

Rivendell: A Historic and Peaceful Getaway!

Travelling east of The Shire, about three-hundred miles or so, after a lovely visit with the hobbits, I ventured my way to the eastern edge of Eriador. It is there, located along the Bruinen River and within the western foothills of the Misty Mountains that I arrived at the beautiful Imladris Valley. I made my way to Rivendell, the “last homely house.” I captured the landscape in its splendor and wonder in the image below on the left. Looking at the photo, it is almost



comparable to Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland, another location of beauty. Taking in this magnificent sight, I could hardly catch my breath. Not only is the sight of the place captivating, but the smell and sounds and even the feeling one experiences is enough to entrance any traveler or tourist who comes upon it. The forest-like scenery contains many types of trees and small waterfalls from the flowing rivers.

The smell of pine trees and fresh, clean air, wafts throughout the atmosphere, drawing in those who seek an escape. Sounds of birds chirping and rushing waters play in harmony in the orchestra of nature. I felt at peace once I arrived at Rivendell.

The history behind Rivendell is rich. The Bruinen River, which lies along the western border, has no bridge, but is said to be easily crossed. This very river contains a history of the infamous Frodo Baggins, a hobbit, who escaped in the nick of time from the pursuing Black Riders. Frodo was aided by a Noldo named Glorfindel. It was Elrond, Lord of Rivendell, who healed Frodo from a deathly wound. Elrond, a half- elven, is a strong and wise leader. He led the nine members of the Council of Elrond, who discussed what was to be done with the One Ring.

Elrond's daughter, Arwen, chose a mortal life with Aragorn, a ranger who accompanied Frodo on his journey to Mordor.

The elves of Rivendell are peaceful and hospitable, but also quite straightforward. They are beautiful beings of magic and enchantment. Not only are elves themselves beautiful, but they are also lovers of beautiful things, such as nature. They are quite in-tune with nature, which was remarkable to discover. Elves are pure souls who despise evil and can resist evil temptations as well, such as the One Ring. It was delightful to witness their culture and commune with them. Elves are skilled archers as well as sculptors, artists, musicians, healers, cooks, and craftsmen. They marry whoever they choose for love and they only marry once. It is wonderful how devoted elves are to their loved ones—such a breath of fresh air compared to modern day society. Elves are also quite curious and desire knowledge of things unknown. I was questioned multiple times about my own way of life and background during my stay.

There are many activities to engage in once one arrives at Rivendell. One main pastime is exploring the valley by going on a nature walk or hike. The scenery is truly exquisite! Since the elves are quite knowledgeable about the aspects of nature, I learned many things on my stroll, such as that the elves are responsible for teaching the Ents, or trees-like creatures, to talk! Another activity I attempted was archery as Rivendell provides archery lessons for beginners, which appealed to me, and places to partake in the sport. My guide, Legolas, a member of the Council of Elrond and the Fellowship of the Ring, was an exceptional teacher. Fishing is a popular sport in Rivendell as well along the Bruinen River. It was quite relaxing to take part in this activity and gaze at the rushing river and the trees that surround it. Since elves are quite musical, shows are given each night for all who wish to enjoy the beautiful melodies.

All in all, Rivendell is a wonderful location for anyone who seeks peace, guidance, and/or rest. It is also an ideal spot for those who appreciate nature and all of its beautiful and remarkable qualities. For those who enjoy the history of Rivendell, as well as the history of the Fellowship of the Ring, Rivendell is the perfect place to visit. One drawback that may lead some to dismiss this location is the lack of technology and cellular service. In today's chaotic society, most are bombarded with technology use, or rather, addicted for some. Rivendell is a peaceful getaway where one would not need to whip out a laptop or cell phone. It is a place of rest—for one to contemplate and explore the wonders of the outdoors as well. I would definitely recommend a stay at Rivendell!