



# Walk *your* Weekends

the ultimate guide to hiking Britain like a local  
(no car? no holidays? no problem.)



*The Llanberis Path*

## SNOWDON

A weekend walking adventure  
for London-based hikers

[www.walkyourweekends.com](http://www.walkyourweekends.com)

## INTRODUCTION

Snowdon is Wales' highest mountain and a very popular peak to 'tick off'.

Here's the suggested itinerary explaining how to do it in a weekend from London.

## TRAVEL

The nearest train station to Snowdon is **BANGOR**. The nearest village is **LLANBERIS**.

Both are in the county of **GWYNEDD**, North Wales.

TRAIN from London Euston to Bangor takes approximately 3 hr 20 minutes.

Suitable EVENING train times are:

DAY	FROM > TO	LEAVE	ARRIVE
Day 0	TRAIN London Euston > Bangor (approx 3 hr 20 mins)	17:40 or 18:10 or 19:10	21:09 or 21:25 or 22:22

There is a later train but that arrives after 11pm so I have omitted that one as an option.

Search [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for times.

## RETURNING TO LONDON

Get a bus or taxi from Llanberis to Bangor. For bus times search on [Traveline Cymru](http://TravelineCymru).

Suitable EVENING train times on a Sunday are:

DAY	FROM > TO	LEAVE	ARRIVE
SUNDA Y	TRAIN Bangor > London (approx 3 hr 42 mins to 4hr 30 mins) <b>This journey often involves changing trains, usually at Crewe.</b>	17:04 or 17:59 or 19:04	20:46 or 22:28 or 23:54

## TAXI NUMBERS

(These are not personal recommendations – just companies I found searching online).

### BANGOR TAXI FIRMS

Chubbs Cabs - 01248 353535  
A5 Taxis - 01248 360360  
Ace & Gwyns - 01248 351324  
Glyn's - 01248 351554  
Classic Cabs - 01248 370717  
John's Cabs - 01248 351505  
Penrhyn Cabs - 01248 600072

### LLANBERIS TAXI FIRMS

Taxi Refail – 01286 870989  
LG Cabs - 01286 870027  
CK CABS - 01286 871768

## MAPS

[AZ Adventure Atlas Snowdonia](#) or [Snowdon OS Explorer](#)) OL17

## ACCOMMODATION



*In Pete's Eats, Llanberis*

### FIRST NIGHT ACCOMMODATION

Where you stay for the first night depends on what time train you are able to get.

**If you are arriving late in Bangor** you might want to stay there for the first night. You could stay in or near Llanberis for your second night (as you will be finishing your Snowdon walk there anyway). **I think it would be worthwhile spending at least your second night in Llanberis if you can, to experience this hiker's village right under Snowdon.**

Hostels in Bangor: [YHA](#)

Hotels, B&Bs, Guest Houses in Bangor: [Click here to see a list](#)

Camping in Bangor: [Treborth Hall](#) LL57 2RX (1.5 miles from Bangor train station)

**If you are getting an earlier train** (e.g. traveling in the morning or afternoon) you could get a BUS to Llanberis ([Check Traveline Cymru](#)).

This usually takes about 40 minutes. However the last bus from Bangor to Llanberis leaves at 17:47 and that one takes about 1 hour. Alternatively you could get a TAXI from Bangor to Llanberis. It would take about 35 minutes.

You can also stay in the **YHA hostel at Pen-y-Pass** which is where the recommended route up Snowdon begins.

It is 10 minutes' drive from Llanberis. There are infrequent buses ([Check Traveline Cymru](#)); it might be simpler to take a taxi instead.

## ACCOMMODATION IN LLANBERIS

### Hostels / bunkhouses

[YHA Hostel Llanberis](#)

[Pete's Eat's Bunkhouse](#)

[YHA Hostel Snowdon Pen-y-Pass](#) (10 minutes' drive from Llanberis)

### B&Bs, Guest Houses, hotels

[Click here for a list: there are several to choose from](#)

### Campsites in/near Llanberis

[Llwyn Celyn Bach](#), Llanberis, Gwynedd. LL55 4SR (½ mile from Llanberis village)

## GETTING TO SNOWDON

The suggested start point for walking Snowdon is the Pen-y-Pass carpark which is 10 minutes drive from Llanberis.

### Getting to Pen-y-Pass from BANGOR:

Part 1	BUS Bangor Railway Station Bus Stop H > Llanberis High Steet (number 85) – (37 minutes) <a href="#">Check Traveline Cymru</a>	08:47	09:24
Part 2	TAXI Llanberis High Street > <b>Pen-Y-Pass</b> carpark (10 minutes)	09:45	10:00

OR... just get a Taxi from Bangor straight to Pen-y-Pass instead! **Since you have to get a taxi from Llanberis anyway, this would seem to be the simplest option.**

### Getting to Pen-y-Pass from LLANBERIS:

TAXI	Llanberis High Street > <b>Pen-Y-Pass</b> carpark (10 minutes)	09:45	10:00
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There are some buses from Llanberis to Pen-y-Pass but at the time of writing they do not arrive at any useful times for walking Snowdon (i.e. they arrive too late for a day's walk).

## FACILITIES

There are toilets at Pen-y-Pass car park, at the summit cafe and on Maes Padarn road in Llanberis.

## SUGGESTED ROUTE UP SNOWDON



*Looking towards Llanberis from the Pyg Track, near Pen-y-Pass*

I suggest you start at **PEN-Y-PASS** carpark and descend to finish in **LLANBERIS**.

This gives you **THREE** route options for climbing **up** Snowdon, and means you see the other side of the mountain on the way down - rather than just going up and coming back down the same way which might be not as interesting. It also means you end in Llanberis where there are plenty of cafes and pubs to celebrate your achievement!

At Pen-Y-Pass there are toilets and a shop/cafe.

From Pen-y-Pass there are three route options:

### **1) PYG TRACK (RECOMMENDED) – 5km / 3.5 miles**

**This is the recommended route.** It is a very popular clear path which is not difficult.

It's a lovely path to walk, giving you lots of fantastic views as it weaves gently up the mountain. The paths are clear and there is no scrambling.

The ascent is surprisingly gentle, and there is only a short steep zig zag section at the end. It takes you above the Miners' Track but below Crib Goch.

[Click here to read a description and to see the route on an OS map.](#)



*On the Pyg Track. Glaslyn lake below.*

## **2) MINERS' TRACK – 6km / 4 miles**

This is mostly flat walking for most of the route as it curves alongside the Lakes below but climbs steeply at the end to join the Pyg Track. In comparison the Pyg Track climbs gently almost all the way but I feel is a more interesting path than the Miners'.

[Click here to see the route on an OS map](#)

[Click here to read a description](#)

### 3) CRIB GOCH – 5km / 3.5 miles

This is for very experienced hikers only: it diverts from the Pyg Track and you have to scramble over a very sharp ridge. Crib Goch is above the Pyg Track, to the right. If you want to try this, you need to do some research to ensure you know what you are letting yourself in for!

[Click here to see the route on an OS map and to read a description](#)

### THE SUMMIT

As you reach the top of Snowdon you will turn left (South) and follow the railway line all the way to the summit.

The summit is on top of some steps, and the summit cafe is directly below. There are toilets, a shop, and the train station below.

[Here is an aerial picture of the summit.](#)

The summit cafe serves hot and cold food, pies, pasties and “Oggies” which are basically very VERY big pasties. Order one at your own risk!

You can also get souvenirs such as t-shirts, fridge magnets and pictures etc.

Unfortunately you cannot catch the train back if you are tired! They keep the seats for the customers who went up.

## SUGGESTED ROUTE DOWN SNOWDON

The recommended route down Snowdon is the **LLANBERIS PATH – 7km / 4.5 miles**

This follows the railway line all the way down to Llanberis. It's a very clear, easy descent (with some steep sections).

It gives brilliant views ahead and you can watch the trains coming up and down the mountain.

There is a cafe and toilets at a little hut called 'Halfway House' which is about halfway down.

There is also a tea room at the bottom of the mountain on the outskirts of Llanberis called [Penceunant Isaf](#) which has excellent reviews on Tripadvisor.

[Click here to view the route on an OS map and read a description](#)

[Here is a PDF guide to the various Snowdon routes, giving a brief overview](#) of each route. This includes additional route options to the four I mention above which start from different locations.



*Descending on the Llanberis path – this is about as steep as it gets.*



*On the Llanberis path, approaching 'Halfway House'*



*The Snowdon railway*

## EATING AND DRINKING IN LLANBERIS

For your walk up Snowdon I recommend taking a packed lunch or plenty of snacks. There is a cafe at the summit, but it can be busy and you might be hungry before you get there!



If you're in Llanberis you have to pop into the famous hikers' cafe called [PETE'S EATS](#).

This is a hiking institution and is well known for its huge portions of grub and pint mugs of hot drinks.

It is the big blue building on the high street!

[Here's a list of pubs and restaurants in Llanberis](#)

The [Gallt Y Glyn](#) and [The Heights](#) pub have good reviews on Tripadvisor.

The tea room at the bottom of the Llanberis path has excellent reviews on Tripadvisor.

## SECOND DAY OPTIONS

*(Please note that I have not tested the route descriptions linked below, and cannot vouch for their accuracy).*

### THINGS TO DO IN LLANBERIS

#### 1) Want to tick off even more mountains?

Here's an idea: [Moel Eilio, Foel Gron, Foel Goch: circular walk from Llanberis](#)  
11.4 km / 7 miles

It's worth looking at [this webpage too](#) which shows stunning pictures from this walk, plus a handy OS map of the route. This looks like a pretty strenuous walk but if you planned this carefully you could manage to get this done, then get a taxi to take you to Bangor railway station for your train back to London. Just don't fall asleep on the train!

#### 2) Fancy a gentle walk?

[Llanberis Padarn Lake Walk](#) 6 miles / 9.6 km

or

[Llanberis Castle, Padarn country park, slate quarry](#) (PDF download) 4 miles / 6.4 km

Both are circular walks from Llanberis.

#### 3) Had enough of walking?

[National Slate Museum](#)

[Llanberis Lake Railway](#)

[Dolbadarn Castle](#)

### THINGS TO DO IN BANGOR

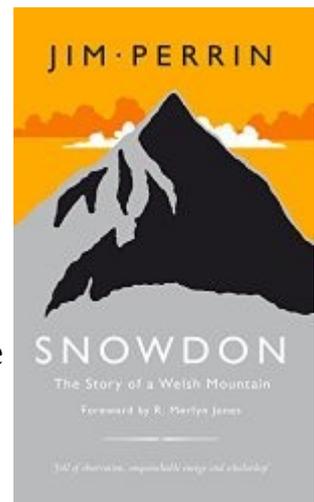
[Short walk around the town](#) (download the PDF guide from this webpage)

[Penhyrn Castle](#) (3 miles from Bangor, reachable by bus)

## BACKGROUND READING & VIEWING

[Snowdon: The story of a Welsh Mountain](#) by Jim Perrin

“The story of Snowdon in Jim Perrin's words. The secrets within its fractured rocks and its shy flora, its folk tales echoing an older race and its beliefs, travelers' chronicles, industry, sport and an anthology of literature all contribute towards our understanding of the mountain.”



[YouTube: ITV Wales this week report: Snowdonia at 60](#)



[YouTube: Trail Magazine on Crib Goch](#)

[www.walkyourweekends.com](http://www.walkyourweekends.com)