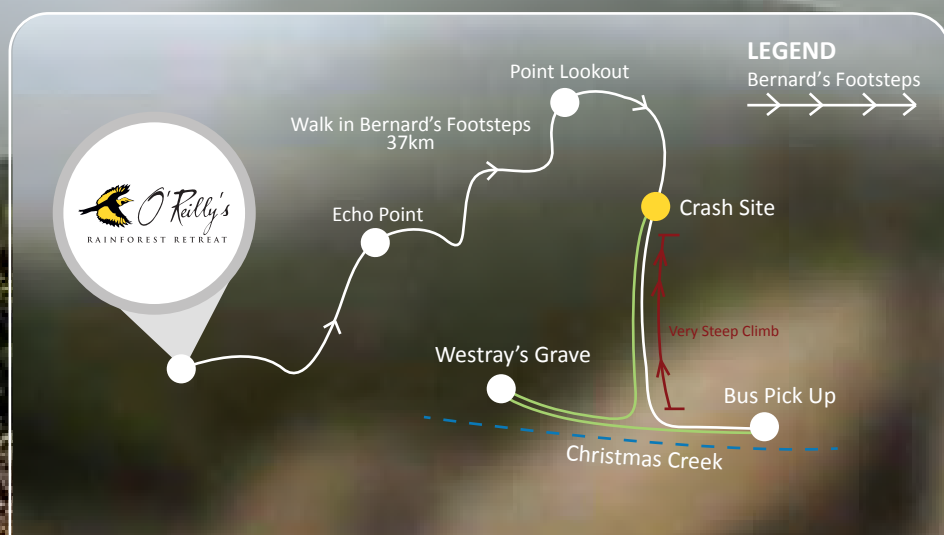


Join the Stinson Walk

Recount Australian history and celebrate the life of Bernard O'Reilly, who heroically saved the lives of two plane crash survivors over 80 years ago in World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park. Each year we offer a small number of guests the rare opportunity to walk the iconic Stinson Walk.

This walk will take you through stunning landscape and you are surrounded by the incredibly diverse flora and fauna of Lamington National Park.



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.

FOR BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY!

 **www.oreillys.com.au**
 **Reservations: 1800 688 722**

 Lamington National Park Road
Via Canungra, Queensland 4275

 **O'Reilly's**
RAINFOREST RETREAT

'Bernard's Footsteps' Stinson Walk

37km one way
Rough terrain, steep sections
Return to Retreat at approx. 7:00pm



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.

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 Christmas Creek car park will return together to O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat on the buses via Beaudesert and Canungra.

Program

37km one way. Rough terrain, steep sections.

From O'Reilly's to Christmas Creek via the Crash site.

Break for lunch 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.

Package includes

- Two Dinners
- Two Breakfasts
- Guided Stinson Walk
- Packed Lunch
- Return transfers
- Hosted celebratory dinner on Saturday night

The walk will be run over **May 14th - 16th, 2021**

Weekend Program

- Friday:** • Arrive at O'Reilly's, group briefing & dinner
- Saturday:** • Stinson Walk Departs Retreat at approx. 4:00am
• Meet at Stinson wreck at approx 1:00pm for history talk
• Return to Retreat at approx 7:00pm
- Sunday:** • Depart at your own leisure

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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 the 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.

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.

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O'Reilly's

RAINFOREST RETREAT

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

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O'Reilly's
RAINFOREST RETREAT

Stinson Walk Package Price

The Stinson Walk package is \$399 per person.

This includes:

- Dinner and breakfast for two days.
- The guided walk including transfers.
- Training guidance from O'Reilly's guide leading up to the walk.
- Packed lunch on the day of the walk.
- Celebratory drinks and snacks at the end of the walk at Christmas Creek.

This price excludes accommodation, but this package can be added to any accommodation booking.

Note: a two-night minimum stay in the retreat or villas is required to participate in the Stinson Walk.

Places are limited, so please contact our Reservations Team to make an enquiry.



Want to do the walk as a group on another date?

We offer private guided Stinson Walk experiences for small groups, however places are limited. Please contact our Reservations Team for more details.

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 in contact 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 acknowledge that you have read and meet the fitness requirements outlined in this document.

Signature

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