



 *O'Reilly's*
EXPEDITION
HIKES

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT '**O'REILLY'S EXPEDITION HIKE**' FOR AS WE
TREK TO THE VALLEY OF THE ECHOES VIA ALBERT RIVER CIRCUIT

VALLEY OF THE ECHOES - SAT, 25TH MARCH 8AM

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE - to Book visit oreillys.com.au and
look for 'Events' or email activities@oreillys.com.au

\$130
PER PERSON

VALLEY OF THE ECHOES VIA ALBERT RIVER CIRCUIT

Age Range	15+
Duration	Approx 7-8 hours
Difficulty	Intermediate
Distance	24km
Cost	\$130

Make sure to bring your cameras for this one the waterfalls, giant Antarctic Beech trees and lookouts along the way are absolutely stunning.

DIFFICULTY

Intermediate – This is a fairly long hike however it is not particularly hard as there is an extremely well-trodden track most of the way. There is a few sections to negotiate due to recently fallen trees but a quick detour around them will see us back on track.

There are a few creek crossings once we reach the valley floor that might be tricky because of creek levels but this time of year the creeks are quite low. The beginning and the return journey are the trickiest as the track will require some navigation skills due to storm damage along the remains of this old section of the original Border track.

DURATION/DISTANCE

The duration of this hike will be highly dependent on how many critters we see along the way, how long you all spend taking pictures of the ancient Antarctic Beech trees, waterfalls and how long you soak up the views for.

With low creek levels the creek crossings will be a piece of cake and the 7-8 hours includes rest breaks to enjoy the many waterfalls, spectacular lookouts and the return journey back along the old border track is a bush bashing bonanza.

This hike is 23km and the hardest part is the first 5km as we climb gradually up to around 1100m, the hill is only of a slight gradient but continues the whole way up until we reach the ancient Antarctic Beech forest but this means downhill for our return journey to guesthouse.

SEEKING OUT THE VALLEY OF THE ECHOES

Starting from Moonlight Crag we get our first views into the Albert River Valley and out to the Lost World Plateau. Lyrebird lookout and Orchard Grotto are two stops along the way before arriving at the old forestry camp. After spending sometime at this historic location we'll slowly begin the climb up through rainforest starting to see giant Antarctic beech stands before we start our decent down to the Albert River with its many waterfalls and unique sounds. This ancient part of the rainforest will leave you speechless long before we finally reach the Valley of Echoes.

O'REILLY'S TO THE ALBERT RIVER CIRCUIT

The hike starts from Moonlight Crag and heads southeast following the ridge up to Lyrebird lookout. Slowly climbing up in the first 5km to over 1100m the rainforest takes on some amazing changes from a dry open forest to subtropical rainforest then to a more temperate rainforest as we meander towards the old forestry camp and Norbert O'Reilly's old property selection. From vine ensnared Booyong trees, gigantic Brush Box trees and the vast Antarctic Beech stands plus lookouts stands on this section are some of the many natural wonders to see along the way.

NORBERT O'REILLY'S PROPERTY

Once leaving Orchard grotto we follow a less well defined track out towards Norb's old property. Here we find the remains of the old forestry camp where track builders lived and worked. The camp was used for many years before being abandoned and left for the forest to reclaim back in the 1960s. There are some remains still left of the old camp including some of the building foundations an old well that also had a secondary unique and surprising function. After a short stay here we'll head out towards the Albert River circuit.

LISTEN TO THE THUNDER!

As we descend down towards the Albert River the thundering begins ...

Zigging and zagging down the valley we pass through Antarctic Beech stands and massive Brush Box trees along here we see an old marker carved into a tree that points down towards Shooting creek, this is the turn off for Black Canyon. From here we start to hear Thunder falls roaring and echoing down in Black Canyon below us, these falls are accessible but that is whole new adventure (A Black Canyon and Thunder falls expedition is coming soon).

Crossing Lightning creek at the top of its falls the track begins to wind down to Echo Falls before following a branch of the Albert River upstream towards the Valley of Echoes. We follow the river passing waterfalls, cascades and once we start the creek crossings this incredible place starts to reveal its true beauty.



WELCOME TO THE VALLEY OF ECHOES

As we turn away from the Albert River and head out into the Valley of Echoes the panorama begins to open up, the trees start to thin out and as we pass a remote bush camp site we follow the valley along the trail to Echo Point.

Echo Point Lookout has magnificent views of Mount Warning, Mount Cougal and the Tweed Valley beneath. Mount Wapawn, Mount Durigan and the McPherson Range are seen to the south these are all part of the massive erosion caldera that surrounds Mount Warning, once the central plug for this extinct volcano but is now a shadow of its former self. Traditional Owners of the Bundjalang language group call Mt Warning Wollumbin, meaning cloud catcher. Here we'll rest and enjoy the scenery before starting our return journey to the guesthouse.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Chance to see rare birds found only in the higher altitudes of the park.
- Views of Mount Warning, out into the Tweed Valley and as far as the ocean on a clear day.
- Stand among some of the oldest and largest of the Antarctic Beech trees found in the park.
- Enjoy of one of the "greenest" places in the entire park.

ESSENTIAL GEAR

- Hiking boots/shoes
- Insect repellent (for leeches when it's wet and ticks when it's dry)
- Rain jacket
- Lunch and snacks
- Drinking water (3L is recommended)
- 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 trek visit oreillys.com.au and click 'Events' or email activities@oreillys.com.au.