

**NEW ZEALAND
PHOTO JOURNAL #27
BEST OF SOUTH ISLAND**

Adventures by Scott David Plumlee

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BEST OF SOUTH ISLAND ZEALAND

NEW

- #14: Queen Charlotte Track
- #15: Abel Tasman Coastal Track
- #16: Hiking Nelson Lakes NP
- #17: Climbing Mount Angelus
- #18: Cycling Rainbow Crossing
- #19: Christchurch Peninsula
- #20: Tramping Arthur's Pass
- #21: Hiking Lagoon Saddle
- #22: Touring Fox Glacier
- #23: Hiking Copland Track
- #24: Cycling Haast Pass
- #25: Jumping Queenstown



Map Image: Wikimedia Commons

I have absolutely loved my six weeks of cycling roads and tramping trails on the South Island of New Zealand. After a ferry to Picton, I hiked the 70km Queen Charlotte Track and the 45km Abel Tasman Coastal Track. Swiss Andy and I hiked the Nelson Lakes NP up to 2,078m Mt Angelus, cycled the dusty Rainbow Crossing to Hanmer Hot Springs, and pushed down the east coast to Christchurch. We took a train up to Arthur's Pass to hike the Lagoon Saddle, and pedaled down the west coast to Fox Glacier. After soaking in the Copland Hot Springs, I took a bus to Queenstown, and daringly went bungee jumping.





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. After two hours, I'm gleefully waiting with anticipation for the ferry doors to open.



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.



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.



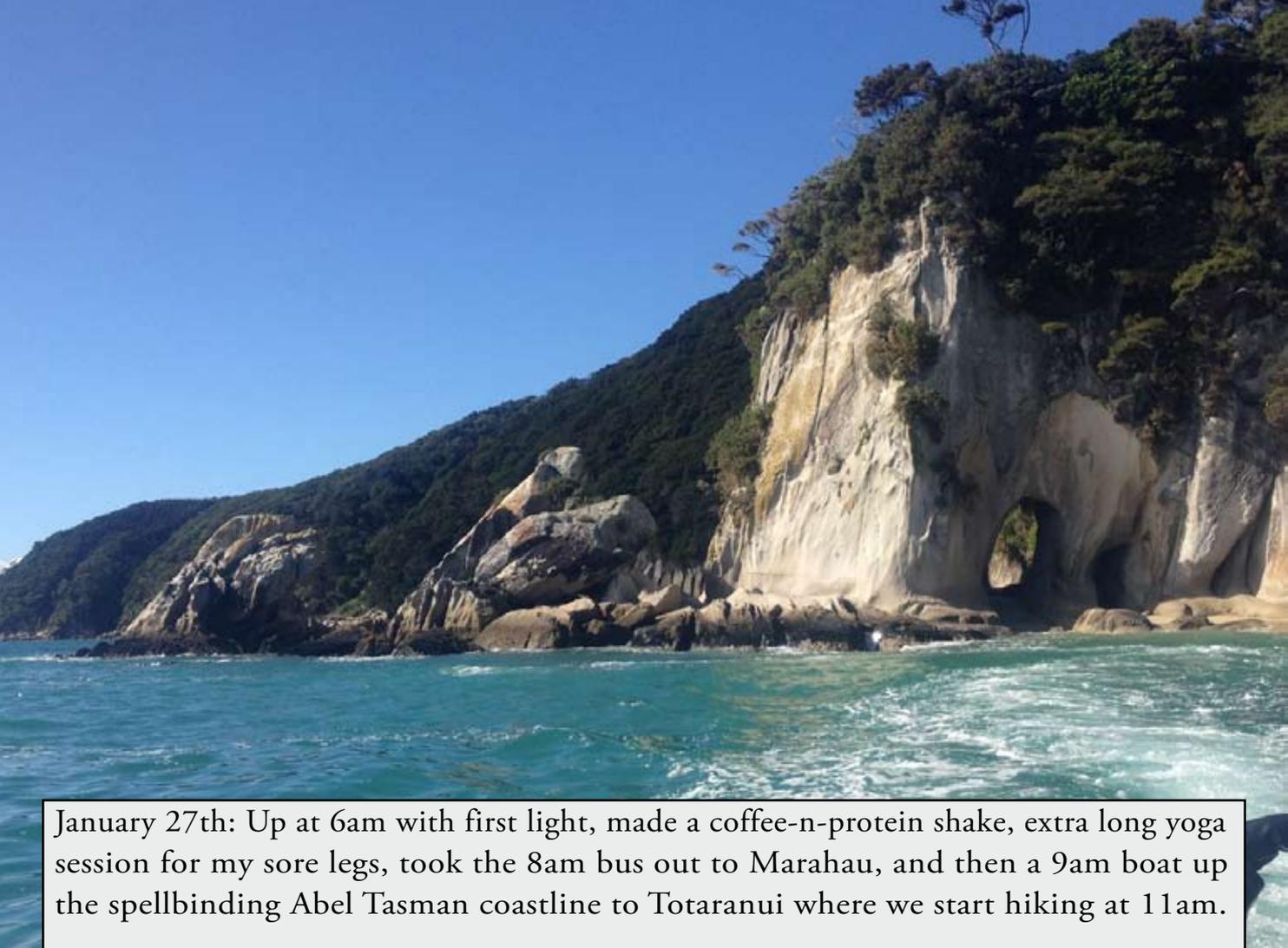
This view is looking over the Bay of Many Coves and the Queen Charlotte Sound beyond.



I took a half hour lunch break here, enjoyed the view, and read a chapter in my book.



After hiking 70km (45 miles), we arrived at Port Anakiwa to get a water taxi back to Picton. Laughing with my new friends as we soaked our feet in the salty water was just marvelous.



January 27th: Up at 6am with first light, made a coffee-n-protein shake, extra long yoga session for my sore legs, took the 8am bus out to Marahau, and then a 9am boat up the spellbinding Abel Tasman coastline to Totaranui where we start hiking at 11am.



With the first view looking back at Totaranui Beach, I understood why Abel is so popular.



Today, we hiked 15km (10 miles) over beaches, up hills, and across tidal flats to an amazing oceanfront campsite at Watering Cove where we pitched our tents and cooked our dinner.



January 29th: I got up at 6am to watch the sunrise, but the mosquitoes were too intense, so I got back in my tent for coffee and book reading until 8am. I lead a yoga class for Andy and the German couple at our campsite and then we started hiking at 10am to Marahau.



This is my friend Andy clowning around at the finish of the Abel Tasman Coastal Track. After a wonderful 45km hike over three days, we took a bus back to Motueka, got dorm beds, did laundry, soaked in the hot tub, ordered pizza, and planned our next adventure.

Thank you for joining me on this 15-page free preview to visit Abel Tasman Track, to continue the adventure with me to Queenstown, purchase the full 60-page eBook at Amazon.com.

Won't you join me for my next adventure to cycle across the southeast corner of Australia?

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 50 countries, taken millions of photos, and is always willing to share his jokes, stories, and philosophies. Plumlee is also the author of the Chain and Bead Jewelry series, and currently loving life in the Philippines.

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