Llwybr Llechi Eryri / Snowdonia Slate Trail

1 | Porth Penrhyn, Bangor to Bethesda

From Porth Penrhyn follow Lôn Las Ogwen (Ogwen Green Lane) to the Snowdonia Slate Trail bench and information board on your left. After passing an industrial estate on the left, and under a small road bridge, turn right and cross the road bridge you have just walked under. Follow the lane for about 800m, ignoring the gravel path to the right signed Wales Coast Path. Turn right through a kissing gate, take the narrow path to the main road. Cross it, again ignoring Wales Coast Path signs. Cross another road and turn into the gravel drive opposite, passing a row of houses on your right.

Pass through the kissing gate at the end of the drive, following the field edge (the course of the original tramway that transported slate to Port Penrhyn from 1801-1878,) until you reach the fence which runs parallel to the A55 dual carriageway. Turn left, then right onto a concrete drive, which passes under the A55. Take the path to the left after the crash barrier and cross the river on Shaky Bridge.

Go up Cochwillan Mill drive and turn right up a stony path into the fields. Continue through the fields, ignoring a stone track which crosses at right angles, then follow a grassy shelf with the wall still on your left. Carry on through the fields, now with the field boundary to your right. When you reach the farm track, leave the North Wales Path and turn right through the kissing gate. Follow the slate gravelled drive until it veers off to the right. Continue to follow the field boundary on your left until you reach a field gate. Cross the field in the direction of the footpath arrow, making for the tree and the river over to the right. Follow a clear path alongside the fence, finally reaching the A5 at Halfway Bridge.

Cross the busy road and follow the footway to the left for about 100m. Cross the road again and take the footpath opposite, marked Pandy Isaf. Follow a wide track passing two cottages on the right. Go left along the gravel track and take the arrowed path to the left through the woods.

Follow the path until you reach a farm track. Turn left. When you reach the lane, turn right, following it for about 300m. Take the signed footpath to the left. Ignore a path crossing and continue through a gap in the wall between a slate pillar and an old tree trunk. The path takes you to Llanllechid church. The Trail continues to the road but, alternatively, pass through a gate on the right and walk through the churchyard, round the church, to see the breathtaking view of the mountains above Bethesda and the blue slate tips of Penrhyn Quarry. Follow the yew-lined drive to the road.

On leaving the church, turn right and, at the junction, take the left fork, following the narrow lane between the houses, and fork left again at Cae'r Groes, passing the Outreach Centre and Tan y Bwlch Centre. A grass track takes you onto the hillside with panoramic views over Bethesda, the Glyder range and the Penrhyn Quarry.

Go through the gate, turn right, and at the level area of old quarry workings, bear left beneath the rockface to reach a kissing gate to the right of a fenced underground reservoir. Follow the clear path, ignoring minor tracks to the right. Continue over a small slate tip and through a kissing gate, and where the path vanishes in a field of boulders, make for the gate to the left of the farm buildings. Walk down the drive to the road and turn left.

Immediately before the pub, Y Sior, go down steps and follow the street, keeping the houses on your left and the playground on your right. Go through a gate into a field and follow the path to the left, emerging in a car park. Go to the car park entrance and descend the road onto Bethesda High Street.

Left: Lôn Las Ogwen
Centre: Cochwillan Hall
Right: Porth Penrhyn

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