

THE CAMBRIAN WAY

**CLASSIC WALES MOUNTAIN TREK –
SOUTH TO NORTH FROM CARDIFF TO CONWY**

by George Tod with Richard Tyler

CICERONE

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Front cover: The dramatic outcrop of Craig Maesglese (Stage 14)

For Nant Syddion
Bothy (5.3km)
continue E along the
lane, passing above
and S of Rhos-tyddyn.

Turn right and head W along the road for 100 metres, then take the track that forks left, following it for 75 metres. This follows the main road at a higher level, offering fine, open views across the valley, improved by recent clear-felling. At a fork in the track, keep right and continue for a further 1.6km of reasonably level walking, avoiding any tracks to left or right, to exit the forest.

Continue W along the moorland track to meet a bend on the B4343 road towards Devil's Bridge after 1.1km. Go straight ahead (WNW) on the road for 100 metres to where it bears right, and NW for 150 metres to a school on the right. Turn sharp right past the buildings on a lane going E and walk for 100 metres then NE for another 100 metres to a line of trees. Leave the lane at a waymark, bearing left down the hillside for 450 metres. ◀ Cross a stile on the right onto a track and head down to the A4120 road in **Devil's Bridge**.

Where the route enters **Devil's Bridge**, immediately opposite is the terminus of the Vale of Rheidol Railway, with a café which is open whenever the railway is running – see www.rheidolrailway.co.uk. The bridge itself over Afon Mynach is 300 metres east, near the Hafod Hotel. It is in three tiers as it is built on top of two earlier bridges. The famous Devil's Bridge Falls (Rhaeadrau Pontarfynach) can be visited for a fee, with a coin-operated turnstile when not manned – see <http://devilsbridgefalls.co.uk>.

This is only named on
detailed local maps
(Pontbren means
Wooden Bridge).

Go left up the main road, heading W for 250 metres through the village. The road swings NW for 200 metres; look out for a path going N beyond the houses where the main road swings left. Follow this waymarked trail for 500 metres as it swings round the hillside and heads NW and descends to the railway line. Cross the level crossing through the gate and follow the path running alongside the railway line NW for 200 metres as it swings N, then continue along the path as it descends steeply through the Coed Rheidol Nature Reserve forest for 300 metres, gradually swinging round W and then NW to reach the bridge **Pontbren Pwlca** after 700 metres. ◀ This is Checkpoint 18.

After crossing the bridge, turn right and follow the lower road, going ESE beside **Afon Rheidol** for 500 metres, passing some waterfalls. The road then becomes a track and

starts climbing and swinging ESE, departing from the river through woodland. After 300 metres a track turns off sharp left, going N. Follow this up the steep slope, ignoring any tracks going off to the left. It swings round to the right and levels off after 600 metres before reaching a T-junction. Turn left along the track, going N to Penrhiw Farm then left and right to the hamlet of **Ystumtuen** after 550 metres. Here, bear right along the road and go downhill to the NE, then uphill, passing some buildings on the left after 400 metres.

