



23 GWYNEDD ELIDIR FAWR & DINORWIC QUARRY

▶ Distance: 10½ miles/16.8km ▶ Time: 7 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



SEE
FEATURE
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Llyn Peris and Snowdon from
Dinorwic Quarries.



PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY...
PHILIP THOMAS

The slate quarries of North Wales once roofed the world. The second largest of all was Dinorwic, near Llanberis. It left Elidir Fawr's mountainsides spectacularly gouged and disfigured. The mountain now conceals a hydroelectric power station, fed by a reservoir tucked up in a high cwm. But up top, this 3031-foot peak remains untouched and ruggedly beautiful. Beyond its shattered quarryscape, a steep path leads up to Elidir Fawr's rocky summit. A ridge joins it to other outlying peaks in the Glyderau range, before a descent to Dinorwig and through Padarn Country Park.

If this demanding route isn't for you, a shorter walk (3¼ miles) is suggested on the map.

1 Start

Leave car park via road you came in on, to mini roundabout. Turn L (past Power Station sign), then L up walled footpath through trees/spoil heaps. Zigzag up to metal bridge, turn sharp R down to and along tramway (follow blue trail markers). Continue up steep disused incline (passing ruined Anglesey Barracks on L). Go around next drum house and carry on up incline to kissing gate at top. Detour L to viewpoint, then return.

2 1 mile/1.6km

Go R through adjacent gate

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Garsaf Ddu P&D in Padarn Country Park, LL55 4TY, grid ref SH585 604

Is it for me? Requires good stamina for steep/rough terrain, sometimes exposed. Good navigation needed to follow faint paths (some not marked on OS maps). Quiet lanes are used later on.

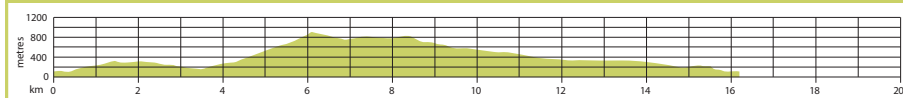
Stiles 9

PLANNING

Nearest town Caernarfon
Refreshments Cafés at start & in nearby Llanberis
Public toilets At start
Public transport Buses 85/86 (Bangor) and 88 (Caernarfon), & seasonal Snowdon Sherpa S2/S6
Maps OS Explorer OL17; Landranger 115

to follow track through quarries. Where main track swings R downhill after ¾-mile, take rough footpath ahead

GRADIENT PROFILE



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

through kissing gate, jinking down L off spoil tip and along wall. Continue through fields, crossing footbridges, to cross ladder stile at 'Fron'.

3 2½ miles/3.8km

Go L of buildings along lane, shortly turning L up path along wall to ladder stile. Follow path through next stile/gate, zigzagging and curving R up into Cwm Dudodyn. Turn L over ladder stile at grid ref SH608 595 to cross stream (footbridge on OS map isn't there) and trace a faint hill path (not on older OS maps) steeply N. Cross stile (after boggy patch) in wall ahead. Continue on same bearing up through gaps in next fences, beyond which the now clearer path trends N-NE, crossing scree up to summit shelter of Elidir Fawr (grid ref SH612 613).

4 4 miles/6.4km

Leave summit R (easterly), following narrow path down ridge to Bwlch y Marchlyn. Stay on ridge crest where path dips to R-hand side, bearing NE, uphill to pick up fence line. Cross stile and follow fence up to summit shelter of Mynydd Perfedd, beyond fence corner (at grid ref SH623 619).

5 5 miles/8km

Follow the faint path N, curving N-NW over stile. Cross boulders up to crest of Carnedd y Filiast, bearing R to summit (grid ref SH621 627).



6 5½ miles/8.9km

Take a rocky path NE down R-hand side of shelter for 100m. Turn L up and over shoulder (through grassy gap between boulders), to follow stony path NW, twisting downhill to small pond in saddle. Bear W to pick up path curving south towards dam, descending to cross stile to paved access road. Follow it L, curving up to meet another road from dam. Keep straight on, continuing down access road for 1½ miles to gate.

7 7½ miles/12.3km

Continue down public road to junction on corner. Turn L, along lane for one mile, past chapel into Dinorwig.

8 9 miles/14.5km

Cross road and head down lane L of bus shelter. Take second footpath R after converted chapel. Go R of 'Ty

Newydd Farm', through kissing gate and over stile to next gate. Go R to paved track, and follow it L, over bridge and through gate signed 'Pen yr Allt'. Past cottage, pick up path R of second dwelling. At junction, follow yellow trail marker L into Coed Dinorwig. At fork, take path down R (yellow/blue). Keep straight at next junction (green), then down R at next marker. At track, go R (green/yellow), then R again to front of old Quarry Hospital. Cross railway bridge L to viewpoint. Follow trails L through country park back to start. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

