

22 GWYNEDD ARAN RANGE

Distance: 10 miles/16km Time: 7 hours Grade: Challenging



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FEATURE
ON PAGE 14



Looking north from the south side of Aran Benllyn, with Cwm Croes on the right.

PHOTO: ROGER BUTLER



CHOSEN BY...

ROGER BUTLER

The twin summits of the Arans – Aran

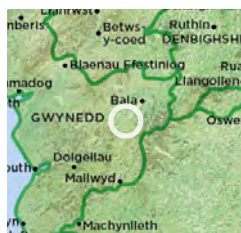
Benllyn and Aran Fawddwy – used to be a battleground between landowners and walkers but the advent of Open Access legislation safely cleared the way for satisfying hikes on a long ridge rising from the south end of Llyn Tegid. Although some nearby peaks might be better known, and are consequently more popular, Aran Fawddwy is actually the highest point south of Snowdon. This walk climbs to Aran Benllyn (a prominent pyramid when seen from Bala) before continuing to the higher peak, from where dark cliffs plunge

into Cwm Croes and little-known hills roll east towards Lake Vyrnwy. The mountain topography lends itself to a straightforward up-and-down route but, rest assured, the views are quite different in each direction.

1 Start

Cross the road from the car park and take the gate marked Crib yr Aran. Walk along the lane to a cattle grid and go R at a bridleway signed 'Aran ridge path'. Follow a grass track up the field and go through the R-hand gate. Ignore a ladder stile, keep ahead to the next gate and continue on the track to a gate in a wall at the start of Open Access land.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Free National Park car park at Llanwchllyn, grid ref SH879297, postcode LL23 7TL

Is it for me? High mountain walk with some established paths; tracks/quiet lanes at lower level
Stiles 24

PLANNING

Nearest town Bala

Refreshments Country pub at Llanwchllyn – Yr Eagles (01678 540278)

Public toilets Bala Lake railway station

Public transport Bus T3 connects to Llanwchllyn to Wrexham and Barmouth (lloydscoaches.com)

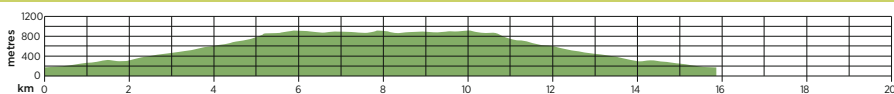
Maps OS Explorer OL18; Landranger 125

2 ¾ mile/1.2km

Walk ahead, with fence on R, and continue to the next wall. Cross a stile on L and keep ahead up the ridge, now



GRADIENT PROFILE



22 GWYNEDD
ARAN RANGE■ OS Explorer map OL18 ■ Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

DON'T MISS...

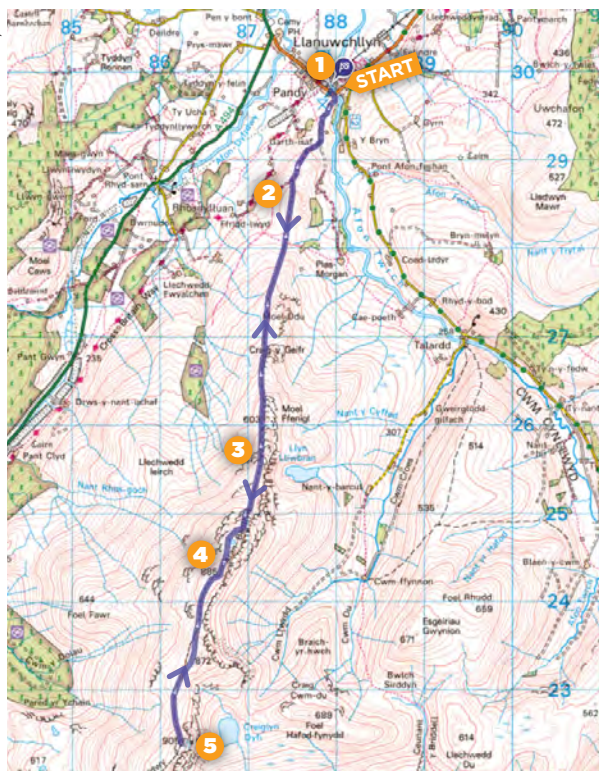


Bala Lake Railway is a restored narrow gauge line along the east side of Llyn Tegid, with its main station at Llanuwchllyn.

following an established path through heather. Cross three ladder stiles and keep ahead, uphill and with occasional marker posts, to one more ladder stile. Climb up past low crags and boulders and cross a steep slope after passing a large cairn near the minor top of Moel Ffenigl.

3 2¾ miles/4.2km Continue ahead to another cairn, past a couple of small lakes, just before wall crosses the ridge by the summit of Aran Benllyn (885m). A cairn with quartz rocks marks the top but take care as steep cliffs drop to the east with good views over the lonely hills above Dinas Mawddwy.

4 3½ miles/5.8km Continue south along the ridge – there is now a short rocky descent followed by two more ladder stiles and with a fence on L. Cross another ladder stile leading onto wide stony plateau, pass tall cairn and cross old wall, with two more ladder stiles, to reach



summit of Aran Fawddwy. This is a fine viewpoint and 41 feet higher than Cadair Idris, which stretches across the skyline in the west.

5 5 miles/8km Now simply retrace your steps back down the ridge. The views are very different since all the time the waters of Llyn Tegid will glisten in front of you with little-visited hills in the distance. You may want to make a slight diversion on R

before re-crossing Aran Benllyn to visit the top of a spur called Erw y Ddafad-Ddu. This provides grand views of the dark cliffs which tumble towards the mountain lake named Creiglyn Dyfi. **CW**

**OPEN IN OS MAPS
OR VISIT**
[walking1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes](https://www.walking1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes)



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