

# HOBBITON™

• MOVIE SET •

WEDDING INFORMATION

2023 – 2025

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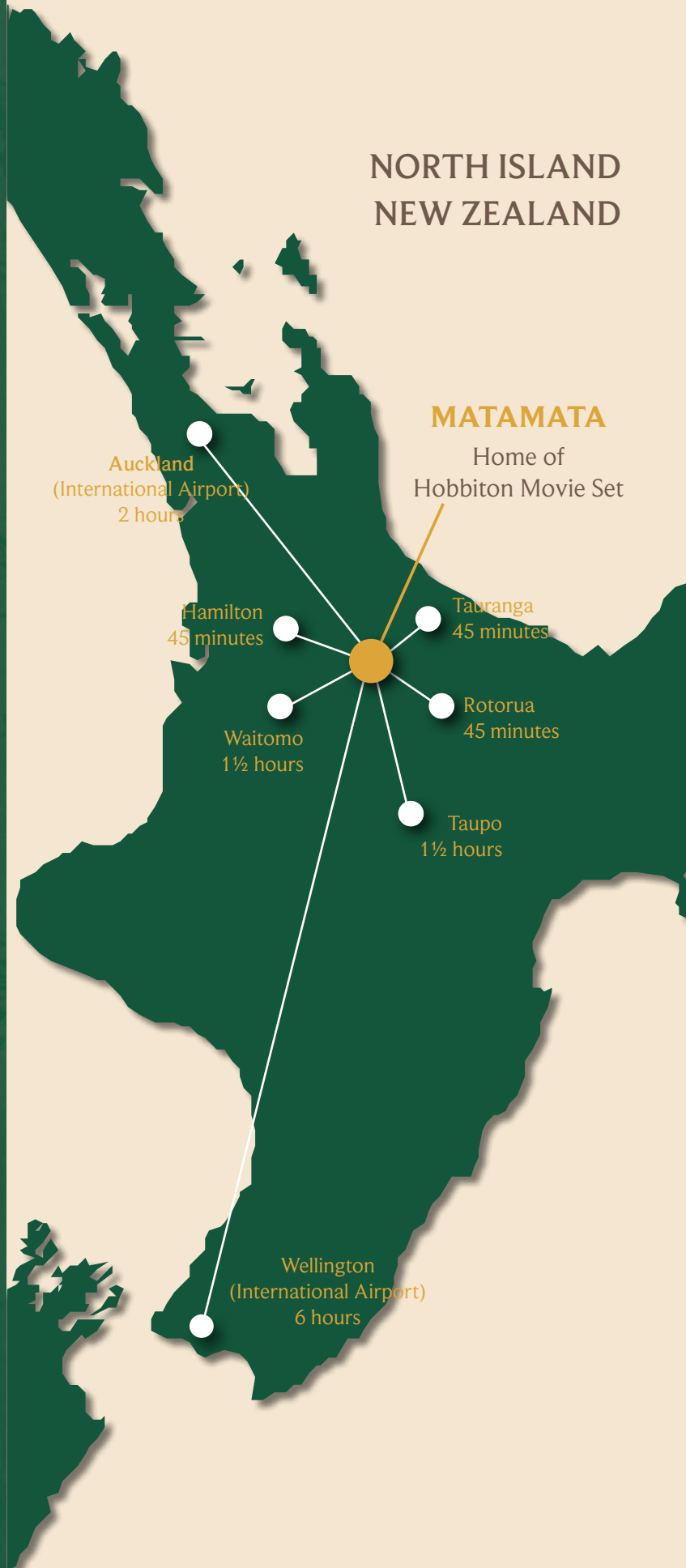
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Retail rates: Valid until 31 March 2025  
Open every day (excluding Christmas day)

Tour information subject to change.  
All information correct at time of printing.

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## NORTH ISLAND NEW ZEALAND





## Introduction

If The Shire™ is at the heart of *The Lord of the Rings*, then the Hamilton and Waikato region is at the heart of The Shire.

When scouting around for settings for his epic three movie adaptation of *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy, Kiwi Director Sir Peter Jackson found just what he was looking for in the green paddocks of the Waikato just outside Matamata.

The bucolic setting for The Shire, home of the Hobbits, including Bag End, was right there, and just waiting for his magical director's touch.

Whilst the cast and crew have gone, the visitor today can easily imagine Hobbits going about their business, as well as being a tribute to the Kiwi film-makers and artists who created it.

Visiting Matamata and the Hobbiton™ Movie Set is not just all about Hobbits though. Hobbiton Movie Set is located on a working farm and allows visitors not only to 'walk in the footsteps of Hobbits' but to also discover the true rural diversity of the area.

This manual offers a true taste of New Zealand with tours developed by New Zealanders for visitors from around the world.



## The story of Hobbiton Movie Set

In 1998, Sir Peter Jackson's team of location scouts were searching for the iconic rolling hills and lush green pastures of Hobbiton™. An aerial search led them to the Alexander farm, a stunning 1,250 acre sheep farm in the heart of the Waikato.

They noted the area's striking similarity to The Shire™, as described by JRR Tolkien, and quickly realised that the Hobbits had found a home.

In one particular part of the farm, a magnificent pine tree towered over a nearby lake, adjacent to a rising hill. Bag End now sits atop that hill, overlooking the Party Tree, as that pine would later be known. The surrounding areas were untouched; no power lines, no buildings and no roads in sight. This meant that Sir Peter Jackson could leave the 20th century behind, and fully submerge himself in the fantasy world of Middle-earth™.

In March 1999 the crew began the nine month quest to bring the ideas for Hobbiton to fruition; help was provided by the New Zealand Army, and soon 39 temporary Hobbit Holes™ were scattered across the 12 acre plot used for the set. Secrecy was key, and strict security measures were put in place by the production company throughout construction and filming. Filming commenced in December 1999, and it took around three months to get a wrap on The Shire.

After an initial attempt at demolition, 17 bare plywood facades remained. These shells would serve as the catalyst that propelled Hobbiton forward into the public eye, with tours commencing in 2002.

In 2009, Sir Peter Jackson returned to film *The Hobbit* Trilogy, and he left behind the beautiful movie set you'll see today; 44 permanently reconstructed Hobbit Holes, in the same fantastic detail seen in the movies. There's an abundance of movie magic nestled inside the fully operational farm.



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## A tour of Hobbiton Movie Set

Hobbiton Movie Set is an experience to tantalise the senses of visitors from all across the globe, as guests find themselves engulfed in the sights, smells, sounds and tastes of The Shire, at the home of the Hobbits, as featured in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* Trilogies.

The extraordinary following that the movies have amassed has led to our tours becoming a 'must see' while travellers are in New Zealand. The Hobbiton Movie Set is the only set that remains intact from the trilogies, and that allows our visitors to fully immerse themselves in the wonders of The Shire.

Visitors are given the once in a lifetime opportunity to see an iconic movie set in its full glory; from wandering the rambling paths of The Shire, to seeing the submerged Hobbit Holes that litter the rolling hillsides.

Fall in love with the Alexander family sheep farm, just as acclaimed director Sir Peter Jackson did, as you journey through the unequivocal beauty of the land, with the mighty Kaimai Ranges towering in the distance. Your guide will then escort you around the set, showing you the intricate detailing, pointing out the most famous locations and explaining how the movie magic was made.

You will be taken around the 12 acre set; past Hobbit Holes, the Mill and into the world-famous Green Dragon™ Inn, where you can sample our exclusive, specially brewed beverages to conclude your own Middle-earth adventure.

Hobbiton Movie Set visitors will soon be able to venture beyond the door and into an authentic Hobbit Hole interior. Major development plans in 2023 will see the fit out of a fully themed Hobbit Hole interior that will become a part of the Hobbiton Movie Set tourism experience from December this year.





## Your Special Day

**T**hank you for considering Hobbiton Movie Set as the location for one of the most important days of your life... your wedding day!

Hobbiton is a location like no other, creating a truly unique and memorable experience for your special day. We have created two beautiful, peaceful and private locations for your wedding ceremony. Say your 'I dos' in amongst the natural beauty of the Hobbiton gardens or enjoy the wide open spaces of Yard Flat. For your reception, choose from our masterfully recreated Green Dragon™ Inn as seen in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* Trilogies, our newly opened Millhouse for an intimate gathering, or step into The Party Marquee – a fully themed, spacious venue which will provide your guests with a breath-taking atmosphere to remember. Our location can even be used simply as a stunning backdrop for your photos to remember your special day.

Our professional events team appreciates that every couple will have differing expectations and will work with you to tailor your special day to your needs.

### **Options include:**

- Ceremony only in one of our picturesque locations
- Reception only in a fully themed venue to suit your number of guests
- Ceremony and Reception for an immersive experience and a night to remember
- Photoshoot only for couples just looking for a unique setting for their images
- Intimate elopement ceremony and photoshoot for small parties

If you have any further questions or would like to discuss your wedding requirements in more detail, please contact [events@hobbitontours.com](mailto:events@hobbitontours.com).



## Our Ceremony Locations

### THE HOBBITON™ GARDENS

The gardens are a private and peaceful location in the heart of Hobbiton. This ideal wedding ceremony location will allow you to be immersed in our handmade gardens which are bursting with vibrant colour and rambling natural beauty. The gardens have a number of iconic Hobbit Holes™ littered in the nearby hillsides and are a sensational choice for couples that desire a unique and intimate setting.

After the 'ceremony' the gardens are the perfect location for champagne and canapés while the happy couple have photos with friends and family.

### THE MILLHOUSE

The Millhouse is an exciting addition to Hobbiton™ Movie Set, providing a warm and welcoming environment to host an intimate gathering.

Situated in the heart of the Shire, across the water from The Green Dragon Inn, The Millhouse is a fully themed stand-alone venue. Filled with Sandyman's four sacks and exposed cogs that drive the waterwheel, this venue has Middle-earth atmosphere with an industrial twist.

### YARD FLAT

Yard Flat is a spacious private location situated on top of the iconic Hobbit Holes providing a stunning view over the movie set towards the lake and iconic Party Tree. With the wide open space and luscious green grass, this wedding location can be adapted and altered to suit your wedding setup needs making for the perfect wedding in The Shire™.

After the 'I dos', celebrate in true Middle-earth™ style as the garden bar stretches out towards the set, making for the perfect setting for guests to enjoy champagne and canapés whilst admiring the stunning view.

*With prior consultation we are happy to provide small canvas marquees for sunshade and wooden bench seats for your guests. The marquees also offer the perfect solution for cover to ensure this stunning location can still be enjoyed in the rain.*









## Reception Locations

### THE GREEN DRAGON™ INN

The Green Dragon Inn is a fully reconstructed replica of the pub featured in the Trilogies, which has been masterfully recreated creating an unforgettable venue for your special day. This exceptional, exclusive venue is perfect for you to enjoy your wedding reception as you indulge in our exclusive Southfarthing™ ale, cider and ginger beer and enjoy a dinner fit for a Hobbit from our professional in-house catering team.

The Green Dragon Inn is a fully themed venue where guests can enjoy their delectable dinner in the main dining area or head down to bar area to enjoy a dance. With open indoor and outdoor fireplaces this venue encourages your guests to spread out between the spectacular interior or beneath the outdoor glowing lanterns making for a truly magical wedding reception.

### THE PARTY MARQUEE

The Party Marquee is a stunning, spacious venue for larger wedding parties or those couples wanting a little extra space. The painted canvas exterior, vibrant bunting and colourful lanterns allows your group to be immersed in the festive magic of the movies while you celebrate your special day.

The Party Marquee is situated adjacent to the Green Dragon™ Inn and is placed upon the hillside providing an exquisite view for all guests. Like the Green Dragon Inn, the Marquee has a fully licenced bar and catering is tailored to your menu choice by our professional in-house team.

### THE MILLHOUSE

Introducing The Millhouse, our new fully themed venue located on the 12-acre movie set, just across the water from The Green Dragon Inn.

The Millhouse is an expertly crafted venue offering the same warm, inviting atmosphere of The Green Dragon, but in a more intimate setting. The exposed wooden beam ceilings, hand carved details, the crackling fire place and curated decor create a cosy setting for a banquet-style wedding meal by the fireplace beneath the hanging candelabrum. This self contained venue comes complete with it's own in-built drinks station to serve our exclusive Hobbit™ Southfarthing™ range in our signature ceramic mugs or goblets, alongside a range of house wines, coffee and tea.

	Green Dragon Inn	Party Marquee	Green Dragon Inn & Party Marquee	The Millhouse
Seated*	80	230	310	30
Cocktail*	200	350	550	48

*Venues available in conjunction with a Hobbiton Movie Set tour. \*Maximum numbers, per head, per room. The Party Marquee is only available for exclusive use in the evening after the last tour of the day.*



## Wedding Photoshoot

### CAPTURE THE MEMORIES OF YOUR SPECIAL DAY

Hobbiton provides an enchanting backdrop, surrounded by lush, rolling green hills with Hobbit Holes scattered throughout the landscape, our venue is ideal for photographing beautiful wedding images.

Our Wedding Photoshoot guests have 2.5 hours to explore special areas of the Movie Set off the tour route to capture some of the most iconic shots with extra privacy and room to move.

Walk hand-in-hand past the lakefront Hobbit Holes with your reflection dancing on the lake, stroll along the Party Field with incredible views of The Green Dragon Inn, and visit the vegetable garden where hobbit holes lie hidden in the hillsides.



*Securing a photographer for your wedding photoshoot is the responsibility of the couple, however recommendations for local options can be made on request.*



## Sample Timings

3.30pm	Hobbiton coaches collect guests from Matamata site
3.50pm	Groom, groomsmen and celebrant arrive at the Shire's Rest™ and are transported to the ceremony location
4.00pm	Guests arrive at the Shire's Rest™ and bus to the ceremony location
4.10pm	Bride, bridesmaids and photographer arrive and are transported to the ceremony location
4.30pm	Ceremony commences
5.00pm	Ceremony concludes. Drinks, canapés and family photos begin
5.45pm	Bridal party depart for a fully guided photoshoot tour
5.55pm	Guests begin their fully guided tour of Hobbiton™ Movie Set
7.15pm	Guests arrive to reception venue for a pre-dinner dinner drink
7.30pm	Guests are seated
7.40pm	MC announces the arrival of the bridal party
7.45pm	Mains are served
8.30pm	Speeches
9.00pm	Cutting of the cake
9.15pm	Dessert is served
9.45pm	First dance
11.30pm	Last drinks are served
12.00am	Departure

*Please note that the above is a guide only and timings are dependent on the time of year.*

*Upon enquiry the wedding coordinator will work with you to tailor a day to suit your requirements.*



## Venue Pricing and Information

<b>Wedding Photoshoot Only</b> (up to 11 guests including photographer) .....	\$4,000.00
<b>Elopement</b> (up to 11 guests including photographer).....	\$4,000.00
<b>Wedding Ceremony Hire*</b> .....	\$5,000.00
<b>Hobbiton Movie Set Tour</b>	
(valid until 30 November 2023).....	\$89.00 per adult
(valid from 1 December 2023).....	\$120.00 per adult
<b>The Green Dragon™ Inn</b> (up to 80 guests)	
Evening hire (exclusive use) -	
- valid from 01 April - 31 October .....	\$5,000 minimum spend
- valid from 01 November - 31 March .....	\$10,000 minimum spend
<b>The Party Marquee</b> (up to 230 guests)	
Evening hire (exclusive use).....	\$5,000 minimum spend
<b>The Millhouse</b> (up to 48 guests)	
Evening hire.....	\$5,000 minimum spend

**Food and Beverages:** For full menu options please see Hobbiton Movie Set Menu document. All beer and cider served at The Green Dragon™ Inn is our exclusively crafted range. We do not offer BYO.

**Transport:** A bus will be provided from the car park at The Shire's Rest™ Cafe to the movie set free of charge. Transport is available to the set from Matamata i-SITE, please enquire for a price. Unless pre-arranged, we do not allow private vehicles into Hobbiton Movie Set.

### Venue hire includes:

- Use and set up of the chosen Hobbiton Movie Set venue.
- Use and set up of Hobbiton equipment including tables, chairs, cutlery, crockery, glassware, PA and sound system. Additional items requested will be charged to the final account with prior arrangement).
- Two on-site consultations.
- Dedicated event coordinator on your wedding day.
- Printing of supplied seating plan.
- **Tour:** Tour cost is included for bride and groom, all guests must experience the tour at rates specified above.

\*Ceremony Hire includes wedding photoshoot on the Movie Set. \*\*Reception Hire does not include Ceremony Hire fee.



# Terms, conditions and cancellation policies

## Terms and conditions

- Toilet facilities are available at *Shire's Rest™* Cafe, the entrance to the Movie Set and at the Green Dragon™.
- Menu items and dietary requirements for functions need to be advised at least 72 hours prior.
- Sensible walking footwear is required.
- All prices are retail and in NZ\$.
- All prices are GST inclusive.
- Tours and activities operate in all weather conditions, umbrellas are provided in the event of rain.
- In the event of extreme weather conditions we reserve the right to make alternative tour arrangements.
- Please note that no tours are able to access the set without being accompanied by a Hobbiton tour guide. The set is located on private property and is still operated as a working sheep farm.
- Foreign language information – Official Tour Guide in ten languages (Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai).

## Reserving your date

To reserve your date we require confirmation in writing and a non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 is required.

## Final numbers

For catering and operational purposes, final numbers are required at least 72 hours prior. The final numbers will be the minimum number invoiced for.

## Dietary requirements

We cater to all dietary requirements. Any dietary requirements that apply to your group must be advised 72 hours prior to your chosen date.

## Host responsibility

- If you are intoxicated you may be refused admission
- We have a strict host responsibility policy and intoxicated persons may be refused service and asked to leave
- Please ask for Health and Safety Policy prior to your event

## Damages

Hobbiton Movie Set will not be held responsible for any losses or breakages. Clients are responsible for all damages caused to Hobbiton Movie Set's property and equipment, including any losses, even if caused by guests of the client. Consultation will be made prior to charging your account.

## Cancellation policies

Reservations may solely be changed or cancelled by contacting our events team via email [events@hobbitontours.com](mailto:events@hobbitontours.com) or phone 07 888 1505.

Once you have contacted us, our events team will be able to assist you with your cancellation and follow this up with an email for both your and our records.

Any changes to your reservation, in particular your pax after the tour date and time have passed will also be treated as a cancellation, this also includes no shows where the customer has not checked in for their confirmed reservation and no cancellation notice has been received by our events department.

## Bookings essential

Phone (64) 7 888 1505  
Freephone 0508 4 HOBBITON  
Email [events@hobbitontours.com](mailto:events@hobbitontours.com)  
Book online [www.hobbitontours.com](http://www.hobbitontours.com)





# Where the Hobbit Holes™ are hiding



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HOBBITON MOVIE SET TOURS IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED