

Your Adventure Your Way

Explore the world around you with OS Maps. Routes, mapping and navigation across the UK whenever and wherever you need it.

Find out more at os.uk/osm



Scan to download the app:



YHA Members: Head to the member benefits area at yha.org.uk/walk-os to find your discount code for an OS Maps Premium subscription

Hazards

This is a high-level mountain route so proper preparation and equipment is necessary. The higher parts of the route regularly have low visibility, make sure you know where you are at all times and have a map and compass for navigation. In winter conditions the route will become slippery and dangerous, especially when covered in snow and ice – mountaineering skills and equipment may be required. Short section of scramble requiring hands on the ascent and descent. Careful navigation required off Y Garn.

Accessibility

This is a physical route with very steep and rocky ascents and descents, some scrambling is required. There are stiles on the route. Paths are uneven, but mostly well-trodden.

Facilities

Toilets and shop near the hostel.

Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast and whether there is enough daylight to complete the walk (metoffice.gov.uk).
- Ensure you are wearing suitable clothing and footwear for the route and weather, and that you take the right kit – learn more at yha.org.uk/walk-skills.
- Download the OS Maps and what3words apps to your phone.
- To be able to contact emergency services by text visit relayuk.bt.com/emercencysms or text 'register' to 999.
- For more information on staying safe in the outdoors visit adventuresmart.uk.
- Complete a route notification card (yha.org.uk/route-card) to provide essential information for the Emergency Services if you do not return when expected.
- Check all members of the group have the fitness and skills to complete the route.

In case of emergency:

- Contact 999 and use OS Maps or what3words to help pinpoint your location.
- To attract attention shout or give six blasts on a whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash a torch six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know your location, number of people in the group and the nature of the emergency.

For more walks or information on route grading and timings go to yha.org.uk/map-guidance

If you encounter problems with this route contact walking@yha.org.uk

Walking has been at the heart of YHA since 1930, helping people access the great outdoors. Today, YHA continues to make adventures possible with mapped routes and affordable hostel stays across England and Wales. Our hostels are ideal for walkers, with drying rooms, self-catering kitchens, and great trails from the doorstep. We're committed to making adventure accessible to everyone, with walks for all abilities and guided walking events that connect people to nature, heritage, and each other.

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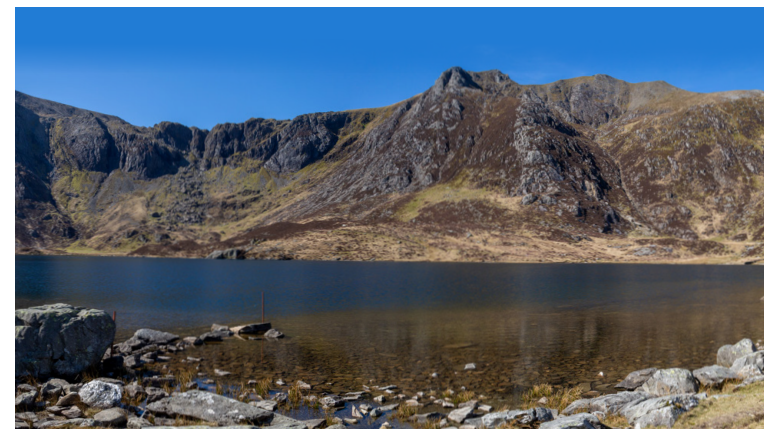
Share your walks



Produced by Matt Overd (<https://walkingpace.uk>). Contributions from Robert Priday, Simon Lightowler & Simon Ainley. Designed by HeylinSmith.com. Cover image: leightoncollins/AdobeStock



Y Garn walk



073

YHA Idwal Cottage

Book your stay now yha.org.uk/stay-073

Mountain walk

A challenging route passing the stunning Cwm Idwal to the single peak of Y Garn. With a couple of steep scrambles, and great views throughout, this is a very enjoyable mountain walk.

Distance: 4.7 miles (7.6km)

Ascent: 670m (2,198ft)

Time: Allow 3h 15m to 4h 45m



Partnered with



Route directions

Map: OS Explorer 1:25k (OL17) Snowdon / Yr Wyddfa

Start/Finish: Grid ref SH 648 603

what3words ///coolest.distilled.repeated

- 1 From the hostel turn right and pass the Visitor Centre.
- 2 At the information board turn right onto the stone path, then bear left.
- 3 Cross the wooden footbridge over Afon Idwal.
- 4 Bear right to stay on the main path.
- 5 At the lake turn right, cross the bridge, then turn left to pass through the gate and onto the path beside the lake.
- 6 Take the grass path up away from the lake.
- 7 Pass through a gate in the stone wall, then continue on the zig zag path steeply uphill.
- 8 Head up the small scramble, then follow the grass path towards the ridge.
- 9 Follow either the grass or rocky path to the ridge.
- 10 Pass the cairn, take the path on left and head up the ridge.
- 11 Take the path to left to keep the ridge on your right.
- 12 As the gradient eases bear left onto the path and continue, with the ridge to your left, to the summit of Y Garn.
- 13 Continue over the summit and take the path away from the edge. Follow the path downhill to a fence.
- 14 Cross the stile and aim for the left of the lake.
- 15 At the lake turn left and cross the stream.
- 16 Bear left to follow the path downhill to a stile in a wall. Follow the steep path carefully down into the Devils Kitchen.
- 17 As the gradient eases bear right onto a stone path and head alongside the right of Llyn Idwal.
- 18 Just before the bridge turn right and retrace the route to the hostel.

Scan this link to view this route on the OS Maps App – also a route profile and GPX

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