

# Daily Press

## TRIPS, TIPS & DEALS

### Take the 'Lord of the Rings' tour

"The Lord of the Rings" is 60 years old, which means serious fans with money and time on their hands should get to [New Zealand](#) to immerse themselves in all things Rings. The Ultimate "Lord of the Rings" Tour: A 60th Anniversary Celebration is a private 11-day customizable luxury package from Zicaso aimed at filling that niche. Among highlights are visiting remote filming locations by private helicopter, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Hobbiton set and a private visit to the Weta Workshop with access to props and costumes of Middle Earth. Pricing starts at \$7,000 per person double occupancy and includes 10 nights' lodging in luxury accommodations, including New Zealand's only "Lord-of-the-Rings"-themed room. The Barli-man's Room at Minaret

Lodge in Wanaka aims to make you feel like a hobbit, and you'll even experience what's described as "a distinctively hobbit menu." Info: [tinyurl.com/jw7uxc6](http://tinyurl.com/jw7uxc6)

#### Cities rated by weather

WalletHub.com, a website that offers a variety of tools for making financial decisions, has delved into the realm of weather with an analysis of 600 U.S. cities to see who has the best and worst weather. Its analysts reasoned that weather can affect financial outcomes. Their cCharts rank cities on mild weather overall, as well as individual breakouts by season. The analysis took into account temperature and humidity, precipitation and snow, sky conditions, poor weather conditions and extreme

weather. Not surprisingly, California cities top the charts both overall and by season. Surprisingly, though, San Diego, which many people think has the country's best weather, ranks in the 35th percentile overall (the 1st percentile is best) and in the 51st percentile for four seasons overall. Juneau, Alaska, by the way, sits at the bottom in both comparisons. Here's an odd one: New York City, sitting at 65th for mild weather overall, tops 10 Florida cities. Chicago ends up in the 92nd percentile overall and in the 94th percentile seasonally. You may not agree with the charts, but you can Check the charts at [tinyurl.com/ncbj2gn](http://tinyurl.com/ncbj2gn).

— *Phil Marty,*  
*Special to Tribune Newspapers*



TOURISM NEW ZEALAND

The Ultimate "Lord of the Rings" Tour takes visitors behind the scenes in New Zealand.