12 | Betws-y-coed to Capel Curig

Walk through the village past the Spar mini-supermarket on your left and turn right over Pont-y-Pair river bridge. Turn immediately left towards the car park and follow the river Llugwy along a well-engineered wheelchair- and pushchair-friendly path, which starts opposite the public toilet.

At the end of the boardwalk, continue straight ahead, keeping to the riverbank until you reach the steeply inclined Miners' Bridge. Don't cross the bridge but turn sharply right, ascending a steep slope following wooden posts through the woods to a minor road. Follow the road to the left for about a kilometer.

At the footpath sign just before the road rises more steeply to the right, take the barriered forest road to the left. At the next junction, fork right. Fork left when a further track comes in from the right and cross a wooden bridge over the stream. The path descends steeply to join a good path coming in from the left. Turn right and continue on this path, bearing left, following the way-markers. Cross a second bridge and follow a rough path through the woods, eventually going alongside a fence on a narrow ledge below steep cliffs, to reach the impressive Swallow Falls.

Continue on the footpath and take the right fork, which is signed and becomes a forest road. After about 200m, take the signed footpath to the left alongside the river. The path then crosses a ladder stile into a field. The indistinct path follows the river and then a wall before crossing over the wall by a step stile to the riverbank. Continue and climb the steps onto the A5 near The Ugly House (Tŷ Hyll).

Pass the car park on the right and take the very steep lane alongside Tŷ Hyll. After quite a long climb, turn off sharply left along a forest road where the Gwydir Mawr (formerly Marin) mountain bike trail crosses the lane. At the barrier to the forest road, fork left, keeping to the wall. Pass a bungalow, where the forest road becomes a path, and cross a step stile and a stream. Bear left below the slope and follow the fence on the left, to pass another house. Climb yet another step stile and cross a shallow stream. Follow the overgrown footpath alongside a wall and join a forest road. Turn left and ignore a path and another forest road further on to the left.

About 70m from the road junction, just before a sharp right bend in the forest road, take the wide grassy path to the left. Cross a wooden bridge and continue on this sometimes muddy path, which climbs relentlessly upwards, becoming broad and grassy. Join a forest road coming in from the right. Turn left to follow this road and keep left at a major track fork. After a while, go through a gate at the wall junction. Walk down an ancient sunken track running between field boundaries. At its end, cross another step stile onto an improved path, ascending through scrubby woodland to a final step stile accessing the open moorland.

Cross over a broad track and continue along the path, which passes a large boulder. Cross the wooden bridge. When you reach a wall, ignore the stile on the left and take the signposted wooden gate on the right to stay on the main path. Follow this path through woods with a gate into open fields. The track, initially paved, then grassy, takes you over a stream and down to Joe Brown's outdoor shop in Capel Curig.

Tŷ Hyll (Ugly House)

Miners' Bridge

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