

22 GWYNEDD THE NANTLLE RIDGE

▶ Distance: 6¾ miles/10.9km ▶ Time: 5 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



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FEATURE
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Traversing Mynydd Drws-y-Coed.

PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY... PHILIP THOMAS

Snowdonia's neglected classic, the Nantlle Ridge is a rollercoaster route for hillwalking aficionados. Falling short of 3000 feet, its mountains elude the crowds, remaining gloriously quiet. Barrelling southwest from Rhyd Ddu, these rugged peaks are strung together by serrated ridges and notched with amphitheatre cwms. The walk opens with the enticing, steeply profiled tusk of Y Garn, followed by a nerve-testing scramble up to Mynydd Drws-y-Coed. Our route turns back at Mynydd Tal-y-mignedd and returns through Beddgelert Forest, but you

could extend the walk out and up to the ridge's highest point on Craig Cwm Silyn. If your group has left a car at the far end, you could traverse all 8¾ magnificent miles of the ridge.

1 Start

From car park, cross road to gate opposite toilets and follow Lôn Gwyrfaï bridleway over footbridge. Shortly turn R up signposted bridleway to road. Swing L through gate on signed bridleway. After next gate, heed waymark pointing you W to ladder stile and follow fainter path uphill to cross next ladder stile. Path wiggles steeply W becoming rougher and rockier. After ½ mile, it turns and climbs NW to summit of Y Garn. Skirt around

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking P&D car park (£5) in Rhyd Ddu, LL54 6TN, grid ref SH570525

Is it for me? Rough, steep paths define this route, involving simple, but at times exposed scrambling, and good route finding. Best left for a clear, dry day
Stiles 4

PLANNING

Nearest town Caernarfon

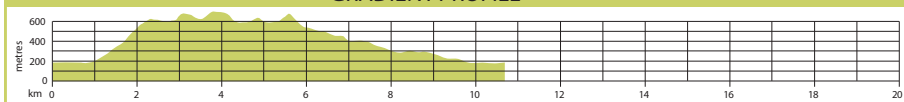
Refreshments Ty Mawr Tea Room and Cwellyn Arms in Rhyd Ddu

Public toilets At start
Public transport Bus S4 Caernarfon-Beddgelert www.bit.ly/snowdonsherpawelsh Welsh Highland Railway serves Rhyd Ddu (www.festrail.co.uk)

Maps OS Explorer OL17, Landranger 115

LH side of boulders up to wall, following it R to cross stile and carry on to summit cairm/shelter (grid ref SH551526). →

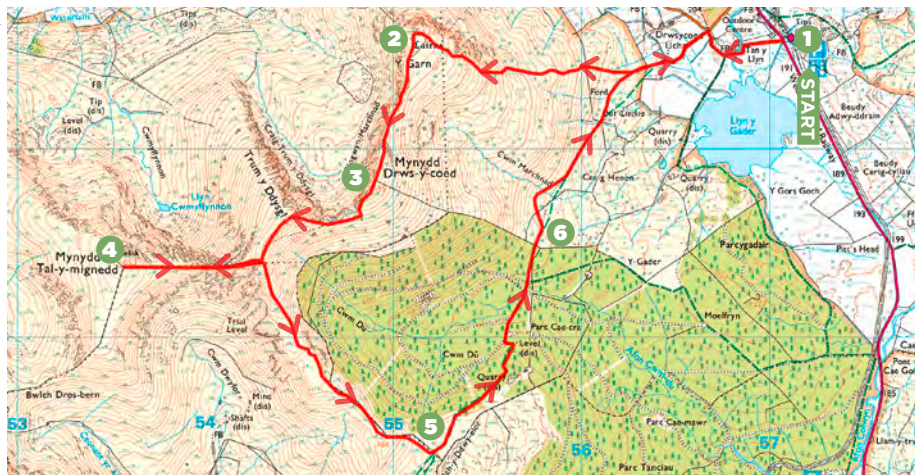
GRADIENT PROFILE



22 GWYNEDD THE NANTLE RIDGE

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

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

2 1½ miles/2.4km

From Y Garn's summit, follow ridge path S towards Mynydd Drws-y-Coed, going L over wall before it ends to re-join ridge path. It becomes exposed, with sheer drops on the RH side. Scramble carefully along crest where possible, but tend towards LH side, where route is easier/less exposed. Eventually, this arête becomes a smoother, grassier ridge. Follow line of old fence posts to cross stile at summit of Mynydd Drws-y-Coed (SH548518).

3 2 miles/3.2km

Descend ridge path for ¼ mile SW to bwlch and look out for a narrow path diverting W (SH546515), straight up steep ridgeline ahead to the grassy, unadorned summit of Trum y Ddysgl (SH544516). Descend path/ridge SW, curving W down

to cross bwlch. Continue W, to follow wall to gate, and R to Mynydd Tal-y-mignedd summit, marked by obelisk (SH535513).

4 3 miles/4.8km

From here (if your group has two cars, and parked one in a lay-by outside Nebo, grid ref SH483500), you could carry on W-SW over Craig Cwm Silyn to end of Nantlle Ridge. If not, this is a good place to turn back. Retrace steps E and start to re-ascend Trum y Ddysgl. Look out for faint path curving R (SH543514) around crags of Cwm Dwyfor, heading S-SE down broad ridge. It gets steeper/rockier as it descends to follow fence/wall to a junction at Bwlch-y-Ddwy-elor.

5 4½ miles/7.2km

Turn L through gate and follow bridlway down into

Beddelgert Forest to forestry track. Turn R as signed, then shortly L downhill. At next junction, go L over bridge and immediately R on path through trees. Cross forestry track to follow bridlway straight on, leaving forest.

6 5½ miles/8.7km

Follow bridlway N through next gate and cross stream ahead. After next stream/gate, the trail fades, leading to the outbound path. Turn R and retrace earlier steps back to start. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON
OS MAPS ONLINE:

lfto.com/cwroutes

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