

# 187

## YHA Brecon Beacons Pen y Fan

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

### Mountain walk

**Distance:** 8.2 miles (13.2km) **Ascent:** 733m (2,405ft) **Time:** Allow 4h 30m to 7h

**Map:** OS Explorer (OL12) Brecon Beacons National Park / Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog

**Start/Finish:** OS Locate SN 973 225 **what3words** ///mild.intrigued.simulates



A great walk up the highest British peak south of Snowdonia. From the hostel turn left and pass through the large gate on the right marked Pen y Fan. Turn right, cross a couple of small footbridges and through fields to join the Taff Trail. Turn right and follow the broad track slightly up hill for approx 1.3 miles (2.1km) to the Storey Arms Centre. Continue to the far end of the second carpark and take the well prepared track on the left towards Pen Y Fan. At Bwlch Duwynt bear right to reach the summit cairn of Pen y Fan. To return retrace your steps for 250m, do not take the path you came up on the left, instead continue along the ridge to Corn Du. Pass the summit and down a few rocks. Continue along the ridge path for about 300m and take the well trodden path on the left. Continue downhill to the first carpark at Storey Arms. Turn right onto the Taff Trail and retrace the route to the hostel – look out for the YHA finger post showing where to leave the Taff Trail.

### 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. Corn Du and Pen y Fan are very exposed to winds and storms with limited shelter. Steep drop along the ridge near Corn Du.

### Accessibility

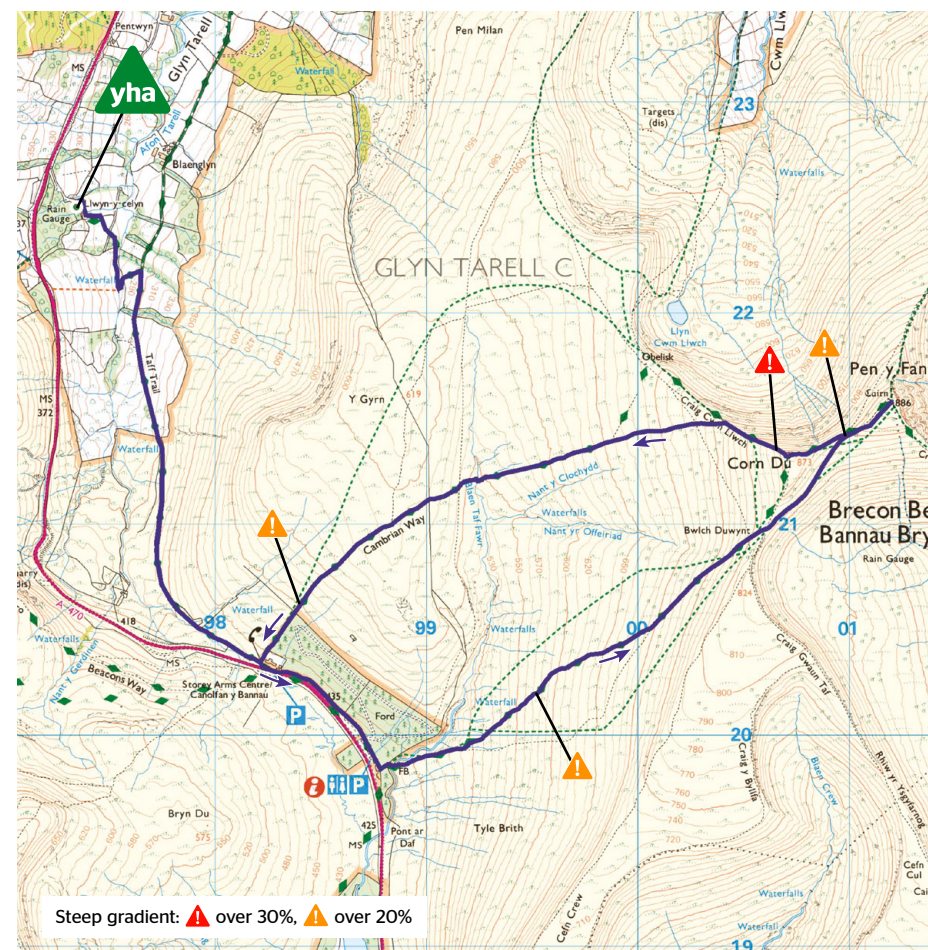
This is a physical route with steep ascents and descents. Tiny amount of steep rocky descent off Corn Du. There are stiles but they should not trouble anyone who is able to complete this route. Much of the route is on well walked and obvious paths. Take care across uneven fields and on less obvious paths between the hostel and Taff Trail.

### Points of interest

Stunning views throughout the route, especially from the summits of Pen y Fan and Corn Du.

### Facilities

Toilets in the second carpark near Storey Arms. Refreshment van often available at Storey Arms.



This route has been created by YHA to provide inspiration and to aid planning and preparation of your walk. It doesn't replace the need for an OS Map or the OS Maps App to navigate your walk safely. Digital maps are a guide and do not always reflect the conditions on the ground, ensure you are aware of your immediate surroundings.



Thank you for choosing to walk from our hostel.  
We hope you have a great time.

Walking in the national landscapes of England and Wales is part of YHA's heritage. With hostels on National Trails, in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, YHA plays a unique role in the nation's walking community.

To make it easy for everyone to enjoy walking from YHA hostels, we have curated three walks – an easy, moderate, and more challenging option. They have all been graded – the higher the grade, the more challenging the route.

### Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast ([mwis.org.uk](http://mwis.org.uk)).
- Check the tide times for coastal routes ([tidetimes.org.uk](http://tidetimes.org.uk)).
- Get the right clothing, footwear and kit for the route and weather.
- Ensure you have enough time to complete the route before dark.
- Download the OS Locate and what3words apps to your phone.
- Contact 999 by SMS text (must pre register by texting 'register' to 999) ([relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms](http://relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms)).
- Plan your walk by completing the YHA route notification card it helps Emergency Services if you get into difficulties or fail to return from your walk when anticipated ([yha.org.uk/route-card](http://yha.org.uk/route-card)).
- Ensure your entire group have the fitness and skills to complete the route.
- For further information on how to stay safe visit [adventuresmart.uk](http://adventuresmart.uk)

For more walks or information on route grading and timings go to [yha.org.uk/walks](http://yha.org.uk/walks)

If you encounter problems with this route contact [walking@yha.org.uk](mailto:walking@yha.org.uk)



Scan or click to shop  
for OS maps online  
[osmaps.com/yha](http://osmaps.com/yha)

Share your walks



## What to wear

- Base layer and mid layer.
- Walking trousers.
- Warm jacket(s).
- Take extra layer(s).
- Hat, gloves and neck gaiter.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning walking socks.
- Walking shoes or boots.

## Kit

- Map, compass and GPS device or OS Map app on your phone.
- Water, lunch and high energy snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Head torch, spare batteries.
- Watch.
- Whistle and survival bag.
- Rucksack, with waterproof cover or a dry bag or plastic bag inside.
- Medicines or toiletries you would usually use.

## You might also want to take

- Spare socks, hat, gloves.
- Balaclava.
- Leg gaiters.
- Waterproof baseball cap (handy if you wear glasses).
- Walking poles.

- Bivi bag or group shelter.
- Spare food and hot drink.
- Duct tape (handy for fixing things).
- Penknife or multitool.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.
- Plastic bags to take away your rubbish or dog poo.

## In case of emergency

- Call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and ask for the Police.
- Use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.
- If you need to attract attention shout or give six blasts on a whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash your torch six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know your location (grid reference), number of people in the group and the nature of the emergency.
- Help could be some time coming so whilst waiting make the casualty comfortable.
- Keep the casualty warm and dry using spare clothing. Use coats or rucksacks to insulate them from the ground.
- Remember the rest of the group could be getting cold whilst waiting. Use an emergency shelter or find a sheltered location.