

11.3km/7 miles

Bala

The Welsh town of Bala and its 7km long lake is situated amongst glorious mountain country. Some of the main mountain ranges of Snowdonia tower close by, including the Arrans, the Arenigs, the Berwyns and the Cadair Idris massif. This is a tough walk, often on trackless moor, and being proficient with map and compass is a must.

The walk

1 Leave car park, lake, R. Pass between two boulders to join a grassy track that follows lake shore to rise up a ramp and join a road. Go R along lake until another road is joined, go R, and just before a bridge cross road to kissing-gate and footpath sign. L. Go through and take raised grassy path alongside River Dee. Follow river until it divides. Go L up Afon Tryweryn to pass a weir. Go through kissing-gate, cross narrow track and go through another kissing-gate. Carry on to kissing-gate by town bridge. Go through and rise up to road.

2 Cross road and go L for short distance to take another road, R. Follow this and when you see Eglwys Crist Church cross to take lane next to it, L. Follow this and turn R at a crossroads to follow lane out of town past school and playing fields. Lane rises steeply to another crossroads, go over and in a few metres take green lane signposted L next to houses. Pass, R, in front of white house, reach a stile, go over and head up field to cross and another stile near outcrops with caves beneath. Go through a wall gap then carry

4 hours

hard

on over field (no path now) to gap in fence. Go R downhill next to fence to field corner with stile. Go over and L of house, stay by fence to stile at end of access road for house. Cross and follow access road to lane.

3 Go L up lane to take stile at footpath sign, R. Traverse hillside uphill to gate below golf clubhouse. Ignoring gate go to R of it and head downhill through gap in fence to continue diagonally R to stile near bottom corner of field. Careful map reading is essential. Cross stile and go diagonally R over bottom field corner, pass through gate to stile near trees. Cross and go over track to cross stile and enter open moorland which is access land. Moor is trackless. Head uphill, westerly, to pick up a cart track coming in from R. Either follow cart track to top of moor or you head directly over boggy moor. Head for trig point at moor top.

4 Head south over trackless moor. Aim for gap in conifers ahead. Going is rough and wet. Once you see footpath sign ahead, aim for it. As you reach L edge of trees, cross stile and head around L edge of trees to go R in front of them to kissing-gate.

5 Go through kissing-gate and go L down lane descending gradually towards Bala Lake before dropping very steeply to join main road next to lake. Cross and go L along pavement above lake to walk back to parking area and car.

DETAILS

Country Walking ID
2985
Mag Route 16,
December 2007
Region Wales
Area Gwynedd
Length of walk
11.3km/7 miles
Time needed 4 hours
Difficulty Hard

IS THIS WALK FOR YOU?

Terrain Good paths and tracks, trackless fields and moors, lanes and roads; map and compass needed
Stiles 8

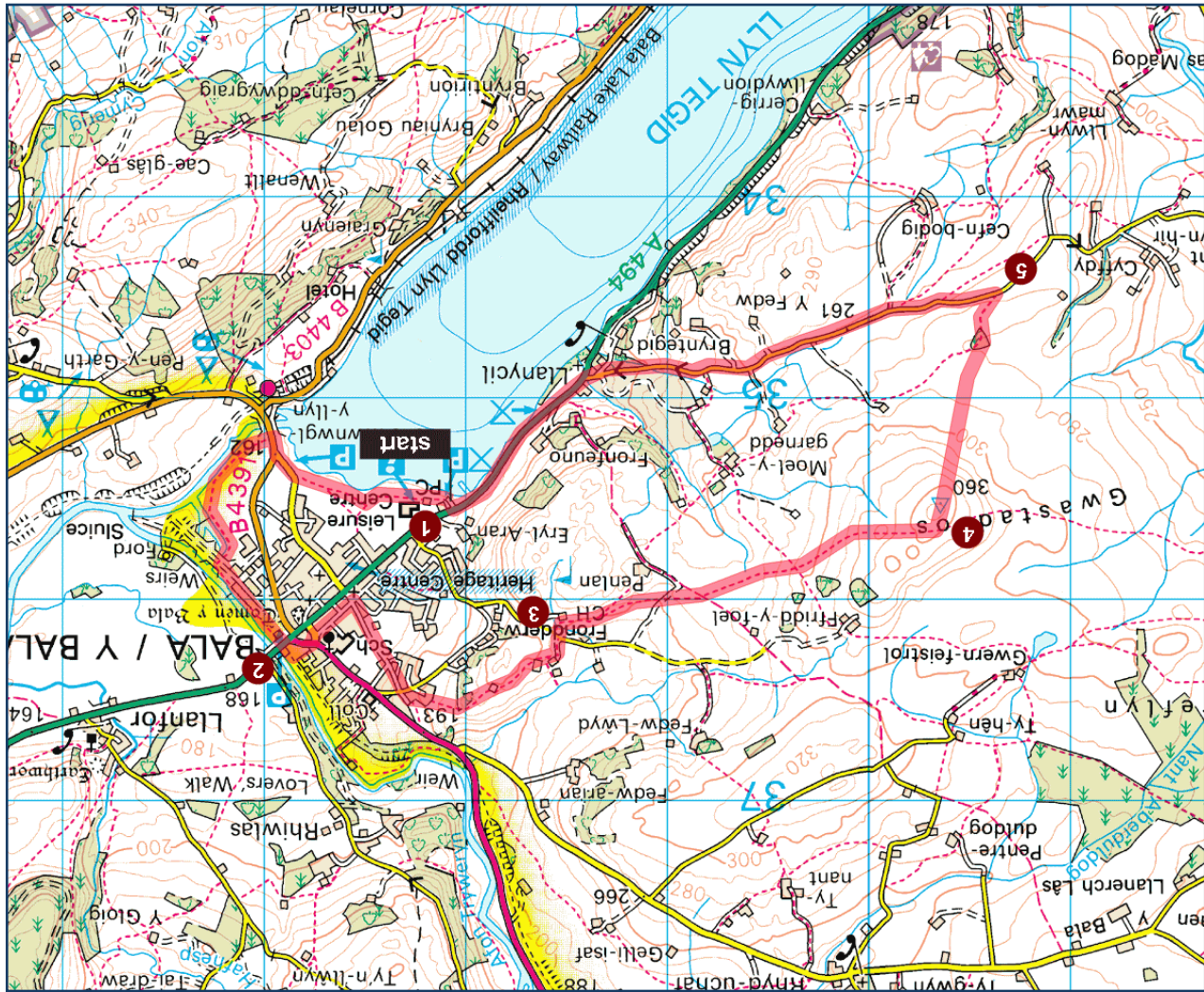
PLANNING

Parking Car park at eastern end of Lake Bala, grid ref SH921354
Start grid ref SH921355
Nearest town Bala
Public toilets Bala
Public transport Buses run regularly from Bala to Dolgellau and Conwen

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer OL18; Landranger 125

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