

NEW ZEALAND: COOK CAPTAIN EXTENSION



This information should answer some of your questions about the trip and give you a better idea of what we do day-to-day. It doesn't hope to answer everything. If you have any questions please get in touch.



Queen Charlotte Walkway

Captain Cook Extension

An opportunity to walk part or all of the Queen Charlotte Walkway, one of New Zealand's best known and most picturesque walking tracks. This trip is a great start (or finish) to our 'New Zealand Contrasts' trip or as part of your independent visit to the South Island. The Walkway in the Marlborough Sounds meanders in and out of coves and inlets, traversing small ridges and passes through lush coastal forest. The guideless walking is easy and idyllic with comfortable waterside lodges offering overnight accommodation. While you walk each day your luggage is taken ahead by boat. The Walkway usually takes 4 days (70km) and this extension gives you the option of walking part or all of it.

The Marlborough Sounds

The tranquil protected waters of the Marlborough Sounds are made up of a mixture of bays, inlets, and bush clad archipelago at the northern tip of the South Island. James Cook sheltered here on each of three visits to New Zealand, first landing in Ship Cove in 1770. The Sounds provided good shelter and bountiful seafood for the many Maori who lived there. Nowadays the Marlborough Sounds provides an ideal place to kayak, sail, fish, walk or just relax.

For further information and advice please contact our UK Office 0114 275 7500 or treks@highplaces.co.uk OR our NZ Office 00 64 3 540 3208 or treks@highplaces.co.nz

ITINERARY

- DAY 1** Meet the water taxi at Picton. An exhilarating one hour small boat trip takes you to 'Ship Cove' the site of James Cook's landing in 1770 and the starting point of the Walkway. From here you can take a side trip to a small waterfall in the forest. The track climbs out of the cove through a canopy of native trees, and traverses around the bays to arrive at Endeavour Inlet. Stop en route for coffee and home-made muffins at Resolution Cabins. 14km (4-5 hours).
- DAY 2** There is time to do another short walk to a waterfall before heading off on a relaxing and much easier walking day. The track rises and falls along the bush-clad shoreline of Endeavour Inlet to the next accommodation at Camp Bay. Plenty of time for swimming and lunch on the beach. 12km (4 hours). (B,L,D)
- DAY 3** A day for magnificent views over the Sounds following the entire ridgeway as far as Torea saddle, 24km (7-8 hours) and down to Portage Resort if you are staying the night there. Otherwise the 4pm water taxi returns you to Picton where a hot shower will be waiting for you. (B,L)
- DAY 4** The track follows the main ridge from Portage with a significant climb from Torea Saddle. From Mistletoe Bay it follows old bridle paths high above the water before descending into Davies Bay. The final hour's walking is on an easy path through mature beech forest to Anakiwa, 20km (6-7 hours). A water taxi returns you to Picton where a hot shower will be waiting for you. (B,L)

Includes: all accommodation on track in either chalets or twin/double rooms and one night in Picton at the end, transport by boat, daily luggage transport, cooked breakfasts, packed lunches and one evening meal where stated.

Excludes most evening meals: the lodges at Endeavour Inlet and Portage have a choice of good bar meals (NZ\$20-25) or a la carte restaurants (NZ\$35 plus) for evening dining.

PRICE

Dependent on length – based on 2 people per room – subject to availability:

3 day walk option – 3 days/3 nights: NZ\$580pp ex-Picton

4 day walk option – 4 days/4 nights: NZ\$760pp ex-Picton

For single travellers – please enquire about options involving staying at backpacker accommodation.

Getting to Picton:

From Nelson – A 2 hour scenic drive by car or bus. This can be done on the morning of Day 1 with an early start to get the morning boat, or a later start to catch the afternoon boat.

From Wellington – A 3 hour ferry trip crossing Cook Strait and sailing through the Marlborough Sounds. With 4 sailings a day you can choose to take the first ferry on Day 1 and be on the track in the afternoon, or one of the other three and stay in Picton before starting the track the next day.

From Christchurch, Kaikoura or Blenheim – Picton can be reached by train, bus or car from these towns. Depending on arrival time, an extra night in Picton at the start may be required.

Prices are valid till June 2010.

MW 7/09