



# Travel Deals & Steals: New Zealand, San Diego and Providence

Take the 'Ultimate 60th Anniversary Lord of the Rings Tour'; bring your child to San Diego for free in October; enjoy history in a cozy setting in Rhode Island

BY PAULA CONWAY / CONWAY CONFIDENTIAL / Sunday, August 3, 2014, 2:00 AM

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The "Lord of the Rings" tour includes a visit to a Hobbiton set from Peter Jackson's movies.

## 'LORD' OF THE TOURS

Fans of J.R.R. Tolkien now have a special way to celebrate the 60th anniversary of his books: the Zicasso company's "Lord of the Rings" tour.

**Deal:** Book the "One Tour to Rule Them All: The Ultimate 60th Anniversary Lord of the Rings Tour" for an 11-day New Zealand journey.

The big event includes: a private helicopter tour over far-flung filming locations; special access to exclusive movie costumes and props in Queenstown; a full-day, private tour in Wellington (including a helicopter ride and lunch at a New Zealand winery); an after-hours look at the Weta Workshop, where artists conceptualized the creatures and props for the films; and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Hobbiton set in Rotorua. Pricing starts at \$7,000 per person and includes four tours with helicopter explorations, access to the film design workshops, 10 nights of luxury accommodations, three lunches and 11 days of car rental. Flights are not included. Guests who book by Sept. 15 will also receive the new "Lord of the Rings 60th Anniversary" boxed set.

**Experience:** You'll follow in the steps of Frodo Baggins on a one-of-a-kind, epic journey the way author Tolkien imagined it — and film director Peter Jackson captured it.

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## EDITORS' PICKS

### Travel Deals & Steal: New Zealand, San Diego and Providence

Fans of J.R.R. Tolkien now have a special way to celebrate the 60th



### Eats Beat: Greenpoint Fish & Lobster Co.

New to the scene: Greenpoint Fish & Lobster Co. will give the Red Hook Lobster Pound some



### Your Dreams: Analysis by Lauren Lawrence

I dreamt I was leaving a building, but the elevator wasn't working. I walked down the tall, marble steps



### American doctor with Ebola now in U.S. hospital, 'in great spirits,' wife says

As the deadly Ebola virus continued to ravage parts



Book it! Visit online at [zicasso.com/luxury-vacation-new-zealand-tours/ultimate-lord-rings-tour-60th-anniversary-celebration](http://zicasso.com/luxury-vacation-new-zealand-tours/ultimate-lord-rings-tour-60th-anniversary-celebration).



A helicopter takes participants on a tour of "Lord of the Rings" sites in New Zealand.

#### FREE FUN FOR KIDS

October is a boo-tiful time for a vacation in San Diego — and children go for free with the annual "Kids Free San Diego" initiative.

**Steal:** In October, more than 100 San Diego hotels, restaurants, attractions and transportation companies provide families with children special deals. Highlights include: Amtrak gives one child, age 2-12, a free ride with one paid adult rail fare aboard the Pacific Surfliner route, servicing San Luis Obispo to San Diego. San Diego Speed Boat Adventures offers a free guided and narrated San Diego Harbor Tour aboard a mini-speedboat, with a paid adult tour. At SeaWorld San Diego, one child, age 3-9, gets free admission with one full-paid adult admission. Legoland California Resort and Sea Life Carlsbad Aquarium give a free one-day Child Hopper Ticket for one kid, age 12 and under, with purchase of a full-price one-day Adult Hopper Ticket. And kids eat free at a number of family-friendly properties, including the Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego along San Diego Bay and the Westin San Diego in the historic Gaslamp Quarter.

**Experience:** In October, after the summer beach crowds diminish, visitors to San Diego can relax in the region's sunny weather and warm temperatures — and enjoy a number of fun-filled fall activities for the whole family.

**Book it!** A complete listing of "Kids Free San Diego" month participants and their special offers will be available at [SanDiego.org/KidsFree](http://SanDiego.org/KidsFree) beginning Aug. 18. All offers are valid Oct. 1-31, 2014.

#### Americans fear Ebola pandemic; CDC says risk 'very low'

Georgia's Emory University is preparing to take in at least one of two



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#### EDITORS' PICKS

##### Tara Reid hawking 'Sharknado'-inspired perfume

"Sharknado" star Tara Reid has introduced a new perfume called "Shark by Tara," which she's selling



##### Don't fear study linking birth control pills and breast cancer: doctors

Not everyone in the medical community thinks a recent study tying



##### Food swaps give home cooks a marketplace





They came armed with berries and honey and black floorice, sweet strawberry lemonade and



### Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch to be sold

This may be your chance to live in fantasy world. A real estate investment firm is set to put Michael



### Uncle Sam Fast Food to move near Shake Shack

The chain inked a deal to rent a 5,600-square-foot retail space on Fifth Avenue according to a



### Americans with Ebola are in serious but stable condition

The two American aid workers who have contracted Ebola were said to be in serious but stable



### Is New York the best place to drink wine?

Forget Napa or Rome, New York ranks as the best city for wine drinkers to unwind.



### Boom-time megadeveloper is back in action

A developer who became the poster boy for the last real estate boom and subsequent bust is getting



### Japanese women are the world's oldest people: study

Japanese men's life expectancy rose above 80 for the first time in 2013.



### Wine is new prescription for terminally sick French patients

Taking a note from Napoleon — who once said, "In victory, you



Legoland is among San Diego attractions with great offers for kids in October.

#### AN URBAN GETAWAY

The Hotel Providence is giving families a reason to discover Rhode Island as a vacation spot.

**Steal:** Book the "Family Summer Fun in the City" package and receive overnight accommodation in a superior room with two double beds. Also part of this steal: four tickets to the Roger Williams Park Zoo; a \$50 gift card good for breakfast, dinner, lunch or brunch in Aspire Seasonal Kitchen; warm cookies with cold milk and a copy of "Good Night Rhode Island" at turndown; complimentary valet parking; and complimentary WiFi. Rates start at \$219 per night. This offer is good through August.

**Experience:** There's a surprising and edgy arts and cultural scene in Providence. There's also lots of great shopping, history and wonderful attractions not to be missed. Visit the Governor Henry Lippitt House Museum and learn about this prominent textile manufacturing family. Other spots: the hands-on Providence Children's Museum, the RISD Museum (a leading design museum) and the Roger Williams Park Zoo.

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#### PROMOTED STORIES