Lord of the Rings Filming Locations

By Checklist.com

- [ ] Hobbiton Movie Set

  This is the Shire filming ground near Matamata, now visited on a guided tour. The permanent set was rebuilt for The Hobbit, so what stands today is not an untouched Lord of the Rings set. Book with the operator; independent wandering on the surrounding farm is not permitted.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://www.hobbitontours.com/plan-visit/frequently-asked-questions/) · [Official filming and visitor information](https://shop.hobbitontours.com/pages/about-us)

- [ ] Mangawhero River

  Use the current DOC visitor guidance for the Ohakune Mountain Road area. Stay on lawful approaches and keep out of the water; a screen connection is not a safe swimming recommendation.

  [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/lord-of-the-rings-locations/)

- [ ] Whakapapa skifield

  Treat the visit as an alpine outing: choose an appropriate public route and check weather, road and operating conditions. A film-location coordinate does not establish a safe cross-country path.

  [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/lord-of-the-rings-locations/)

- [ ] Tawhai Falls

  Use the official walking track and enjoy the waterfall from permitted viewpoints. Slippery rocks and moving water make scene recreations in the pool an unnecessary risk.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://www.newzealand.com/us/feature/the-lord-of-the-rings-trilogy-filming-locations/)

- [ ] Mount Victoria

  Mount Victoria's woods hosted the hobbits' encounter with the Black Riders. A park walk makes this a practical Wellington film stop; identify the location with official local guidance while staying on public paths and respecting other park users.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://www.wellingtonnz.com/visit/see-and-do/welly-would-a-film-buffs-guide-to-wellington)

- [ ] Hutt River

  Plan a riverside visit rather than a boat-scene recreation. Choose a legal access point, check river conditions and avoid implying that every bank along the corridor is the filming position.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://www.newzealand.com/us/feature/the-lord-of-the-rings-trilogy-filming-locations/)

- [ ] Harcourt Park

  Explore the public park for the setting rather than expecting Orthanc or a surviving film set. Keep the visit within open park areas and combine it with other Upper Hutt stops if they suit your travel plans.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://www.newzealand.com/us/feature/the-lord-of-the-rings-trilogy-filming-locations/)

- [ ] Kaitoke Regional Park

  Kaitoke's forest clearing supplied Rivendell. The original set was removed; visitor interpretation helps explain the location. Follow the park's signed access and current visitor notices, and allow time to enjoy the surrounding forest instead of expecting a standing Elven city.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://www.gw.govt.nz/parks/kaitoke-regional-park/)

- [ ] Queen Elizabeth Park

  Treat this as a park landscape visit, not a search for surviving battlefield structures. Pick an open public route and check the regional park's notices before setting out.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://www.newzealand.com/us/feature/the-lord-of-the-rings-trilogy-filming-locations/)

- [ ] Pktangirua Pinnacles

  Consult the current DOC reserve advice and use only the approved route or lookout. Rockfall and flood hazards make older streambed directions unreliable; do not walk beneath unstable cliffs to match a film frame.

  [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/lord-of-the-rings-locations/) · [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/wairarapa/places/putangirua-pinnacles-scenic-reserve?tab-id=50578)

- [ ] Mount Owen

  This is a demanding mountain destination, not a casual film-tour walk. Only plan a suitable backcountry route with the skills, equipment and conditions it requires; otherwise leave the visit for another trip.

  [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/lord-of-the-rings-locations/)

- [ ] Mount Gunn

  A distant view from the Franz Josef area is a different experience from reaching the filming terrain. Check which valley paths are currently open and accept that cloud or route changes may prevent the view.

  [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/lord-of-the-rings-locations/)

- [ ] Mount Sunday

  Mount Sunday was Edoras; the set has gone. Use the official walking track to appreciate the hill and surrounding basin. Check the approach road and weather before committing, and respect farm boundaries rather than following a direct line across neighbouring land.

  [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/canterbury/places/hakatere-conservation-park/things-to-do/tracks/mount-sunday-track/)

- [ ] Ben Ohau Station near Twizel

  Ben Ohau Station near Twizel supplied the Pelennor battlefield. The filming ground is private: arrange an authorised visit or obtain permission before entering. Confirm precisely what access is included; a farm's film-production page is not a general public-entry invitation.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://benohaustation.com/filmlocations)

- [ ] Skippers Canyon

  Check transport suitability before choosing this excursion, including your vehicle agreement and the road's current status. An experienced authorised operator may be preferable to self-driving; roadside proximity does not grant access across private land.

  [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/lord-of-the-rings-locations/)

- [ ] Twelve Mile Delta

  Use the established public walking areas for a landscape visit. Combine the scene associations in one stop and take your own food waste out.

  [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/lord-of-the-rings-locations/)

- [ ] Kawarau River near the suspension bridge

  Choose a lawful public river viewpoint and keep away from the gorge edge. Private winery access and adventure-activity areas have their own entry rules.

  [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/lord-of-the-rings-locations/)

- [ ] Lake Alta

  Assess the alpine walking route and access road before travelling. Snow, exposure and changing conditions can make this a different proposition from the easier Queenstown-area river and park stops.

  [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/lord-of-the-rings-locations/)

- [ ] Mavora Lakes and Mararoa River

  Plan your lake and bridge stops from current DOC visitor information. Allow for the remote approach and limited services, and keep to permitted lakeside paths rather than hunting every camera mark.

  [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/lord-of-the-rings-locations/)

- [ ] Waiau River at Rainbow Reach

  Rainbow Reach offers a way to visit the river landscape without duplicating a helicopter shot. Use the current public trail access and stay back from the river; seeing the setting is enough to record this destination visit.

  [DOC filming and access guide](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/lord-of-the-rings-locations/)

- [ ] Mount Earnslaw views from Glenorchy

  View the mountain landscape from the Glenorchy area when conditions allow. This is a distant scenery stop, not a recommendation to climb the mountain or substitute Hobbit-only Earnslaw Burn scenes.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://www.newzealand.com/us/feature/the-lord-of-the-rings-trilogy-filming-locations/)

- [ ] Arrowtown: Arrow River and Wilcox Green

  Combine the public riverside stops in one Arrowtown visit. Remain on permitted paths, and do not ford the river to imitate the riders.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://www.newzealand.com/us/feature/the-lord-of-the-rings-trilogy-filming-locations/)

- [ ] Deer Park Heights

  Deer Park Heights hosted Rohan refugee and warg-attack scenes. The owner identifies several film stops within the property, which count here as one visit. Book permitted vehicle access and follow the site's signed routes; walk-in and cycling access are not offered.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://deerparkheights.co.nz/film-locations/) · [Official filming and visitor information](https://deerparkheights.co.nz/visiting/)

- [ ] W t Workshop Wellington

  W t 's Wellington visitor experiences connect the trilogy to its prop and effects craftsmanship. Choose the current tour or Cave visit directly with the operator. This is a production experience, not access to the off-limits working film-business complex or an on-screen landscape.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://tours.wetaworkshop.com/)

- [ ] Jens Hansen

  Jens Hansen in Nelson made the film's One Ring. Visit for the maker connection and current displays, not an on-screen location. Check shop arrangements before making a special detour, particularly if you want to ask detailed questions about the production pieces.

  [Official filming and visitor information](https://www.jenshansen.com/)