Hobbiton Movie Set and Waitomo Glowworm Caves Day Trip from Auckland

Information and Details

Date: Saturday March 14th, 2020
Departure Time: 6:30 AM
Approximate Tour Duration: 11 hours
Departure Location: Cordis Hotel
Drop-off Location: Cordis Hotel
Space: LIMITED - ACT NOW
Cost: $205.00

Description:
Visit a pair of New Zealand's must-see attractions with this combo tour from Auckland to the Hobbiton Movie Set and Waitomo Glowworm Caves. Peek into Hobbit Holes, frolic in the Shire, and get a drink at the Green Dragon Inn on a guided tour of Middle-earth, followed by a Kiwi-style lunch. In the afternoon, explore Maori myths and history on a boat ride through mesmerizing caves lit by thousands of glowworms, and finish with a drive through some of the North Island’s most majestic scenery.

- Full-day combo tour to the Hobbiton Movie Set and Waitomo Glowworm Caves from Auckland
- Fit two of New Zealand most popular attractions into a single day
- See the detailed film set used as the Shire in 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'The Hobbit'
- Enjoy a Kiwi-style lunch
- Ride a boat through mysterious caves lit by thousands of glowworms
- Drive through the gorgeous, unspoiled scenery of the North Island
- Includes round-trip transport from Auckland CBD hotels

Tour Includes:

- Kiwi café-style lunch
- Local driver/guide
- Hotel pickup and drop-off from downtown Auckland City
- Local taxes
- Entry/Admission - Hobbiton Movie Set
- Entry/Admission - Waitomo Glowworm Caves

What to expect:
Begin the memorable day with pickup at your hotel in Auckland’s Central Business District, and head south over the Bombay Hills and across the Hauraki Plains to a sheep farm in Matamata, better known to J.R.R. Tolkien fans as the Shire. On a guided tour of the Hobbiton Movie Set, see recognizable scenery created for the 'Lord of the Rings' and 'The Hobbit' films and learn the secrets and stories behind the creation of Middle-earth. Take in stellar views of the Kaimai Ranges as you visit meticulously crafted sets including Hobbit Holes, the Mill, and the Green Dragon Inn, where you can even enjoy a specially brewed drink fit for a Baggins. After the tour, trade Hobbit trivia with your fellow travelers over a Kiwi-style lunch. Next, embark on an underground adventure at the famous Waitomo Glowworm Caves,
where thousands of tiny worms illuminate caverns thanks to natural phosphorescent properties. Watch the mesmerizing natural light show while gliding through the cave on a boat, and learn about the area’s natural and cultural history from a guide—likely a descendant of the Maori chief who originally discovered the caves. You also explore on foot Cathedral Cove, known for its impressive acoustics. On the return drive to Auckland, travel through some of the North Island’s most beautiful countryside, following the Waikato River (New Zealand’s longest), and passing both the Maori king’s home at Ngaruawahia and Taupiri, site of a sacred Maori burial ground. The full-day tour concludes with drop-off back at your hotel in the evening.

Itinerary:

1. **Auckland Scenic Tours:** After leaving Auckland you will travel south over the Bombay Hills as you get elevated panoramic views of the Waikato Region and travel across the scenic Hauraki Plains to Matamata, the home of Hobbiton Movie Set. Admission Ticket Free

2. **Hobbiton Movie Set:** Begin with a tour through the picturesque 1,250 acre sheep farm with spectacular views across the Kaimai Ranges. Your guide will escort you through the 10 acre site recounting fascinating details of how the Hobbiton Movie Set was created. Hobbit Holes, The Green Dragon Inn, The Mill and other structures can be viewed and you will see how this beautiful piece of Waikato farmland was transformed into the Shire from Middle-earth. Complimentary specially brewed beverages are available at the Green Dragon Inn as you complete your tour Afterwards, enjoy a very “Kiwi” style lunch at the "Shire's Rest" and get to share stories from Hobbiton and interact with your fellow travellers. **Duration: 120 Minutes**

3. **Waitomo Glowworm Caves:** You will then travel to the mesmerizing Waitomo Glowworm Caves. Be amazed by the thousands of magical glowworms as you glide silently by boat in the world famous Waitomo Glowworm Caves. Your guide on this 45-minute tour will likely be a descendant of the Maori Chief who originally explored the Caves and can share with you the remarkable history of the area. Walk through the majestic Cathedral Cave famous for its acoustics Your return trip to Auckland will then take you initially through some of New Zealand’s most beautiful countryside before following northwards the majestic Waikato River, the longest river in New Zealand, part of the way back to Auckland. You will pass Ngaruawahia, the home of the Maori King; Taupiri with its very sacred Maori burial ground. To complete that day, you will be taken back to your hotel in the Auckland CBD. **Duration: 240 Minutes**

Additional Info:

- A small amount of easy walking is involved
- Operates in all weather conditions, please dress appropriately
- Wheelchair accessible Stroller accessible
- Near public transportation Infant seats available
- Most travelers can participate