

Hosteli Unigeddau'r Elenydd : Elenydd Wilderness Hostels

Walks from Dolgoch Hostel

No. 9 - Doethie Valley - 17 miles (27km) or 11 miles from Soar y Mynydd

Summary

Goes down Tywi valley and then on road over to Soar y Mynydd chapel. Climbs on path over into Doethie valley. Stunning views and delightful walk down Doethie valley. Return on forest road above Llyn Brienne to Soar y Mynydd and back same way. Optional diversions possible to Pen y Gurnos and Llyn Brienne dam.

Safety

You are strongly recommended to read the safety and navigational advice in the Guest Information file 'Walking' in the hostel. For this walk this can be summarised as:

River Crossings - One, a side stream soon after the start; usually not a problem but be aware of the dangers if in flood and be prudent.

Underfoot - Good apart from tussocky and occasionally boggy path soon after start for about 1 mile to Tywi Bridge.

Exposure - Very short section crossing into Doethie valley.

Navigation - On obvious paths etc. But attention needed in forest. OS map recommended and compass if visibility poor.

Traffic - About 3 miles on very quiet road but be alert and walk on the right.

Forestry - steer clear of harvesting and other operations; follow directions; do not climb on wood stacks.

Directions

NB. ref.nos. are shown on map overleaf.

- 1 Left (L) from hostel down the valley on well defined bridleway.
- 2 Go Right (R) at road.
- 3 Follow road and at bottom of hill go L, down to river and over bridge. Go L past front of chapel (domestic-looking white building on L) onto unsealed road over grid.
- 4 After about 0.5 miles fork R onto track to Nant Llwyd Farm.
- 5 Follow way-marking through farm (in front of house and R and L at barn).
- 6 At top, with Doethie valley before you, decide whether to divert to trig-point on top of Pen y Gurnos, about 0.5 mile away very slightly E of S. There is no path but in good and settled visibility this is easily reached by following the ridge. Do not attempt this without map and compass if visibility is questionable. Return same way.
- 7 Descend steep slope on curving path into valley, crossing minor stream. Turn L onto path at bottom and follow it down valley.
- 8 L at track coming in from R. Continue to farm (about 200m).
- 9 Fork L up track as road goes sharp R.
- 10 Enter forest and stay on main forest road throughout. Soon bear L. NB the track going (acutely) R goes to dam - an optional further 1.5 miles in total.
- 11 Ignore acute L ie. straight on.
- 12 Ignore acute R (minor track going to house).
- 13 Ignore track/road L ie. straight on bearing R slightly.
- 14 Ignore minor track forking R after river and climb on main track.
- 15 Bear L ignoring track to R and enter long straight - open views to moor on R.
- 16 At end of straight bear R to exit over cattle grid continue on road to chapel.

Return from chapel by outward route, reversing directions at 3,2 and 1 above.

Points of Interest

NB. for more information see Guest Information Files at hostel.

- 1 Soar Mynydd Chapel - the most remote chapel in Wales; good information inside.
- 2 Doethie Valley - claimed as the most attractive in mid Wales (see Walk 4 for more).
- 3 Llyn Brienne - reservoir for Swansea, built in 1970's. Highest dam in the country.

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