



Snowdonia National Park

2½ OR 5 MILES
1½ OR 3½ HOURS
MODERATE (WITH STEEP SECTIONS)

1 START

Park or alight at Tan-y-Bwlch station and get steam train to Penrhyn along Ffestiniog Railway. Leave station, turning L on to road. Follow pavement to rail crossing and, once over, take first R up narrow road after footpath signpost. Continue on and through metal gate signed 'Rhiw Goch'. Remain on tarmac road to cattle grid. Take gate to L and follow public-footpath sign to L of house. Pass through two gates to follow public bridleway up to seat with view over Afon Dwyrdd valley.

2 1 MILE

Climb over ladder stile into predominantly coniferous wood. Bear L where grassy track forks, to go past ruins. Turn R at yellow waymarker to go past several disused mine shafts (protected habitats for bats). Go straight on at crossroads to climb up main track.

3 2¼ MILES

After views to R, continue on main path as it bends to R, passing Llyn Trefor, and then as it bends to L. At T-junction double back by turning R on level path.

4 3½ MILES

Take minor undulating path to R, pass through gap in wall and then turn L, taking care along narrow section with steep sides.

At waymarker post 4 there is an option to take route down through impressive grounds of Plas Tan-y-Bwlch, a 17th-century house with beautiful gardens. However, it involves a steep climb down side of valley and then back up again. To follow this route, go straight on at post 4 to cross railway line via two ladder stiles. Follow path to R, and continue down as it bends sharply to L. Enter car park to read information boards and follow surfaced trail through gardens. When ready to leave Plas Tan-y-Bwlch and continue the walk, follow path to road on eastern side of house. Turn L on to road and then take first path on R (signposted train station). Follow waymarkers L and R to Plas Halt station. Cross track and turn R to rejoin main route.

Continue past Plas Halt station (although it is possible to get train back from here), passing through tall iron gate to follow path as it bends to L. Turn R at white cottage and bear R at fork, through wooden gate into forest. Follow winding path down to gated railway crossing.

5 4 MILES

Once over, pass through Coed Hafod y Llyn (owned by the Woodland Trust). At T-junction turn L to pass through gate and at fork bear R down over stream. Bear R again at next fork to information board. Go through gate, over stream and straight on to picnic tables. Pass through gate and cross road to Coed Llyn Mair National Nature Reserve car park. Take steps behind information board into wood and follow path up to Tan-y-Bwlch station.

Alternatively, for a shorter circular route from Tan-y-Bwlch station (about 2½ miles) that does not involve a train ride, cross railway line using footbridge. Follow path to boggy stile and turn L on to road. At end,

turn R and L into car park after 30m. Go past picnic tables and follow footpath round Llyn Hafod y Llyn. Continue on main track to fork and bear L. Follow route back to Tan-y-Bwlch station from stage 4 above.

TERRAIN

Route is on well-defined tracks, many of which are surfaced, with some gradual climbs. On the main route there is only one ladder-type stile and a series of steps in Coed Llyn Mair. Wheelchair users can park in Llyn Mair car park and follow surfaced paths through Coed Hafod y Llyn.

PARKING

Tan-y-Bwlch station (grid reference SH650416).
Llyn Mair (grid reference SH652413).
Public car parks in Blaenau Ffestiniog (grid reference SH702459).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Arriva Trains Wales run trains to Blaenau Ffestiniog and Porthmadog where the Ffestiniog Railway starts and finishes. Nearest bus stop is at Oakeley Arms, Tan-y-Bwlch. For information on train and bus services call Traveline on 0870 608 2608 (www.traveline.org.uk).
For details of coach services contact National Express on 0870 580 8080 (www.nationalexpress.com).
For Ffestiniog Railway timetable and costs telephone 01766 516000 (www.ffestiniograilway.co.uk).

REFRESHMENTS

Licensed café at Tan-y-Bwlch station open Easter–October (grid reference SH650416; telephone 01766 590464).
Oakeley Arms on A487 at Tan-y-Bwlch (grid reference SH661409; telephone 01766 590277).

ACCOMMODATION AND TOURIST INFORMATION

Blaenau Ffestiniog Tourist Information Centre (telephone 01766 830360).
Porthmadog Tourist Information Centre (telephone 01766 512981).
Snowdonia National Park website: www.erynnpa.co.uk
Nearest youth hostel is Bryn Gwynant (grid reference SH641513; telephone 0870 770 5732).

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer OL18, Landranger 124 (visit www.woodland-trust.org.uk/woods to buy online).

OTHER WOODS TO VISIT

Coed Felinrhod (grid reference SH656389) – large ancient woodland, owned by the Woodland Trust, with interesting features on opposite side of Afon Dwyrdd valley. See the Our Woods section on the Trust's website at www.woodland-trust.org.uk or the *Exploring Woodland Guide to Wales*.

