

 O'Reilly's
EXPEDITION
HIKES

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST '**O'REILLY'S EXPEDITION HIKE**' FOR 2023 AS WE TREK TO THE ICONIC STAIRWAY FALLS VIA BULL ANT SPUR.

STAIRWAY FALLS - SATURDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE - to Book call Reservations on
07 5502 4911 or email activities@oreillys.com.au

\$130
PER PERSON

STAIRWAY FALLS VIA BULL ANT SPUR

Age Range	15+
Duration	Approx 6-8 hours
Difficulty	Intermediate-Advanced
Cost	\$130
Date	25th February 2023

Make sure you wear long pants for this bush-bashing blast to Stairway Falls. After avoiding the Gympie Gympie, you'll be ready to enjoy the cool waters at Stairway falls!

DIFFICULTY

Intermediate – Advanced, depending on creek levels. If creek levels are low, this isn't such a hard hike as we can simply rock hop down the creek with ease but still be prepared to get wet feet. If creek levels are high, it will make it harder but this time of year it should be a piece of cake.

The old graded track is evident in places, but overgrown at times and it can be a battle keeping to the trail amongst the tree falls, lantana and Gympie Gympie (stinging tree).

Our route will include sections of the old track plus a bit of rock hopping, so a sense of adventure is a must to bring along on this hike!

DURATION/DISTANCE

The duration of this hike will be highly dependent on creek levels. With low creek levels, it will take about 6 hours for competent hikers with good rock-hopping skills. The 6 hours includes rest breaks to enjoy the Blue Pool and Stairway Falls.

The hardest part of this hike is the return journey up Bull Ant Spur. This off track adventure is 11 km return, and we can allow between 6 and 8 hours to do it comfortably.

SEEKING OUT STAIRWAY FALLS

A graded track once led to this unique destination, but it was taken out of commission and left to the forest some years before. Today, the access route to Stairway Falls is a bush-bashing, Gympie-Gympie-avoiding, rock-hopping adventure along the west branch of Canungra Creek.

BULL ANT SPUR TO YERRAHLAHLA POOL

This hike starts from the top of Bull Ant Spur. The way down the spur starts in rainforest by Lamington National Park Road, before descending into drier forest via a rough leaf strewn footpath that is marked with pink ribbons.

The steep descent passes beautiful trees and massive vines where we are treated to the sounds of local birds. Due to thick leaf litter, the descent down can be slippery, so good hiking shoes are essential. You'll be grabbing onto passing tree trunks and branches to slow your descent as you head down to the creek so bring some good gloves along for this one.

After about 45 minutes, the spur intersects with the end of the West Canungra Creek Circuit. We then follow the graded track down and enjoy the early morning light playing on the Yerrahlahla (Blue) Pool where the track ends.

AVOID THE GYMPIE-GYMPIE IF YOU CAN!

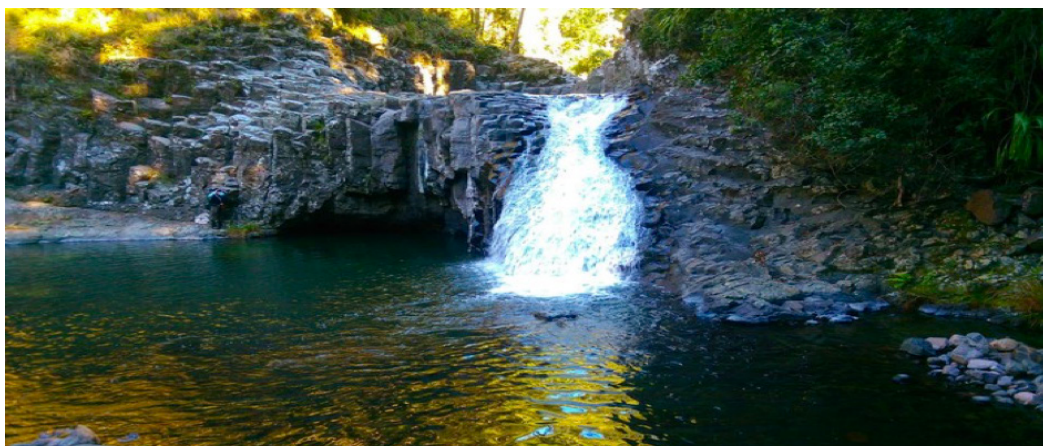
After a rest to enjoy the blue and golden highlights on the waterhole and nearby cascades, it is across the creek to start bush bashing. The old track is easy to find at first, but becomes increasingly covered by tree-falls, small landslips and a mess of vines, weeds and Gympie-Gympie.

With low creek levels at the moment, the opportunity to rock-hop down the creek is way more fun than avoiding Gympie-Gympie, but at times seeking out the old track will become essential. Along the way, we will enjoy crystal clear pools, dense moody forests, beautiful cascades, caves and unique basalt columns similar to those found at the world-renowned "Giants Staircase".

WELCOME TO STAIRWAY FALLS

As we approach Stairway Falls, the old graded track is rediscovered and leads us to a beautiful basalt column lined waterhole and the falls. This hidden gem is unique because of these exposed basalt lava columns which are an uncommon sight in the natural world. Lamington National Park was formed by basalt lava flows from the now extinct Mt Warning around 25 million years ago! These basalt columns create handy natural steps leading down to the waterhole above the waterfall.

From the top of the falls we follow the old graded track down and after a short distance we find a rugged way down to the base of the falls. Then we enjoy some time exploring the area around the creek and take a dip, if you're brave enough to tackle the cold water. We return the way we came, with a steep climb up to the top of Bull Ant Spur to finish our adventure.



The base of the iconic Stairway Falls in World Heritage Lamington National Park.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Rock-hop down scenic Canungra Creek
- Relax by beautiful waterholes
- Go bush bashing and listen for local wildlife
- Swimming (for the brave)
- Unique rock formations including Basalt columns and stairs.

ACTIVITIES

- Hiking
- Photography
- Rock-hopping
- Swimming

ESSENTIAL GEAR

- Camera
- Insect repellent (for leeches when it's wet and ticks when it's dry)
- Long pants and long sleeved shirt due to stinging plants
- Hat
- Lunch and snacks
- Drinking water (3L is recommended)
- Hiking shoes
- Gloves
- Sense of adventure

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation at O'Reilly's is available at additional cost and is flexible to best suit your needs. Speak with our Reservation team at 07 5502 4911 to find out more.

- **O'Reilly's Campground** - Camper van, Campsites or the permanent Safari Tents
- **Retreat Accommodation** - Standard or luxury rooms, serviced daily
- **Villas Accommodation** - Self-contained 1, 2 or 3 bedroom Villas

REGISTRATION

To register for this Expedition Trek, 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 and process payment for the trek.

NAME(S)

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

Date