

JOURNEY TO THE FILM LOCATION OF EDORAS

AREA INFORMATION

HAKATERE

The old stone building is the original homestead of the Hakatere run, built in the 1860's. The road to the right leads to Maori Lakes and Lake Heron, both important wildlife refuges. Lake Heron is also a nature reserve.

LAKES EMMA AND ROUNDABOUT

A 4WD track leads to these two lakes, both popular fishing locations.

LAKE CAMP

A glacier-formed lake, which is open to power boats. It is also a popular fishing lake with perch and rainbow trout.

LAKE CLEARWATER

The village of holiday baches first started as a collection of fishing and duck shooting cribs in 1925. The lake is popular for windsurfing, sailing and rowing, with no power boats allowed and plenty of brown trout and perch. It is also an important wildlife refuge with the rare and endangered Great Crested Grebe and many other species.

MT POTTS CUTTING

View point of Mt Sunday (Edoras)

This magnificent view point of Mt Sunday and the broad valley of the Rangitata River and Erewhon is one of the great vistas of New Zealand.

MT POTTS STATION

Named after T.H. Potts, a well known naturalist and early owner of this high country station. The station runs red deer, cattle, merino sheep and also operates a large and privately owned ski field offering cat-skiing.

MT SUNDAY (EDORAS)

Mt Sunday, a roche moutoné (a low, rounded hill shaped by a glacier) was the site of Edoras in the movie "Lord of the Rings - The Two Towers". Mt Sunday gained its name because boundary riders from the high country stations used to meet there on Sundays.

ROAD TRIP INFORMATION

The journey to Mt Sunday (Edoras) takes you through rural, exposed land where weather conditions can be highly changeable. The Alpine altitude means the area can experience extreme weather and temperature changes.

- Sealed roading ends at Hakatere and the rest of your journey will be on high country shingle roading to Erewhon.
- The last petrol station on your journey is the Mt Somers Store. Phone: (03) 303 9831. Open daily till 6:00pm.
- Cellphone coverage finishes at Mt Somers. The closest public telephones are based at Mt Somers and at Lake Clearwater.
- In an emergency please dial 111.
- In the case of a breakdown or minor accident, Mt Somers Garage does not operate a 24 hour salvage unit and you will need to contact Methven Motor Services. Phone: (03) 302 8201.
- The closest non-emergency doctor is based at the Methven Medical Centre. Phone (03) 302 8105.
- The land owners are happy for you to park your vehicle on Hakatere Potts Road and walk to Mt Sunday. **Please do not light any fires or BBQ's and please respect their land. Mt Potts Station is not liable for any accident or injury to visitors on their property.**
- The actual set for Edoras was dismantled at the end of filming and the land returned to its natural state. Spectacular views of Mt Sunday and its environs can be obtained at Mt Potts Cutting or on Hakatere Potts Road as it passes the entrance to Mt Potts Station.

For further information on the area please contact:

Ashburton District Tourism

Email: ash.tourism@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.ashburtontourism.co.nz

DISTANCE GUIDE

From Mt Somers Store (approximate)

Mt.Somers - Hakatere: 22km

Mt.Somers - Lake Emma turnoff: 27.2km

Mt.Somers - Lake Camp (waterski club end): 31.9km

Mt.Somers - Top of cutting (viewpoint): 39.4km

Mt.Somers - Mt.Potts Station: 43km

Mt.Somers - Mt.Sunday: 46.3km

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CANTERBURY HIGH COUNTRY BECOMES EDORAS

'Nestled deep on a Canterbury high country station was the set for Edoras, the fortress city of the Rohan people in the The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers. The spectacular location on Mount Potts Station, in the Rangitata river valley in the Ashburton district (around 2.5 hours drive inland from Christchurch) seemed purpose built for the production; a sheer-sided hill in the middle of an expansive plain, bordered by impassable mountains of rock and ice. The production crew took nine months to build the set atop the cliffs, during which time the locals peeked around to see as much as they could. The finished product looked otherworldly and strangely historic, a testament to the truly remarkable atmosphere of the area.

Director Peter Jackson and his team, actually worked from inside the buildings that were constructed for the Mount Potts set - the interior scenes from Edoras were filmed several months beforehand in Wellington, so the large buildings in reality served as shelter and extravagant food tents for the approximately 1000 cast and crew!

'Never shall I forget the utter loneliness of the prospect - only the little far away homestead giving sign of human handiwork, the vastness of mountain and plain, of river and sky; the marvellous atmospheric affects sometimes black mountains against a white sky, and then again, after cold weather, white mountains against black sky". Thus wrote Samuel Butler in his classic novel Erewhon, a fine discription of a harsh landscape that for eleven months became Edoras, the capital city of Rohan.

"Mount Potts, near Methven, provided one of the most glorious locations, with an isolated hill in a wide valley, buttressed by sheer cliffs, which couldn't have been closer to Tolkien's Edoras. We built the exterior of the Golden Hall and surrounding buildings on top with the gatehouse and more buildings at its foot, with everything in between added post-production."

Alan Lee - Conceptual Artist/Set Decorator, The Lord of the Rings

