

# 23 CONWY/GWYNEDD GLYDER FAWR & GLYDER FACH

▶ Distance: 6 miles/9.8km ▶ Time: 5 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



Sharp views from the summit of Glyder Fawr to Snowdon.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



**CHOSEN BY...**  
**JENNY WALTERS**

Glyder Fawr and Glyder Fach are superstars of Snowdonia, a pair of 3000-foot+ peaks famed for sharp, shattered rocks that make them look more lunar than earthy. This route is a classic, heading to Llyn Idwal and then clambering up past the rocky chute of the Devil's Kitchen and over steep scree to the top of Glyder Fawr. A high, bouldery skyline leads on to Castell y Gwynt, Glyder Fach and the Cantilever Stone, before a loop back by Bwlch Tryfan and Llyn Bochlwyd – aka Lake Australia for its distinctive shape. This is a *big* mountain day, and it's

notoriously hard to find your way about the rocky ridge in mist so definitely one to save for a fine forecast, when the views will make all that sweat and scramble worthwhile.

**1 Start** Walk past snack bar and up steps in corner of terrace, past viewfinder sculpture, through gate and across bridge. Follow clear path for 200m, then keep R at fork to walk up to shore of Llyn Idwal. Go L along east side of lake to junction at far end.

**2 1 mile/1.8km** Keep ahead (R turn continues round lake), climbing uphill and bearing to R, then later swinging back to L (ignore fork to R back down to

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Car park (P&D) at west tip of Llyn Ogwen, LL57 3LZ, grid ref SH649604

**Is it for me?** Lots of rock/scree, often very steep, occasionally hands on. Navigation can be difficult.

**Stiles** 2

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Bethesda

**Refreshments** Ogwen Snack Bar at start

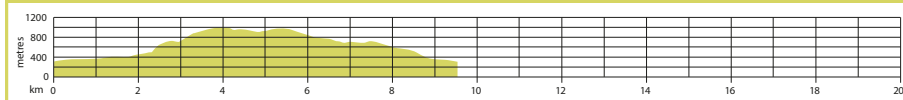
**Public toilets** At start

**Public transport** S6 Snowdon Sherpa bus from Bangor to Pen-y-Pass (weekends only)

**Maps** OS Explorer OL17; Landranger 115

lake) to go up past the Devil's Kitchen to stile over wall. The path is well-built, but you might need hands on rock up a couple of the steepest bits. Continue up shallow gully beyond and on to shore of Llyn y Cŵn for a breather. →

## GRADIENT PROFILE



23 CONWY/GWYNEDD  
GLYDER FAWR & GLYDER FACH▶ OS Explorer map OL17 ▶ Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

**3 1¼ miles/3km**  
Backtrack very slightly to pick up path heading south, climbing up the slopes of Glyder Fawr. This is a notorious grind over scree. Initially the route follows a clear gully, then the paths fan out above as everyone tries to pick a way through the loose rubble. As long as you're heading uphill you should be okay, then bear L as you approach the ridge, across increasingly firm but still rocky terrain to the summit of Glyder Fawr and a view that will make you forget the sweat.

**4 2½ miles/4km**  
Go ahead (east) along ridge towards Glyder Fach. There is a path, sometimes marked with cairns, but it's not always easy to see among all the boulders. You'll pass close to the top of the cliffs of Cwm Cneifion on your L, then trend R on path across turf towards the distinctive shards of the Castell y Gwynt (Castle of the Winds). You can scramble up over it, but the path skirts round to the R, then on towards Glyder Fach. Bagging this summit involves scrambling on big Jenga-blocks of rock; most walkers skirt it to reach the Cantilever Rock just beyond (accessed by short rock-hop on up L).

**5 3½ miles/5.6km**  
Continue on faint path near edge of escarpment, passing top of Bristly Ridge on your



L (make sure you don't get swung out onto this). Keep heading east along chunky main ridge, descending through bands of boulders and turf to reach pass marked by large cairn, with Llyn Caseg-fraith gleaming ahead.

**6 4¼ miles/6.7km**  
Turn L down towards Cwm Tryfan. Path is steep initially, and very loose underfoot. Ignore turn to R down into valley, and keep L to contour around its headwall. Curve R as you approach the far side, then L to climb up and over stile straddling wall at Bwlch Tryfan. Take path ahead downhill towards Llyn Bochlwyd. It soon turns to sturdy blocks, dropping to the lake and round to its outflow on the north side.

**7 5¼ miles/8.5km**  
Rock hop across, then soon bear R to head down parallel to the tumbling waters of Nant Bochlwyd. The path can be hard to pick up initially, but soon turns into a defined route. Some sections are very steep; hands-on in a couple of spots. As you bear L away from stream the gradient eases, and flagstones lead across marshy ground to meet path you took up to Cwm Idwal earlier. Turn R back to start. **CW**

**VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:**

[walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes](http://walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED


TIME TAKEN


YOUR RATING

