

# THE STINSON TREK

87th Anniversary - An iconic Australian walk



# THE STINSON WALK



## THIS IS A CHALLENGING TREK - 35 KILOMETRES IN LENGTH

Follow the footsteps of Bernard O'Reilly on his journey of discovering the survivors of the Stinson crash (this year marks the 87th Anniversary). A high level of endurance and fitness is required. You will travel through rugged mountainous terrain to the crash site then descend to Christmas Creek for a bus transfer to O'Reilly's.

***Preparation is the key element for this difficult but rewarding 12 hour hike!***

## TERRAIN

This is a very arduous journey through rough rainforest terrain that involves consistent steep climbs and descents. There's plenty of clambering around through storm damaged areas, with fallen trees and the prickly Lawyer Vine, and regular steep rocky slopes to be negotiated, often wet and slippery. You will be using many different muscles in your body during this trek. ***The descent to Christmas Creek is particularly steep after hiking for 8 hours - preparation is a must to undertake this walk.***

## THE JOURNEY

4:00am - Start by torch light and walk 8km. Arrive at Echo Point at 5:30am.

If you are lagging at this point of the journey, you will be asked to return home, for your safety and the safety of others.

From here we follow Bernard's trail over numerous peaks for the next 6 hours to Point Lookout.

**Endurance, Endurance, Endurance** - maintaining a good steady pace to complete the trek with daylight hours is essential to ensure the safety of the entire group.

Leaders have authority to turn people back if they perceive your pace will endanger the safety of the group.

12:00pm - Lunch at the wreck site, 20 minutes down the ridge from Point Lookout.

12:30pm - Descend to Christmas Creek, its a very steep, slippery, clamber down small rock faces and storm damage.

2:30pm - Christmas Creek and Westray's Grave. From here it's a 4km walk to the edge of the National Park where food, drinks, dry clothes and transport will be waiting to take you back to O'Reilly's.

4:00pm - Completion of walk, refreshments and bus transfer.

6:30pm - Arrive at O'Reilly's and meet at 7:00pm for Dinner.

*The Stinson replica plane at O'Reilly's*



# PREPARATION

## EXPERIENCE

Experience is essential on this type of hike. It's vitally important that you have excellent endurance and training. Maintaining the required 'pace' for this trek is mandatory. You need to be strong and stable on your feet when negotiating rocks, uneven ground and slippery steep terrain.

## ENDURANCE TRAINING

We recommend the following walks to build your endurance level. Requirement walking pace is at least 5 kms an hour on these walks - ideally 6kms an hour.

- O'Reilly's to Binna Burra, Lamington National Park - Border Track 22km
- Warrie Circuit - Springbrook 17km
- Ship's Stern Circuit - Binna Burra, Lamington National Park 21 km
- Albert River Circuit - O'Reilly's, Lamington National Park 21 km
- Minyon Falls Northern Rivers - Mullumbimby Whyan Whyan 13km

## TERRAIN TRAINING

We recommend the following walks for your terrain training. These are good steep, uneven ground treks.

- Numinbah to Apple Tree (Great Walk) - Springbrook
- Mt Barney - Scenic Rim
- Polly's Climb - 'Pinnacle Break via Neranwood Break' - Mudgeeraba - Springbrook Road
- Flinder's Peak - Peak Crossing - Scenic Rim
- Mt Maroon - Scenic Rim

## TRAINING PERIOD

A hike of this magnitude requires considerable preparation, it is not one that you decide to do on the spur of the moment. We recommend a preparation period of three months involving a solid weekly workout on the above walks which have similar terrain to the Stinson Trek.

***If you have knees that give you trouble DO NOT sign up for this Trek!***



View from Point Lookout



Stinson Walk participants cross the finish line.

## TREK NECESSITIES

- Comfortable hiking boots - ensure you wear them in prior to this walk - we don't want blisters!
- Walking poles (personal choice - not necessary) will assist with your balance, particularly on downhills.
- Head torch with extra batteries.
- Insect repellent for leeches and ticks.
- Drinking water - there are no creek crossings before Christmas Creek. At least 3 litres is recommended.
- Energy rich snack food.
- Comfortable backpack.
- Rain jacket and warm jacket-light weight.



*It's imperative to pack the right necessities for this 35km journey*

***And most of all have a fantastic attitude and positive outlook.***

Our guides look forward to meeting you on the eve of the walk. We host a Friday night dinner where you'll receive an overview of the next day's trek and we conduct a verbal/physical assessment of all participants.

***It is mandatory for all participants to attend the Friday night dinner.***

## START TRAINING AND HAVE A GREAT WALK!



*Visit Westrays Grave towards the end of the Stinson Walk*



*Bernard O'Reilly found the plane nine days after it had crashed with two survivors – Joe Binstead and John Proud*

# 87TH ANNIVERSARY STINSON WALK PACKAGE

WEEKEND PROGRAM FOR MAY 17TH - 19TH, 2024

**Friday** Arrive at O'Reilly's, Group briefing, dinner and physical assessment.

**Saturday -** 4:00am Stinson Walk departs  
12:00pm Lunch at Stinson Crash site  
4:30pm Transfers from Christmas Creek to O'Reilly's  
7:00pm Dinner at O'Reilly's Dining Room

**Sunday** Stretch and move those muscles! There are a few short walks near the Retreat.  
Breakfast and depart at your own leisure.

The package to do the Stinson Trek is \$520 per person. This includes all meals, transfers and tour guides.

- Dinner - Friday and Saturday
- Breakfast - Saturday (Continental) and Sunday (Buffet)
- Guided Stinson Walk on Saturday
- Packed Lunch on Saturday
- Celebratory drinks and snacks at the end of the walk at Christmas Creek
- Bus transfer from Christmas Creek to O'Reilly's



## ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation component is an additional cost and is flexible to best suit your needs.

- 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 FORM

To register for the Stinson Walk, please complete the form below and email back to [reservations@oreillys.com.au](mailto:reservations@oreillys.com.au). Once received, one of our friendly team will be in contact with you to confirm your booking and arrange your accommodation.

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 ..... DATE .....

*Terms and Conditions - Deposit of \$260.00 per person is required at time of booking, plus first night accommodation charges. Please note if you are staying at the Campground, full payment will be required at time of booking. Campground accommodation bookings are non-refundable. Cancellation policy: Any cancellations within 30 days of the event are non-refundable for the event package. Travel insurance is highly recommended to cover cancellation due to injury or not meeting fitness levels required within 30 days of the event as well as unexpected circumstances.*