, taking approximately 5 hours (15km). From Ship Cove the track ascends and provides walkers with amazing views down into Resolution Bay and surrounding areas. If visibility is good, views as far as the Kapiti Islands and the North Island are able to be seen.

Following the track along the Tawa Saddle, gives way to further astounding views of the Endeavour Inlet. A short descent through magnificent native bush and crystal clear streams and then on to the shore line that leads you to your first nights accommodation.

Relax and unwind in this picturesque setting and enjoy dinner with your fellow walkers.

Day 2 Endeavour Inlet to Camp Bay



Day Two of **The Queen Charlotte Walk** is a relatively gentle day covering a distance of 11.5kms and takes approximately 4 hours. Walkers will follow the track from Endeavour Inlet to Camp Bay. Following mainly coastal tracks you will walk around the inlet through the native bush to the delightful sounds of fantails and bellbirds.

Endeavour Head has a colourful history dating back to the 1880's. It was originally a mining site of stibnite – an essential component of antimony used to produce pewter and harden steel. The mine employed over 400 people.

Walkers then pass through Big Bay and onto Camp Bay where Day Two ends. Spend the night relaxing in this idyllic spot.





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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 cont'd

Day 3 Camp Bay to Torea Saddle



Day Three is a demanding day, as you walk up to Kenepuru Saddle and follow

the undulating ridgeline track for the remainder of the day. A challenging walk, taking approximately 8 hours (23km), walkers are well rewarded by the breathtaking panoramic views of Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds.

Day 4 Torea Saddle to Anakiwa



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 18kms, on your way to Anakiwa.

Take the time to look back over the distance covered during your walk and take in the breathtaking vistas.

Continue following old bridle paths through regenerating forest that is home to fantails, weka, wax eyes and many more native New Zealand birds.

Finally, your adventure ends with a gentle 3km walk through the magnificent beech forest to Anakiwa where your water taxi will pick you up and return you to Picton where you stay the night.

Dinner is at your expense tonight





Please Note

Walking on days 6, 7 and 8 is optional. Some people prefer to take the ferry between lodges. This flexibility is perfect for couples or groups who are visiting the park together, but wish to do different things. Please discuss options with your guide before each day's departure.



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Day 5 Picton to Nelson

Today you travel to Nelson and on arrival you have free time for the rest of the day. Please make your own way to the Intercity bus stop for your coach service to Nelson. The Intercity bus stop is a short walk from your accommodation. The bus leaves at 1.00pm from outside the main entrance of the Interislander ferry terminal. Please be there by 12:45. On arrival in Nelson your bus will stop at the Nelson Travel Centre at 27 Bridge Street, from here it is a short walk to your accommodation. Lunch and Dinner today are at your expense.

Day 6 Nelson / Motueka to Awaroa via Totaranui

We'll pick you up in Nelson at approximately 10.15am. After breakfast please check out and wait in the lobby.



At our office you'll be briefed on the tour. There'll be time for last-minute luggage checks before we depart to Kaiteriteri by coach. At 1 pm, we'll take a Vista Cruise along the National Park coastline. It's a comfortable cruise with refreshments and viewing decks on board. On arrival at Totaranui we'll regroup for a 2 hour walk south (5.5 km + tidal crossing) from Totaranui to Meadowbank. You'll stay at a homestead on the best site in Awaroa Bay.

Day 7 Awaroa to Torrent Bay

After a great night's sleep, we'll depart Awaroa Bay and walk over the Tonga Saddle to Onetahuti, with its golden sand beach and impressive granite headlands. Relax on the beach, or visit Tonga Quarry, a historic granite mining site. At noon, we'll have lunch at Bark Bay, with its golden sand. We'll take some time to relax, explore, swim or sunbathe. Later, we'll walk through native forest and cross the swing bridge at Falls River. We'll admire the series of magnificent views of headlands, estuaries and beaches on the way. Next, we'll continue to our overnight stop: Torrent Bay Lodge, on the beachfront.

Day 8 Torrent Bay to Motueka/Nelson



Today is our last day. We'll follow the well-graded final section of the coastal track, and see the pristine bays and beaches named by the French explorer, Dumont d'Urville in 1827. We'll have lunch at one of the bays, then walk the last leg to Marahau. Here, your coach awaits to return you to either Motueka (4.30pm) or Nelson (5.30pm).





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 and Abel Tasman 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

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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
- dinner on Day 4 and lunch and dinner on Day 5

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.





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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 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 Tekapo Canal Trail
- The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail
- The West Coast Wilderness Cycle Trail
- The Otago Rail Trail
- The Tasman Great Taste Trail
- The Queenstown 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 (we have these available if you need them)
- 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.





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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
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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.





