



20 GWYNEDD SNOWDON: PYG TRACK



Distance: 3¼ miles/5.3km (each way) Time: 3 hours (each way) Grade: Challenging



SEE FEATURE ON PAGE 34

Bwlch y Moch looking towards Llyn Llydaw.

PHOTO: TOM BAILEY

IS IT FOR ME?

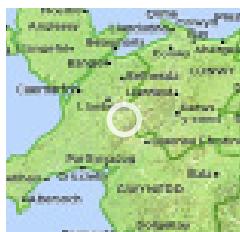
This one is a very popular and fairly straightforward route on Snowdon's eastern slopes, with occasional gnarlier boulders to make things interesting. Going up, progress is lung-stretching from the start with a stiff haul from Pen-y-Pass, a level(ish) hiatus, then thigh-squealing zig-zags to the summit. Coming down, a couple of stretches may need a steadying hand on crag. And the name? It may come from the Pass of Pigs (Bwlch y Moch), from a tarry substance once used in the copper mines, or from the legendary climbers' hotel down in the valley, the Pen-y-Gwryd.

GOING UP

1 Start Pen-y-Pass With back to road, walk past café on R, into higher parking area and pick up tarmac path in corner signed 'Llwybr Pyg Track'. Go with it through gap in wall, then follow stoned and stepped path beyond, up across hillside with views down the valley. Continue to pass (Bwlch y Moch) and a path junction.

2 1 mile/1.6km Keep ahead with main path (R turn leads to knife-edge ridge of Crib Goch!) and over two side-by-side ladder-stiles. Keep following clear path up round hillside, with views to Llyn Llydaw and then Glaslyn down to L. There are a

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/finish Pen-y-Pass on the A4086, postcode LL55 4NY, grid ref SH647556
Parking Very busy car park at Pen-y-Pass; park & ride from Nant Peris (on way to Llanberis)
Public transport S1 bus Caernarfon to Betws-y-Coed; S4 from Porthmadog & Beddgelert

PLANNING

Nearest town Caernarfon
Refreshments Two cafés at Pen-y-Pass; summit café (seasonal)
Public toilets Start; summit (when café open)
Maps OS Explorer OL17; Landranger 115

few rocky sections on this stretch where you might need to put a hand down. Continue to stone marker post; this is where the Miners' Track joins from the L. Keep climbing on

GRADIENT PROFILE Total ascent 2566 feet/782m



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OS Explorer map OL17 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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Pyg Track from the summit of Snowdon.

PHOTO: TOM BAILEY

path ahead. Again, there are a few gnarly sections but it never feels exposed. Continue

on path as it zig-zags up to reach large standing stone on ridgeline (Bwlch Glas) with railway beyond. Turn L to follow path beside railway (line to R) and on up to summit, bearing L up steps near café to reach viewfinder.

COMING DOWN

1 Start summit

From summit, head down steps to R of café to pick up path down beside railway line to large stone marker at Bwlch Glas. Turn R here to descend steeply; the path is zig-zagged initially and then straightens out. There are a couple of gnarly sections where you might need a hand down on rock – but it's never too airy. Continue to reach marker stone and a turn for Miners' Track on R. Keep straight

ahead to stick with Pyg Track as it curves round hillside high above Glaslyn and then Llyn Llydaw. Again, there are a few rockier sections/steps to negotiate. Continue over side-by-side ladder stiles to path junction at Bwlch y Moch.

2 2¼ miles/3.7km

Go ahead beside wall (L leads to knife-edge ridge of Crib Goch!) and follow wide path as it curves round to R to descend to car park at Pen-y-Pass. CWW

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

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING