



32 MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS

DRIVING TOUR ■ 237 KM ■ 1 DAY ■ SHIMMERING SEASCAPES AND LUSH BUSH

When Captain Cook reached the South Island in 1770 he anchored in Ship Cove - and stayed for three weeks. His log became almost poetic in describing the glorious sounds where travellers today experience much the same magic.

The long peninsulas that snake out into the waters of the Marlborough Sounds are the dominant feature in this extraordinary landscape. These ridgelines were the highest points in a series of ranges and river valleys that originally formed the northern tip of the South Island. At the end of the last ice age the sea level rose and the river valleys were flooded, creating the magnificent Queen Charlotte, Kenepuru and Pelorus Sounds, winding tracts of water that are bordered by narrow slivers of land stretching from the mainland out into Cook Strait.

1 PICTON

Picton, once considered as a possible site for the capital city, lies on the southern shores of Queen Charlotte Sound. As the location of the inter-island ferry terminus it is the gateway to the South Island for thousands of visitors each year.

Picton Museum, near London Quay, has a collection of Maori artefacts and a number of relics from the whaling days including one of the old harpoon guns. A short distance along the eastern shoreline of the harbour, you can go on board the coastal trader *Echo*, which was built on the Wairau River in 1905 and used to ship freight between Blenheim and Wellington until 1965, when the rail ferry service began. This old scow even saw service during the Second World War when

she was used by the United States Navy as an escort vessel during the Bougainville campaign in 1943. Nearby, tracks lead along the shore to Bob's Bay and up to lookout points over Queen Charlotte Sound.

2 THE EDWIN FOX

About 100 metres from the ferry terminus.

For years the hulk of this clipper lay derelict on the shores of Shakespeare Bay in the Marlborough Sounds. Built in India in 1853, she carried troops to the Crimean War, took convicts to Australia and worked in the tea trade before bringing immigrants to New Zealand in the 1870s. This once-handsome vessel with its metal-sheathed teak hull is now being restored.

3 ANAKIWA

Drive west from Picton on Queen Charlotte Drive for 18 km, turn right onto the road to Anakiwa and travel 5 km north.

Anakiwa is the base of the well-known Outward Bound School which runs rigorous courses designed to build character and confidence outdoors. You can get a taste of the Anakiwa Track that links up with further walking routes all the way to Ship Cove, by taking a short walk through the forest on the first part of the track.



Hotels like this one on Picton's waterfront regularly hosted Victorian holidaymakers.

4 PORTAGE

Return to Queen Charlotte Drive, turn right and continue west 6 km to Linkwater, take the next turn to the right and travel 24 km north-east to Portage.

As the road winds above Mahau Sound and continues along the south-eastern edge of Kenepuru Sound you will have magnificent views across these sheltered forest-fringed waterways. The shop and marina at Portage cater for some of the hordes of boaties who frequent the sounds.

5 CULLEN POINT LOOKOUT

Return to Queen Charlotte Drive, turn right and drive west towards Havelock for 9 km. The Cullen Point Lookout is signposted on the right off a short access road.

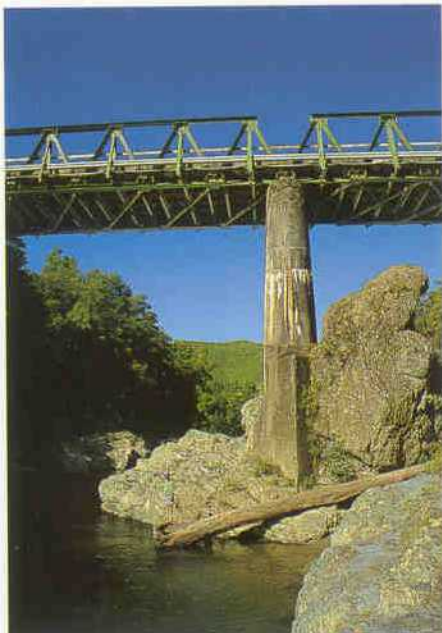
From the end of the 10-minute track onto Cullen Point you can look out across both sides of the peninsula with views of Havelock tucked away beneath the hills to the south and Mahau Sound to the north.

6 HAVELOCK

Continue 3 km south-west to Havelock.

Today it is hard to believe that this quiet little town once had 23 hotels. Havelock began life as a small but busy port during the short-lived Wakamarina gold rush in 1864. It later became a sawmilling town with a wood-burning locomotive that brought timber out from the native forests from Carluke to Blackball, to the west of Havelock. Remarkably, the notable New Zealand scientists, Lord Rutherford ('father of the atom') and Dr William Pickering, of space-exploration fame, both went to primary school in Havelock. A museum occupies St John's Church. Today Havelock is an export centre for the famous Marlborough Sounds green-lipped mussels.





Pelorus Bridge, near the meeting point of the Pelorus and Rai Rivers.



The sparkling expanse of Tennyson Inlet, encircled with untouched forest full of native birds, looks today much as it did many centuries ago.

7 CANVASTOWN

From Havelock drive 8 km west on SH 6 to Canvastown.

The village of Pinedale became Canvastown in the early 1860s when thousands of gold miners flocked to the area, most of them living in tents. For a short time this was the richest goldfield in the country, but by 1865 the boom was over and the miners departed as quickly as they had arrived. There are relics from the mining days near the Canvastown Hotel and the area is popular for gold panning as well as trout fishing.

8 PELORUS BRIDGE

Continue 10 km west on SH 6 to the Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve.

From the historic Pelorus Bridge there are

a number of forest walks. The Totara Walk takes 30 minutes in a loop through the lush green forest made up mainly of beech, rimu, hinau and totara. One giant old totara on the track has a girth of over 7 m.

9 RAI VALLEY PIONEER COTTAGE

From Pelorus Bridge travel 9 km north on SH 6 to the Rai Valley township and take the turn-off to the right 2 km past the township. Drive 1 km north and turn right to Tennyson Inlet. The Rai Valley Pioneer Cottage is 2 km on the left at Carluke.

The cottage was built in 1881 by Charles Turner when the area was still cloaked in rainforest. Charles and his wife were the first Europeans to settle in the area, using locally available materials to build their home

including slabs of totara for the walls, shingles for the roof and riverstones for the fireplace. The cottage was restored in 1969 and given to the Historic Places Trust in 1980. The fully furnished interior can be examined through specially designed viewing bays.

10 TENNYSON INLET

From Carluke continue 24 km to Tennyson Inlet. The road is sealed for the first 12 km through the valley but becomes a winding gravel road as it continues over the hills through the forest. The scenery makes the slow trip worthwhile. There is a lookout point from the top of the hills. Just before reaching the inlet the left fork of the road leads 4 km across a peninsula to a jetty at Penzance Bay and the start of the Archer Track to Elaine Bay. The right fork leads 2 km to the start of the Nydia Track.

One of the most beautiful locations in the Marlborough Sounds, Tennyson Inlet is surrounded by forested hills and features two well-graded tracks both of which are easy to explore for a short distance along the shoreline.

The Archer Track follows the western shoreline of Tennyson Inlet all the way to Elaine Bay, but it is the first section of the track that is the most scenic, passing through native forest on a gentle grade as it climbs almost imperceptibly above the water. Most of the old bridle paths in the area were built in this way, to make the climb as easy as possible for the horses.

At the south-eastern edge of Tennyson Inlet the 22 km Nydia Track heads along the coastline and across forest-clad hills to Nydia Bay and Kaiuma. Again, the first few hundred metres provide beautiful views through the forest across the still waters of this idyllic inlet.

After exploring Tennyson Inlet return to SH 6 for the 48 km journey west to Nelson.



Pioneers made extensive use of local trees to build homes like this one at Carluke.