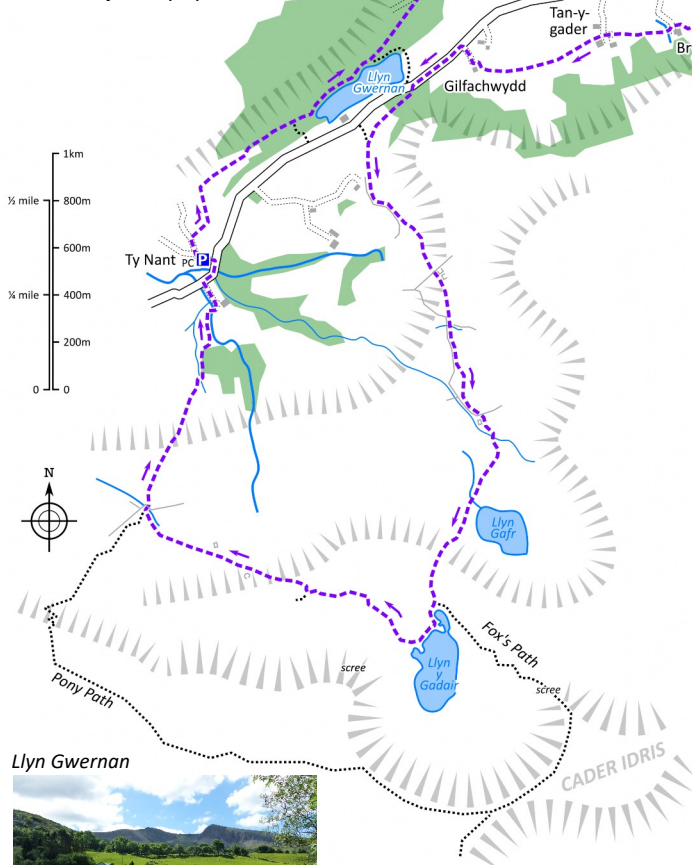
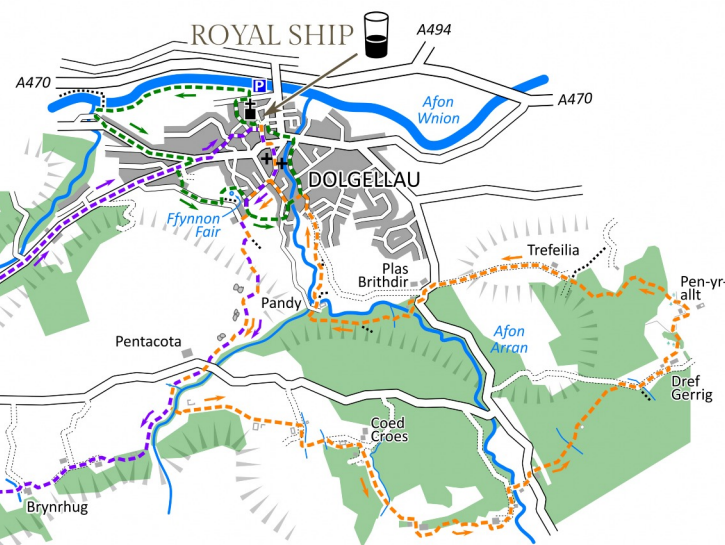


Cader Idris from Llyn-y-Gadair

Please note that car parking at the Royal Ship is strictly for residents only. A pay-and-display car park is available a short walk away at Bont Fawr bridge (see map).



WALKS from the DOOR
www.walksfromthedor.co.uk



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Afon Wnion



Ffynnon Fair

follow the wall to the left, to a fingerpost level with the farm, where you turn right. **43** Follow the remains of a wall to a ladder stile. **44** Bear left through trees and join a wall, which you follow to another ladder stile. **45** Continue through the woods to a white waymark, where you bear left as directed. **46** Ignore the boardwalk on the right, continuing to a gate by the lakeside. **47** Follow the lake edge until the path forks, a little way beyond the end of a wall. **48** Take the left-hand path, which leaves the lake to pass through mixed woodland. **49** Beyond a gate at the end of the wood, follow the track to the road at Gelliylwyd Fawr. **50** Turn right and follow the road to a T-junction, ignoring footpaths to right and left. **51** At the junction, turn left and follow the road downhill for 3/4 mile back to Dolgellau. **52** At the T-junction opposite the garage, turn right. **53** Turn left into Lombard St and follow it back to the Royal Ship.

three circular walks from

The Royal Ship Dolgellau, Gwynedd



Afon Wnion & Ffynnon Fair

1 3/4 miles: Fairly easy

A short stroll close to the town centre, featuring a pretty riverside walk and a historic sacred well.

The foothills of Cader Idris

4 3/4 miles: Moderate

A walk on little-known paths through delightful wooded country between hidden farms and valleys.

Three Lakes Walk

8 3/4 miles: Strenuous

A hearty, hilly hike to the foot of Cader Idris, passing Llyn Gafur, Llyn-y-Gadair and Llyn Gwernan.

Afon Wnion & Ffynnon Fair

1¾ miles: Fairly easy

Allow 1 hour. One short steep climb, and the woodland path to Ffynnon Fair may be a little muddy after rain. No stiles.

1 From the front door, turn right into the narrow street between Y Sospan (left) and Barclays Bank (right). **2** Turn right into the churchyard and walk past the south door and tower to emerge in Marian Road. Turn right and walk down to a T-junction in front of a rugby pitch. **3** Turn right again and walk to the end of the car park, which you cross to reach the riverside path. **4** To view the Bont Fawr bridge, divert right, otherwise turn left. **5** Follow the river downstream for ½ mile until you reach a footbridge. **6** Don't cross the river, but turn left along a path beside a sidestream. **7** At a bridge, turn left onto a more major road. **8** Follow this road for ¼ mile, ignoring a right-hand turn between gateposts (Cefn Rodyn), then turn sharp right opposite a garage, signposted to "Cader Idris". **9** Follow the road for a short distance, then turn left up steps into a walled, surfaced footpath that climbs to a further set of steps up to another road. **10** Turn left along the lane then left into a wood, with a finger post for "Ffynnon Fair". **11** Take the left-hand path, down steps, which subsequently bears right, past a bench and a wooden pig, to the bottom of the wood and the stone-walled well. **12** On emerging into a lane, turn right, passing to the right of the gable of a stone cottage. **13** At a bend at the top, turn right into a crushed-stone track. **14** At a bench, take the lower path (straight on) which winds down to a road junction. **15** Cross the first road and turn left, between cottages. **16** Turn right between two of them to a footbridge over the Afon Arran. **17** On meeting the road beyond, turn left and follow the river. **18** When the road bends right, keep left along a short path to a two-arched bridge. **19** Cross and head towards the town centre. **20** At a five-way junction, follow Wtra'r Felin (Mill St) straight ahead, which bends right to emerge opposite the Royal Ship.

The foothills of Cader Idris

4¾ miles: Moderate

Allow 3 hours. Multiple stiles; some of the paths may be muddy, or overgrown in places (long trousers recommended). Moderate ascent.

1 From the front door, walk past the Visitor Centre to Eldon Square. **2** Turn left then immediately right into Meyrick St. **3** Pass a chapel on the right and another on the left, and follow the road right to its junction with Springfield St. **4** Follow a narrow lane ahead that climbs steeply past two turnings on the right. **5** At the top of the road, turn left into a walled footpath. **6** At a bench, turn right to Y Bwthyn. **7** Turn left and follow a walled bridleway uphill. **8** At a gate and stile, turn right and continue along the winding bridleway as it climbs, before levelling off to a gate into open country. **9** Bear right past a low crag and then left and right around another, to meet a wooded stream, which you follow to a lane. **10** Cross and continue parallel to

the stream (staying to the right of the trees on a faint path a little way from the stream). **11** Cross a small side-stream and then continue along the main stream. **12** Bear left to cross at a ford and follow the track on the other side; go through a gap in the wall on your left and turn right. **13** Follow the bottom edge of the wood through a series of fields and past a pair of ruinous barns. **14** Turn right at a track between two further barns, then go straight on along the stream. **15** Turn left at a gate and footbridge and cross the bottom of the field to a ladder stile. **16** Join a track then, after fording a small stream, leave the track to pass behind an old watermill. **17** Level with the house at Coed Croes, turn right past a rocky outcrop. **18** Keep left of a ruined round building and follow a vague path up the valley. **19** Beyond a telegraph pole, ford the stream and bear right across a rushy field towards a farmhouse. **20** Pass between the house (left) and adjacent barns (right) then swing left behind the garden. **21** A waymark post leads to a path running within the top of a wood and then back out into open fields. **22** Turn left to a step-stile, beyond which pick your way across an overgrown field to a metal gate in the far corner. **23** The formal right of way passes over a ladder stile and in front of the house, but a more discreet alternative leads around the back of the house to join the entrance drive beyond it. **24** Follow the drive alongside the Afon Arran until you reach a footbridge. **25** Cross the stream and pass in front of a house on your right to a gate out to a lane. **26** Turn left past a cottage, then right onto a signposted public footpath. **27** The path, overgrown in places, heads through mixed woodland, at one point passing a ruined building, before meeting a metalled road. **28** Turn right and follow the road uphill to Dref Gerrig. **29** Walk between the farm buildings to a wooden stile. **30** Turn right below the farmhouse, then bear left through bracken to a stone step-stile in the wall. **31** Turn left and follow the wall to a gap, beyond which bear right to Pen-yr-Alt. **32** Beyond a gateway, turn left and pass in front of the cottage to a track beyond. **33** Turn left over a ladder-stile. **34** Follow a faint path through bracken into trees, descending to the bottom of the wood overlooking a farm, where you turn left. **35** Descend past two small gates, the second with a ladder stile, to emerge opposite a gate at Trefeilia. **36** Go through the gate, past the houses, and follow the drive beyond to a cattle grid and then alongside a wood to a road. **37** Turn left and, ignoring a path by the entrance to Fron Gogh, take the next path on the right. **38** Descend to cross the Arran once more at a footbridge, then follow the ascending path before dropping down again to stepping stones over a smaller stream. **39** The path continues through conifers and is joined by another from the left before curving right and down to the road at Pandry. **40** Follow the path opposite and cross the Arran again by a former watermill. **41** Bear left and take the lower path, above a weir, which climbs high above the river. **42** As you enter open grassland, take the lower (left-hand) path at a fork, which leads to a gate by a Coed Aberneint noticeboard. **43** Turn left down the lane and keep left past the community garden. **44** Turn left along a metalled path to a footbridge. **45** Turn right at the next road and then right again, and walk back down Meyrick St into Dolgellau.

Three Lakes Walk (8¼ miles: Strenuous)

Allow 5–6 hours. This route climbs to the foot of Cader Idris over rocky ground and should not be attempted in bad weather. Stout footwear and waterproofs recommended. Paths may be muddy.

Follow steps **1–11** of the **Foothills of Cader Idris** walk.

12 Ignore a path on the left to a ford and continue on the right-hand side of the stream to a former sheepfold with ladder stiles at either end. **13** Follow the field edge to a waymark at the entrance to woodland and turn right to pass behind a ruined farmhouse. **14** Go through a metal gate and right of a single-storey house. **15** Follow the track beyond and go through a gate to the left of a modern barn. **16** Follow the track to pass to the right of the house at Brynrhug. **17** Go through a gate and over a plank footbridge. **18** Bear left to a gateway then walk across the field to a gate to the left of a static caravan. **19** Cross the drive and go through another gate. **20** Cross three fields, separated by a gate and a ladder stile, to a second ladder stile, beyond which the path skirts through a garden. **21** Walk down the drive to the road. **22** Turn left along the road for 200 yards, then take a footpath on the left that climbs obliquely through woodland. **23** Beyond a gate, continue across the bracken hillside with views over Llyn Gwernan. **24** Meet a wall and follow it to the left before leaving it to pass above a house and then rejoining it beyond. **25** Leave the wall and follow a path across the hillside. **26** An intermittently rocky section leads to a gate and ladder stile by an old sheepfold, beyond which the path continues to a hand gate and plank bridge. **27** Follow wall and fence to a stream, which you follow briefly before crossing. **28** Cross a fairly level area before fording the stream flowing out of Llyn Gafr, which becomes visible to your left as you start to climb steeply. **29** A loose, rocky path continues to Llyn-y-Gadair, below the dramatic horseshoe of Cader Idris. **30** Leave the Fox's Path here, instead following a narrow path to the *right* of the lake. **31** By a small inlet, follow the path right, away from the lake, across a chaotic area of landslipped rock below the dramatic screes and cliffs of Cyfrwy Arête. **32** The vague path, alternately rocky and grassy, winds through and over the hillocks – a small upright stone is a reassurance that you are on the right path. **33** At a vague fork, the path bears north (right) for a while before resuming its generally seaward direction, passing below a slight crag under the main Cader ridge. **34** You should pass to the right of a round sheepfold and then left of the remains of a rectangular building as the path becomes smoother and grassier. **35** Passing some boggy springs, the path finally descends to meet the Pony Path at a gate by a small cascade. **36** Turn right through the gate and follow the obvious Pony Path, slabbed and stepped in places, downhill. **37** Pass a memorial stone to Will Ramsbotham and continue alongside a stream, before crossing a bridge to a gate. **38** Bear left of the farm entrance and follow the track out to the road. **39** Turn right along the road, then leave the road along a bridleway just after the Ty Nant car park. **40** Go through a gate and turn right at a fork. **41** Beyond a clump of trees, turn right at the footpath sign to a ladder stile. **42** Cross and