

80th
anniversary

Join the Stinson Walk

Recount Australian history and celebrate the life of Bernard O'Reilly, who heroically saved the lives of two plane crash survivors 80 years ago in World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park. On such a special anniversary year we are offering guests the rare opportunity to walk the Iconic Stinson Walk from two different directions.

Both walks take you through stunning landscape and you are surrounded by the incredibly diverse and wonderful flora and fauna of Lamington National Park.

You can choose the route you would like to take depending on the distance and terrain that suits you best:



To register please fill out the registration form and return to reservations@oreillys.com.au



Follow in the footsteps of Bernard O'Reilly on his heroic 1937 discovery of the Stinson wreck and its survivors.

O'Reilly's

Option 1

'Bernard's Footsteps' Stinson Walk

37km one way.
Rough terrain, steep sections.
Return to Retreat approx. 5pm

ROOM TYPE	TOTAL per package	NO. OF GUESTS	TOTAL
Retreat Room Single	\$635		
Retreat Room Twin	\$1,010		
Mountain View Single	\$755		
Mountain View Twin	\$1,130		
Two Bed Villa – Twin	\$1,650		
Two Bed Villa – Quad	\$2,400		
*50% deposit required at time of booking		TOTAL	
		TOTAL DUE	

14km return
Very steep uphill and downhill
Return to Retreat approx. 5pm

Starting from O'Reilly's Resort we hike along the same route that Bernard followed in his search for the Stinson Wreck in 1937. The first section of the walk begins on the Border Track and as the sun rises we walk out along part of the Albert River Circuit before we branch off and make our way off the graded trails and into rough terrain and dense misty rainforest. By mid morning we summit beautiful Mount Throakban from where Bernard first spotted the tree where the Stinson crashed. Pushing on, we will eventually reach Point Lookout and make our way to the Stinson clearing where we shall meet up with the group that have walked in from the other direction.

After Lunch and a commemoration of the Stinson Crash, we shall all visit the site of the crash to see the graves and the remaining plane wreckage, before hiking down the very steep slope to Christmas Creek. There will then be the opportunity to go to see Westray's final resting place before we walk the last few kilometers out along the creek. Upon reaching the Carpark everyone shall return together to the resort in the waiting buses.

Program

37km one way. Rough terrain, steep sections.
From O'Reilly's to Christmas Creek to commemorate 80th anniversary of rescue.

Groups meet at the clearing near the Stinson Wreck site for a history talk, then continue down to Westray's grave along Christmas Creek and travel back to O'Reilly's in a bus with the other group.

Sept 8th – 10th

Friday 8th Arrive O'Reilly's, group briefing & dinner.

Saturday 9th Stinson Walk

Sunday 10th Depart

Depart Retreat 4am

Meet at Stinson wreck at approx 1pm for history talk
Return to Retreat approx at 5pm

Package includes

- Two nights' accommodation
- Daily Dinner
- Daily Breakfast
- Guided Stinson Walk with packed lunch and return transfers
- Hosted celebratory dinner on Saturday night

Option 2

‘Rescue Route’ Stinson Walk

ROOM TYPE	TOTAL <small>per package</small>	NO. OF GUESTS	TOTAL
Retreat Room Single	\$585		
Retreat Room Twin	\$910		
Mountain View Single	\$705		
Mountain View Twin	\$1,030		
Two Bed Villa – Twin	\$1,550		
Two Bed Villa – Quad	\$2,200		
*50% deposit required at time of booking		TOTAL	
		TOTAL DUE	

Walking from the Christmas Creek end of the track, this walking group will creek cross, rock hop, and make their way alongside the tumbling creek to the site of Jim Westray’s grave.

This poignant site is nestled by the creek in a grove of palms and has an emotional serenity felt by all who visit. From creek level you will then climb steeply up the side of the hill to eventually reach the site of the Stinson Wreck. This is a wonderful challenging climb and while you traverse the slope and occasionally pause to get your breath back, you can enjoy the grandeur of several beautiful transitions in ecosystem. Reaching the Stinson clearing you then have the option of continuing a little further to Point Lookout to look towards Mount Warning.

While waiting to be joined by the other group hiking from the resort, you can enjoy your picnic lunch. Once both groups are united at the Stinson Clearing we will take the time to for a commemoration and tell the remarkable tale of the Stinson rescue. There will then be time for everyone to visit the site of the crash to see the graves and the remaining plane wreckage, before we pack up and return down the hill and along the creek.

Upon returning to the Carpark everyone shall return together to the resort in the waiting buses.

Program

14km return
(very steep uphill and downhill, some rock climbing)
From Christmas Creek to Stinson wreck site to commemorate 80th anniversary of rescue.

Groups meet at the clearing near the Stinson Wreck site for a history talk, then return along the same route and travel back to O’Reilly’s in a bus with the other group.

Sept 8th – 10th

Friday 8th Arrive O’Reilly’s, group briefing and dinner.

Saturday 9th Stinson Walk

Sunday 10th Depart

Depart Resort in bus at approx 5am

Depart Christmas Creek 7am

Meet at Stinson wreck 1pm for a history talk

Return to Retreat approx 6pm

Package includes

- Two nights’ accommodation
- Daily Dinner
- Daily Breakfast
- Guided Stinson Walk with packed lunch and return transfers
- Hosted celebratory dinner on Saturday night



ESCAPE • EXPERIENCE • CONNECT

STINSON FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Thank you for your interest in the hike to the site of the Stinson wreck. This trip provides a great challenge through a rugged and isolated area, and is undoubtedly one of the classic hikes in Australia.

We feel it is important to point out that most people's knowledge and expectations of this trek seldom match the reality of the experience, and feel it is our responsibility to warn you of the difficulties and dangers involved.

Terrain

This is a very arduous journey through rough rainforest terrain that involves almost constant steep climbs and descents. There's plenty of clambering around and through storm damaged areas, with fallen trees and the prickly Lawyer Vine, and regular steep rocky slopes to be negotiated that are often wet and slippery in the high rainfall zone on the crest of the border range. Even if you've done a lot of bushwalking previously in different habitats, you may find this region presents an entirely new and unexpected challenge.

'Bernard's Footsteps' Stinson Walk

37km one way. Rough terrain, steep sections.

From O'Reilly's to Christmas Creek to commemorate 80th anniversary of rescue.

Groups meet at the clearing near the Stinson Wreck site for a history talk, then continue down to Westray's grave a long Christmas Creek and travel back to O'Reilly's in a bus with the other group.

'Rescue Route' Stinson Walk

14km return (very steep uphill and downhill, some rock climbing)

From Christmas Creek to Stinson wreck site to commemorate 80th anniversary of rescue.

Groups meet at the clearing near the Stinson Wreck site for a history talk, then return along the same route and travel back to O'Reilly's in a bus with the other group.

Pre-requisites

Experience

Experience is essential on this type of hike. We've taken several people over the years that were relatively fit but had gained their fitness through working out at the gym or exercising on comparatively flat ground, and more often than not they've struggled. As stated previously, it is vitally important that a good solid pace is maintained for the entire day, and only experience will allow you to move through this slippery, awkward terrain more quickly. There simply is not time for people to be constantly thinking about where to put their foot next; experience enables you to do this instinctively.

Fitness / preparation

A hike of this magnitude requires considerable preparation, it is not one that you decide to do on the spur of the moment. It takes time to build fitness levels to the standard required and to accustom yourself to the terrain and walking conditions. We recommend a preparation period of six months, ideally involving a solid weekly workout.

You must endeavour to prepare in country as similar as possible to what occurs on the Stinson trek. You should do as much rainforest work as you can, but if there is none readily available, at least prepare in steep, rugged country on rough bush tracks. Buy a bushwalking guide book ('The Bush people's Guide to Bushwalking in South-east Queensland' is an excellent local one) and complete some of the more difficult walks described. Time yourself and aim to be well ahead of the duration suggested; remember, these books are necessarily conservative in their timings and most wouldn't consider tackling this trek in a single day.

If you live reasonably close to Lamington National Park, try walking down and back up the Bullant Spur track to Blue Pool, which starts 250 metres towards the guesthouse from the Duck Creek Road turnoff. Aim to complete the return journey within an hour; remember, it is not just being able to manage these walks, they must be done at a good pace, and inability to do so is one of the main reasons so many people have turned back on the Stinson walk over the years.

Probably the ideal exercise in preparation would be to walk in to the wreck from the Christmas Creek end. This should be able to be completed comfortably in around five to six hours, but make an early start; the track is unclear at times, although experienced bushwalkers shouldn't have too much trouble following it.

Trouble-free knee joints

If you have knees that give you trouble then DO NOT take on this walk. Painful knee joints have been the downfall of so many otherwise competent walkers on so many Stinson walks over the years. Besides the pain you may cause yourself, which is often excruciating by the time the sufferers have struggled out to the bus, usually in darkness, it is unfair on the other participants that have often been forced to stroll along at a snail's pace for the last few hours of the trip while waiting for one or two people, causing the walk to run several hours late. Also, attempting such a hike with faulty knees may cause them irreparable damage and can affect your future enjoyment of bushwalking in general.

Requirements

We insist that all participants must be on site at O'Reilly's the evening before the hike for a face-to-face meeting with the guide. This involves a final briefing and will also allow the guide a basic verbal assessment of the preparation of the participants; it is the guide that has the final say as to who may participate in the walk.

Hikers are required to bring:

- a small torch with fresh batteries
- drinking water – there are no creek crossings before Christmas Creek. At least three litres is recommended
- energy-rich snack food
- comfortable backpack
- comfortable, sturdy hiking boots that have been well worn in.
- rain jacket and warm coat.

This is not a hike for anyone that's just getting into rugged bushwalking (or who's been doing it too long!). Neither is it for someone who's simply out to prove to themselves that they can handle the challenge; that only puts themselves and others at risk. But it can be an enjoyable and very rewarding day for anyone that is properly prepared.

Kind Regards



Brendan Long
Retreat Manager

Registration Form

To register for the stinson walk please complete the form below and email back to reservations@oreillys.com.au.
Once received one of our friendly team will be incontact with you to confirm your booking.

NAME(S)

ARRIVAL DATE DEPARTURE DATE

PAYMENT DETAILS: ☐ CHEQUE ☐ VISA (1.5% SURCHARGE) ☐ MASTERCARD (1.5% SURCHARGE)
 ☐ DIRECT DEBIT ☐ AMEX (3% SURCHARGE) ☐ DINERS (3% SURCHARGE)

CARD NUMBER EXPIRY DATE

CARDHOLDER NAME SIGNATURE

HOME NUMBER E-MAIL ADDRESS

By signing this registration form you acknowlege that you have read and meet the fitness requirements outlined in this document.

Signature