

Travel to Middle Earth this Year

Daily



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By [Debra Bokur](#) - January 31, 2017

Commemorate the 15th anniversary of [New Zealand's](#) role as the film location for the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy with the new Middle Earth Travel portal from Tourism New Zealand and Middle Earth-themed itineraries from [Zicasso Handcrafted Travel](#). Begin with a [fun website quiz](#) that allows you to customize your itinerary choices based on whether you'd travel as a wizard, elf, dwarf or hobbit (characters in *The Hobbit* and the *Lord of the Rings* books by J. R. R. Tolkien and the movies by New Zealand filmmaker Peter Jackson). A new anniversary tour from the luxury travel planners at [Zicasso](#) allows you to then tailor your travel experience with a character-inspired journey based on your quiz results.

Highlights of the 15-day tour include visiting the silversmith and shop where the rings from the film were crafted, exclusive access to behind-the-scenes filming locations and a private, after-hours tour of the design studio responsible for creating the costumes and weaponry used in the films. Along the way, the route takes in a vineyard visit near Queenstown, an off-road adventure tour, a scenic helicopter flight above the Fox and Franz Josef glaciers, a tour through the hobbit holes and pubs of Hobbiton, walks beside the gurgling mud pools and geysers in Wai-O-Tapu and Waimangu Volcanic Valley and a jet-boat excursion along the glacier-fed Arrow River. Prices, based on double occupancy, begin at \$5,935 per person. Along with all activities described in the itinerary, this fee includes round-trip flights between Los Angeles (LAX) and Auckland (AKL), internal flights from Queenstown (ZQN) to Auckland, full-size car rental and inter-island ferry crossings.