

# 22 GWYNEDD ARENIG FAWR

▶ Distance: 7½ miles/12.1km ▶ Time: 5 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



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ON PAGE 52



Looking north-east on the way up to the summit, between Points 4 and 5.

PHOTO: MATTHEW PIKE



### CHOSEN BY...

#### MATTHEW PIKE

Arenig Fawr's

isolation is one of its

strengths. It stands amid miles of moorland and smaller peaks meaning the views from the top are vast. Comfortably within view are the Cadair Idris massif and the Berwyn, Aran and Rhinog ranges.

While to the north is the distant dramatic cluster of Snowdonia's highest summits. This walk takes you up Arenig Fawr via the back door. Rather than the more popular eastern ascent via Llyn Arenig Fawr, the western side offers a more remote feel. First, you head up a broad, largely empty valley. Then you'll need to follow your nose to negotiate the rocky

outcrops and tarns towards the top. Paths may be hit and miss, but the views and sense of achievement in climbing one of Wales' most impressive mountains won't disappoint.

### 1 Start

From small parking area, head downhill, cross A4212 and continue along minor road, signed to Arenig. After 800yds, turn R along track (sign says 'unsuitable for motor vehicles'). Follow this to junction of paths, then fork L (yellow arrow on gatepost ahead).

### 2 1 mile/1.6km

Follow track then, shortly after passing ruined buildings, take L fork leading steadily uphill, climbing more steeply at

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Parking area on B4391 at junction with A4212, grid ref SH816394

**Is it for me?** Prolonged steep sections, a few boggy areas and some pathless sections. But conditions underfoot mostly agreeable

**Stiles** 3

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Bala

**Refreshments** None

**Public toilets** None

**Public transport** None

**Maps** OS Explorer OL18; Landranger 125; Harvey Superwalker Aran

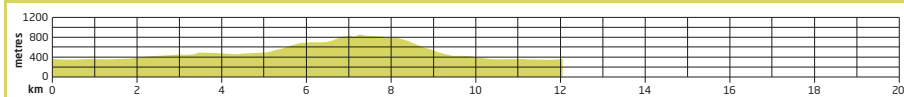
valley head. Track levels off and reaches rounded turning area with wall heading directly up hillside. Several yards beyond wall, take path straight uphill.

### 3 3¼ miles/5.3km

Path becomes sketchy. Continue straight up towards



## GRADIENT PROFILE



22 GWYNEDD  
ARENIG FAWR▶ OS Explorer map OL18 ▶ Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

## DON'T MISS...

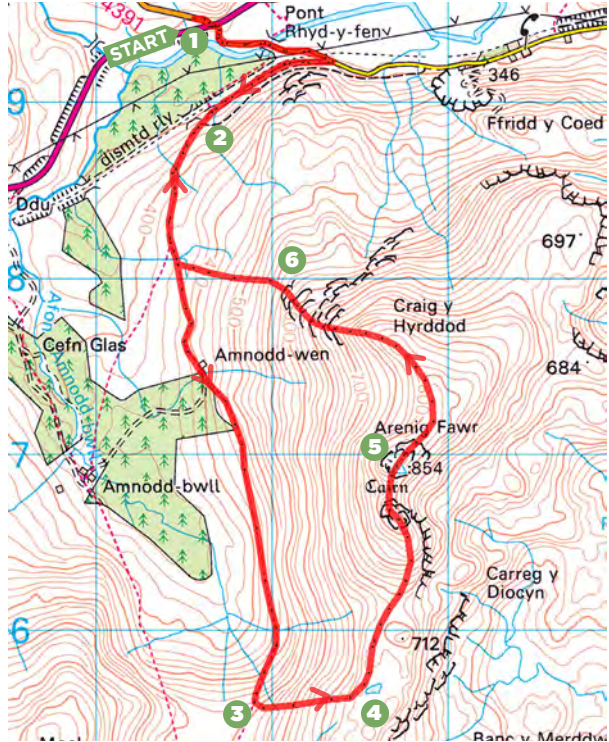


In the summit shelter at the top of Arenig Fawr is a memorial (pictured) to eight crew members of an American Flying Fortress bomber, which crashed on the mountain on 4th August 1943 during a night training mission.



PHOTO: MATTHEW PIKE

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

corner where two fences meet. Cross stile and continue for several yards. As fence bends R, turn L along path up onto plateau of craggy tors and tarns.

**4** 3½ miles/5.6km

Path is unclear, but aim north for main bulk of Arenig Fawr, passing L of several tarns, and R of small outcrop. Stay close to L edge of ridge, then veer slightly R just before reaching fence. Stay close to fence, heading towards mountain. When fence veers L,

follow it straight uphill and over one summit. When fence bends sharp R, cross stile ahead and continue up path to top of Arenig Fawr.

**5** 4½ miles/7.2km

Path continues along ridgetop with several wooden posts that guide you. Descent is gentle at first, then path drops sharply, keeping to L of fence. Just before wall, hop R over fence, cross tumbledown wall and veer L along faint path leading downhill.

**6** 5½ miles/8.8km

Path initially veers away from wall on L, but soon returns, following it steeply downhill, over boggy areas and back to track. Turn R and retrace footsteps to start. **CW**

**VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:**  
[walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes](http://walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes)

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