

Snowdonia

Mountains and Coast

Snowdon - Walking Routes















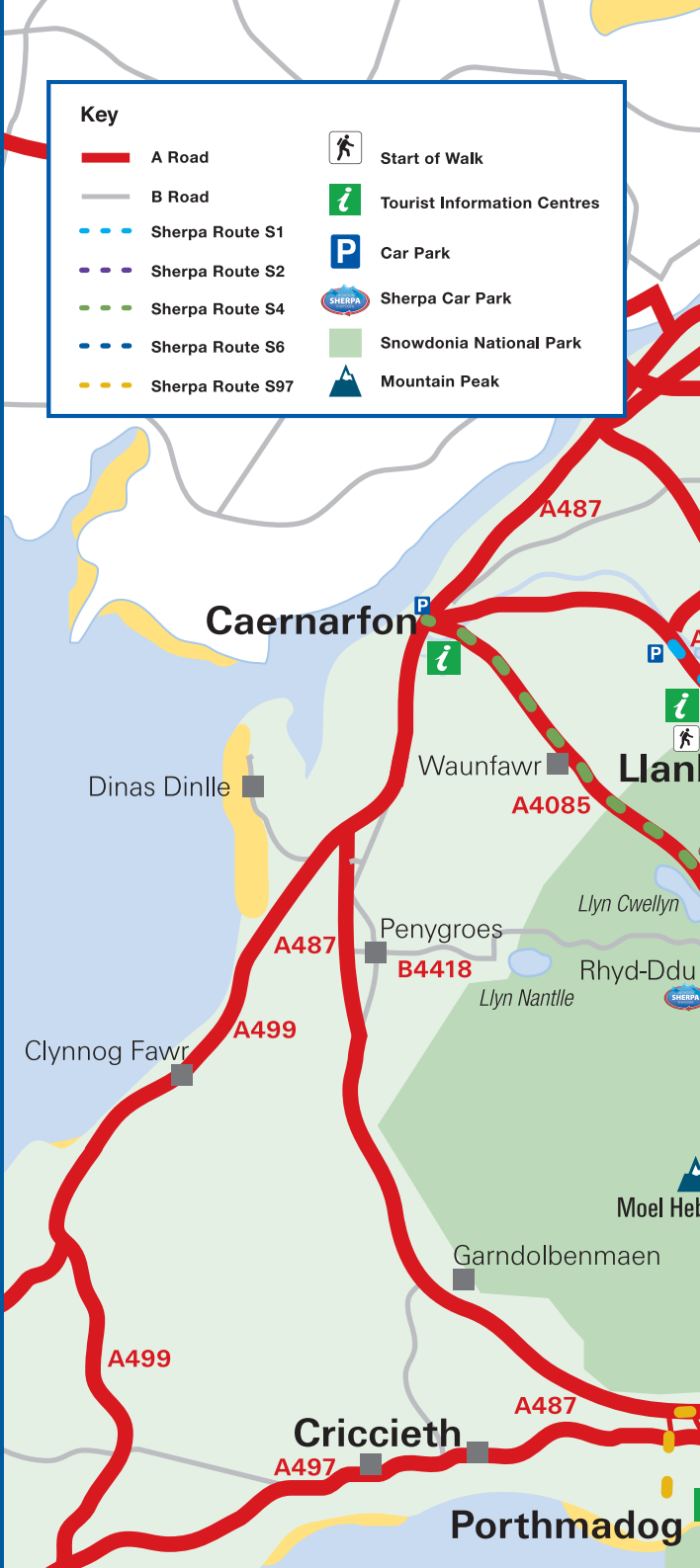
Wales
Cymru

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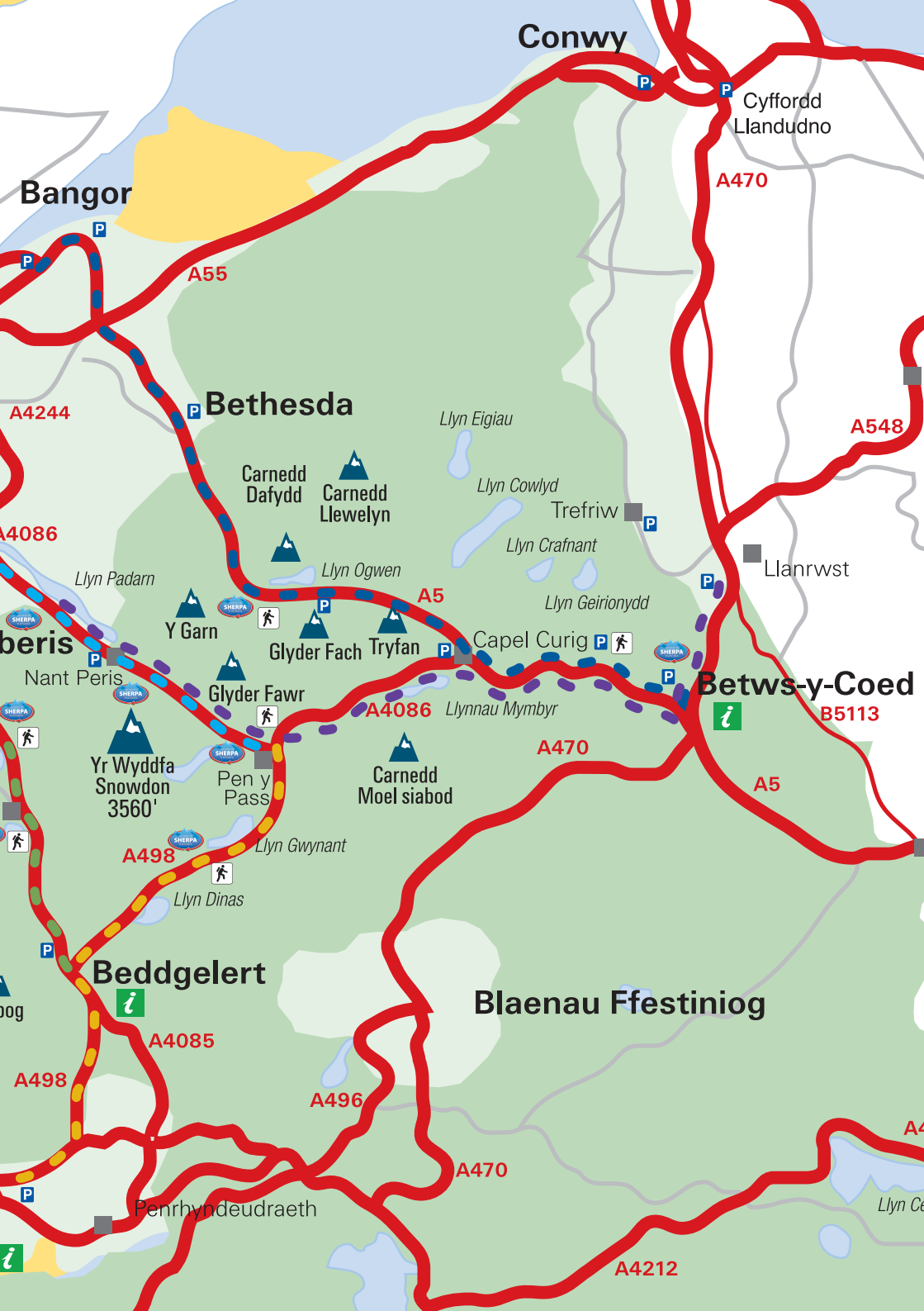
	A Road		Start of Walk
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	Sherpa Route S2		Sherpa Car Park
	Sherpa Route S4		Snowdonia National Park
	Sherpa Route S6		Mountain Peak
	Sherpa Route S97		



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Published by: Gwynedd Council, Economy and Community Department, County Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 1SH.
 Tel: 01286 679 630.
 Email: tourism@gwynedd.gov.uk
 Web: www.visitsnowdonia.info
Printed by: Cyngor Gwynedd
Photographs: PM Photography
Design by: Splinter Design Communications, 0151 709 9066, www.splinter.co.uk





Conwy

Bangor

Cyffordd Llandudno

Bethesda

Llyn Eigiau

Carnedd Dafydd

Carnedd Llewelyn

Llyn Cowlyd

Llyn Crafnant

Trefriw

Llyn Geirionydd

Llanrhwst

Llyn Padarn

Y Garn

Glyder Fach

Tryfan

Capel Curig

Llynau Mymbyr

Betws-y-Coed

beris

Nant Peris

Glyder Fawr

Yr Wyddfa Snowdon 3560'

Pen y Pass

Carnedd Moel siabod

Llyn Gwynant

Llyn Dinas

Beddgelert

Blaenau Ffestiniog

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A496

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Penrhyndeudraeth

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Introduction to Snowdon

We're talking about the highest peak in Wales and a mountain that rates amongst the most beautiful in the world!

Snowdon or *Yr Wyddfa* ("the tomb") stands at an altitude of 1,085 metres (3,560 ft) above sea level. This mountain has everything from the rarest flowers and insects to ruined mines, from fascinating volcanic rock formations to fossils on the summit. One thing's for sure if your interest lies in challenging ascents set in stunning scenery then this mountain's got something for you!

The English name "Snowdon" comes from the Saxon *Snow Dun*, meaning "snow hill" and the first recorded ascent was by the botanist Thomas Johnson in 1639.

Paths to the summit!

There are 6 official footpaths to the summit all varied in difficulty and starting from various sides of the mountain. Our aim within this publication is to inform you about the different walking routes on this majestic mountain. On a clear day you will experience stunning views from the summit. It is possible to see 18 lakes and 14 summits over 3,000 feet (914m), and sometimes, you will be able to see Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Lake District.

Maps and weather advice?

Ensure you've got an Ordnance Survey OS OL17 Snowdon and Conwy Valley.

For up to date weather advice please go to **www.metoffice.gov.uk** or call Mountain call Snowdonia: Regional weather report 09068 500449 (Charged at 60p per minute from Met Office).



i Call in at one of the areas Tourist Information Centres where you can purchase a selection of maps, walking guides and get the latest weather forecast.

Safety first!

We asked a Snowdonia National Park Warden 10 basic safety questions regarding safety on Snowdon.

1) Which is the best walking path for novice walkers?

The weather creates problems not the landscape. Look at the forecast and be properly prepared for your walk.

2) What equipment is essential when walking?

This will change as the season progresses. In general: Good pair of shoes with grip and ankle support. Warm clothes and a sack which includes waterproof clothing. Also a map – make sure you know how to read one.

3) What should I do in an emergency?

If there is a group, one to stay with the patient and the others to go find assistance. If you have a mobile phone call 999 and ask for North Wales Police. If you are alone whistle six times in a minute and hope someone hears.

4) Best advice for walkers?

Choose the weather, your friends and enjoy. If uneasy - just turn back.

5) Can the weather create problems for walkers?

The weather is the main reason for accidents on the mountain. Look up the forecast and pick your day carefully.

6) Which is the most challenging path?

This will depend on experience and energy levels though the Watkin path is generally viewed as being the most physically challenging.

7) Are dogs allowed on Snowdon Paths?

On public paths under tight control.

8) What are the advantages when using the Sherpa buses network?

Less cars on the roads and the ability to cross the mountains.

9) Where is the best place to buy maps and receive local advice?

Tourist Information Centres or any good outdoor shop.

10) What should I be vigilant about on Snowdon?

The weather and being ill prepared.



Hafod Eryri - It's certainly worth the effort!

The new £8.3m visitor centre on the summit of Snowdon is a truly unique designed structure built of granite. Providing refreshment facilities, toilets and interpretation of the mountain, its history and ways to enjoy it.

Warning - Hafod Eryri closes over the winter. During the winter there are:

NO toilet facilities

NO café

NO shelter

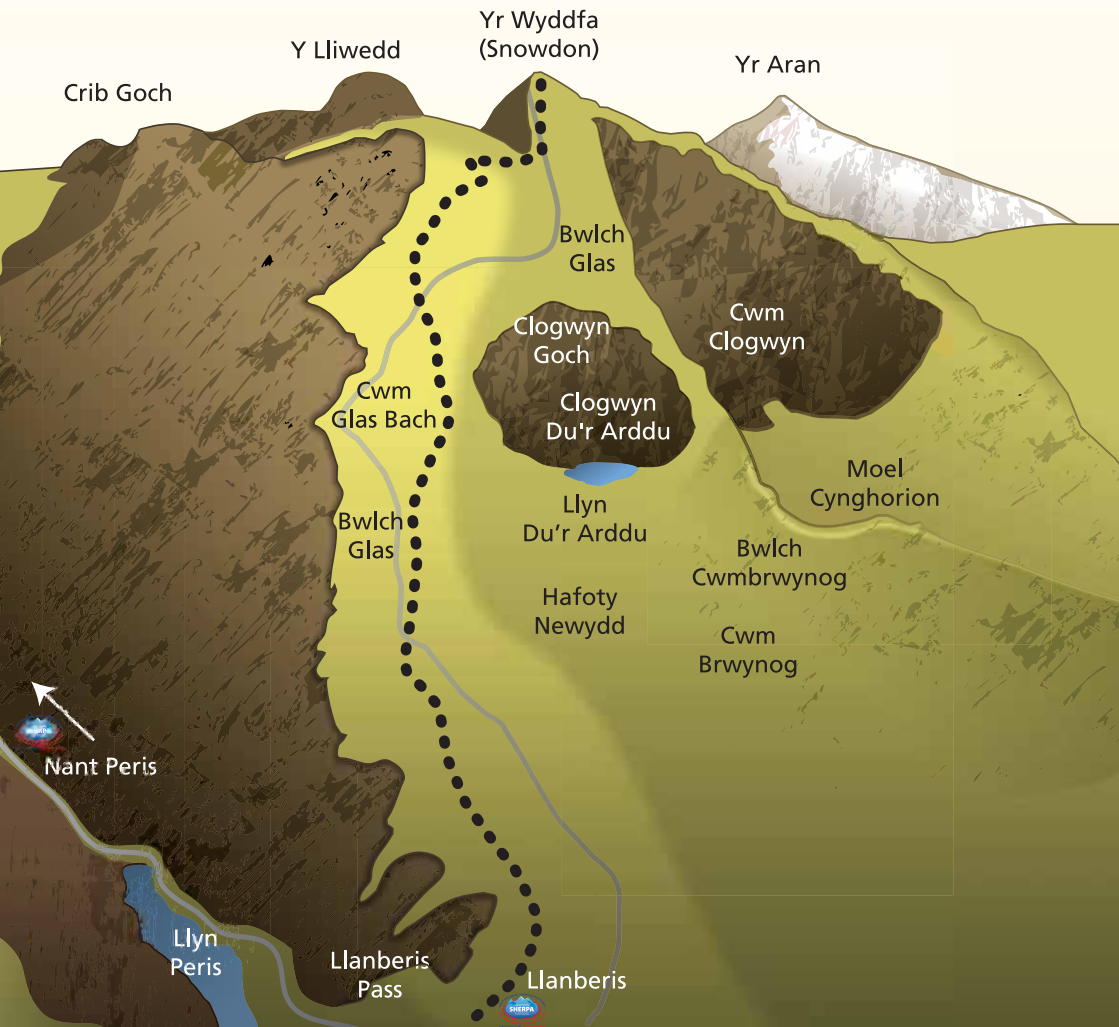
NO trains

on the summit of Snowdon. Weather permitting, it will re-open during the spring.

Safety first!

Never underestimate Snowdon. Your personal / group safety is foremost as accidents do happen which lead to injuries and sometimes loss of lives. Every walker should be aware of all safety issues before attempting to walk on the mountain.

Llanberis Path





Distance:	9 miles (there and back)
Total Climb:	975m (3,198 ft)
Time:	Approx 6 hours (there and back)
Start and Finish:	(SH 582 598 / LL55 4TY) Railway Station
Map:	Explorer OL17 Ordnance Survey
Parking:	(SH 582589 / LL55 4TY) Numerous car parks in Llanberis.
Sherpa Bus Stop:	Llanberis Interchange

Introduction - Originally, tourists were carried up this path on ponies and mules, and to this day it continues to be a pony path. (There is a voluntary agreement with mountain bikers to keep off this path at busy times of the year).

Section 1 - Start with your back towards the Snowdon Railway Station. Turn right, and then take the first road to the right (Victoria Terrace) opposite the 'Royal Victoria Hotel'. Go through the gate on the left to the cattle grid, and follow the steep road. After walking through a farmyard, follow the obvious path to the left that's been signposted 'Snowdon'.

When following this path you will cross the railway line twice.

Section 2 - You will reach a mountain gate and a stile to the right. The railway line is underneath you and to the right. On your right, from right to left are the peaks of Moel Eilio, Foel Gron and Foel Goch.

Section 3 - Before the half way station the path leads under the railway, the train heads to the left at Llechog peak. You are not far from the Halfway House which offers refreshments in the Summer months. After Halfway House the path becomes harder and steep.

Before arriving at Allt Moses, the path splits. Follow the path to your left which climbs up Llechog slopes. After climbing Allt Moses you will go under the train bridge. After going under the bridge, Cwm Glas Bach becomes apparent to your left (take care at this point).

The path climbs up the slopes of Garnedd Ugain with Clogwyn Coch to your right. Take care when there's snow. A number of accidents have happened here. Keep to the track and don't be tempted to follow the railway line since it follows closely to steep and dangerous slopes.

Section 4 - When you reach Bwlch Glas you will reach a standing stone that indicates the junction with the Pyg Track, and the Snowdon Ranger Path appears from Bwlch Cwm Brwynog. In approximately 15 minutes you will have reached the summit.

On your way down from the summit, keep to the path on your left after passing Bwlch Glas. The path on your right is a part of Snowdon's horseshoe that will lead over Garnedd Ugain and Crib Goch.

Miners Path





Distance:	8 miles (there and back)
Total Climb:	723m (2,371 ft)
Time:	Approx 6 hours (there and back)
Start and Finish:	Pen y Pass Car Park (SH 647557 / LL55 4NY)
Map:	Explorer OL17 Ordnance Survey
Parking:	If Pen y Pass car park is full, you can park in Nant Peris (SH 607582 / LL55 4UF) and catch the Sherpa Bus back up to Pen y Pass.
Sherpa Bus Stop:	Pen y Pass Car Park

Introduction - Following the opening of the Llanberis pass in 1832, the Miners Path was built to carry copper from the Britannia Copper Works near Llyn Glaslyn to Pen y Pass, where it was then transported to Caernarfon. The mining came to an end in 1916 but remains from the work can still be seen on the path to this day.

Section 1 - The path begins at the outermost part of Pen y Pass car park on the left opposite the entrance. The path is wide all the way up to Llyn Glaslyn. Before long you will reach a small lake to your left, Llyn Teyrn and the remains of the old miners barracks are seen on its shores.

The path splits as you approach Llyn Llydaw. Take the right turning that shortly leads you towards a causeway that crosses the lake.

Section 2 - Cross the causeway and follow the path, passing the old mill for Britannia Copper Mine before climbing towards Llyn Glaslyn. When you reach Llyn Glaslyn, you will enjoy stunning views of Snowdon.

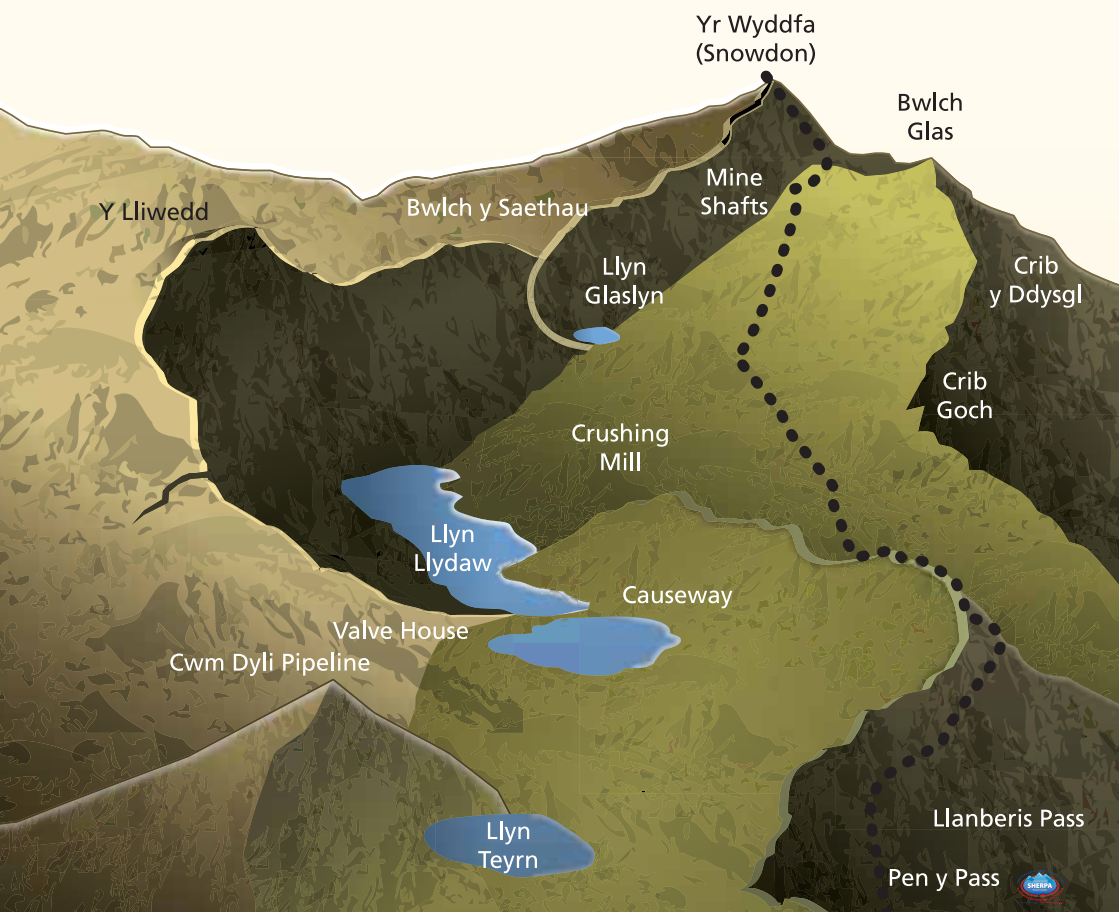
You are now half way up the summit. After passing the remains of the barracks, turn right and follow the steep path. This part of the climb is hard and can be extremely slippery on the way down.

Section 3 - You will reach a large rock that indicates the junction with Pyg Track. (Remember this standing stone on your way back down, especially in winter, when the path is covered in snow). From this point onwards, the path is steep and loose under foot until you reach Bwlch Glas.

When looking over Llyn Glaslyn, you will see Bwlch y Saethau to the left of Snowdon's summit, legend has it that this is the spot where King Arthur was shot in battle. As you approach Bwlch Glas, take care to avoid open shafts of the copper works on your left. In time, the path begins to zig zag.

Section 4 - In Bwlch Glas, you will meet the Llanberis Path and Snowdon Railway on your right, and the standing stone indicates this junction. (Remember it on your way back down). Turn left, and in approximately 15 minutes you will have reached the summit.

Pyg Track





Distance:	7 miles (there and back)
Total Climb:	723m (2,371 ft)
Time:	Approx 6 hours (there and back)
Start and Finish:	Pen y Pass Car Park (SH 647557 / LL55 4NY)
Map:	Explorer OL17 Ordnance Survey
Parking:	If Pen y Pass car park is full, you can park in Nant Peris (SH 607582 / LL55 4UF) and catch the Sherpa bus back up to Pen y Pass.
Sherpa Bus Stop:	Pen y Pass Car Park

Introduction - There is some uncertainty about the origin of the word Pyg. It is believed that the path was named after Pen y Gwryd Hostel by climbers who stayed there. Another possible origin is that the path was named after Bwlch y Moch (the pass of pigs) since the path crosses it, as it is sometimes spelled as Pig in English. Or it could have been named Pyg due to the fact that this was a path used to carry pyg (black tar) from the Britannia Copper Works in Cwm Glaslyn. The guessing continues!

Section 1 - To reach the beginning of the path, go to your right to the outermost part of the Pen y Pass parking ground, passing the helicopter landing spot on the right, and through a narrow gap in a stone wall.

The summit which you see from Pen y Pass car park is Crib Goch, and not Snowdon.

Section 2 - After about an hour of walking you will reach Bwlch y Moch where Llyn Llydaw and Lliwedd slopes come into view. The path splits in this section. Take the path on your left which leads downwards and over two stiles. The path on your right leads towards Crib Goch.

Section 3 - You will reach a standing stone which indicates the junction with the Miners Path. (Remember this stone on your way down, especially in winter, when the path is covered in snow). From this point onwards, the path becomes steep and loose under foot until you reach Bwlch Glas.

When looking across Llyn Glaslyn, you will see Bwlch y Saethau to the left from Snowdon's summit.

As you approach Bwlch Glas, take care to avoid open shafts of the copper works on your left. In time the path begins to zig zag.

Section 4 - In Bwlch Glas, you will encounter the Llanberis Path and the Snowdonia Railway on your right, and there is a standing stone to indicate this junction. (Remember it for your way back down). Turn left, and in approximately 15 minutes, you will have reached the summit.

Watkin Path





Distance:	8 miles (there and back)
Total Climb:	1,015m (3,329 ft)
Time:	Approx 7 hours (there and back)
Start an Finish:	Bethania Bridge, Nant Gwynant (SH 628507 / LL55 4NL) on the A498 turning towards Hafod y Llan Farm
Map:	Explorer OL17 Ordnance Survey
Parking:	Pont Bethania, Nant Gwynant car park (SH 628507 / LL55 4NL)
Sherpa Bus Stop:	Nant Gwynant Car Park

Introduction - This path was named after Sir Edward Watkin, Liberal Member of Parliament and a railway entrepreneur. Watkin had a summer house by the start of the path and he was responsible for creating the path from South Snowdon Slate Quarry to Snowdon's summit. Officially opened in 1892 by William Gladstone, the Prime Minister, on a boulder by the path which has been named after William Gladstone he addressed a crowd of over 2,000 people.

This is one of the hardest paths up Snowdon due to the fact that it begins only slightly higher than sea level.

Section 1 - Go to the left of the parking ground, cross the main road and turn right towards Hafod y Llan farmhouse after the bridge. On the path towards the farm, follow the signs 'Llwybr Watkin Path' on the left and up the stairs to the forest.

Here upon, you will reach the open countryside and as the path bends you will see the valley stretching in front of you. As you cross the tram road twice, you will see the remains of Hafod y Llan Uchaf on your right. After the mountain gate, you will pass a beautiful waterfall on your right. The remains that you see, on the other side of the river, is the old mill for Hafod-y-Llan Copper Works.

Section 2 - After passing the mill, keep to the path ahead of you since the path on your left leads to Bwlch Cwm Llan and the Aran.

You will pass a sheepfold that's surrounded by traditional slate fencing and after that the remains of Plas Cwm Llan, that used to be the South Snowdon Slate Quarry manager's home.

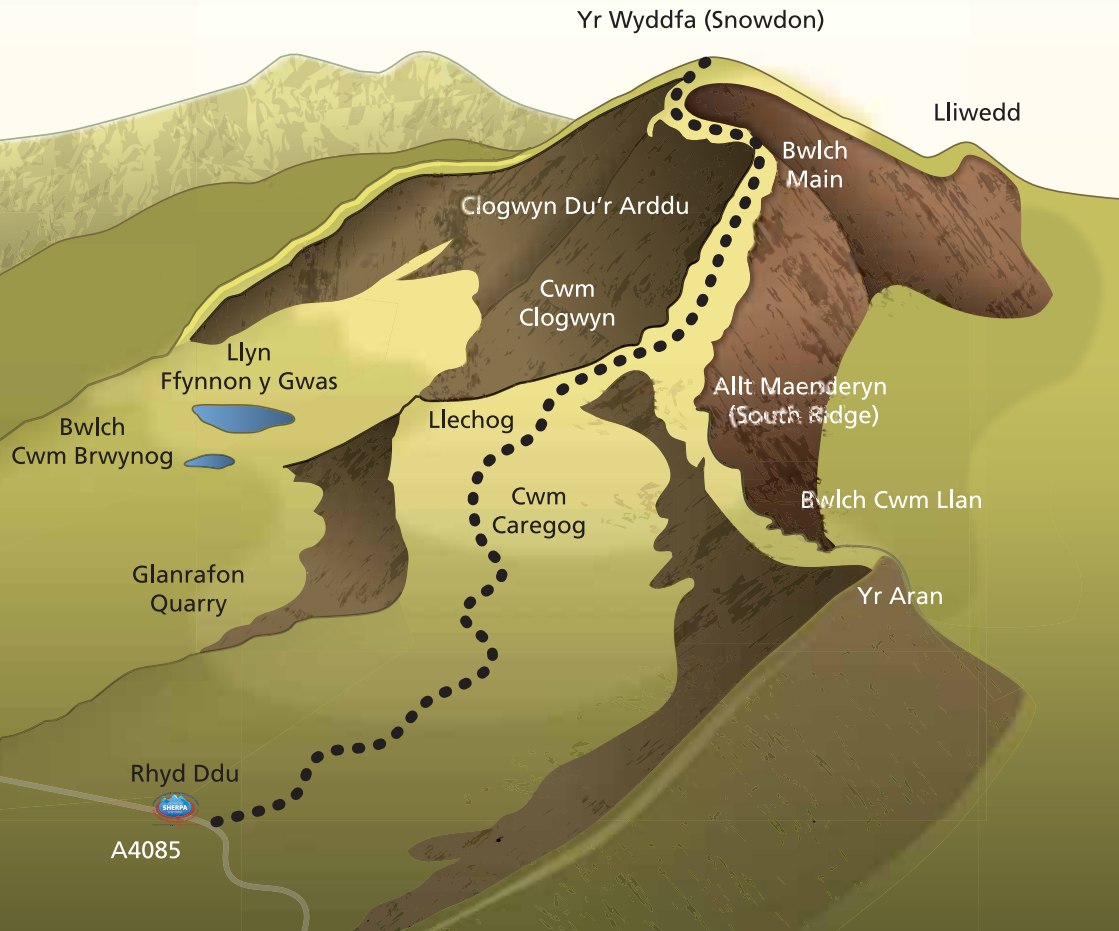
As you walk around Craig Ddu you will also be walking through the old working ground of the South Snowdon Slate Quarry.

Section 3 - Turn left as you reach the peak of Bwlch Ciliau. The path on the right leads towards the Lliwedd. When walking across the ridge, take advantage of the chance to take in the marvellous views of Snowdon's horseshoe on your right.

Before you start climbing again, you will reach Bwlch y Saethau. Legend has it that it was here where King Arthur was injured in battle. After passing Bwlch y Saethau you will reach the hardest part of the path. Here it's extremely steep and loose under foot.

Section 4 - You will reach a standing stone at Bwlch Main that indicates the junction with Rhyd Ddu Path (remember to turn at this stone when on the way back down). Turn right and Hafod Eryr will become apparent, after a bit of climbing you will have reached the summit.

Rhyd Ddu Path





Distance:	7.5 miles (there and back)
Total Climb:	895m (2,936 ft)
Time:	Approx 6 hours (there and back)
Start and Finish:	Rhyd Ddu Car Park (SH 571526 / LL54 6TN)
Map:	Explorer OL17 Ordnance Survey
Parking:	Rhyd Ddu Car Park (SH 571526 / LL54 6TN)
Sherpa Bus Stop:	End of Rhyd Ddu Car Park

Introduction - This path used to be known as the Beddgelert Path since it was from this village that walkers started their journey to the summit.

Section 1 - Go to the left of the outermost part of the Rhyd Ddu car park, through the gate and cross the railway line and then go through another gate. As you see the path split, you will be able to see the ruins of a little circular tower on your left. This used to be an old Powder House for the Ffridd Slate Quarry.

Section 2 - Turn right as the path splits. The private path on your left leads to Ffridd Isa Farm. You will pass the remains of the Ffridd Quarry on your right that closed in the 1860's. Don't go too close to the quarry especially in snow since it can be dangerous. After going through a gate near an agricultural shed, the path begins to slowly climb towards Pen ar Lôn.

Section 3 - After going through a gate which stands directly next to another gate, the path splits. Turn left to go through a small gate towards Snowdon. The path ahead leads towards Bwlch Cwm Llan and the Aran.

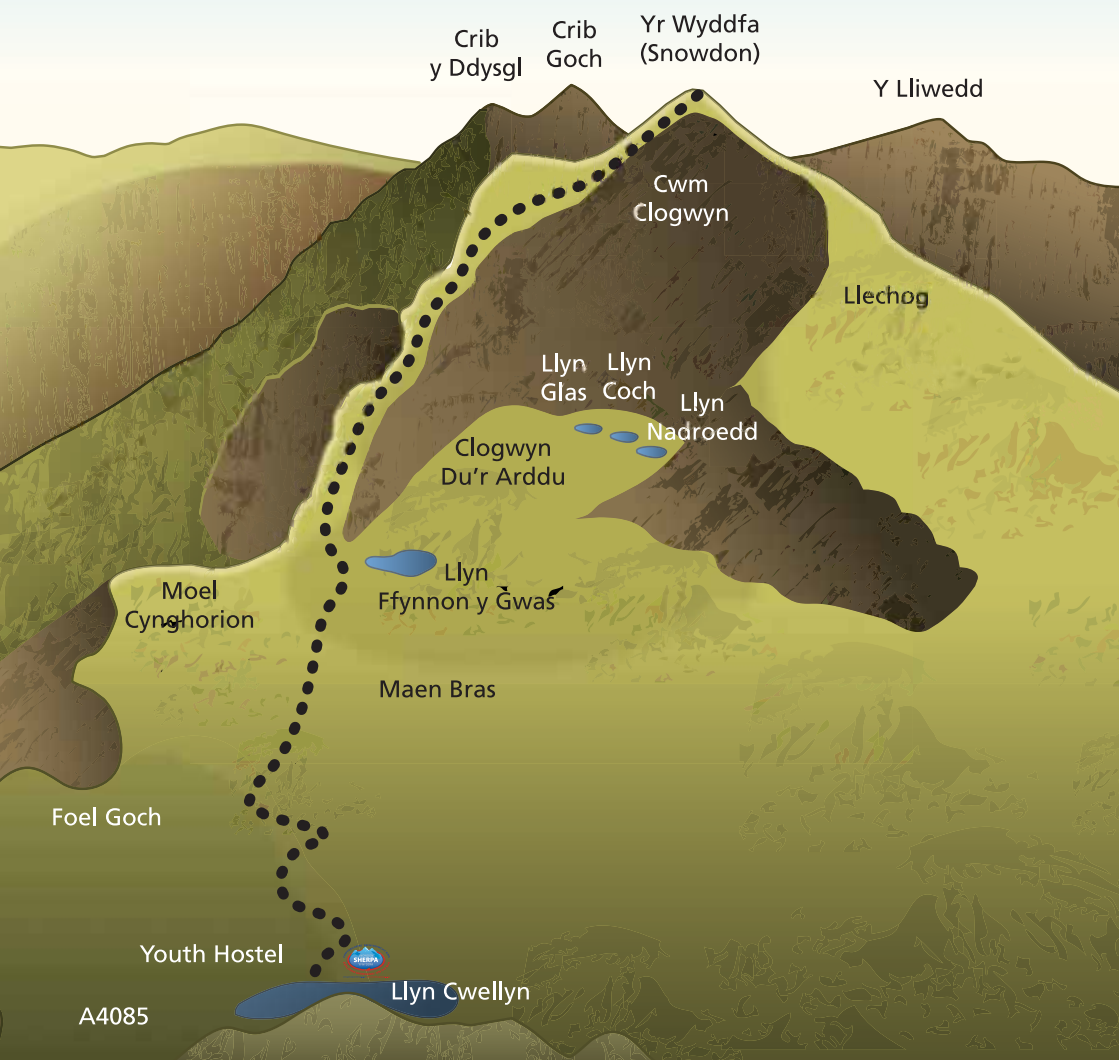
In time you will reach a small gate and a gap in the wall. Beyond this point to the left, you will see the ruins of the 'Halfway House'. After reaching the next gate, turn right and start climbing up towards Llechog ridge. This part of the path can be hard to follow, especially when there's snow, so please take care.

The path follows around Cwm Clogwyn before climbing in a zig zag up towards Bwlch Main. The path becomes narrow with a steep cliff underneath you. Please take care here, especially in bad weather.

Section 4 - When you reach Bwlch Main, or the 'Saddle', the southerly path from the Aran joins the path. On your way back down, remember to take the path on your right to take you back down to Rhyd Ddu.

When walking towards the summit, you will have splendid views towards Cwm Tregalan and Cwm Llan and you can see the remains of South Snowdon Slate Quarry. In the distance, you can see Llynau Mymbyr and Moel Siabod towards Capel Curig.

Snowdon Ranger





Distance:	8 miles (there and back)
Total Climb:	936m (3,070 ft)
Time:	Approx 6 hours (there and back)
Start and Finish:	Snowdon Ranger YHA, Llyn Cwellyn (SH 564551 / LL54 7YS)
Map:	Explorer OL17 Ordnance Survey
Parking:	Llyn Cwellyn Car Park (SH 564551 / LL54 7YS)
Sherpa Bus Stop:	Llyn Cwellyn Car Park

Introduction - The path begins near the 'Snowdon Ranger' youth hostel, at Llyn Cwellyn near Rhyd Ddu. John Morton the self proclaimed 'Snowdon Ranger' used the path to guide Victorian tourists to the summit. He also opened a tavern where the youth hostel site stands today, and called it the 'Snowdon Ranger Inn'.

Section 1 - Cross the road from the car park, turn right and nearly straight ahead of the car park turn left and follow the horse path signs that start on the right to the entrance of 'Cae'r Orsaf'. Go through the gate and then to the left following the path that has been fenced on both sides. Go through another gate and turn right over the train track and through the gate by the cattle grid and towards Llwyn Onn Farmhouse.

The path splits after passing the Llwyn Onn Farmhouse. Turn right and pass through the gate. Before long you will come to another gate, and the path starts to zig zag.

As you climb you will experience beautiful views down towards Llyn Cwellyn with Mynydd Mawr slopes rising from it's shores.

Section 2 - Before long, you will reach a sign that notes the exclusion of bikes from this point on (at busy times of the year). The public footpath that leads to the left reaches over Bwlch Maesgwm, between Foel Goch and Moel Cynghorion and down towards Llanberis. Keep to the path which is ahead of you.

After crossing a stream and going through a gate you will see Bwlch Carreg y Gigfran to your left, and beyond you will see the slopes of Foel Goch as you circle the foothill of Moel Cynghorion. Ahead of you, Maen Bras will come apparent. After crossing a vast proportion of marshy ground you will reach a gate and stile, the path will then bend to the left around the slopes of Moel Cynghorion. As you approach Bwlch Cwm Brwynog, Llyn 'Ffynnon y Gwas' becomes apparent.

Section 3 - The path climbs steeply from Bwlch Cwm Brwynog to the summit so please be careful.

As you climb the shoulder of Clogwyn Du'r Arddu you will be awarded with stunning views of Crib Llechog and Cwm Clogwyn and three little lakes – Llyn Glas, Llyn Coch and Llyn Nadroedd.

Section 4 - You will shortly reach a standing stone that notes the junction with the Snowdonia Railway (remember it on your way down from the summit). Cross the railway line and then in approximately 50 metres you will reach another great standing stone in Bwlch Glas where you will meet with the Llanberis Path and the zig zag part of the PYG Track to your right, and in approximately 15 minutes you will reach the summit.

Please do not walk on the railway line to the summit, serious erosion has weakened the railway line in the past.

Hop on!





Mix and match your walks with the Snowdon Sherpa bus network

Snowdon's so big and so varied in terrain that it would be a real shame to walk up and down the same path in a day! The Snowdon Sherpa bus network is your passport to total freedom. Why not hike up one path and come down another? Or take the bus from your accommodation and walk back? It's easy with the Sherpa service. The Snowdon Sherpa shuttles around the base of Snowdon connecting all 6 main footpaths and the surrounding villages.

Even Snowdon has a carbon footprint!

Snowdon through the numerous hikers that enjoy and visit the mountain has a substantial carbon footprint. Why not have a 'greener' hiking day and assist us in reducing the amount of carbon emission that's produced through visits to Snowdon by using the Snowdon Sherpa bus network?

Enjoy a green linear walk and use the Sherpa service to travel to your starting point and walk back to your destination at your own pace.

If it's a walk up Snowdon, one of the nearby mountain peaks or visiting local attractions; forget about driving and focus on the scenery. Open topped buses also run over the summer from Llanberis and Betws y Coed.

OK... these are the details!

Credit crunching - £1 fares!

Take advantage of this amazing offer and pay only £1 for any journey on the S1, S2 and S6 buses which run from Llanberis, Nant Peris, Bethesda, Betws y Coed, Capel Curig and Pen y Pass - 2 children go free with an accompanied adult.

Travel all day for £4.00!

The Snowdon Sherpa day ticket allows you to hop on and off the Snowdon Sherpa network all day as many times as you like (on the day of purchase). It is valid on all Sherpa routes prefixed with the letter 'S'. Buy it for £4.00 (£2.00 child) on the bus.

Further your horizons!

Red Rover Tickets are available on bus routes throughout Gwynedd for unlimited travel on the day of purchase. They can also be presented at the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways for a discount. Also valid and issued on the Conwy Valley line between Llandudno and Betws y Coed.

On your bike!

Buses S2 & S6 can normally carry bikes.

Bird watchers!

Take advantage of our new open top 197 service from Porthmadog to the Osprey viewing centre at Pont Croesor near Llanfrothen.

Where can I park my car?

Below are a list of car parks linked to the Sherpa bus service, local attractions, low level and mountain walks:

Dolbadarn, Llanberis
Beddgelert
Nant Peris
Ogwen Cottage
Capel Bethania / Watkin Path
Betws y Coed
Llyn Cwellyn / Snowdon Ranger
Rhyd Ddu
Capel Curig
Pen y Pass

For further information please visit

www.snowdoniagreenkey.co.uk

Traveline 0871 200 2233

www.traveline-cymru.info

Make the most of the areas Tourist Information Centres



Tourist Information Centres are located throughout the area will provide information regarding a whole host of different things. Maps, walking books, travel details, up to date weather forecast and some basic walking and outdoor equipment.

You will find information on attractions and activities, places to eat and events. They also provide information on Visit Wales graded accommodation and will also organise accommodation through the 'Book a Bed Ahead Scheme'.

For further information please contact one of the following or visit www.visitsnowdonia.info

Barmouth	01341 280787	barmouth.tic@gwynedd.gov.uk
Caernarfon	01286 672232	caernarfon.tic@gwynedd.gov.uk
Llanberis	01286 870765	llanberis.tic@gwynedd.gov.uk *
Porthmadog	01766 613000	porthmadog.tic@gwynedd.gov.uk
Pwllheli	01758 613000	pwllheli.tic@gwynedd.gov.uk *
Y Bala	01678 521021	bala.tic@gwynedd.gov.uk *
Beddgelert	01766 890615	tic.beddgelert@eryri-npa.gov.uk
Betws y Coed	01690 710426	tic.bycoed@eryri-npa.gov.uk

* Seasonal opening times



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