

## Middle Earth

### Meet Tolkien's and Peter Jackson's universe

New Zealand is the land of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, and has therefore been nicknamed "Middle Earth". The film adaptations of JRR Tolkien's books by New Zealander, Peter Jackson, have created a real tourist craze in the country over the past ten years. The hill and valley landscapes set in unique wilderness attract more and more Jackson fans, eager to plunge into the film scenes. They also attract tourists eager to experience the famous, vast Kiwi spaces, seemingly unachievable and unexplored.

The *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* film locations are found almost everywhere in New Zealand. Aboard your motorhome you can follow *Jackson's film* directing in some of the most unique natural sites in the world.

South of Auckland in *Matamata*, located in *Kamai Range*, you can visit the last remaining film set. Set in the middle of a hilly, green landscape you will discover the famous hobbit village, Hobbiton. You can walk among the charming *little hobbit houses* and even knock on Bilbo's door. You can take a guided tour and hear some interesting filming secrets and anecdotes.

There are plenty of other sites to visit that are easy to access in your motorhome. In the *Tongariro National Park*, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, you will recognize the volcanoes of Mordor and among these desert volcanic peaks, the Mount of Doom, *Ngauruhoe* being its real name.

Generally, *The Lord of the Rings* landscapes are typically found on the *South Island* of New Zealand. You can walk through wide, green wild plains and along rivers running at the foot of mountains. Magnificent scenery is guaranteed.