

23 POWYS PISTYLL RHAADR & CADAIR BERWYN

▶ Distance: 5½ miles/9km ▶ Time: 3 hours ▶ Grade: Moderate



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FEATURE
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Views across Powys from the top of Pistyll Rhaeadr.

PHOTO: TOM BAILEY



CHOSEN BY...
JENNY WALTERS
Pistyll Rhaeadr is one of Wales'

highest waterfalls, flowing through a natural arch as it tumbles 240 feet from the Berwyn Hills. These beautiful uplands aren't in a national park or AONB, so once you've climbed to the moor-clad tops you likely won't see more than a soul or two all day. What you will see are wide vistas of Snowdonia, a crag-cradled llyn, and lush valley views – all in under six miles.

1 Start

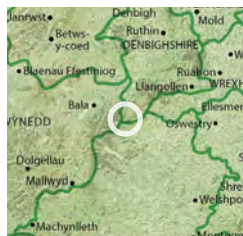
From layby, turn L on lane to reach Pistyll Rhaeadr car park. Bear L towards café, turning R on path just before you reach it

to walk to base of waterfalls and footbridge. Once you've admired the cascade, turn R away from bridge on path signed 'Top of falls'. Go ahead through wood, ignoring turns, and through gate by waymark. Keep ahead on path which soon curves L uphill and through kissing gate. Immediately fork L to ascend stony zig-zag path and reach track. Turn L on it and follow up round to R. When it levels out at its highest point, fork L across grass to go down over stile in wall. Descend path to peep carefully over top of falls.

2 ½ mile/1km

Retrace your steps back up to where you turned off the track, and go straight up ridge

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Layby just before end of lane, 4 miles NW of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, grid ref SJ076293

Is it for me? Mostly clear paths; one longish climb; some boggy sections
Stiles 7

PLANNING

Nearest town Bala
Refreshments

Tearoom at Pistyll Rhaeadr, www.pistyllrhaeadr.co.uk/cafe.html

Public toilets At Pistyll Rhaeadr café car park

Public transport

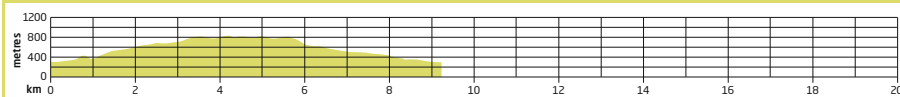
None to start. Buses serve nearby Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

Maps OS Explorer 255; Landranger 125

ahead. Path is faint at first, but soon develops into clear grassy trail (ignore another path running across moors over



GRADIENT PROFILE



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► OS Explorer map 255 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

to your L. Keep climbing ridgeline to reach gap in fence ahead. Go through and continue uphill with fence running to your R (NB: permissive path is shown on other side of fence on map). Continue with fence to your R, over a top and down to col, then up to cairn on summit of Moel Sych.

3 2¼ miles/3.5km
Go over stile ahead (ignore one to R) and keep walking with fence to R – it can be very boggy here – passing rocky peak over to R. Keep ahead with fence to R, to reach stile on R. Go over to reach triangulation point on Cadair Berwyn (North Top).

4 2¾ miles/4.6km
At pillar, turn R to head back south along ridge now on eastern side of fence (with fence still to your R). Walk over Cadair Berwyn's rocky highest point at 2732 feet (New Top, not named on map). Go down over stile and on along ridge, then follow path curving L away from fence and down along top of crags – close to edge at times – with Llyn Lluncaws down to L. Continue on path past lake – often boggy – and across stream to reach second stream crossing.

5 4¼ miles/7km
Path is unclear for a short way after you cross, but head south down the valley with



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stream to R and you'll pick up a clear grassy path that runs like a balcony along L (east) side of valley. Follow path down over two stiles, and as you approach lower end of valley, take first path down to R, turning R on another path to descend to bridge and cross stream. Bear up to L and turn L on wide track to continue down R (west) side of valley. Hop up rock to R as you near falls to rejoin your path from earlier,

going through kissing gate and descending through woods. Go L beside gate with waymark and drop to lane. Turn L to return to layby. **CW**

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