

NEW ZEALAND
PHOTO JOURNAL #14
QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK

Adventures by Scott David Plumlee

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SOUTH ISLAND ZEALAND

NEW



Motueka

Picton

Wellington

Waikanae

Wanganui

Stratford

Turangi

Taupo

Waikite

Previous Route

Current Path

Cities

Map Image: Wikimedia Commons

Previously on NZ Photo Journal:

I have loved the past six weeks of cycling and hiking down the North Island of New Zealand. I have pedaled the Karangahake Gorge, visited the Hobbiton Shire, hiked the Rotorua Lakes, seen Lake Waikaremoana, climbed the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, and loved civilization in Wellington. Today, I am taking a ferry from Wellington to Picton on the South Island where I am planning to leave my bike to go hike the famous Queen Charlotte Track. Wow, so much to see - let's go!





January 20th: Up at 6am in the dark, repacked my gear into panniers, breakfast at 7am, and then biked at 8am to the Interislander Ferry Terminal for a 9am departure to Picton.



I spent the crossing talking with a couple from Wellington who are starting a bike tour of the South Island. We are now waiting with anticipation for the ferry doors to open.



I arrived in Picton at Noon, stored my bike at a hostel, and bought a one-way ticket to Ship Cove at the end of the Queen Charlotte Track; planning to hike four days back to Picton.



Although it is painted on a hostel wall, this is actually a really accurate map of the hike.



On the boat ride to Ship Cove, I fell into a philosophical conversation with Rune (right) and knew I had found a great hiking partner. Upon arriving, we met a Danish couple, Sandra (left) and Martin (middle). These three quickly became like family as we hiked.



Although it was drizzling, the first views out over Resolution Bay were awe-inspiring.



Our campsite at Resolution Bay had these prehistoric-looking Weka birds lurking around. They were so calm around us, then one snatched a bag of oatmeal and I understood why.



January 21st: Up at 8am to drizzling rain, made coffee-n-protein, shared jokes from tent to tent until we collectively decided that the rain would not stop, and started hiking at 11am.



Here I am sitting and smiling through the pouring rain -- what else could I possibly do?





Thoroughly soaked, we stopped at a French B&B for a cup of coffee and to dry off a bit. Amazingly, the Danes wanted to rent an expensive four-bed cottage for the night because of the rain, but I slowly and calmly persuaded them to keep hiking as it was only 2pm.

Thank you for joining me on this 15-page free preview to Endeavour Inlet, to continue hiking the full Queen Charlotte Track, purchase the full 50-page eBook at Amazon.com.

Won't you join me for my next adventure to hike the Abel Tasman Track from Motueka?

The author, Scott David Plumlee, seen with a monkey on his head below, is an avid world traveler, photographer, and writer. He has traveled to over 40 countries, taken millions of photos, and is always willing to share his jokes, stories, and philosophies. Plumlee is also the author of the five book Chain and Bead Jewelry series, and currently loving life in Asheville.

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