

23 GWYNEDD RHYD-DDU & RANGER LOOP

▶ Distance: 7¼ miles/11.6km ▶ Time: 4½ hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



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FEATURE
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There are fantastic views
through this walk.



PHOTO: LEN BANISTER

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Rhyd-Ddu Station grid ref SH570528. Or at end, Snowdon Ranger Station P&D car park (grid ref SH565601) and catch train to start

Is it for me? Mostly quite straightforward and usually dry. Near the top there is a brief spell of exposure. Suitable for fit adults and older children
Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Beddgelert
Refreshments At summit (check café opening times at www.tinyurl.com/snowdoncafe)

Public toilets At stations and summit
Public transport Start and finish at stations on Welsh Highland Railway (www.festrail.co.uk). S4 Sherpa bus service (www.tinyurl.com/snowdonsherpabus)

Maps OS Explorer OL17; Landranger 115



CHOSEN BY... LEN BANISTER

The ascent of
Snowdon via the

Rhyd-Ddu path is perhaps the most rewarding route to the top. Although not the easiest way to reach Wales' highest peak (it's quite some ascent from the valley), it has two great advantages: it's far less busy than most other paths and reveals a side to Snowdon few see. The jaw-dropping views along Snowdon's south ridge lead on to the amazing summit panorama, and by combining the Rhyd-Ddu Path with the Ranger Path on the way down, you have a great circular walk. A journey on the Welsh Highland Railway links the start and finish of the loop.

1 Start

Start from far end of Rhyd-Ddu car park, cross track; begin walking east uphill. Go R at fork. After three gates reach junction.

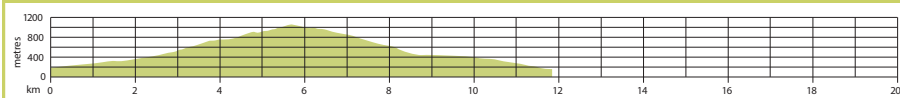
2 1 mile/1.6km

Go L through the gate northeast. Continue through two more gates, go L at yellow marker. From now on, look for cairns to guide you. Go through another gate, straight on uphill. The next gate is at about 750m high.

3 2½ miles/3.9km

Go through, curving L along the Llechog spur to join the south ridge of Snowdon. Weather permitting, you should have good views of the

GRADIENT PROFILE



23 GWYNEDD
RHYD-DDU & RANGER LOOP▶ OS Explorer map OL17 ▶ Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapshop

top. Go L along fenced path, climbing north-northeast along Snowdon's exposed south ridge towards the summit and mountain-top station/café.

4 3½ miles/5.6km

Descending from the summit, continue north following the track down, parallel with the railway. Continue to rock block signing Snowdon Ranger Path and go L on a vague path, crossing the railway line to follow a clear, zigzagging cairn-marked path west over the Clogwyn Du'r Arddu spur. After about 3km

you'll reach a surprisingly elegant metal gate.

5 5½ miles/9.1km

Continue downhill following the Snowdon Ranger Path. If you've parked at Rhyd-Ddu and aren't catching the Welsh Highland Railway from the Snowdon Ranger, you can fork off at a ladder-stile L (just before leaving Access Land) and follow the path to the start at Rhyd-Ddu (an extra two miles). Otherwise, keep forward through gate, ignoring all paths to Llanberis. After zigzag path, go through gate downhill. After

next gate, go L then L after cattle grid to station where you can catch a train back to the start (remember that the Snowdon Ranger Station is a request stop). **CW**

TRAILZILLA ID:
TZID30104

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