

AIR FRANCE/KLM VIRTUAL AIRLINES

Middle Earth Tour Briefing



FIRST EDITION

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REVISION LOG

Date	Revision	By
1/19/2023	Initial Release	DD
1/19/23	Added note for NOTAM 49 on page 6 under "Tour Requirements."	DD

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Air France/KLM Virtual Airlines Middle Earth Flight Tour! This tour takes you around both islands of New Zealand and includes some challenging airports as well as fantastic views! We hope you enjoy this scenic tour! This document contains information about the tour, routing, information about each destination, and recommended routing to use for each leg. There will also be a checklist at the end that has an abbreviated table containing all the routes as a tool to mark off the legs you have completed for your convenience. We hope you enjoy this tour!

This tour is named after Middle Earth from the Lord of the Rings trilogy written by J.R.R. Tolkien. The film adaptations of both the Lord of the Rings and the Hobbit books were all filmed in various locations in New Zealand. This tour was inspired by the films as well as the many beauties of New Zealand's terrain and coastal areas. In this tour, you will either visit or overfly various filming locations of the movies, and you will also have the opportunity to appreciate many of the country's features along the way. Join us as we travel around the country to visit some of the most scenic places on earth!

ROUTE

This tour contains 22 legs, starting and ending in Auckland, New Zealand (NZAA). The legs are as follows:

North Island

1. Auckland (NZAA) to Kerikeri (NZKK)
2. Kerikeri (NZKK) to Kaitaia (NZKT)
3. Kaitaia (NZKT) to Coromandel (NZCX)
4. Coromandel (NZCX) to Hamilton (NZHN)
5. Hamilton (NZHN) to Tauranga (NZTG)
6. Tauranga (NZTG) to Rotorua (NZRO)
7. Rotorua (NZRO) to Taupo (NZAP)
8. Taupo (NZAP) to Wellington (NZWN)
9. Wellington (NZWN) to Kaikoura (NZKI)

South Island

1. Kaikoura (NZKI) to Hokitika (NZHK)
2. Hokitika (NZHK) to Mount Cook (NZMC)
3. Mount Cook (NZMC) to Wanaka (NZWF)
4. Wanaka (NZWF) to Queenstown (NZQN)
5. Queenstown (NZQN) to Milford Sound (NZMF)
6. Milford Sound (NZMF) to Invercargill (NZNV)
7. Invercargill (NZNV) to Stewart Island (NZRC)

8. Stewart Island (NZRC) to Alexandra (NZLX)
9. Alexandra (NZLX) to Dunedin (NZDN)
10. Dunedin (NZDN) to Ashburton (NZAS)
11. Ashburton (NZAS) to Chatham Islands (NZCI)
12. Chatham Islands (NZCI) to Christchurch (NZCH)
13. Christchurch (NZCH) to Auckland (NZAA)

Details and specific routing for each leg are contained below.

Note, each leg will have runway information in the following format:

Runways available: XX/YY (FFFF ft. / MMMM m.) [SURFACE]

Where "XX" is the runway number, "YY" is the reciprocal runway, "FFFF" is the runway length in feet, "MMMM" is the runway length in meters, and "**SURFACE**" is the runway surface if it is not a hard surface runway. Additional runways will follow the same format separated in a list.

TOUR BRIEFING

Flight Numbers:

AFR9901 Legs 1-8
AFR9905 Legs 1-8
AFR9906 Legs 1-6

Equipment Type:

Cessna 208B
DeHavilland DHC-6 Twin Otter
Boeing 737-800
Airbus A320
Piper Navajo (PA-31)

(NOTE: These aircraft are suggestions for what might be used, they are not required. You will notice the tour legs state the DHC-6 as the equipment type, however it is not mandatory, nor desirable, to use the DHC-6 for every leg. Due to the nature of many of these airports, you will want to use some sort of prop/turboprop for this tour with the exception of the last leg that may be flown in any airliner. Read this briefing in detail for runway information for each airport to help plan what kind of plane to use!)

Tour Requirements:

- This Tour Requires the use of ACARS for flights to count towards tour completion.
- This Tour allows for Offline flights in addition to flights logged online (VATSIM, IVAO, PilotEdge, or POSCON)
- The Equipment Type used on this tour is up to pilots. However you MUST use an appropriate equipment type.
 - **NOTAM: For this tour, you may use any of the stage 1 props regardless of if you hold the stage 1 rating or not. Your flight will be approved without question under the following conditions: 1) You are flying within the tour and 2) all other normal PIREP rules apply. This NOTAM DOES NOT authorize you to use these types on any other flights outside of the tour if you do not hold appropriate ratings. See NOTAM # 49 for more information.**
- The Flight Numbers used must match the Tour Legs.

Route Details:

This portion will cover specific details about each airport. While there is no standard routing for this tour, we will provide some guidance about points to overfly if you wish to see the filming locations of the Lord of the Rings films. This section will cover each leg individually.

AFR9901 Leg 1:

Departure: Auckland, New Zealand (NZAA)

Runways available:

- 05R/23L (11,598 ft. / 3,533 m.)

Info: Auckland is the largest city in New Zealand and is located on the north island. For more details on the city: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auckland>

En route: This first leg is a 113 NM trip north from NZAA to Kerikeri. Routing for this leg is at your discretion, although we recommend flying along the eastern coastline.

Arrival: Kerikeri, New Zealand (NZKK)

Runways available:

- 15/33 (3,904 ft. / 1,190 m.)

- 02/20 (1,608 ft. / 490 m.) **[TURF]**

Info: Kerikeri is the largest city in the Northland region of New Zealand and is one of the many tourist destinations found in New Zealand. For more details about the city: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kerikeri>

AFR9901 Leg 2:

Departure: Kerikeri, New Zealand (NZKK)

Runways available:

- 15/33 (3,904 ft. / 1,190 m.)
- 02/20 (1,608 ft. / 490 m.) [**TURF**]

En route: The second leg is a short hop of 33 NM to Kaitaia (NZKT). Flying direct is acceptable on this route. If you would like to take some extra time, visit the northernmost point of New Zealand between these two airports by following the coast northbound and then turning south after reaching that point!

Arrival: Kaitaia, New Zealand (NZKT)

Runways available:

- 12/30 (4,600 ft. / 1,402 m.)
- 18/36 (4,167 ft. / 1,270 m.) [**GRAVEL**]

Info: Kaitaia is the last major settlement on State Highway 1 on the north end of the North Island. For more information: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaitaia>

AFR9901 Leg 3:

Departure: Kaitaia, New Zealand (NZKT)

Runways available:

- 12/30 (4,600 ft. / 1,402 m.)
- 18/36 (4,167 ft. / 1,270 m.) [**GRAVEL**]

En route: This leg of the tour is from Kaitaia to Coromandel. More information about Coromandel can be found below, but in short, Coromandel has some stunning beaches to visit. Another famous film that used this part of New Zealand as a filming location is *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* based on the C.S. Lewis book. Cathedral Cove in Coromandel is where the scene where the Pevensies first entered Narnia in Prince Caspian. If you want to fly over this beach, it is located here: SOUTH 36° 49' 42.74", EAST 175° 47' 25.73"

Arrival: Coromandel, New Zealand (NZCX)

Runways available:

- 12/30 (2,044 ft. / 623 m.) [**GRAVEL**]

Info: Coromandel is a town on the west side of the Coromandel Peninsula in New Zealand named after a ship (the HMS Coromandel). It was originally a major port for gold mining and other industries in the area. More info: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coromandel,_New_Zealand

AFR9901 Leg 4:

Departure: Coromandel, New Zealand (NZCX)

Runways available:

- 12/30 (4,600 ft. / 1,402 m.)
- 18/36 (4,167 ft. / 1,270 m.) [**GRAVEL**]

En route: From Coromandel, fly south towards Hamilton. There isn't much between the two so direct routing is sufficient. If you did not visit Cathedral Cove on the way into Coromandel, you can also see it on the way out as well.

Arrival: Hamilton, New Zealand (NZHN)

Runways available:

- 18L/36R (6,755 ft. / 2,059 m.)
- 18R/36L (2,067 ft. / 630 m.)
- 07/25 (2,034 ft. / 620 m.) [**GRASS**]

Info: Hamilton is an inland city in New Zealand and is the most populous of its region. It is also the country's 4th most populous city and is known as the most beautiful large city in New Zealand. More info: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamilton,_New_Zealand

AFR9901 Leg 5:

Departure: Hamilton, New Zealand (NZHN)

Runways available:

- 18L/36R (6,755 ft. / 2,059 m.)
- 18R/36L (2,067 ft. / 630 m.)
- 07/25 (2,034 ft. / 620 m.) [**GRASS**]

En route: After departing Hamilton, fly eastbound to the GPS point: 37° 51' 27.2412" S 175° 40' 50.0052" E. This will take you to the filming location of Hobbiton in the Shire. This is one of the most well-known filming locations and is a popular tourist destination. From there, continue on to Tauranga.

Arrival: Tauranga (NZTG)

Runways available:

- 07/25 (5,988 ft. / 1,825 m.)
- 16/34 (1,886 ft. / 575 m.) [**TURF**]
- 04/22 (2,100 ft. / 640 m.) [**TURF**]

Info: Tauranga is a coastal city in the Bay of Plenty region of New Zealand. It is a main center for business, international trade, culture, fashion, and horticultural science. More info: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tauranga>

AFR9901 Leg 6:

Departure: Tauranga, New Zealand (NZTG)

Runways available:

- 07/25 (5,988 ft. / 1,825 m.)
- 16/34 (1,886 ft. / 575 m.) [**TURF**]
- 04/22 (2,100 ft. / 640 m.) [**TURF**]

En route: This next leg is a short hop from Tauranga to Rotorua (just 25 NM!). Enjoy the scenery along the way as you travel southbound.

Arrival: Rotorua, New Zealand (NZRO)

Runways available:

- 18/36 (6,047 ft. / 1,843 m.)

Info: Rotorua is a town located on the southern shores of Lake Rotorua. It is known for domestic and international tourism and the presence of geothermal activity and features. More info: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotorua>

AFR9901 Leg 7:

Departure: Rotorua, New Zealand (NZRO)

Runways available:

- 18/36 (6,047 ft. / 1,843 m.)

En route: From Rotorua, head southbound. This is another short hop down to Taupo. Once again, enjoy the scenery as you fly towards Lake Taupo!

Arrival: Taupo, New Zealand (NZAP)

Runways available:

- 17/35 (4,547 ft. / 1,386 m.)
- 10/28 (2,198 ft. / 670 m.) [**GRASS**]

Info: Taupo is located on the north shore of New Zealand's largest lake, Lake Taupo. More info: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taup%C5%8D>

AFR9901 Leg 8:

Departure: Taupo, New Zealand (NZAP)

Runways available:

- 17/35 (4,547 ft. / 1,386 m.)
- 10/28 (2,198 ft. / 670 m.) [**GRASS**]

En route: Along this next leg, there are several more opportunities to visit LOTR filming locations. The first along your route will be Mount Tongariro (located at 39°9'30.4"S 175°38'5.3"E). This was the filming location for Mordor, Ithilien, Eryn Muil, and the Battle of the Last Alliance. Mount Tongariro itself was Mount Doom in the movies.

Next on the route is Kaitoke Regional Park (located at 41° 3' 20.4114"S 175° 11' 37.4856"E). This was the filming location for Rivendell and the Isengard Gardens.

A little further to the south is the Putangirua Pinnacle Scenic Reserve (located at 41° 26' 48.0618"S 175° 14' 45.3516"E). This was the location for the Paths of the Dead.

The last locations along this route are the Dry Creek Quarry/park (located at 41° 9' 31.8234"S 174° 58' 13.5696"E) where Helm's Deep and Minas Tirith were filmed, and in the city of Wellington, there is the road the Hobbits took where they first encountered the Nazgul (41° 18' 3.5316"S 174° 47' 18.5856"E). This last point is just northwest of the airport and might be easier to see on the way out. Once you land in Wellington, be sure to stop by the Weta Cave and Workshop to see some of the costumes and special effects from the movies!

Arrival: Wellington, New Zealand (NZWN)

Runways available:

- 16/34 (5,955 ft. / 1,815 m.)

Info: Wellington is the capital of New Zealand and is located on the southwestern tip of the north island. It is the world's southernmost capital of a sovereign state. Wellington is known for being the center of the country's film industry, as well as for its many cultural features. More info: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wellington>

AFR9905 Leg 1:

Departure: Wellington, New Zealand (NZWN)

Runways available:

- 16/34 (5,955 ft. / 1,815 m.)

En route: From Wellington, you will leave the north island and travel to your first destination on the South Island. Cross the Cook Strait to the south and follow the eastern coastline down to Kaikoura.

Arrival: Kaikoura, New Zealand (NZKI)

Runways available:

- 05/23 (2,297 ft. / 700 m.)

Info: Kaikoura is a small town on the east coast of the South Island of New Zealand located about 180 km north of Christchurch. It is known for being a bio-diversity hotspot due to nearby areas of wildlife concentrations. Whale watching is also a popular attraction for tourists. More info: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaik%C5%8Dura>

AFR9905 Leg 2:

Departure: Kaikoura, New Zealand (NZKI)

Runways available:

- 05/23 (2,297 ft. / 700 m.)

En route: From Kaikoura, the next stop on the tour will be the town of Hokitika located on the opposite side of the island. Head west from Kaikoura and enjoy the views as you cross the northern part of the South Island.

Arrival: Hokitika, New Zealand (NZHK)

Runways available:

- 12/30 (3,858 ft. / 1,176 m.)

- 03/21 (3,780 ft. / 1,152 m.)

Info: Hokitika is a town on the west coast of New Zealand's south island. It is located along the Hokitika River. More info: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hokitika>

AFR9905 Leg 3:

Departure: Hokitika, New Zealand (NZHK)

Runways available:

- 12/30 (3,858 ft. / 1,176 m.)
- 03/21 (3,780 ft. / 1,152 m.)

En route: From Hokitika, fly southeast. You will start to head towards the Southern Alps where Mount Cook is. If you want a challenge, follow along the highway from the coast and turn to Mount Cook airport in the mountains. You will also fly over one of the locations of the Beacons of Gondor right before you arrive at Mt. Cook (Franz Josef Glacier).

Arrival: Mount Cook, New Zealand (NZMC)

Runways available:

- 13/31 (4,800 ft. / 1,463 m.)

Info: Mount Cook is the highest mountain in New Zealand at 12,218 feet. Mount Cook (also named Aoraki in the native language) is located in Aoraki / Mount Cook National Park. The airport is located where the base camp is for climbers and other visitors to the park. More info: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aoraki / Mount_Cook

AFR9905 Leg 4:

Departure: Mount Cook, New Zealand (NZMC)

Runways available:

- 13/31 (4,800 ft. / 1,463 m.)

En route: From Mount Cook, fly due south to the GPS point 44° 22' 12.057"S 170° 0' 3.114"E. You will fly over the filming location of the Battle of Pelennor Fields in Twizel. From there, fly southeast along the highway to Wanaka.

Arrival: Wanaka, New Zealand (NZWF)

Runways available:

- 11/29 (3,937 ft. / 1,200 m.)

Info: Wanaka is primarily a resort town in the Otago region of New Zealand's South Island. It has both winter and summer seasons and was founded in the 19th century. More info: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W%C4%81naka>

AFR9905 Leg 5:

Departure: Wanaka, New Zealand (NZWF)

Runways available:

- 11/29 (3,937 ft. / 1,200 m.)

En route: From Wanaka, fly south to the Kawarau Gorge (44° 59' 39.8868"S 169° 5' 49.8294"E). This is the point on the Anduin where the Fellowship meets the statues of the kings on their journey. Next on the journey is where the Dimrill Dale was filmed. This is where the Fellowship traveled after leaving the Mines of Moria (located at 45° 3' 48.6972"S 168° 48' 39.6504"E). Slightly to the west is the location of Rohan, including the travel to Helm's Deep. This is located at GPS point 45° 2' 16.9686"S 168° 42' 58.5792"E.

Arrival: Queenstown, New Zealand (NZQN)

Runways available:

- 05/23 (5,830 ft. / 1,777 m.)

- 14/32 (2,362 ft. / 720 m.)

Info: Queenstown is located along the Queenstown Bay on Lake Wakatipu, a lake formed by glacial processes. It is known for tourism and activities such as skiing, snowboarding, jet boating, whitewater rafting, bungee jumping, and mountain biking. Queenstown is also the location for many scenes in the LOTR and Hobbit films. More info: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queenstown,_New_Zealand

AFR9905 Leg 6:

Departure: Queenstown, New Zealand (NZQN)

Runways available:

- 05/23 (5,830 ft. / 1,777 m.)

- 14/32 (2,362 ft. / 720 m.)

En route: From Queenstown, depart to the west along the shore of lake Wakatipu (straight out from RWY 23). At GPS point 45° 4' 11.0676"S 168° 32' 28.0458"E you will fly over the location where Frodo, Sam, and Gollum were captured in Ithilien. Continue following the lake as it turns northward and continue along the shoreline. When you get to the end of the lake, you will arrive in the town of Glenorchy. Continue northbound to the point 44° 46' 11.8122"S 168° 19' 42.6282"E. This is the location where Isengard was filmed. A few miles to the north you will arrive at 44° 45' 23.1588"S 168° 19' 2.0856"E for another view of Isengard. After this point, turn northeast to 44° 43' 30.7518"S 168° 22' 41.811"E to see the forests of Lothlorien. From there, continue to the north until you fly over 44° 38' 32.1678"S 168° 24' 24.3036"E for more views of Middle Earth. Lastly, turn to the west and start flying towards Milford Sound. The last point along the route is located at 44° 39' 49.5"S 168° 20' 1.1724"E. Once you reach Milford sound, I recommend flying out past the airport for a few miles and then returning back through the fjord to see the beautiful scenery.

Arrival: Milford Sound, New Zealand (NZMF)

Runways available:

- 11/29 (2,582 ft. / 790 m.)

Info: Milford Sound is a fjord in the southwest part of the South Island and is located within New Zealand's Fjordland National Park. It was considered to be the world's top travel destination in TripAdvisor's 2008 Travelers' Choice Destinations Awards. More info: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milford_Sound

AFR9905 Leg 7:

Departure: Milford Sound, New Zealand (NZMF)

Runways available:

- 11/29 (2,582 ft. / 790 m.)

En route: From Milford Sound, depart to the west to climb out through the fjord. Once you clear the mountains, turn southbound towards Lake Te Anau. As you start flying over the lake, follow the east shore and you will see the location of the Fangorn Forest where the Ents live. For a bonus location, fly East from there to 45° 19' 27.9552"S 168° 10' 8.6556"E to see the location of the breaking of the fellowship. From there, continue south over the lake and fly to the GPS point 45° 29' 53.898"S 167° 39' 36.2046"E. This is the location of two filming locations of the LOTR and are part of the River Anduin. This is the last filming location along this tour! After flying over this point, fly direct to Invercargill.

Arrival: Invercargill, New Zealand (NZNV)

Runways available:

- 04/22 (7,087 ft. / 2,160 m.)

12/30 (2,395 ft. / 730 m.) [**GRASS**]

Info: Invercargill is the southernmost and westernmost city in New Zealand and is one of the southernmost cities in the world. Invercargill is also located among the region's most fertile farmland. More info: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invercargill>

AFR9905 Leg 8:

Departure: Invercargill, New Zealand (NZNV)

Runways available:

- 04/22 (7,087 ft. / 2,160 m.)

12/30 (2,395 ft. / 730 m.) [**GRASS**]

En route: Fly direct to Stewart Island.

Arrival: Stewart Island, New Zealand (NZRC)

Runways available:

- 04/22 (2,073 ft. / 632 m.)

Info: Stewart Island is an island south of New Zealand's South Island. It is known for fishing and tourism and is the location of the Rakiura National Park. The island is densely forested and is the home of many species of flightless birds (including penguins). More info: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stewart_Island

AFR9906 Leg 1:

Departure: Stewart Island, New Zealand (NZRC)

Runways available:

- 04/22 (2,073 ft. / 632 m.)

En route: Fly north from Stewart Island and continue inland to Alexandra. For a challenge, navigate using only the highways to follow up to the airport (use Google Maps for reference).

Arrival: Alexandra, New Zealand (NZLX)

Runways available:

- 14/32 (3,937 ft. / 1200 m.)

- 01/19 (2,139 ft. / 652 m.) [**GRASS**]

Info: Alexandria is a town in the Central Otago district of the South Island. It is named after Alexandra of Denmark and is famous among miners for the gold in the nearby rivers. More info: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandra,_New_Zealand

AFR9906 Leg 2:

Departure: Alexandra, New Zealand (NZLX)

Runways available:

- 14/32 (3,937 ft. / 1200 m.)

- 01/19 (2,139 ft. / 652 m.) [**GRASS**]

En route: From Alexandra, fly southeast toward the coast.

Arrival: Dunedin, New Zealand (NZDN)

Runways available:

- 03/21 (6,234 ft. / 1,900 m.)

Info: Dunedin is the second largest city on the South Island. Dunedin was one of many cities occupied by the Maori prior to the arrival of European settlers. More info: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunedin>

AFR9906 Leg 3:

Departure: Dunedin, New Zealand (NZDN)

Runways available:

- 03/21 (6,234 ft. / 1,900 m.)

En route: From Dunedin, follow the coast northbound and enjoy the views!

Arrival: Ashburton, New Zealand (NZAS)

Runways available:

- 06/24 (4,554 ft. / 1,388 m.) [GRASS]

- 11/29 (3,360 ft. / 1,024 m.) [GRASS]

- 16/34 (3,543 ft. / 1,080 m.) [GRASS]

- 02/20 (2,943 ft. / 897 m.) [GRASS]

Info: Ashburton is a large town on the east coast of the South Island about 53 miles south of Christchurch. More info: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashburton,_New_Zealand

AFR9906 Leg 4:

Departure: Ashburton, New Zealand (NZAS)

Runways available:

- 06/24 (4,554 ft. / 1,388 m.) [GRASS]

- 11/29 (3,360 ft. / 1,024 m.) [GRASS]

- 16/34 (3,543 ft. / 1,080 m.) [GRASS]

- 02/20 (2,943 ft. / 897 m.) [GRASS]

En route: Depart Ashburton and start heading east toward the ocean. This route is about 500 NM from the ocean so at least a turboprop is recommended on this route.

NOTAM: The Cessna Citation will be allowed on this flight ONLY.

Arrival: Chatham Islands, New Zealand (NZCI)

Runways available:

- 05/23 (6,070 ft. / 1,850 m.)

Info: The Chatham Islands are an archipelago in the Pacific Ocean about 800 km (430 NM) east of New Zealand's South Island. They include New Zealand's easternmost point, the Forty-Fours. Some of the islands, formerly cleared for farming, are now preserved as nature reserves to conserve some of the unique flora and fauna. More info: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chatham_Islands

AFR9906 Leg 5:

Departure: Chatham Islands, New Zealand (NZCI)

Runways available:

- 05/23 (6,070 ft. / 1,850 m.)

En route: Pilot's discretion. Simbrief flight plans are advised for the next two routes. Note that you may use the 737 or A320 for the next two routes if you wish as the remaining airports are suitable for the remaining destinations.

Arrival: Christchurch, New Zealand (NZCH)

Runways available:

- 02/20 (10,787 ft. / 3,288 m.)

- 11/29 (5,712 ft. / 1,714 m.)

Info: Christchurch is the largest city in the South Island and is located on the east coast. Christchurch is also a major Antarctic Gateway City offering support to several nations with Antarctic bases. More info: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christchurch>

AFR9906 Leg 5:

Departure: Christchurch, New Zealand (NZCH)

Runways available:

- 02/20 (10,787 ft. / 3,288 m.)

- 11/29 (5,712 ft. / 1,714 m.)

En route: Fly an airliner or a smaller plane for this flight, it's up to you! This is the last leg of the journey between the nations two largest airports.

Arrival: Auckland, New Zealand (NZAA)

Runways available:

- 05R/23L (11,598 ft. / 3,533 m.)

Info: See notes on the first leg.

After you land in Auckland, you will have traveled about 2,900 NM around one of the most scenic countries on earth! Visiting beaches, mountains, plains, lakes, and rivers you will have seen it all! We hope you enjoy this challenging tour and take your time to truly appreciate the area's beauty!

While we shared a lot of points to visit in this briefing, feel free to deviate from the en route notes if you wish. If you are not interested in visiting the filming locations, for example, try flying around to see what interests you!

OFPS

OFPS for this tour are at your discretion as there is no specific routing guidelines other than GPS or VFR points. Feel free to navigate however you prefer!

WEATHER

Weather on this tour will be at the Pilot's discretion. For a challenge, use Real World Weather and try to remain VFR throughout the tour. However, if the weather is extremely bad during any time or if you would rather control of it, you may set it however you like. Use ACARS weather for METARs and TAFs as you go to gauge the weather conditions and have fun!

Time may also be at the Pilot's discretion. For this tour, we highly recommend setting the time to "Day" in order to make the most out of the tour! Feel free to deviate if you like however as we will not be grading what time of day you perform your flights!

REFERENCES

For more information about the filming locations and where the information was found, please visit the following resources:

- <https://nzpocketguide.com/11-lord-of-the-rings-locations-you-cant-miss-in-new-zealand/>
- <https://nzpocketguide.com/lord-of-the-rings-locations-in-queenstown/>
- <https://nzpocketguide.com/the-lord-of-the-rings-location-guide/>
- <https://www.google.com/maps/@-42.4137579,171.3492741,1794521m/data=!3m1!1e3!5m1!1e4>

CONCLUSION

Congratulations! You have made it through the 2023 Middle Earth Tour! We hope you enjoyed flying it and hope you will join us again in our other tours! If you enjoyed this tour, or if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please tell us your feedback! Let us know what you liked, what you didn't like, and what you would like to see in the future!

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While we strive to mirror real-world operations, this manual is not designed for use in real-world operations.

