



TOP 10 WALKS

Did you know that Betws-y-Coed literally translates as “prayer house in the woods”? It’s the ideal place to contemplate nature and here are our top 10 off-the-beaten track walks all with a little something extra to enjoy along your way.

1. **Llyn Elsi** is a good walk on stony paths and tracks running steeply uphill to begin with through the woods behind St Mary’s Church in the middle of Betws-y-Coed. You’ll be amply rewarded for your efforts when you reach the lake itself, glittering in the sunshine, reflecting the magnificent colours of the surrounding woodland and affording superb views of the area’s mountains.

Parking: Pay and display at St Mary’s Church or walk from your accommodation

Access: The path is steep and muddy in places. Suitable for families but not for pushchairs.

Website: www.mudandroutes.com/llyn-elsi-easy-walk-betws-y-coed/

2. This quiet walk to the nearby village of **Capel Garmon** from the shepherds’ huts crosses open farmland lovely to begin with followed by mixed woodland and then superb views as you emerge from the trees, and is topped by a **Neolithic burial chamber**. It’s a 4 and a half mile round trip from the huts.

Access: Unsuitable for young children or pushchairs although this walk can also be completed by single track road if preferred.

Website: www.carfreewalks.org/walks/1051/capel_garmon_burial_chamber

3. A walk that can be done from Betws-y-Coed itself or from other starting points along the route for those who like a long walk is to **Ty Mawr Wyrnant**. The house is a 16th century farmhouse and was the birthplace of Bishop William Morgan in 1545, the man who first translated the Bible into Welsh. It now houses a collection of bibles and has been restored to show what it would have been like in the 16th century. There’s a shorter 3 mile walking route from the house for those who prefer to combine a short walk with a visit there.

Parking: From Betws-y-Coed, Conwy Falls Forest Park or park in the Ty Mawr Wyrnant car park.

Access: the path goes across fields and stiles. The short walk from Ty Mawr is suitable for families.

Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ty-mawr-wyrnant/trails/ty-mawr-wyrnant-and-cwm-wyrnant-walk

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4. The summit of **Crimpiau** from Capel Curig and takes you to a circular walk offering amazing views of the Snowdon horseshoe, Mymbyr valley, the Ogwen valley and Llyn Crafnant. The walk crosses grazed fields, beautiful native woodland and open moorland which is covered with stunning purple heather at this time of year. You might even spot some **wild ponies** on the route.
Parking: Pay and display in the car park behind Joe Brown's.
Access: This path is mountainous and care should be taken. Walkers should be properly equipped.
Website: www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/visiting/walking/mountain-walks/crimpiau-capel-curig

5. Another slightly easier, but no less quiet, 6 mile walk starts from the nearby historic village of **Ysbyty Ifan**, once home to knights, pilgrims and bandits but now a National Trust Estate. Park in Ysbyty Ifan which translates as St John's Hospital after the Knights of St John set up a hostel on the pilgrim trail, then follow an old Drover's road, taking in wonderful views of the Carneddau mountains and the Conwy Valley.
Parking: In the car park in the centre of Ysbyty Ifan
Access: The route takes in minor roads and cross country paths with stiles.
Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ysbyty-ifan/trails/ysbyty-ifan-and-cwm-eidda-walk

6. The two lakes that sit in woodland high above the Conwy Valley, known as **Llyn Crafnant** and **Llyn Geirionydd** can be walked from the village of Trefriw in a satisfying circular route. There are a number of points of interest en route including a café on the banks of Llyn Crafnant making this walk a real family favourite.
Parking: There's a free car park almost opposite the woollen mill in Trefriw village or a pay and display car park at the top of the road up to Llyn Crafnant which saves some of the ascent/descent.
Access: The route is very up and down and rises steeply through woodland.
Website: www.mudandroutes.com/llyn-crafnant-and-geirionydd-from-trefriw

7. The **Waterfall Walk** takes in **Fairy Glen**, **Pandy Falls**, and the **Conwy Falls**. It's a long but not strenuous walk through beautiful native woodland, along old stone-wall lined lanes, and bridge crossings. Start from the shepherds' huts, or Conwy Falls Forest Park (the café there makes a great lunch or cake stop so don't forget your wallet) or from the car park along the B4406 to Penmachno, just after the crossroads at Pandy Mill.
Parking: Free parking at Pandy Mill. There is a restricted amount of parking at the Fairy Glen and Conwy Falls.
Access: This walk involves steep slopes and can be slippery in places. Extreme care should be taken near waterfalls.

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Website: www.cavinguk.co.uk/holidays/waterfalls/FairyGlen.html

8. **Walk in the footsteps of miners across Miners' Bridge to see the Swallow Falls**
Miners' Bridge was built to provide a short cut for the miners living in Pentre Du, an area of housing in Betws-y-Coed, to get to the lead mines north of the village. The bridge is a spectacle in itself crossing the River Llugwy steeply, as the water tumbles and foams beneath. Start from the village and once you've crossed the bridge don't stop there – carry on a bit to see the famous **Swallow Falls**.

Parking: Parking in the Pay and Display car park by the Pont-y-Pair Bridge in Betws-y-Coed.

Access: The path is rough and uneven in places and the bridge is steep.

Website: www.visitbetwsycoed.co.uk/The-Area/Walking

9. **Lady Mary's Trail in the Gwydyr Forest**

Lady Mary's Walk is a short trail through mixed woodland and with lovely views over the market town of Llanrwst and the Conwy Valley towards the sea. Start in Llanrwst and cross the river on the Inigo Jones designed **Pont Fawr** dating back to 1636.

Enjoy the spectacle of the Virginia Creeper on the Tw Hunt i'r Bont tea rooms in Autumn and follow the road to **Gwydir Castle** which is well worth a visit if you have time. Continue past the castle and follow the signs for **Gwydyr Chapel**. The trail leads to Gwydyr Chapel which is well worth a visit - the key is available from Gwydyr Uchaf.

Parking: Pay and display in Llanrwst

Access: The path is easy to walk and has one steep climb.

Website: www.visitllandudno.org.uk/things-to-do/lady-marys-walk-mp3-audio-trail-p305901

10. Follow the archeological trail around **Llyn Brenig**. This short walk is superb for watching wildlife early in the morning with a chance of glimpsing deer and otters, grouse and red squirrels. The heather covered moorland surrounding the lake is a blaze of colour in the autumn. Walking maps, a café and bike hire shop can all be found at the visitor centre on the shores of the lake.

Parking: There is ample free parking on site.

Access: Some paths are paved and accessible to wheelchair users and pushchairs. Take advice in the Visitor Centre.

Website: www.llyn-brenig.co.uk/walking