

Llangollen (via mountain) 5 miles

1 Leave our car park and go down to the bottom of the village. Turn right by the Leonard Cheshire Home onto the B4500 and turn right as if heading for Chirk. 2 At Pontfadog (1 mile from here), turn left just after the post office and take the steep turning up to the right of the Swan pub (keep left by the bungalow with the solar panels and greenhouse) and take this winding route up the mountain. **Do not** use your sat nav for this route. 3 After about 1 more mile there is a T-junction, where you turn right, still heading up the side of the mountain. 4 Soon after this there is a sign pointing left to Llangollen – ignore this and turn right instead. 5 Within a few yards you will see another sign pointing left and also saying 'Llangollen' – this is by far the better one to take; as confirmation you will see a '13%' sign. 6 This road goes down the mountain; turn left at the bottom and the lane takes you into the centre of Llangollen.

Llangollen (via Chirk) 12½ miles

1 Leave our car park and go down to the bottom of the village. Turn right by the Leonard Cheshire Home onto the B4500 and head for Chirk, about 4 miles. 2 At Chirk you come to a mini roundabout (straight ahead for **Chirk Aqueduct**): take the first exit, towards the railway station. 3 By the railway station there is another mini roundabout (see **Chirk Castle**): turn right and head for the village centre. 4 At the corner (opposite the Hand Hotel and by the Indian restaurant), turn left and take the road to the A5 (about half a mile). 5 Turn left onto the A5 and follow it for Llangollen (see **Pontcysyllte Aqueduct** excursion). 6 In Llangollen, turn right onto the A542 Castle Street, signposted to Ruthin. The main car parks are off Market Street (short-stay) or East Street (long-stay). See **Valle Crucis Abbey** and **Castell Dinas Brân** for possible excursions.

Chirk Aqueduct

Park by the Caffi Wylfa. Cross the road on foot and take the footpath down to Chirk Aqueduct, which is magnificent in its own right (only not as famous as Pontcysyllte at Trevor). Stroll down to the aqueduct and admire the views and then turn 180 degrees and – if you dare – walk through the long, dark tunnel that runs underneath Chirk (10 minutes' 'fun'). There's no need to return the same way: simply climb the embankment and walk back along the road from the railway station back to where you started your walk.

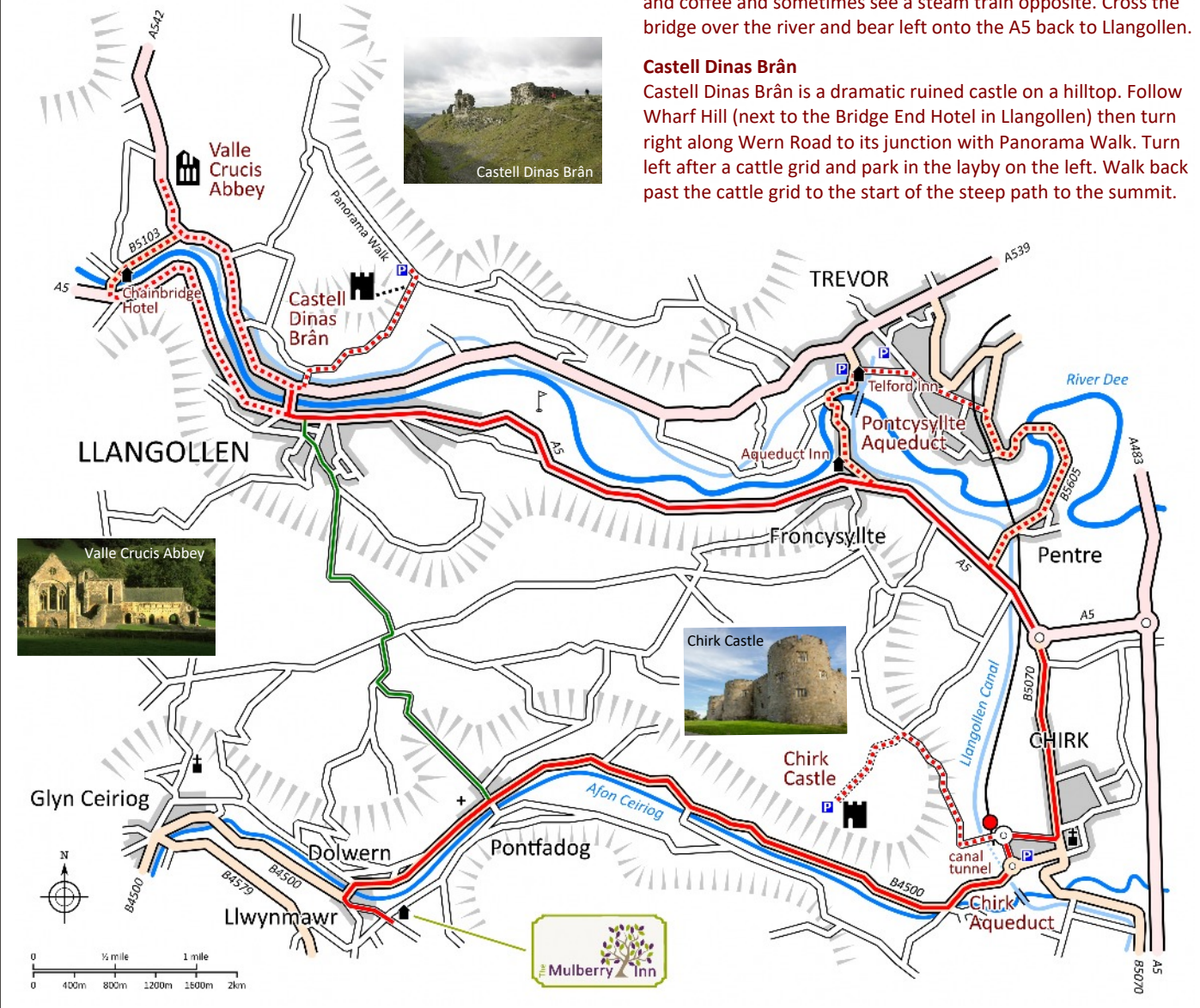
Chirk Castle (postcode LL14 5AF)

Turn left for the castle, which is a mile or so from the station (you actually see the exit gates before you see the main entrance further up the lane). It seems to be okay just to drive around the castle grounds without paying, but if you have time it's really worthwhile having some time in the castle itself. The castle and grounds are maintained by the National Trust. The gardens include rose and shrub gardens, orchards and woodland.

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct (postcode LL20 7TT)

There are two ways of getting to the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct from the A5 between Chirk and Llangollen – you can either take the B5605 (following the brown tourist signs), or the B5434 just before the **Aqueduct Inn**. The second option is quicker and simpler, but the road is narrow and crosses the single-lane Pont Cysyllte Bridge.

The **Telford Inn** is just around the corner from the aqueduct car park, where you can park free of charge and there are toilets. There is often cycle hire available from here too. From the car park you can walk straight onto the aqueduct and enjoy fantastic views.



Llangollen

At Llangollen you have the steam trains, river, canal boats, bric-a-brac and antique shops and tea-rooms. Parking is inexpensive and well signposted, but it gets busy on high days and holidays.

Valle Crucis Abbey

The car park for Valle Crucis Abbey is just off the A542 Horseshoe Pass road towards Ruthin, alongside the campsite; the abbey site is well worth exploring. Return towards Llangollen but turn right onto the B5103 and head for the **Chainbridge Hotel**, which has a lovely terrace where you can sip (or slurp) wine and beer or tea and coffee and sometimes see a steam train opposite. Cross the bridge over the river and bear left onto the A5 back to Llangollen.

Castell Dinas Brân

Castell Dinas Brân is a dramatic ruined castle on a hilltop. Follow Wharf Hill (next to the Bridge End Hotel in Llangollen) then turn right along Wern Road to its junction with Panorama Walk. Turn left after a cattle grid and park in the layby on the left. Walk back past the cattle grid to the start of the steep path to the summit.

three scenic drives from



LLWYNMAWR, WRECSAM



Llangollen (via mountain) 5 miles →

Llangollen (via Chirk) 12½ miles →

← 78 miles Lake Vyrnwy & Bala

Lake Vyrnwy & Bala

78 miles

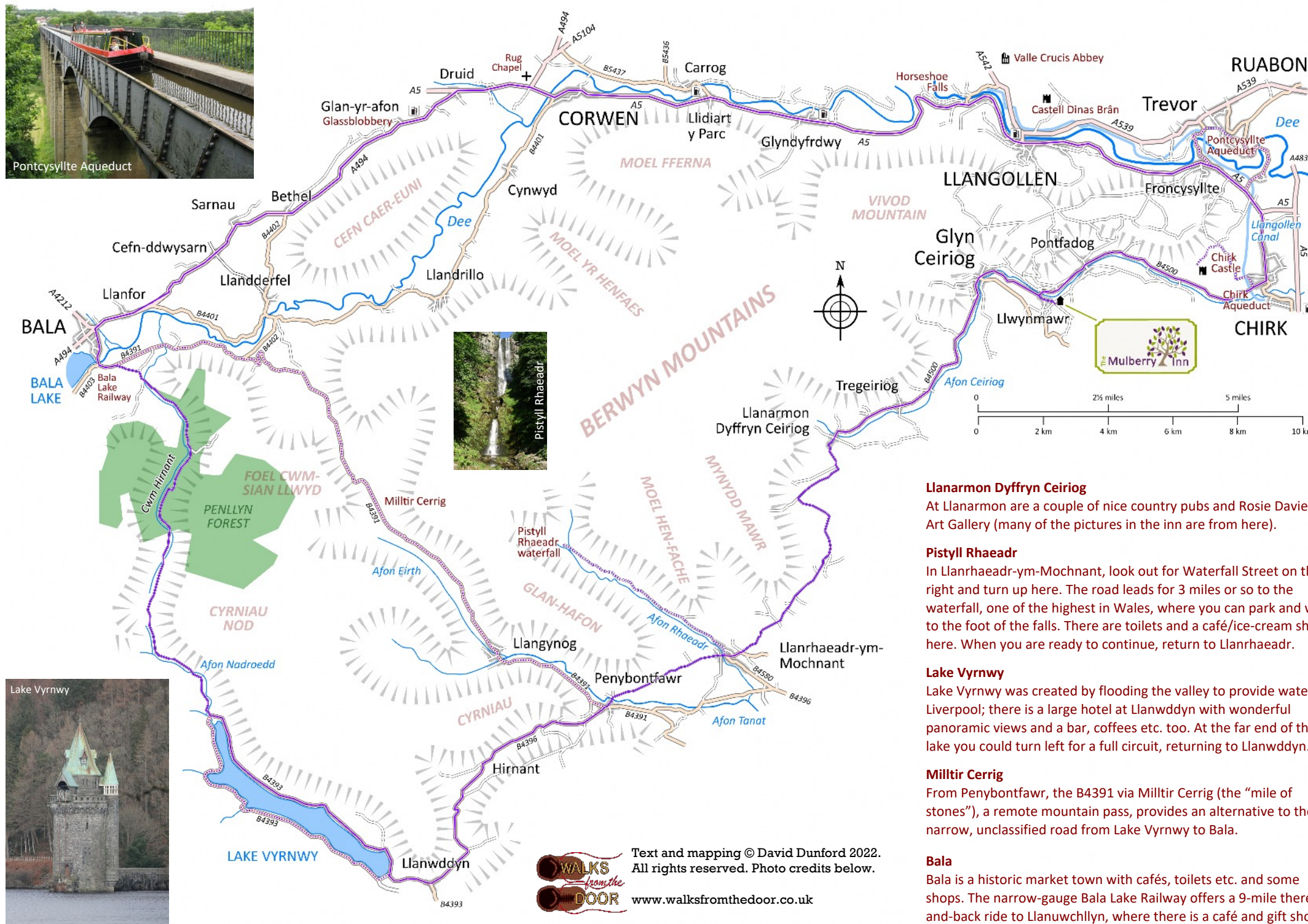
Remember you are in an area with few garages, so be sure you have sufficient fuel before setting off! There are service stations at Glan-yr-afon on the A494 and at several places on the A5.

You can reduce the distance by omitting the detour to Pistyll Rhaeadr or by taking the B4391 to Bala via Milltir Cerrig from Penybontfawr and omitting the loop to Lake Vyrnwy (see map).

1 Leave our car park and go down to the bottom of the village and turn left by the Leonard Cheshire Home onto the B4500. Head for Glyn Ceiriog, a distance of 1 mile. **2** At Glyn Ceiriog you come to a mini roundabout where you take the second exit, heading towards Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog, still on the B4500. **3** At Llanarmon, carry on the hilly country route towards Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, 6 or 7 miles. Keep an eye on the signposts as there are various roads leading off this route (in particular, don't miss a left turn after 1½ miles). **4** At Llanrhaeadr, turn right and see the optional **Pistyll Rhaeadr** excursion. **5** Continuing to Penybontfawr, follow the signs to **Lake Vyrnwy**. Continue along the B4394 to the far end of the lake. If you wish to avoid the winding, single-track route to Bala, continue around the lake, return to Penybontfawr and take the B4391 **Milltir Cerrig** alternative. **6** Otherwise, turn right (signposted Rhos-y-gwaliau 7 miles and Bala 8 miles). **7** Follow the single-track road through Penllyn Forest and the moorland valley of Cwm Hirnant to Rhos-y-gwaliau, where you keep left to the B4391 and **Bala**. **8** Turn right onto the A494 and then take the A5 heading via Corwen to **Llangollen** (see overleaf). **9** From Llangollen, carry on up the A5 for about 5 miles until you see the signs for Trevor (by a brightly coloured pub called the Aqueduct Inn); turn sharp left here and travel for a mile (cars take turns on the narrow bridge) until you see the tourist sign for the **Pontcysyllte Aqueduct** (see overleaf). **10** Return to the A5 and turn left and carry on up the road until you see the turning for Chirk. Go to Chirk and rejoin the B4500. At the Caffi Wylfa you can park up to visit **Chirk Aqueduct** (see overleaf). **11** Continue along the B4500 through Pontfadog and thence to Dolywern, where you will see the turning left to Llwynmawr village and the Mulberry Inn.



Pontcysyllte Aqueduct



Pistyll Rhaeadr



Lake Vyrnwy

THE MULBERRY INN
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Welcome to The Mulberry Inn in the quiet setting of Llwynmawr village in the beautiful Ceiriog valley. A 'once discovered, never forgotten' place to stay – a delightful country inn where the warmth and friendliness of the very enthusiastic team is always apparent.

Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog

At Llanarmon are a couple of nice country pubs and Rosie Davies' Art Gallery (many of the pictures in the inn are from here).

Pistyll Rhaeadr

In Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, look out for Waterfall Street on the right and turn up here. The road leads for 3 miles or so to the waterfall, one of the highest in Wales, where you can park and walk to the foot of the falls. There are toilets and a café/ice-cream shop here. When you are ready to continue, return to Llanrhaeadr.

Lake Vyrnwy

Lake Vyrnwy was created by flooding the valley to provide water for Liverpool; there is a large hotel at Llanwddyn with wonderful panoramic views and a bar, coffees etc. too. At the far end of the lake you could turn left for a full circuit, returning to Llanwddyn.

Milltir Cerrig

From Penybontfawr, the B4391 via Milltir Cerrig (the "mile of stones"), a remote mountain pass, provides an alternative to the narrow, unclassified road from Lake Vyrnwy to Bala.

Bala

Bala is a historic market town with cafés, toilets etc. and some shops. The narrow-gauge Bala Lake Railway offers a 9-mile there-and-back ride to Llanuwchllyn, where there is a café and gift shop.

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