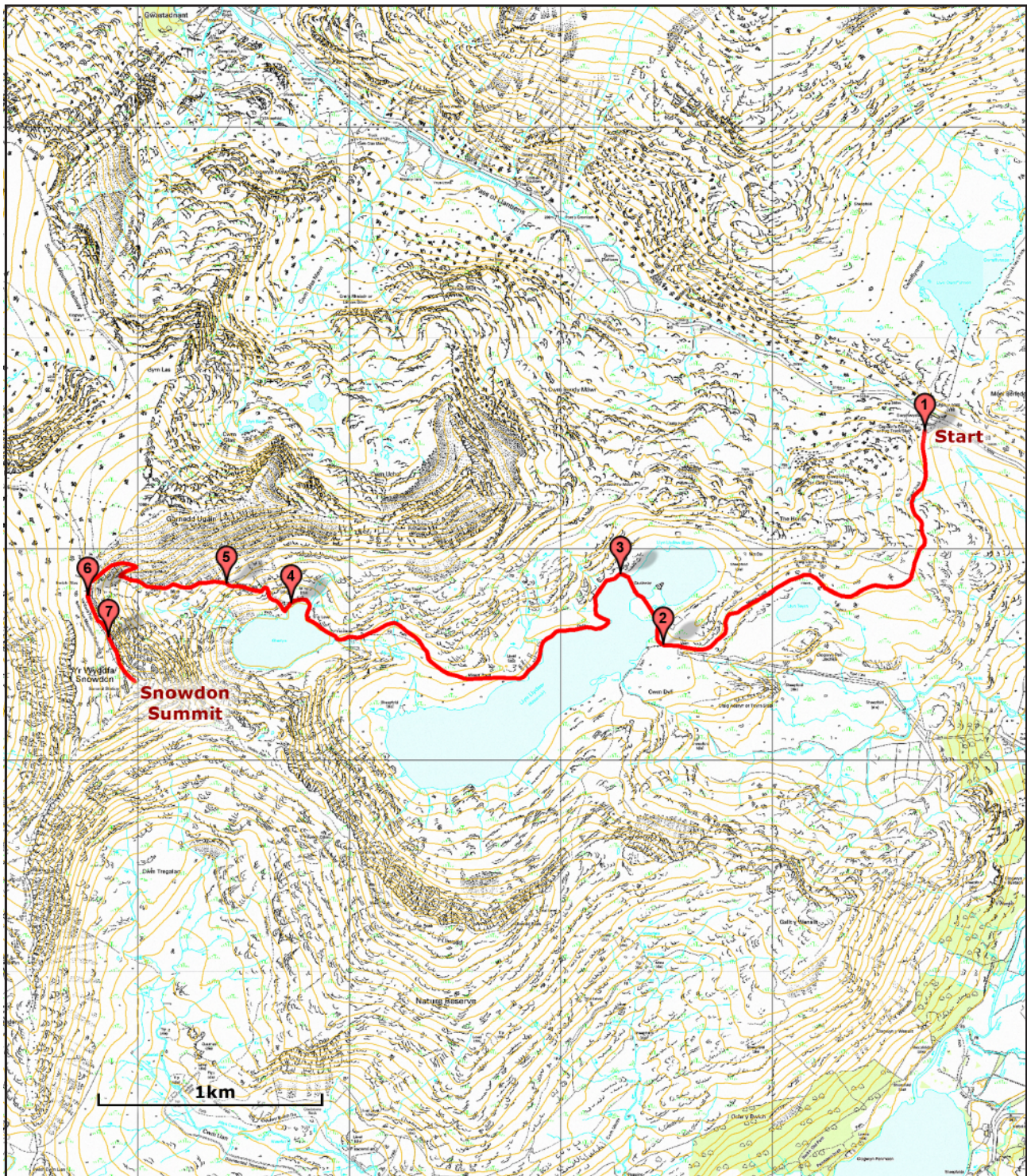


Miners' Track, Snowdon



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Distance: 8 miles (13km) (there and back)

Ascent: 2372 feet (723 metres)

Time: About 6 hours (there and back)

Grade: Mountain Walk

Start / Finish: Pen y Pass Car Park, off the A4086 (SH 647 557)

Relevant Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL 17 (Snowdon & Conwy Valley)

Parking

Pay and display car park – make sure that you have enough loose change. The car park fills up quickly early in the morning in the summer and on weekends – but you can park in Nant Peris car park which is about 3 miles down the Pass, and catch the bus back up to Pen y Pass. In the high season you may descend by another of the Snowdon paths and catch the Sherpa bus back to your vehicle.

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Miners' Track, Snowdon

The Miners' Track was built to serve the Britannia Copper Mine on Snowdon – but it is not the route originally used to serve the mine. In the beginning, miners lugged the copper up the eastern side of the mountain, to be drawn down the other side to Llyn Cwellyn by a sledge drawn by two horses. From Llyn Cwellyn, the copper was taken by horse and cart to Caernarfon. The road from Llanberis to Pen y Gwryd (the A4086 today) was opened around ten years later, and so this more practical route was used.

This path is ideal if you wish to take a walk on Snowdon without going all the way to the summit. The path starts off wide and even, climbing gradually passed Llyn Teyrn to Llyn Llydaw, where the ruins of the old copper mine can be seen. From here, the path climbs steeply to Llyn Glaslyn, where it becomes a hard climb over scree towards the intersection of the Miners' and the Pyg Tracks. The path then zigzags up to Bwlch Glas, and then on to the summit.

Facilities

Toilets and café open during the day. SNPA Wardens are based on site and they are usually around to give advice to walkers in the mornings. The weather forecast is usually displayed in the notice board outside the building.

The Route

1. The path starts at the far left hand corner of the Pen y Pass car park, opposite the entrance.
2. The path forks near Llyn Llydaw. Bear right and you will reach a causeway across the lake.
3. Cross the causeway and follow the path passed the ruins of the Britannia Copper Mine crushing mill on your right, before a steep climb to Llyn Glaslyn lake.
4. From Llyn Glaslyn, go to the right just after the barracks, and follow the path that climbs steeply over scree. This part of the route is a hard climb and can be very slippery. When the path is covered with ice and snow, the rest of the route is best left to experienced walkers with the proper equipment.
5. Shortly, you will reach a standing stone that marks the junction with the Pyg Track (remember about it on your way down). From this point the path continues to climb steeply and loose under-foot until you reach Bwlch Glas.
6. At Bwlch Glas, you will be joining the Llanberis Path and the Snowdon Ranger Path. This junction is marked with a standing stone (remember about it on your way down).
7. Follow the path to the left from the standing stone. You are now on the final leg of your walk up Snowdon. Walking at a leisurely pace, you can expect to be on the summit in around a quarter of an hour.

Remember!

Though you are in the Snowdonia National Park, please remember that the path crosses the privately owned farm and grazing lands of Gwastadannas, where dogs are not welcomed unless under close control or on a lead.

On your way to the summit you will see evidence of essential footpath restoration work carried out by the National Park Authority. Please keep to the footpath to prevent further erosion.



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