Page Turner Travel

Write Your Next Chapter in Middle-earth

A six-day journey through New Zealand's Lord of the Rings filming locations — from the Shire to the shadow of the Misty Mountains.

DISCOVER • READ • EXPLORE • REPEAT

01 *The Shire & Waikato*



MORNING – AFTERNOON

Hobbiton Movie Set, Matamata

Guided tour of the actual Hobbiton set built for both trilogies — 44 hobbit holes, the Party Tree, and Bag End — ending with a drink at the Green Dragon Inn.

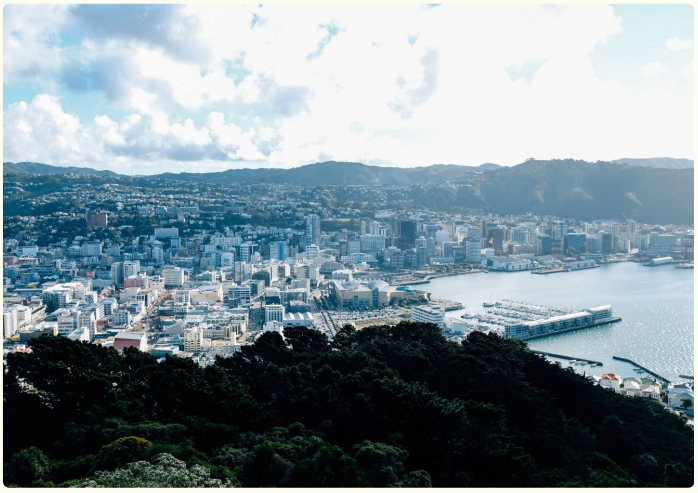


EVENING

Rotorua

Overnight here, about an hour from Matamata. The geothermal pools are a well-earned way to unwind after a day in the Shire.

02 *Wellington*



MORNING

Fly to Wellington

Domestic flight via Auckland, or direct from Rotorua where available.



AFTERNOON

Weta Workshop, Miramar

Tour the workshop that built the props, armor, and creatures for the trilogy — a must for any fan of the craft behind Middle-earth.



LATE AFTERNOON

Mount Victoria

Walk the forest trail where the Hobbits hid from a Black Rider on the road to Bree — just minutes from the city centre.

03 *Rivendell & the Wairarapa*



MORNING

Kaitoke Regional Park

The real-world site of Rivendell — original film-set foundations are still visible among the native bush.



MIDDAY

Harcourt Park

Used for Isengard's gardens, before Saruman's corruption took hold.



AFTERNOON

Putangirua Pinnacles

Dramatic eroded rock formations that became the Paths of the Dead, about 1.5 hours from Wellington.

04 *Queenstown & Ithilien*



MORNING

Fly to Queenstown

Direct flight from Wellington, roughly 1 hour 45 minutes.



AFTERNOON

Arrowtown

A charming gold-rush town; the surrounding countryside stood in for Ithilien, where Frodo and Sam made camp.



LATE AFTERNOON

Skippers Canyon

Site of the Ford of Bruinen river-chase scene, reached along one of New Zealand's most dramatic roads.

05 *Lothlórien & Glenorchy*



MORNING

Glenorchy

A scenic 45-minute drive from Queenstown along the edge of Lake Wakatipu.



MIDDAY

Paradise

Used for Lothlórien and Isengard exteriors — the beech forests here are unmistakably Middle-earth.



AFTERNOON

Dart River / Mt Aspiring area

More Lothlórien and Fangorn Forest backdrops; jet boat tours are available through the valley.

06 *Rohan & Farewell*



MORNING

Deer Park Heights

Doubled as Rohan and the approach to Edoras, with panoramic views over Lake Wakatipu.



MIDDAY

Kawarau Gorge

Backdrop for the Pillars of Argonath sequence along the river — also home to the original AJ Hackett bungy site.



AFTERNOON

Queenstown

A free afternoon before departure — or the starting point if you choose to extend the journey.

Before You Go

Book Ahead

Hobbiton and Weta Workshop both sell out, especially in peak summer (December–February). Reserve these well in advance.

Extending to Seven Days

Add a day trip to Mt Sunday (Edoras) near Methven — best reached via Christchurch rather than Queenstown, so it works well as an add-on before or after this route.

Terrain Notes

Some South Island sites, including Paradise and Skippers Canyon, require 4WD or a guided tour operator. Self-driving on the gravel roads there isn't for everyone.

Shorter Trip

If four days is your ceiling, focus on just the South Island (Days 4–6) or just the North Island (Days 1–3) rather than rushing both.