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A Guide to Intelligent Travel

## Bilbo Baggins Slept Here

By ASHLEY WINCHESTER JULY 19, 2014 1:00 AM [Comment](#)

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A stop along the way in a tour in New Zealand exploring the world of Tolkien characters. Hobbiton Movie Set Tours

It's dinner and a movie ... set. The Hobbiton Movie Set in New Zealand, as seen in the screen adaptations of J. R. R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy and "The Hobbit," is offering night tours of Bilbo Baggins's homeland.

The new dinner tours (adults, 175 New Zealand dollars, or about \$150 at 1.16 New Zealand dollars to the United States dollar; ages 10 to 14, 140 dollars; ages 5 to 9, 100 dollars; and younger, free) take visitors on a guided stroll through the Shire at dusk, followed by a banquet at the Green Dragon. The latter is recognizable from "The Hobbit" as the place where Bilbo began his journey with the dwarves, and it is celebrated in [song](#) by the hobbits Pippin and Merry in "The Return of the King."

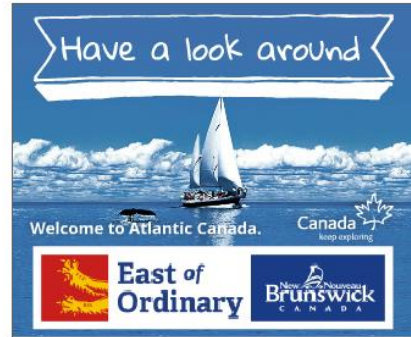
All exterior shots of the Shire were filmed here, and the interior of the Green Dragon, which last year was transformed into a fully working pub, seems straight out of Middle Earth. It's a location that organizers say draws some 240,000 guests a year, though the evening tours are limited to 48 diners.

Dinner is followed by a lantern-lit visit to the set, with welcoming hobbit holes festively illuminated and chimneys smoking, reminiscent of the events of Bilbo's "eleventy-first" birthday, as seen in "The Fellowship of the Ring." Other recognizable Shire set locations include the mill, the bridge and the party tree, where Bilbo made his farewell speech and disappeared using the One Ring. The tours, which last four hours, include a banquet dinner, a drink from the Green Dragon's Southfarthing line of craft ales and transportation. They are offered every Wednesday. Reservations: [hobbitontours.com](http://hobbitontours.com).

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