



1b Taith y Castell

Pellter: 8km / 5 milltir, tua 2.5-3 awr
Graddfa: Egniol gydag ychydig o ddringo serth
Crynodeb: Taith adfywiol gyda golygfeydd gwych o'r castell a'r mynyddoedd.

Y Daith Gerdded

1. Dilyn Taith 1a cyn belled â'r lle picnic, yna i'r chwith ar hyd y lôn. Parhau heibio Gwyndy a'r llyn bychan ar y chwith. Trowch i'r dde wrth hen dŷ gwag gan ddilyn yr arwyddion i fyny'r bryn. Croesi'r llwybr llydan a dal ymlaen gan ddringo'n serth ar y llwybr naturiol drwy'r goedwig a dilyn gwely sych y nant.

2. Ar derfyn y goedwig, croeswch y gamfa ysgol i'r rhostir agored. Dilynwch y llwybr naturiol troellog gan wyro'n raddol i'r dde dros y mynydd a gan ddilyn y saethau. Croeswch y gamfa ysgol a mynd i lawr i'r dyffryn. Ar y gyffordd, trowch i'r dde i lwybr lletach. Tueddwch i'r dde a heibio'r adfail. Croeswch gamfa ysgol/giât arall a gwyro i'r chwith wrth yr arwydd i fynd drwy'r giât yn ymyl adfail. Tueddwch i'r dde ar y llwybr ac i lawr y cae hir i'r giât ar y gwaelod.

Dilynwch y llwybr hwn ar



Cudyll Coch
Kestrel

Castell Dolwyddelan

Roedd y golygfeydd eang o ben y bryn yn bwysig iawn o ran amddiffyn, a meistr y castell hwn fyddai'n rheoli bylchau'r mynyddoedd o gwmpas, i bob pwrpas. Roedd y Castell yn gadarnle cryf y Cymry yn ystod cyfnodau cythryblus y Canol Oesoedd. Yn ôl y sôn, yma y ganed Llywelyn Fawr, y grymusaf o'r Tywysogion, a bu'i wry yn parhau i frwydro yn erbyn gormeswyr Lloegr. Yn y diwedd cafodd y Cymry'u trechu pan anfonodd Edward I fyddin enfawr i Ddyffryn Conwy ac fe gipiwyd y Castell yn 1283. Atgyweiriodd Edward I y castell a rhoi gwarchodlu ynddo ond fe'i tynnodd yn ôl gan ganolbwyntio ar amddiffyn y glannau môr yn lle ceisio rheoli ardaloedd anghyfannedd y mynyddoedd. Bu'r castell yn wag am ganrifoedd ac ysbeilwyr yn bla ar yr ardal. Yn ystod yr 15fed ganrif, daeth Maredudd ab Ieuan â threfn i'r ardal pan gafodd y castell ar brydles a chodi Tai Penannen. Mae gorthwr tal y castell rhamantaidd a welwch chi heddiw yn rhan o adnewyddiad Oes Victoria.

1b Castle walk

Distance: 8km / 5 miles, allow 2.5-3hrs
Grade: Strenuous with some steep climbs
Summary: A refreshing walk with superb views of the castle and mountains

The Route

1. As for 1a to the picnic area, then turn left along lane. Continue past Gwyndy and small lake on left. Turn right by a derelict house, following the waymarked path up the hillside. Cross a track and continue ahead on a steep natural path through the forest, ascending steeply, following the dry stream bed.

2. At the forest edge cross a ladder stile onto open moorland. Follow a natural winding path, gradually bearing right across the moorland, following waymarkers. Cross a ladder stile and descend into the valley. Turn right at junction with a wider path. Bear right past a ruin. Cross another ladder stile/gate then bear left at waymarker and through a gate by a ruin. Bear right on the path down a long field to gate at the bottom. Follow the path downhill to a farmyard. Go through gates, then turn left in front of the

farmhouse (Bertheos) and follow the path down to the road. Cross the main road and turn right. After a few metres, turn left over a stile and follow lane over bridge. Cross a stile on the left and follow a narrow natural path up the hillside. Turn left at a waymarker through a wet area (in winter) then follow the waymarkers across open country. Cross a stile and follow the path ahead. Go through a gate and turn right along the lane.

3. At farm buildings, where road bears left, turn right onto a track. Go through a gate and continue ahead over stile/gate. Where the track forks continue ahead rather than following the more major track left. Go through two more gates, and over a stile. Continue ahead on the clear path descending downhill towards the castle. Pass the castle ruins on the right and continue ahead to join a concrete path (ignore path signed right beyond castle). Go through gate and continue down track to reach A470. Turn left along the road and walk carefully back into Dolwyddelan.

Dolwyddelan Castle

The extensive views from this hilltop castle were very important defensively. Whoever was master of the castle effectively controlled the surrounding mountain passes. It was a Welsh stronghold during the turbulent Middle Ages. Llywelyn Fawr, the most powerful of the Welsh princes, was reputedly born here and his grandson, Llywelyn ap Gruffydd, continued the struggle against the invaders from England. The Welsh were finally defeated when Edward I sent a huge army into the Conwy Valley and the castle was captured in 1283. Edward I repaired and garrisoned it but later withdrew the garrison, concentrating on coastal defence rather than trying to control the inhospitable mountain regions. The castle lay empty for centuries and the area was overrun with bandits. Maredudd ab Ieuan finally restored order in the 15th century when he leased the castle and built Tai Penannen. The tall keep of the romantic castle you see today is the result of an elaborate Victorian restoration.

