

# Walks from Ty'n Cornel Hostel

## Soar y Mynydd Chapel and Doethie Valley - 6.5 miles (10.5km)

It is essential to take an Ordnance Survey Map. Borrow one from the hostel if you don't have one.

### Summary

Basic walk is by clearly-defined tracks and paths - over to the chapel, returning via Nant Llwyd Farm and Doethie Valley. Stunning views down the valley going over the top and fine views to hostel from optional diversion to Pen y Gurnos.

### Safety

**The area is remote and can be difficult underfoot with indistinct paths. An Ordnance Survey map is essential.**

For this walk, particular difficulties include:

River Crossings - None apart from 3 minor streams on return to Doethie valley.

Underfoot - Take care on the track from the ford below the hostel to the Chapel as it is very badly eroded. You need to walk on the grassy verge in places. Also, the paths in the Doethie Valley can be overgrown with bracken.

Height - over 400m at the two passes and open country for most of the route.

Navigation - Straightforward with fairly obvious paths but pay attention to the directions and map and be vigilant in poor visibility. Ordnance Survey map essential. Compass recommended if visibility poor.

### Directions

NB. Ref.Nos. are shown on map overleaf.

- 1 Left (L) from hostel (East) following track down to the ford and footbridge over the Doethie Fach (Little Doethie). Take care on eroded track. Walk on grassy verge. After 200m ignore footpath signposted to right and go straight on up the track to the top of the pass and downhill to the chapel - 2.5 miles.
- 2 Right (R) to go past chapel on unsealed road heading for Llyn Brienne. Cross cattle grid.
- 3 After about 0.5 mile leave track to turn R through gate onto grassy track to Nant Llwyd Farm.
- 4 Follow way-marking through farm (in front of house). Follow track to top of pass.
- 5 At top, with Doethie valley before you, decide whether to divert to trig-point on top of Pen y Gurnos, about 0.5 mile away very slightly E of S. There is no path but in good and settled visibility this is easily reached by following the ridge. Do not attempt this without map and compass if visibility is questionable. Return same way.
- 6 If not going to trig point, ignore new track where it curves uphill and follow fence through lowest point. Go through gate. Descend steep slope on curving path into Doethie Valley and cross stream near valley bottom. Turn L immediately after this and then ignore paths to L and turn R above old ruins onto path heading up valley.
- 7 About 1 mile further on, shortly after steepish climb, take the lower path to head diagonally downhill through bracken and follow path up Doethie Valley.
- 8 L at track where you rejoin the outward route at footpath sign and return to hostel.

### Points of Interest

- 1 Track past hostel is an old drove road - see also Walk 3 for more information.
- 2 Soar y Mynydd Chapel - the most remote chapel in Wales; good information inside.
- 3 Old settlements - much evidence of this on walk up Doethie and 28 squatters' farms have been counted in the region around Nant Llwyd. Erecting a shelter within 24 hours on common land gave a right of tenure.
- 4 Views - those down the Doethie valley as you come over the top and up the valley from Pen y Gurnos showing the hostel in all its isolation are particularly fine, as is that of the white-painted chapel as you descend into the Camddwr valley from the tops over from the hostel.

