

# Queen Charlotte Walk/Cruise

## Living the Experience!

**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.



**Walk the Queen Charlotte Track** - one of Marlborough's unique attractions '**A Fantastic Combination - A true Marlborough Sounds Experience**' **Choice of walking or relaxing on the boat**

Tucked away at the top of the South Island is the hidden gem that is the Marlborough Sounds. Formed over 10,000 years ago after the last ice age when sea levels rose and drowned a series of deep valleys, the Marlborough Sounds consists of three main bodies of water (Pelorus, **Queen Charlotte** and Kenepuru Sounds) and a number of secluded bays, coves and sandy inlets, making it one of the best places in New Zealand for exploring the outdoors, on land and water. The walking track runs almost the entire length of the Queen Charlotte Sound, from Ship Cove to Anakiwa over 70km. The terrain is considered undulating, with hills rising from sea level to 400 metres at the highest point. Experience the grandeur of ridge-top views over the Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds, lush coastal forest teeming with ferns and native birdlife and the challenge of a good days walking, with the promise of a comfortable bed and a home cooked dinner at the end of each day.

Affinity will meet you at the end of each walking section - No back tracking\*\* Hot showers to freshen and invigorate you at the end of your enjoyable days walk, your meals all prepared for you, if you are ashore at lunchtime a packaged lunch will be sent with you. You have the same cabin each night so there is no worrying about your luggage which means no heavy packs to carry as your luggage remains on-board. We find safe anchorage every night in a calm and picturesque bay, so you can enjoy a peaceful nights rest. All walks are optional, you may wish to stay on board and relax, and there may be a shorter walk option that would suit you better – just ask!



## **Proposed Itinerary (Exclusive Private Tour)**

**Day 1 Arrive Picton make your own way to the Picton Yacht Club hotel (B)**

**Day 2 Free morning before boarding at Picton Ferry Terminal Jetty - 3pm**

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 **(BLD)**

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## **Day 3: 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

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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. **(BLD)**



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#### **Day 4: 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.

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. **(BLD)**





## **Day 5: Camp Bay to Torea Bay**

Today on 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. **(BLD)**

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## **Day 7: Torea Bay - Mistletoe Bay- Anakiwa**

Once again 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 5.6 km over 4 hours. 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. **(BLD)**

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## **Day 8: 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). Transfer to your accommodation at the Picton Yacht Club. where the crew will bid you farewell and a safe journey home. Transfer to your accommodation at the Picton Yacht Club. Free afternoon Overnight Picton Yacht Club. **(B)**

End of Services

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

**If you prefer not wish to walk a day, you are welcome to relax on-board the boat instead. There will also be opportunities for shorter walks to meet the group returning to the boat on any particular day.**



# 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.

- Accommodation is on board the vessel in eight cabins (twin share – bed and bunk or double bed)
- If you are a sole passenger and require a cabin to yourself our single supplement is available
- All cruises are fully catered and all linen is supplied
- 3 bathrooms facilities, separate ladies and men's, with a good supply of hot water and these are found on the main deck
- Air conditioning for summer and central heating for winter
- 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 on board
- Vessel applies with all safety regulations and holds all appropriate licenses

**Cost \$2550 per person twin share**

## Package Includes:

1 night pre and post tour at the Picton Yacht Club including full breakfast Five nights aboard the Affinity twin share, including continental breakfast, packed lunch and dinner. Track fees and transfers.

## Not Included:

Hard and Soft Drinks, meals not stated, crew gratuities



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