

Your Adventure Your Way

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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 of Pen yr Ole Wen. Steep drops throughout the ridge section. Careful navigation required off Carnedd Llewelyn in low visibility. Road crossings and some walking on pavements alongside the busy A5.

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 and cairns aid navigation for many parts of the route.

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.

Supported by

Share your walks



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



Carnedd Dafydd and Carnedd Llewelyn walk



YHA Idwal Cottage

Book your stay now yha.org.uk/stay-075

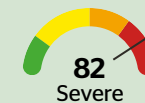
Mountain walk

An exhilarating and rugged mountain route which is steep in places, with short scrambles. Including a high-level section of the Cambrian Way, this route provides stunning mountain scenery and far reaching views.

Distance: 11.6 miles (18.7km)

Ascent: 1,073m (3,520ft)

Time: Allow 7h 30m to 11h 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, then turn left alongside the A5.
- 2 After the bridge cross the road, then cross the wall at the Cambrian Way fingerpost.
- 3 After a few metres the path drops away requiring care climbing down and back up. Then follow the trail marker posts alongside Llyn Ogwen.
- 4 Just before the wall turn left (do not cross stile) to begin the ascent.
- 5 Cross the stream and follow a path of large stone blocks uphill.
- 6 Cross the stile. The path becomes steeper and less distinct as it bears left on the approach to the ridge.
- 7 Scramble up the slab using hands and pick a path through the rocks. Then continue along the ridge path to the summit of Pen yr Ole Wen.
- 8 At the summit go straight ahead to stay on the ridge path to Carnedd Dafydd.
- 9 Pass the summit shelter and continue on the ridge path to Carnedd Llewelyn.
- 10 Pass the summit shelter and bear right to follow the ridge path down Penywaun-wen. Negotiate the steep slab with care on good holds.
- 11 At the low point of the ridge turn right onto a steep zig-zag path downhill. Loose scree in places.
- 12 Join the service road and continue downhill to the A5.
- 13 Cross the A5 and turn right, then turn left towards the Gwern Gof Isaf campsite.
- 14 Turn right and follow the Snowdonia Slate Trail until the track rejoins the A5.
- 15 Cross the A5, turn left and follow the road alongside Llyn Ogwen to the hostel.

