22 MONMOUTHSHIRE YSGYRYD FAWR

Distance: 7 miles/11km Time: 3½ hours Grade: Moderate





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CHOSEN BY... STEVE EDDY One pleasing

attribute of this walk is that you can see exactly where you're going from the start - and for much of the way there too, as the Skirrid is a distinctive landmark, visible from afar, and set apart from its bigger cousins a few miles further west, the Black Mountains. Its location also provides spectacular views of the Beacons, and across pretty farmland to the east, as far as the Malverns on a clear day - and all for a climb of under 500m. On the way there vou'll see rolling pasture, oak woodland, and ever-changing views of the Skirrid itself. And there's a very nice ancient pub

of the same name when you get back!

Start

Take lane opposite church. Cross A465 to continuation of lane, veering R past Llanvihangel Court and old barn on L. Keep straight ahead following small Beacons Way (BW) sign. After 100m turn R through BW signed gate past barn. Cut across field heading towards Skirrid to join path by fence on L. Follow path and signs through small gates in same direction over several fields, and along short section of green track. Where track veers L. keep straight across field to go through gate into small wood. Cross FB, exit wood by another gate, and

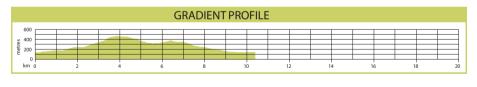
ROUTE Start/parking Easy parking on road outside church, near petrol station and chan grid rof

and shop, grid ref SO325205 Is it for me? Paths, a lane. One fairly steep ascent Stiles 7 (including return).

PLANNING

Nearest town Abergavenny Refreshments Skirrid Inn, Llanvihangel Crucorney (01873 890258); www. skirridmountaininn.co.uk (unofficial info site, not for bookings) Public toilets None Public transport X4 bus from Abergavenny or Hereford to Llanvihangel Crucorney Maps OS Explorer OL13; Landranger 161

cross field going uphill to FB and gate in its SE corner. Follow BW markers to emerge on lane.



PLAN YOUR WALK

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OS Explorer map OL13 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

DON'T MISS...

Small twin stones just before trig point - all that remains of St Michael's Chapel.

1¹/₄ miles/2km

✓ Turn R and walk 400m along lane. Turn L onto BW marked path via stile. Follow for short distance to another BW marked stile. Cross field to open gate by BW marked stile. Follow field edge uphill to another BW marked stile. Cross track and keep R along field edge to gate near SW corner, to enter National Trust land at foot of Skirrid.

Z 2 miles/3.3km

Go R along path and skirt round to W of Skirrid (great views). Follow stony path, after a while entering woods and veering E alongside stone wall. Shortly after gate on R, take path L uphill heading N. Follow obvious path uphill to rocks, where it becomes less steep. Follow to summit trig point.

4 miles/6.5km Backtrack 300m from summit to small depression, where clear grassy path leads off L, heading NE downhill. Follow to exit NT land where you entered. Retrace your footsteps to lane.



C 5 miles/8.25km

Turn L on lane and follow for 800m, past Great Llwyn Franc drive on R. Opposite Llwyn Franc (on L, not Great), take poorly signed path marked on map as restricted byway alongside field edge to stile in corner near 187m mark on map. Right of Way crosses wheatfield to cross new tarmac track from Great Llwyn Franc. Unmarked path continues alongside field edge and veers L to pass new barn, then R. Continue to gate onto drive of Crossways House. After drive, follow signed FP through garden onto lane. Carefully cross A465 to road leading to Llanvihangel and finish.



WALKEE

TIME TAKEN