

## Queen Charlotte Track, Marlborough Sounds (MTB)

The trail climbs over beautiful bush-clad saddles, hugs aqua blue bays and stunning inlets and sidles below the ridgeline dividing Kenepuru and Queen Charlotte Sound, delivering amazing views at every turn.

The ride begins with a boat ride from Picton to Meretoto/Ship Cove.

Captain Cook's Monument at Ship Cove marks the start of the track with a host of interpretive panels, and from here, a steep climb to Ship Cove Saddle leads to Schoolhouse Bay.

A relaxing climb heads from Schoolhouse Bay to Tawa Saddle, which straddles the ridge above Resolution Bay and Endeavour Inlet. A long flowing single-track descends into Resolution Bay, through beech forest to Furneaux Lodge.

The track leads around the headland into Big Bay. There is a long beautiful section of coastal trail to Camp Bay, but just before reaching it, the track splits with the right turn climbing to Kenepuru Saddle and the straight-ahead going to Camp Bay and the DOC campsite.

From Camp Bay, backtrack to the turn-off to Kenepuru Saddle and make the 180m climb. This is where the real ascent begins, as the track now heads for the ridge top.

There is a worthwhile sidetrack to the spectacular Eatwells Lookout with its commanding 360-degree vista.

There is a DOC camp and shelter on the ridge high above the Bay of Many Coves and another at Black Rock, but neither will have tank water during the summer. After almost 900m of ascent, Torea Saddle is reached.

Accommodation and food is just 500m further on, as is a DOC campsite at Cowshed Bay.

The track climbs to the 400m contour. A long and fast descent is then matched with another ascent onto the ridge above Lochmara Bay. A final short climb reveals another sidetrack that climbs 416m Te Mahia.

After exiting onto gravel, ride a short distance down Mistletoe Bay Road before heading onto the Anakiwa section of the trail. This excellent single-track rolls gradually uphill through regenerating pockets of bush and open farmland to the forest edge above Puroa Point. From there, it wings its way mainly downhill beside Grove Arm, with short climbs and long descents all the way to Anakiwa and the end of the trail.

From here, get a water taxi/road shuttle back to Picton or ride the newly built 28km Link Pathway to Picton.

### **Wild file**

**Access** By water taxi to Ship Cove or by vehicle/water taxi to Kenepuru

**Grade 3**

**Time** 2-3 days. Ship Cove to Camp Bay, 4-6hr; To Torea Saddle, 4-5hr; To Anakiwa, 4-5hr

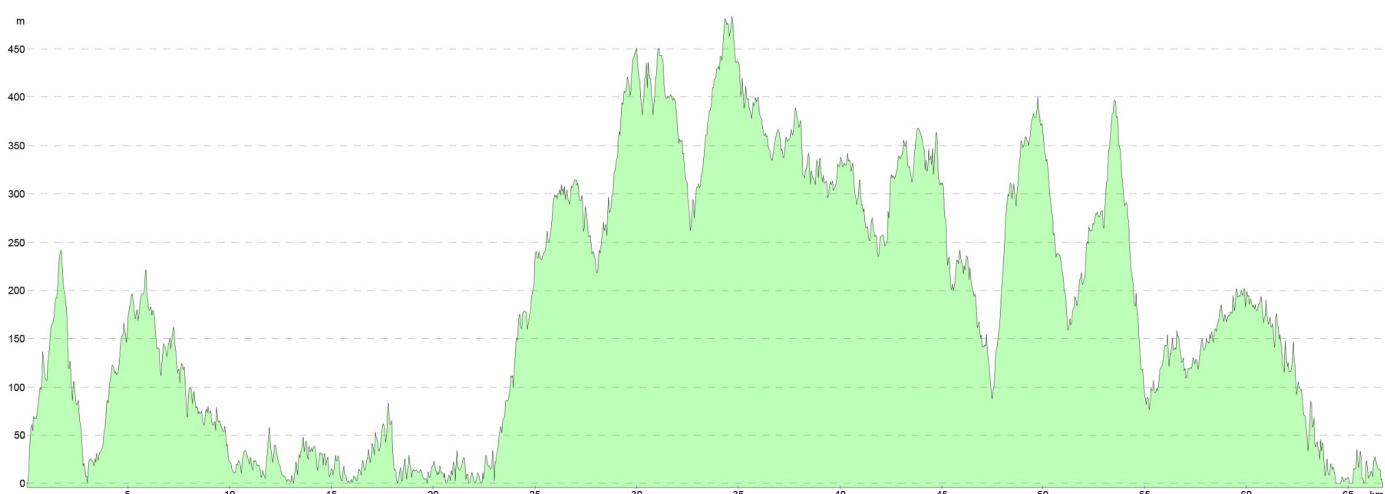
**Distance** 73km

**Total ascent** 5147m

**Topo50 map** BQ28, BQ29, BP29

**Note** The Ship Cove to Kenepuru section is closed to mountain bikers from December 1 to February 28

### **Elevation Profile**



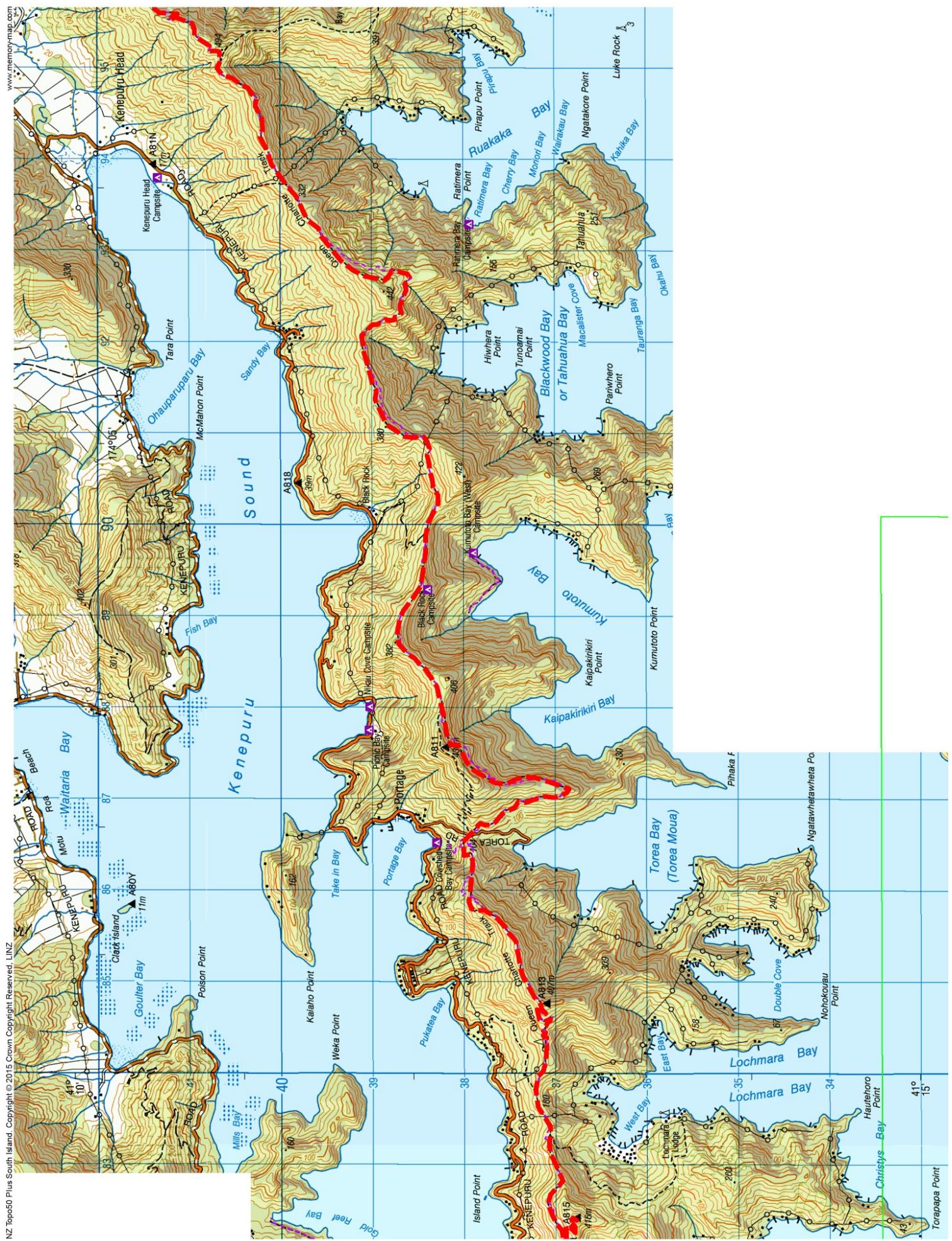
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**Disclaimer:** While every effort has been made to map this route correctly, *Wilderness* does not accept responsibility for any errors. Users should plan their routes and gather as much information as possible before departing. The GPX file associated with this route has been drawn using Memory-Map software, version 6. Use discretion when following the route, especially when no track is marked on the map. **The GPX file in these cases are a 'best guess' of the route only. Users should use a combination of GPS, visual observations, maps and compass to find the best possible route.** Memory Map shows purple tracks and hut icons as verified routes and huts. Red or blue routes are those drawn by *Wilderness*.

# Queen Charlotte Track, Marlborough Sounds. Map 1



## **Queen Charlotte Track, Marlborough Sounds. Map 2**



# Queen Charlotte Track, Marlborough Sounds. Map 3



# Queen Charlotte Track, Marlborough Sounds. Map 4

