

Yr Afanc (The Beast)

- Location: Llanberis
- Distance: 28km/18 miles
- Total ascent: 2350m
- Peaks: Elidir Fawr & Yr Wyddfa
- Walking time: 12 hours (approx)
- Difficulty level: Hard (Experienced walkers only)

This route is named after the fabled monster that was dragged to Llyn Glaslyn and killed after terrorising a village in Conwy for decades. It's a whopping 29km and 2350m of ascent and takes in the slate quarries then Elidir Fawr (924m) and Y Garn (947m), then Glyder Fawr (1001m) before heading down on rough paths to Pen Y Pass where you begin your final ascent up Yr Wyddfa (1085m). You will be setting off and finishing at the Royal Victoria Hotel.

1. To the right of the Royal Victoria Hotel, there is a path leading through woodland. Follow this path through the woodland and follow its turn to the left.
2. You will reach a road. Turn right and follow the road until you reach the roundabout. On the other side of the roundabout there is a path which you will be following up to the quarry.
3. The path is steep and zig-zag up the slate. Past this, you will walk through woodland. Follow the path to the right and walk through the Anglesey Barracks.
4. When you've walked through, you will reach a path. Turn left and follow this path up the quarry.
5. You will reach a gate. Go through the gate and turn right and on to the wide path. You will be following this path all the way through the quarry – by the way, you are currently walking through a UNESCO World Heritage Site! Look to your left to spot Dali's Hole and to your right check out the stunning views over Llyn Peris.
6. The path will take a sharp right and turn back on itself, heading back down the quarry. Do not turn right – go through the gate where there is a notice board with information about the First Hydro Company.
7. Follow the path to the left and down. It is very slatey so take your time and be careful. The unevenness will stop and there are steps with a clearer path heading down, and you will pass through a red gate.
8. Follow the grassy path down and cross the stream.
9. Follow the path through a fern field and cross the bridge. Then go through the gate.
10. You will reach a farm. Follow the road going around the farm to the left.
11. You will reach a slate wall with a ladder going over it and a sign for a public foot path. Turn left and follow the path on the right-hand side of the wall through the gate.
12. Follow the path, crossing two ladders. The path looks like it splits into two but stick to the left and you will start to zig zag up.

13. Follow the path with the riverbed on your left. You will reach a wooden bridge. Cross this and follow the grassy path.
14. Here you begin your first ascent to summit Elidir Fawr. It is an intense and direct 614 metre ascent so remember to pace yourself and take breaks to take in the views. When you reach rocky terrain, you are nearing the summit.
15. **Congratulations – you're at your first summit of the day!** If it's clear you will be able to see the path you will be following along the ridge and curving around to the right. The reservoir should be on your left.
16. Follow the path along the ridge, sticking to the right-hand side of the rocks. The path becomes clearer the further you head down.
17. You will reach a ladder going over a fence and another path to your left. Do not follow that path -stick right and keep walking on the flat.
18. You are now approaching your second peak of the day, Y Garn. This is a shorter ascent of 197 metres. It can get rocky towards the top but it is gentler than the first ascent.
19. Whilst at the summit, take a moment to read these interesting facts and stories about the area and see if you can spot the landmarks:
The large lake in the distance furthest to your left is Llyn Ogwen. Legends say that Bedwyr Bedrynant, a knight of King Arthur cast the famous sword Excalibur into this lake, where it remains to this day.

The lake directly below you is known as Cwn Idwal. It is said that the lake is named after Idwal, the son of the 12th century prince Owain Gwynedd. Idwal was a scholar and not a warrior and so was sent to live with his uncle, Nefydd, for safety while his father was at war. Nefydd was a jealous man who resented Idwal for being smarter and wittier than his own son. One day, he took both the boys on a walk around the lake and pushed Idwal in – laughing at him as he drowned. Owain banished Nefydd from the land and, to honour Idwal, named the lake after him. It is also said that the local birds flew away from the area in sorrow at the terrible deed, and that even to this day they do not fly over the lake to respect the memory of the dead prince.

To the right of Cwn Idwal, you should be able to see some rocky slabs. These are called the Idwal Slabs and are a training ground for many pioneering mountaineers including Everest conqueror Edmund Hillary and his Welsh teammate Charles Evans. They also used Yr Wydffa to train for legendary adventure which is your final objective of the walk. You could say, you are following in their footsteps!

20. Continue to follow the path down from the summit. It is quite rocky at first but becomes less rocky the further down you go. Then, climb over the ladder and you should see a lake to your right. This is a good spot for a break, some lunch and a rest.
21. You are now ascending your third peak, Glyder Fawr. The ascent is very rocky and uneven, and there is no clear path up but stick to the left. You will

have to scramble up the rocks for roughly 150 metres and then the ascent becomes less steep.

22. You will reach lots of large point rocks – welcome to your third summit of the day! Take in the stunning view. On a clear day, you will be able to see incredible views Yr Wyddfa and its summit which is your final objective.
23. Leaving the summit, you are heading towards Pen Y Pas. You should see a lake to your left and the Pen Y Pas car park and café behind a rocky hill.
24. The path down will lead you to the right. The path is initially clear and will lead you to a steep rocky area which you will climb down.
25. At the bottom, cross a grassy path which goes to the right. Go over that and head towards the large, slanted rock on the left.
26. Follow the grassy path to your left, walking past the right-side of the large, slanted rock.
27. Head down the hill to the grassy flat land just before the small hill. The lake, Llyn Cwmffynnon, should be to your left.
28. Head up the hill and follow the path around to your right. Take the path down and towards a gate which will take you out at Pen Y Pas café. Cross the road to the Pen Y Pas car park.
29. Here, you begin the final leg of your hike. You are summiting Yr Wyddfa following The Miners Track to Llyn Glaslyn was built during the last century to serve the Britannia Copper Mines, abandoned in 1917. The path starts at the far end of Pen Y Pass car park.
30. At first the path contours gently with fine views down the Gwynant Valley on your left. The valley was carved out by a slow-moving glacier during the last ice age which ended about 10,000 years ago.
31. After a short while a sudden right turn in the path reveals the three peaks of the famous Snowdon Horseshoe, from left to right they are Y Lliwedd (2947 ft.), Yr Wyddfa (or Snowdon) (3560 ft.) and Crib Goch (3023 ft.).
32. You soon pass above Llyn Teyrn, a small lake on your left – the ruins you can see on the lake shore are the old miners' barracks.
33. The path continues to climb gently until you come to Llyn Llydaw. Make sure you take the right-hand path as you near the green valve house and continue to and over the causeway that crosses the lake. The lake itself is a glacial corrie lake, gouged out of the mountain during the ice age and is 190 feet deep.
34. On the lake shore you can see the derelict sorting and crushing mill of the Britannia Copper Mine and shortly beyond that you encounter the first steep section of the path up to the third lake – Llyn Glaslyn.
35. On reaching Llyn Glaslyn, the ruins you pass on the right are the former barracks where the miners lived during the week and just after the barracks you will come to a path that ascends very steeply up the slope in front of you to join the Pyg Track.
36. The junction of the Pyg Track is marked by a conspicuous striated boulder – turn left here and follow the track until you reach the Zigzag.
37. Continue up the Zigzag until you reach the 8ft marker stone at Bwlch Glas – this is where the Miners / Pyg Track meets the Llanberis path which will be

your route down after reaching the summit. Turn left and follow the path up to the top – from here it is a relatively easy 15-minute climb. You must keep to the path which follows a line along the edge of the ridge well to the left of the railway track which soon reaches the summit of Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) at 1085m or 3560 feet.

38. Congratulations – you have summited your final peak of the day! Take a moment to breathe in the fresh mountain air, take in the stunning views and celebrate your achievement with a well-deserved snack and a photo.
39. When you are ready, follow the Llanberis path back down to the Royal Victoria Hotel.
40. Keep the railway to your left and follow the signs at the summit which will direct you to the path.
41. The path is wide and clear, and a very popular route to the summit. It will be easy to follow all the way down.
42. At the bottom of the path, you will reach a gate. Go through this gate and turn right and follow the road down in to Llanberis.
43. Cross over the cattle grid and continue to head straight down the road. At this end of this road, you will be opposite the Royal Victoria Hotel.
44. Please remember to check back in at the registration tent and to collect your finisher medal!