

20 GWYNEDD

LLYN CWM BYCHAN & LLYN EIDDEW-BACH

▶ Distance: 9¼ miles/14.7km ▶ Time: 6-7 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



Llyn Du, between points 8 and 9.

PHOTO: MATTHEW PIKE

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Parking area at Llyn Cwm Bychan (£3 per car), grid ref SH645314

Is it for me? Rocky patches, boggy patches, stream crossings, very light scrambling, paths often non-existent and terrain mostly uneven. Route finding ability essential

Stiles 19

PLANNING

Nearest town Harlech

Refreshments None

Public toilets None

Public transport None

Maps OS Explorer OL18; Landranger 124; Harvey Superwalker Snowdonia Rhinogs (Rhyngogydd)



CHOSEN BY...

MATTHEW PIKE

The Rhinog mountains have

a somewhat fearsome reputation, and though this walk is testing, it avoids the tricky scrambles and thankless terrain you might encounter elsewhere on the range. Yet it takes you to the heart of this truly wild range, passing remote tarns, clambering over craggy tops and, occasionally, cruising across giant slabs.

From the top of Moel Ysgyfarnogod, there are tremendous views of Snowdonia's northern summits, the fearsome Rhinog Fawr and Rhinog Fach to the south, and the Irish Sea and Llyn Peninsula out west.

1 Start

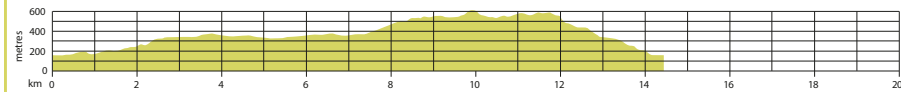
Leave car park and turn L following road. On leaving woodland turn sharp R at footpath sign. Follow wall for 40 yards (to hole in wall), then follow faint path L. This climbs diagonally, passing small knoll on L, then drops to step stile. Cross this then cross stone step stile over wall on R. Rough path eventually joins stone wall on R. Pass old barn, through kissing gate, and cross two streams, crossing track L of house.

2 1 mile/1.6km

Continue in same direction, crossing old stone wall, then crossing step stile. Veer slightly R joining rough 4WD track that swings L and uphill to step stile. Cross this and aim to L of two

trees, picking up clear path skirting hillside. This leads to step stile. Cross this, turn R, and after a few yards cross another step stile. Follow faint

GRADIENT PROFILE



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LLYN CWM BYCHAN & LLYN EIDDEW-BACH▶ OS Explorer map OL18 ▶ Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

DON'T MISS...



The large rock plateaus above Llyn

Du. You'll need to scramble up, but they make excellent picnic spots and the views are magnificent.

path veering L, arcing gradually away from wall on L. Head through gate and continue straight through next field between two rocky outcrops and cross step stile.

3 1/4 miles/2.9km

Follow rough track, turn R at better track and follow for a mile. After third step stile, head through gate, then follow arrow L (Taith Ardudwy Way) through meadow, then follow wall to R. Take step stile R over that wall and through another meadow.

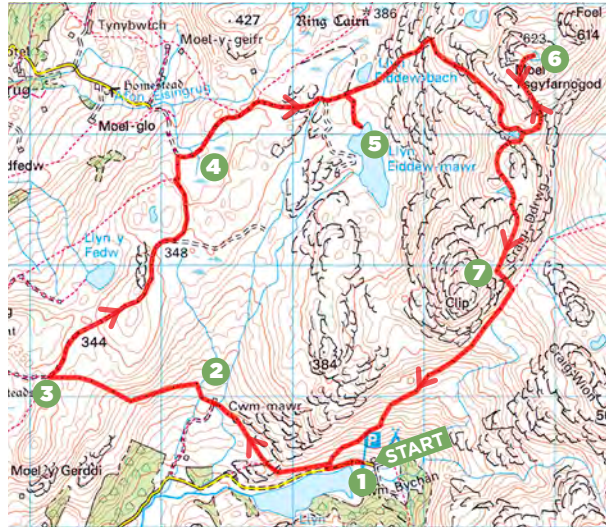
4 3/4 miles/5.1km

Turn R at 4WD track and follow this over two step stiles. When Llyn Eiddew-mawr is visible R, turn R, cross step stile, keep R of wet area and head down to water's edge.

5 1/4 miles/6.8km

Retrace steps to track and turn R, passing Llyn Eiddew-bach, then ascending. When track forks, turn R and follow for 2/3 mile. After passing Llyn Du, veer L along path, which soon becomes rough. Stay to L

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of small valley before crossing rock slab to opposite side and straight up. Turn R at ridge to trig pillar on summit of Moel Ysgyfarnogod.

6 miles/9.7km

Retrace steps back to Llyn Du. Pass to its L, then follow faint path veering R above lake then straight up. Continue up, passing to R of summit while avoiding rockiest sections. Contour around hillside, staying close to big rocks on L. You'll soon see Llyn Corn-ystwc. Clamber down to L side of lake (take care). Pass lake then turn R across fallen wall and up hill behind, through gap in rocks. Head R of first mini summit, then to top of next two summits (light scrambling), continuing along ridge into Bwlch Gwylim.

7 1/2 miles/12km

Before path ascends next hill, take path L down steep hill, then cross step stile. Continue to junction of paths, then turn R. Cross step stile, and follow rough path, gradually descend. Ignore several paths L. Cross step stile, aim for footpath post. Path is easy to lose. Aim R of distant lake to step stile in wall below fence. Cross and follow wall on L, through gap ahead, then follow another wall on L to road. Go L to start. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN
YOUR RATING