



WOMEN'S QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK

New Zealand

10 days | 9 nights

OVERVIEW

Join us on a 5 STAR experience of the Queen Charlotte Track. You are invited on a whole-hearted women's exploration of one of the most picturesque landscapes in New Zealand. Walking the Queen Charlotte Track and exploring the beautiful Marlborough region.

In addition to Maori Cultural learning, you will taste your way through this wonderful region sampling delicious local fare and wines. You will spend 5 days on the Queen Charlotte Track, resting along the way to enjoy local water activities. Finishing the journey with a rejuvenating stay in Picton. Here, additional activities can be arranged if you want to extend your adventure. Maybe visit a local wineries or hit the day spa for a pamper. Your 5 STAR experience awaits on this bespoke Big Heart Adventures itinerary.

Professionally led by our qualified and experienced female bushwalking leaders – ladies, it's time to meet Queen Charlotte with us.

DETAILS

- Type: Women's Trips
- Adventure: Women's Queen Charlotte Track
- Destination: New Zealand
- Traditional Country: Maori
- Group Size: Max 12 plus leaders

ITINERARY

Day 1 | Arrive in Wellington

Today you arrive into Wellington and begin your women's Queen Charlotte Track tour.

Depending on flight arrival times some may check in earlier than others – if arriving by 6:00pm we will meet in the lobby of our hotel and head out for dinner exploring the eclectic eateries in Wellington.

Meals Included: 2 Course Dinner

Walking Distance: n/a

Day 2 | Wellington / Picton

Today we will make the crossing from North Island to South Island but not before a cultural immersion at Te Papa Museum. After breakfast we meet our Maori Cultural Guide and visit significant exhibits and hear stories of survival, language and cultural pride among the Maori people.

We will be transferred from our hotel to the Ferry Terminal to make our way to the South Island where we will check in our bags before boarding.

We have exclusive entry to the Premium Lounge for a more comfortable crossing. A small buffet is available as well as cool drinks, beer, wine and WIFI. The crossing will take around 3 and a half hours giving you plenty of time to enjoy the scenery as we head

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into the spectacular Sounds before our arrival into Picton. Have your camera ready!

Once in Picton we collect our luggage and as our motel is a short walk away we will orientate the group around this gorgeous little port village before checking in to our accommodation.

Breakfast is not included in our stay here but a small supermarket is located across the road from the Motel, so you may stock up for the next morning or if you have forgotten any essential items for our trek, this is the last opportunity to make any last minute purchases.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Late Lunch
Walking Distance: 2km

Day 3 | Queen Charlotte Track - Ship Cove to Furneaux Lodge

After breakfast we will take a short 10 minute walk to the harbour where we will collect bag tags, our lunch and get any final prep done before we are transferred to the start of the Queen Charlotte Track.

We will board a catamaran/water taxi in Picton and enjoy a 1 hour journey to Ship Cove – be on the lookout for dolphins! Ship Cove is the one place that Captain Cook visited five times to re-provision his ships. As we sweep into Ship Cove you will understand why. A steady climb out of Ship Cove provides unsurpassed views to the North Island. We follow the track down into Resolution Bay and through to Endeavour Inlet where we spot Furneaux Lodge, our chalet accommodation, with its broad sweeping lawns.

Meals Included: Lunch, 3 Course Dinner
Walking Distance: 14km

Day 4 | Queen Charlotte Track - Furneaux Lodge to Punga Cove Resort

We can enjoy a leisurely morning once checked out of Furneaux, with optional side tracks on offer to extend our walking time.

This gentle coastal part of the track provides a good opportunity for us to enjoy a leisurely lunch and stop to enjoy the plentiful bird life along the way. Punga Cove Resort features individual chalets set amongst bush-clad hillside providing stunning views across the Endeavour Inlet. Enjoy the spa and solar heated pool. Views here from the bar at the jetty for a pre-dinner drink and the restaurant up top are sensational

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, 3 Course Dinner
Walking Distance: 12km

Day 5 | Queen Charlotte Track - Punga Cove to Lochmara Lodge

This section of the track is the most challenging but also the most rewarding. Climbing away steeply from Punga Cove, the stunning sweeping views begin to appear as we walk along the ridge between

the Queen Charlotte and Kenepuru Sounds. The track is undulating and can be challenging for some. One of the best lookouts today will be on offer – this will add a 45 minute walk to the day as a sidetrip but is absolutely worth it.

Lochmara Lodge is located by boat a short distance from the Torea pier. We will be collected here by boat at 4.30pm and taken to our lodgings, offering chalet and hotel style accommodation.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, 3 Course Dinner
Walking Distance: 25km

Day 6 | Queen Charlotte Track - Rest Day

Today is a great opportunity to recharge and reflect, enjoy a swim and some free time.

Lochmara Lodge has many facilities you may wish to make the most of such as kayaks, bird feeding, viewing stingrays and marine creatures in the underwater observatory, private bath house time or relaxing in one of the 40 hammocks placed around the many vantage points on the property. At night, visit the glow worms located behind the main buildings – do lots or nothing it is up to you.

Meals Included: Breakfast, 3 Course Dinner
Walking Distance: n/a

Day 7 | Queen Charlotte Track - Lochmara Lodge to Anakiwa

The track is accessible from Lochmara Lodge, we just need to head uphill for re-join it. We follow the ridge and climb to its highest point of 407 metres. From the summit we will enjoy unsurpassed views into the surrounding Sounds. Winding down to sea level we will encounter some particularly beautiful native bush reminding us of what must have been before humans arrived. The village of Anakiwa comes into view and so does the end of our walk on the track. Water transport will collect us and transfer us to Picton at 4pm.

We will enjoy a celebratory dinner as a group at a nearby eatery.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, 2 Course Dinner
Walking Distance: 20km

Day 8 | Picton

Today you are free to explore the region, we can assist you to book any local adventure activities such as the mail delivery boat, sea kayaking, cycling through the nearby vineyards or booking on a winery tour for tastings and lunch. We also have a pamper package you may want to consider with day spa, massage and local winery lunch. Ask us for more info.

We will reunite this evening in Picton for an optional dinner.

Meals Included: Breakfast
Walking Distance: n/a



Day 9 | Picton / Wellington

This morning we take a morning ferry service back to Wellington. A meal (brunch) will be served in the Premium Lounge for us and again we can enjoy the spoils of coffee, tea or something stronger and free WIFI. After our 3 and a half hour journey, we will be transferred from the ferry terminal in Wellington to our hotel. The rest of our afternoon is at leisure in Wellington. We will enjoy our final dinner together on the waterfront in Wellington this evening.

Meals Included: Brunch, 2 Course Dinner

Walking Distance: n/a

Day 10 | Wellington

Our final day of our Women's Queen Charlotte Track tour is today, so we say farewell after breakfast to those who are staying on and those who are returning home. Talk to us about how you can extend your stay and your adventure in the outdoor lovers paradise of New Zealand...

Meals Included: Breakfast

Walking Distance: n/a

INCLUSIONS

Travel

Comfortable private vehicle transport

Premium Lounge Access on Interislander Ferry crossings

Water taxis to and from the QC Track

Meals

All meals as per the itinerary

B x 6 | L x 5 | D x 7

Accommodation

2 nights 5 STAR hotel

4 nights lodge style properties on the QC Track

3 nights self-contained motel style accommodation

Activities

Professionally guided walks by our female Leaders

Hike 72km over 4 days plus rest day on the QC Track

Guided Maori Cultural Tour

Safety

Each trip has 2 Guides/Leaders

Group First Aid kit and emergency communication device

Leaders certified in Remote Area/Wilderness First Aid

Qualified Bushwalking Leaders

Environmental

Small group guided experience

Leave No Trace principles

Invitations to connect with nature

Reduce waste through recycling, reusing and composting

National Park entry fees

Big Heart Extras

Big Heart Adventures designed ioMerino hiking top

Big Heart Adventures designed head sock

Big Heart Adventures journal

Guided pre-departure training walks and or program (trip specific)

Discount card for pre-departure purchases at Exurbia

A charity contribution to our Give Back program

EXCLUSIONS

- Flights to and from New Zealand
- Comprehensive Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Meals and drinks not stated on itinerary
- Items of a personal nature

FITNESS REQUIREMENT

- A good level of fitness is required to walk the trails on this trip
- You will be walking pack free (day packs only)
- You will walk on a variety of surfaces including some muddy trails with steep sections and loose ground
- You may also walk on trails that hug cliff tops
- Our longest walking day is 25km and we walk 3 consecutive days on this trip
- Trail rating: Moderate

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Eligible Past Traveller Discount applies if you've travelled with us on any of our guided tours which were 5 days duration or longer
- Read terms and conditions before booking
- Itinerary and price subject to change at any time
- Travel Insurance is recommended. Get a quote from Covermore or Go Insurance
- Note weather, group member welfare and a range of circumstances outside our control can mean last minute changes to our itinerary are necessary once on tour

- A limited number of single rooms are available on a first-come basis
- Please contact us before booking any flights. Depending on flight arrival and departure times extra nights accommodation may be required at own expense
- A minimum number of travellers are required for this trip to depart so ask someone to join you. If minimum numbers aren't reached, we may decide to still go or we will provide a full refund
- If this trip departs during Fire Ban Season – last minute changes to our itinerary or walking days may be required for safety reasons
- Rooming is twin share
- If you have additional needs please connect with us, we're committed to being inclusive and accessible

ADVENTURE LEADERS

Our team is qualified, experienced and super friendly. We will ensure you have a fun and connecting adventure. Leaders are certified in Remote or Wilderness First-Aid. All leaders carry a group first-aid kit, emergency communications device, emergency documentation and equipment.

PACKING LIST

A detailed packing list is provided prior to travel

- Rainproof jacket and pants
- Daypack (35 litre approx.)
- Water bottles/hydration kit (min capacity 2Ltrs)
- Personal medications
- Clothing suitable for walking that is quick drying and breathable – consider merino/synthetic clothing
- Sun protection such as hat, sunglasses and sunscreen, insect repellent
- Sleeping attire

ACCESSIBILITY

Requires following bush trails carrying a day pack with some steep sections. Accommodation and transport includes stairs. Please talk to us about your accessibility needs before booking