



Cougar Line

Water transportation in Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui
MARLBOROUGH SOUNDS, NEW ZEALAND



Trade Manual
1 May 2024 – 30 September 2025

Cougar Line

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Getting you here, there & back again

Cougar Line has been providing water transportation throughout the Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui in New Zealand's Marlborough Sounds for decades.

With our fleet of high-quality vessels and experienced crew, we offer fast and reliable transport to lodges, resorts, homes, baches and campsites in Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui and to all access points on the Queen Charlotte Track.

Cougar Line also offers scenic and day walk cruises, lunch cruises to Marlborough Sounds resorts Furneaux Lodge and Punga Cove, Queen Charlotte Track walk or mountain bike packages and a twice-daily delivery service for goods and passengers.

Cougar Line is locally-owned by Marlborough Tour Company and has decades of experience transporting locals, visitors and goods here in the beautiful Marlborough Sounds at the top of New Zealand's South Island

Book with Cougar Line for a fast, reliable and friendly water transport service and a memorable visitor experience – we'll ensure your clients get to where they need to be, with the journey as spectacular as the destination.

A passion for the Marlborough Sounds

Our knowledgeable skippers and crew are passionate about the Marlborough Sounds and love to share their knowledge of this beautiful part of the world with our guests.

With more than 25 years' experience in the Marlborough Sounds, and operated by Marlborough Tour Company since 2019, Cougar Line operates a fleet of quality vessels for a fast and efficient water transport service to any destination within the Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui, including all main points along the Queen Charlotte Track.

Highlights:

- Safe, spacious, modern vessels
- Easy access on board to suit all ages
- We stop at many places throughout the Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui
- Daily transfers for people, luggage, packs and more along the Queen Charlotte Track
- Skippers' commentary on Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui history and natural environment
- A chance to spot dolphins, seals, birds and other marine wildlife
- Hear about fascinating natural and historic sites from our experienced crew as you pass them

Retail tariffs

	Adult	Child
Boat transfer to Furneaux Lodge	One Way: \$70 Return: \$120	One way: \$35 Return: 60
Boat transfer to Punga Cove	One Way: \$70 Return: \$120	One way: \$35 Return: \$60
Boat transfer to Bay of Many Coves	One Way: \$70 Return: \$120	One way: \$35 Return: \$60
Boat transfer to The Portage	One Way: \$60	One way: \$30
Bike Day Out		
Mountain Bike	\$145	\$80
E-Bike	\$165	\$100
Queen Charlotte Track Round Trip Track Pass	\$140 \$160 with bike*	\$70.00 \$90.00 with bike*
Cruise & Walk	\$125 <i>Choose from three walks</i>	\$60.00
Cruise & Lunch – Furneaux Lodge or Punga Cove	\$150 <i>Includes lunch</i>	\$75
Sounds Delivery Run	\$110	\$55
Earlybird Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary Visit and Walk	\$135	\$67.50
	<i>October – April, walk to the historic lookout</i>	
Ship Cove One-Way Drop-Off	\$90	\$45

* e-bikes incur an additional \$20 return fee. Rates are gross commissionable and include New Zealand Goods & Services Tax (GST). Prices and schedule are effective from 1 May 2024, but are subject to change.

We care for the environment

We care about the beautiful environment that surrounds us.

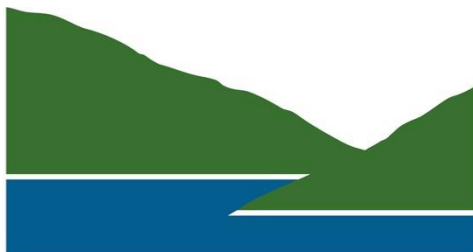
We support a range of local community initiatives that have a similar vision, to preserve and restore the environment we live and work in. Key support includes:



The Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust focuses on conservation work in the Sounds, primarily the systematic control of wilding pines to encourage the regeneration of native bush and restore the iconic natural landscape of the Marlborough Sounds.



Kaipupu Sanctuary is a community-led project restoring a 40-hectare peninsula in Picton Harbour through regeneration of native bush and wildlife, including planting of native seedlings, the release of native bird species and other conservation work.



ENDEAVOUR INLET CONSERVATION TRUST

The Endeavour Inlet Conservation Trust works to protect and enhance the incredible native ecosystems that make Endeavour Inlet and the Marlborough Sounds so special and unique.



Picton Dawn Chorus is a hugely successful community-driven programme that aims to reduce the number of introduced predator species in and around the Picton township that threaten our native flora and fauna.



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www.cougarline.co.nz



Water transfers

We can take you from Picton to your accommodation – and other destinations – in Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui.

Daily transfer service:

Enjoy the convenience of Cougar Line’s daily transfer service between Picton, Sounds lodges including Furneaux Lodge, Punga Cove, Mahana, Portage and Bay of Many Coves, and holiday homes. Contact us for a full list of drop-off points.

May - September	Departs Picton:	Returns Picton:
	9am	12:30 noon
	1.30pm	5:00pm
	5.30pm (Friday only)	
October - April	Departs Picton:	Returns Picton:
	8am	11.30am
	9:30am	1pm
	1.30pm	5:00pm
	6pm (Friday only)	

	Adult	Child
Water transfers to Furneaux Lodge	One Way: \$70 Return: \$120	One way: \$35 Return: \$60
Water transfers to Punga Cove	One Way: \$70 Return: \$120	One way: \$35 Return: \$60
Water transfers to Bay of Many Coves	One Way: \$70 Return: \$120	One way: \$35 Return: \$60
Water transfers to The Portage	One Way: \$60	One way: \$30
Water transfers to other Sounds accommodation	Price on enquiry	Price on enquiry

Rates are gross commissionable and include New Zealand Goods & Services Tax (GST). Prices and schedule are effective from 1 May 2024, but are subject to change.

Water Taxi

Cougar Line also offers an “on demand” water taxi service for visitors who wish to travel outside of our regular schedule. Contact us for more information and to book.



Queen Charlotte Track Round Trip Track Pass

The Queen Charlotte Track is a popular walking and biking trail stretching 73km through the Marlborough Sounds amidst native forest and stunning views.

Whether you're doing an overnight or five days on the track, our Round Trip Track Pass makes it easy by:

- taking you by boat to wherever you want to start on the track,
- collecting your bags each day and moving them for you,
- collecting you once you've finished to take you back to Picton.

First steps:

You decide dates and itinerary, arrange your accommodation, and your Queen Charlotte Track Land Co-operative Pass (a QCTLC Pass is required for the section of track between Punga Cove and Anakiwa) and we'll do the rest.

We can also help with:

- booking your accommodation at Furneaux Lodge and Punga Cove
- booking your QCTLC Pass, if required[^]

[^]A QCTLC Pass is required to pass private land between Punga Cove and Anakiwa. This can be purchased directly through Cougar Line.

	Adult	Child
Queen Charlotte Track Round Trip Track Pass	\$140 \$160 with bike*	\$70 \$90 with bike*
	<i>Includes transferring of your baggage each day of your QCT experience.</i>	
	<i>*E-bikes are additional charge of \$20pp</i>	

Rates are gross commissionable and include New Zealand Goods & Services Tax (GST). Prices and schedule are effective from 1 May 2024, but are subject to change.



Cruise & Walk

Enjoy the very best of the Marlborough Sounds in one day with our Cruise & Walk – with three walks along sections of the Queen Charlotte Track to choose from.

Start with a boat transfer to the outer Queen Charlotte Sound, walk through stunning native bush and relax at Furneaux Lodge or Punga Cove with the option to purchase a delicious lodge lunch, snack or beverage while you wait for your boat to take you back to Picton.

Itinerary:

- Depart Picton and cruise the Sounds to your chosen drop-off point.
- Enjoy a short-medium length walk of your choice through stunning native bush along the Queen Charlotte Track.
- Meet the boat and cruise back to Picton – returning around 5pm

	Adult	Child
Cruise & Walk	\$125 Choose from three walks	\$60

Rates are gross commissionable and include New Zealand Goods & Services Tax (GST). Prices and schedule are effective from 1 May 2024, but are subject to change.



Three Queen Charlotte Track walks

3 hours - Resolution Bay-Furieux Lodge (10.5km)

Walk through native bush to a spectacular vantage point, then descend to Furieux Lodge with time for a leisurely lunch before your return boat departs at 3pm.

Departs Picton:	May-Sept - 9am	Returns Picton:	Approx 4.30pm
	Oct-April - 8am, 9.30am		Approx 4.30pm

4 hours - Furieux Lodge-Punga Cove (12.7km)

Walk around the head of Endeavour Inlet through coastal punga fern forest and over the swing bridge, ending at Punga Cove in perfect time for a delicious lunch at Punga Fern Restaurant before your return boat departs at 3.15pm.

Departs Picton:	May-Sept - 9am	Returns Picton:	Approx 5pm
	Oct-April - 8am		Approx 5pm

5 hours - Ship Cove/Meretoto-Furieux Lodge (15km)

Land at historic Ship Cove/Meretoto and follow the track through magnificent virgin forest to find breathtaking views, then descend to Furieux Lodge for a well-earned snack or beverage if time before pick up at 3pm.

Departs Picton:	May-Sept - 9am	Returns Picton:	Approx 5pm
	(recommended for fast walkers only)		Approx 5pm
	Oct-April - 8am		

Walking times are based on a slow walking speed.

The Queen Charlotte Track can also be ridden by mountain bike. The section between Ship Cove and Punga Cove is open to bikes between 1 March – 30 November. Please contact us if you need to hire a mountain bike.

Sounds Delivery Run

Join Cougar Line as we cruise the length of Queen Charlotte Sound on our scheduled run delivering and collecting passengers and supplies to/from remote resorts, private homes, campsites, and the Queen Charlotte Track.

Departing twice daily, our delivery run is a great way to discover hidden coves and historic inlets and meet the people who live there. Each trip is unique and takes you to places not often seen by visitors.

Enjoy the skipper's commentary about the natural environment and local history on our comfortable vessel, which covers up to 80km in 3.5 hours.

Departs Picton for a 3.5hour run:	May-Sept	Oct-April
	9am	9:30am
	1.30pm	1.30pm

* Cruise times and bays may vary depending on delivery requirements on the day.

	Adult	Child
Sounds Delivery Run	\$110	\$55

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Cruise & Lodge Lunch

Let Cougar Line take you on a scenic boat trip to a lodge and drop you off for a delicious leisurely waterside lunch, collecting you later to boat back to Picton.

1. Choose your lodge for lunch in Endeavour Inlet:



Enjoy delicious salads, bagels and burgers, or the lodge's famous fish and chips, with a coffee, beer or local wine. Eat on the verandah, the lawn or next to the fire in the cosy historic lodge.



Enjoy the sweeping views of our Punga Fern Restaurant. Sit on the outside deck whilst taking in the stunning scenery.

2. Choose your date and note the departure time (not available July & Aug)

Departs Picton:	Oct-April – 9:30am	Returns Picton:	Approx 5pm
	May, June & Sept - 9am		Approx 5pm

3. Relax and enjoy your day out

Check in 30 minutes prior to departure at Picton.

	Adult	Child
Cruise & Lodge Lunch	\$150 Lunch included	\$75 Lunch included

Rates are gross commissionable and include New Zealand Goods & Services Tax (GST). Prices and schedule are effective from 1 May 2024, but are subject to change.

Early Bird Motuara Island Visit

Cruise to Motuara Island and arrive to morning bird song. You will have approximately two hours to explore the island.

Motuara Island bird sanctuary is a predator-free safe haven for many rare species including the South Island Saddleback and Bush Robin. Small Blue Penguins nest in boxes alongside the track that gradually climbs to a lookout above the forest canopy.

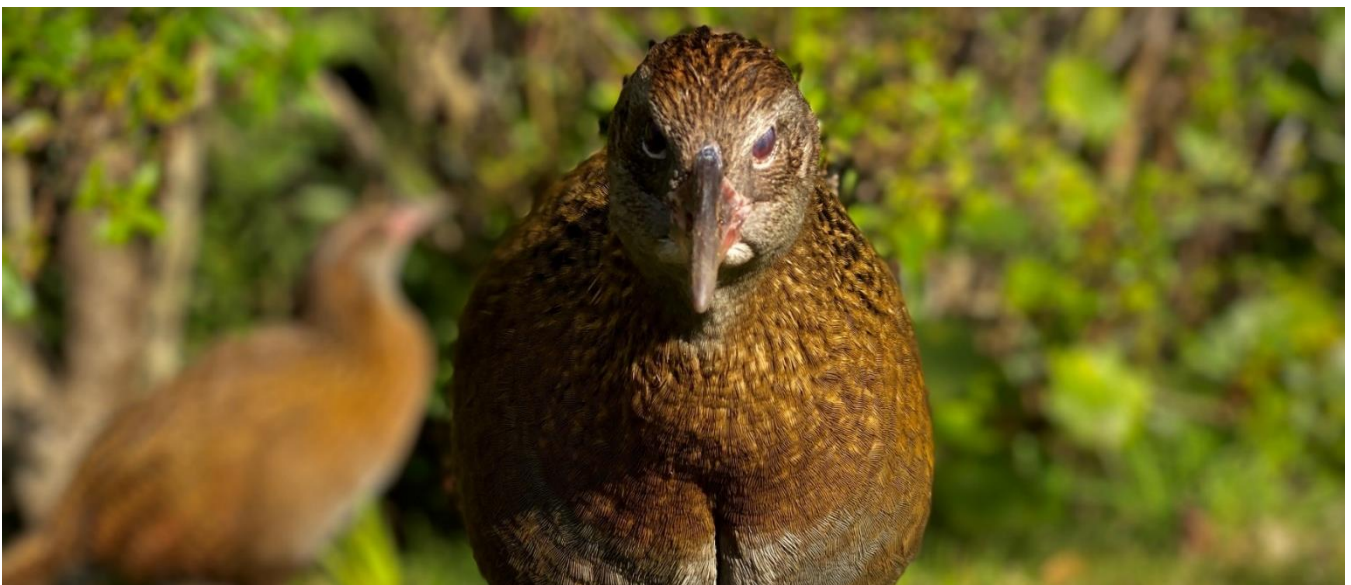
Runs October - April:	Departs Picton	Returns Picton
	8am	1pm or 4.30pm

Head back to Picton afterward or make a full day of it by adding an afternoon activity and catching a later boat back. Options include:

- stopping off at Furneaux Lodge or Punga Cove for lunch. Lunch is at own cost.
- walking Resolution Bay – Furneaux Lodge (3 hours, 10.5km).
- discovering Ship Cove/Meretoto. Walk around the historic sites, have a picnic, walk to the waterfall.

	Adult	Child
Earlybird Motuara Island Bird Sanctuary Visit and Walk	\$135	\$67.50
October – April, walk to the historic lookout		

Rates are gross commissionable and include New Zealand Goods & Services Tax (GST). Prices and schedule are effective from 1 May 2024, but are subject to change.



Kaipupu Sanctuary Visit

Cruise to Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary near Picton – part of the mainland but only accessible by water.

Take a short unguided walk to the lookout or do the longer 2.7km loop track, keeping eyes and ears out for the plentiful birdlife. You will have approximately 2.5 hours to explore the sanctuary.

Kaipupu’s bush clad hills are home to many of New Zealand’s unique native wildlife including tui, korimako (bellbird), piwakawaka (fantail), kereru (NZ woodpigeon), korora (little penguin), tree weta, raukawa gecko and waiharakeke grass skink.

	Departs Picton	Returns Picton
October-April	9:30am	1pm
	1.30pm	4.30pm
May-September	9am	12:30pm

Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary welcomes gold coin donations

	Adult	Child
Kaipupu Wildlife Sanctuary Visit	\$50	\$25

Walk to the lookout or explore the longer loop track

Rates are gross commissionable and include New Zealand Goods & Services Tax (GST). Prices and schedule are effective from 1 May 2024, but are subject to change.



Booking terms

Rates validity

- Rates are valid until 30 September 2025

Public holidays

- Cougar Line is open every day of the year except Christmas Day when all services are closed.

Check in

- Check in at Picton 30 minutes before your departure time.

Child policy

- Child rates apply to children 5-15 years old. Children 0-4 years are free of charge.

Booking amendment/cancellation by us

- Cougar Line reserves the right to amend or cancel departures in the interest of passenger safety.

Group policy

- One guide FOC per group of 10+ passengers.

Dangerous goods

Our team is trained to ensure that travel on our vessels is as safe as practicably possible. Our vessels all have designated areas for dangerous goods. We also have a dedicated freight vessel for dangerous goods. Our passenger vessels have smaller designated areas allowing some limited quantities and types of dangerous goods to be carried on. Please note that no dangerous goods (including lighters and matches) are allowed within the cabin area.

To assist us to deliver dangerous goods safely and promptly, please book your goods or hazardous substances in advance. These goods need to be correctly identified, packaged, handled and documented for safe carriage. All fuels must travel in an approved fuel container.

For more information on Cougar Line's Dangerous Goods policy, visit www.cougarline.co.nz.

Cancellation policy

Terms apply to companies who have a credit account with Cougar Line or Marlborough Tour Company. Bookings may be 'held' at no charge for a maximum of 10 working days and then must be confirmed or released.

For those without a credit account in place, a 20% deposit is required to be paid at the time of booking with full payment to be made 48 hours before the commencement of the booking.

Scheduled cruises

For Cougar Line's scheduled departures, date changes to your booking are possible up to two hours prior to your scheduled departure time at no additional charge, and are subject to availability. Depending on intended travel season, differences in scheduled departure times or rates may apply as at the date of rebooking.

100% tariff charge applies if your booking is cancelled within 48 hours of your scheduled booking.

Private charter

Date changes to Private Charter bookings are possible up to 24 hours prior to your scheduled departure time, and are subject to availability. Depending on intended travel season, rates may apply as at the date of rebooking.

100% tariff charge applies if your booking is cancelled within 48 hours of your scheduled booking.

Cancellations due to Government-imposed travel bans

If your travel plans are interrupted due to Government-imposed travel bans or border closures, you are welcome to transfer your booking to a later date within the next 12 months with no transfer fee.

Depending on intended travel season, differences in departure times or rates may apply as at the date of rebooking. Otherwise our standard cancellation policy applies.

Cancellations by Cougar Line

Cougar Line reserves the right to reschedule or cancel any tours, cruises and accommodation booked if it feels that they cannot be undertaken safely, e.g. bad weather conditions, or if total bookings on a tour or cruise are below minimum numbers. In the event of Cougar Line making a cancellation you will be offered an alternate date option, or receive a full refund.

All transactions are in New Zealand dollars at the time of making a booking and at the time of making a cancellation, and Cougar Line cannot accept any liability for fluctuation in exchange rates between these transactions taking place.

Banking details

Cougar Line

Bank Account	Marlborough Tour Company ANZ Bank 06-0601-0742421-01
Swift Code	ANZBNZ22
GST number	57-785-081
Accounts contact	accounts@marlboroughtourcompany.co.nz

Contact details

Ticket office	Cougar Line Picton Marina – Corner London Quay & Wellington Street Picton Marlborough
Postal Address	Cougar Line, c/- Marlborough Tour Company PO Box 1000, Blenheim Marlborough
Phone:	+64 3 573 7925
Email	res@marlboroughtourcompany.co.nz
Web	www.cougarline.co.nz

Marketing details

Furneaux Lodge is owned and operated by Marlborough Tour Company.

We have a range of still images and videos available for promotional use.

Online image library - SmugMug <https://marlboroughtourcompany.smugmug.com/Cougar-Line/>

Cougar Line video - SmugMug <https://marlboroughtourcompany.smugmug.com/Cougar-Line/i-VTTS5Gv/A>

Cougar Line video - YouTube https://youtu.be/w_dduU9jqZg

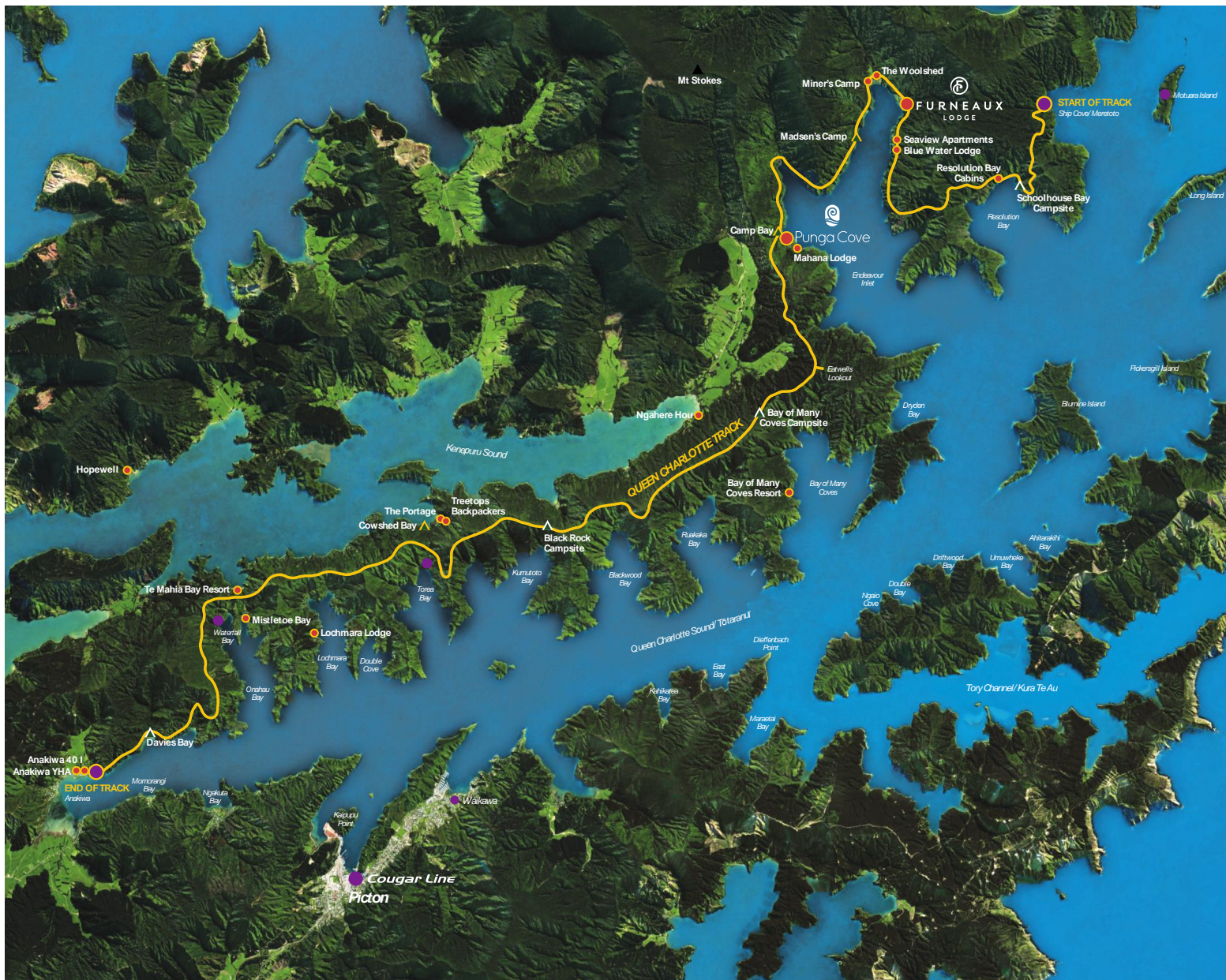
Marlborough Tour Company YouTube channel www.youtube.com/channel/UC_qexf8PaQnww6rZ6uN5pgg

Marketing contact info@cougarline.co.nz

Marlborough Sounds

The Marlborough Sounds is a unique series of waterways created from ancient sunken valleys which have created a coastline that takes up 20% of New Zealand's coastline.

Cougar Line operates from Picton in Queen Charlotte Sound, which is the main inter-island ferry port for the South Island.



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Marlborough's location

Marlborough is centrally located in New Zealand, and Marlborough Airport in Blenheim is a short flight from Auckland or Wellington – with a half hour drive to Picton where you can catch a Cougar Line boat. It is also a three-hour ferry journey from Wellington, or you can drive from Nelson or Christchurch.



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