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COED Y BRENIN

Coed y Brenin is home to a number of way-marked all-ability and family walking trails, two running trails, a magnificent tiered childrens play area, bike hire and a stunning cafe with views to die for!

From the hotel turn right towards Tywyn, drive through Tywyn towards Brynchrug. Just after you get to Brynchrug turn right towards Tal-y-llyn on the B4405.

Once you have passed the lake and gone over the Tal-y-llyn pass you will come to a junction, turn left here towards Dolgellau. On the A470, bypass Dolgellau. You will reach a mini roundabout, take the last exit sign posted Porthmadog.

East off the A470, 8 miles North of Dolgellau just North of Ganllwyd, South of Trawsfynydd. Follow the brown tourist signs.

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Full details can be obtained from the Visitor Centre, 01341 440747, which is open daily from 9.30 to 16.30. Coed-y-Brenin can be found in the South of the Snowdonia National Park near Dolgellau, covering an area of some 9,000 acres around the valleys of the rivers Mawddach, Eden, Gain and Wen. To the West lie the rugged Rhinog mountains, to the East the remote Rhobell Fawr and to the South the magnificent Cader Idris.

There are four all-ability trails in Coed y Brenin forest park, constructed to the Fieldfare Trust access for all standards. All trails are at least 1.2 metres in width and are surfaced in a fine crushed grit which contrasts with the surrounding vegetation. The maximum gradient you can expect to find on the trail is 10% and there are seats every 200 metres. All of the trails can be accessed directly from disabled parking bays at the associated trail head/picnic site.



All Ability Trails

Afon Eden Riverside Trail

The Afon Eden Riverside Trail starts from the front door of the Coed y Brenin Visitor Centre and meanders down to a riverside picnic site on the banks of the Afon Eden. The trail also incorporates an Animal puzzle trail to occupy the younger members of the family and contains several pieces of tactile sculpture along the route. This walk also incorporates an MP3 based audio-trail which tells the story of the wildlife of the forest and also the farming and droving history of the area.

Kings Guard Trail

The Kings Guard Trail starts from the Tyn y Groes Car Park and crosses a flat grassy picnic site by the side of the Afon Eden before entering the cathedral like stand of Douglas Fir, the tallest trees in the forest. The walk incorporates a Tree Top Viewer and an MP3 based audio trail in which Aled Thomas, a local forester, tells the tale of how these gigantic North American trees ended up in Coed y Brenin.

Glasdir Copper Mines Trail

The all-ability section of the Glasdir Copper Mines Trail starts from a blue badge only Glasidr car park by Pont Llam yr Ewig. The trail follows a dis-used tramway, originally used for transporting the raw materials to the Copper processing mill, and terminates at the top of the old mill workings at a viewpoint high above the river valley. There is an interpretation panel and also an MP3 based audio trail which reconstructs the life of this once World famous mine.

Forest Garden Discovery trail

The Forest Garden Discovery Trail starts from a blue badge only Pandy car park by the side of the Afon Babi. The trail follows the river through a collection of exotic trees, collected from all around the World, and stops at a viewpoint looking down into the roiling waters below Pont Llam yr Ewig. There is a wind up store which tells a local folktale of a witch with dark connections to the bridge below. There are also tri-lingual labels on the specimen trees and signal signs with interesting facts about some of the those on show.

MP3/Audio trails

Take your very own "Ranger" out into the forest by downloading one of our MP3 Audiotrails below. Learn about the Wildlife of Coed y Brenin, the surprising industries which once thrived in the Forest Park and the Mawddach valley's explosive Golden secret. The "Gunpowder and Gold" trail can also be followed on the family cycle route from the visitor centre, pick up the start of the audio posts at the Tyddyn Gwladys car park.

Head to the start of each trail and follow the relevant coloured way-markers, as per the attached map, and keep an eye open for the distinctive MP3 posts along the way. The posts include the name of the trail and each one is numbered, so you know which track to play.



Easy Graded Walks

There are 3 easy graded walks in Coed y Brenin

Afon Eden Riverside Trail

The Afon Eden Riverside trail starts from the Coed y Brenin visitor centre and meanders down to a riverside picnic site on the banks of the Afon Eden. The trail is wide, suitable for pushchairs, and also incorporates an animal puzzle trail to occupy the younger members of the family and contains several pieces of tactile sculpture along the route. This walk also incorporates an MP3 based audiotrail which tells the story of the wildlife of the forest and also the farming and droving history of the area.

Cefndeuddwr Trail

The Cefndeuddwr trail starts from the visitor centre and wanders gradually up the hillside through a mixture of beech, redwood and douglas fir trees to a viewpoint high above the valley. The path is wide and suitable for pushchairs.

Forest Garden Discovery Trail

The Forest Garden Discovery Trail starts from the Pandy car park. The trail follows the river through a collection of exotic trees, collected from all around the World, and stops at a viewpoint looking down into the roiling waters below Pont Llam yr Ewig. A network of informal paths lead up the hillside allowing further exploration of the site. There are two wind-up stores which recount local folktales and there are also tri-lingual labels on the specimen trees and signal signs with interesting facts about some of those on show.

Moderate Graded Walks

There are 3 Moderate graded walks in Coed y Brenin

Glasdir Copper Trail

The Glasdir Copper Trail starts from the small car park and picnic site in Glasdir between the Afon Wen and Afon Babi. The trail tours the extensive ruins of this World famous copper mine with paths following the steep inclines and flat tramways around the old mill workings. This walk also incorporates an MP3 based audiotrail which tells the tale of the historic importance of this once thriving industrial site.



Waterfalls and Goldmine Trail

The Waterfalls and Goldmine trail starts from the Tyddyn Gwladys car park and picnic site deep in the heart of the Forest Park. The trail follows the river upstream on forest roads to the confluence of the Afon Gain and Mawddach, the location of the Gwynfynydd goldmine. The trail also incorporates an MP3 based audiotrail which tells the tale of the miners who once worked in this most dangerous valley of gunpowder works and goldmines.

Coed y Garth Trail

The Coed y Garth trail lies just outside of the Forest Park but is only a short drive away down the Mawddach valley. The trail takes walkers to an elevated position above this most magical of estuary's and reveals panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and out towards Cardigan Bay. The trail can be accessed by parking in any of the Snowdonia National Park car parks between Penmaenpool and Morfa Mawddach and walking either up or down the Mawddach Trail to the entrance point.

Difficult Graded Walks

There are 3 difficult graded walks in Coed y Brenin

Gain Waterfall Trail

The Gain waterfall trail starts from the visitor centre and climbs over the ridge before dropping into the next valley and descending to the confluence of the Afon Gain and Mawddach with their twin waterfalls.

Volcano Trail

The Volcano Trail starts from the car park at Pont Cae'n y Coed and visits some of the most remote and highest areas of the Forest Park. A series of information panels will help you explore the areas violent volcanic history.

Penrhos Mountain Trail

The Mynydd Penrhos Mountain trail starts from the Tyn y Groes car park and picnic site and climbs steeply out of the valley and onto the Mynydd Penrhos ridge with stunning views across to Y Garn and the precipitous drop to the valley below.

Animal Puzzle Trail

The Animal Puzzle Trail starts from the Coed y Brenin Visitor Centre and you can collect a leaflet from there on your arrival or download a copy before your visit from the pdf file on this page. All of the animals can be found on the Afon Eden Riverside Trail which starts right outside the door of the visitor centre and meanders on a pushchair friendly all-ability path down to a riverside picnic site.

Afon Eden

Linear route

1m/1.6km
45 mins
max gradient 10%

Riverside loop - easy

1m/1.5km
45 mins
max gradient 16%

Start

From the Visitor Centre Car Park.

Highlights

The Afon Eden rushing over the rocks at the picnic site on this walk suitable for all.

Did you know?

that this area of the Forest Park is known as Dolgefeiliu (say 'doll-guh-vale-ee-eye') and means meadow-of-the-smithies? A nearby blacksmith's shop used to shoe cattle, pigs, sheep and even geese for 'drovers' taking animals across the mountains all the way to the Smithfield market in England.

Kings Guard Trail

The Kings Guard

½m/850m
20 mins
max gradient 10%

The Kings Champion - easy

¾m/1.1km
30 mins
max gradient 17%

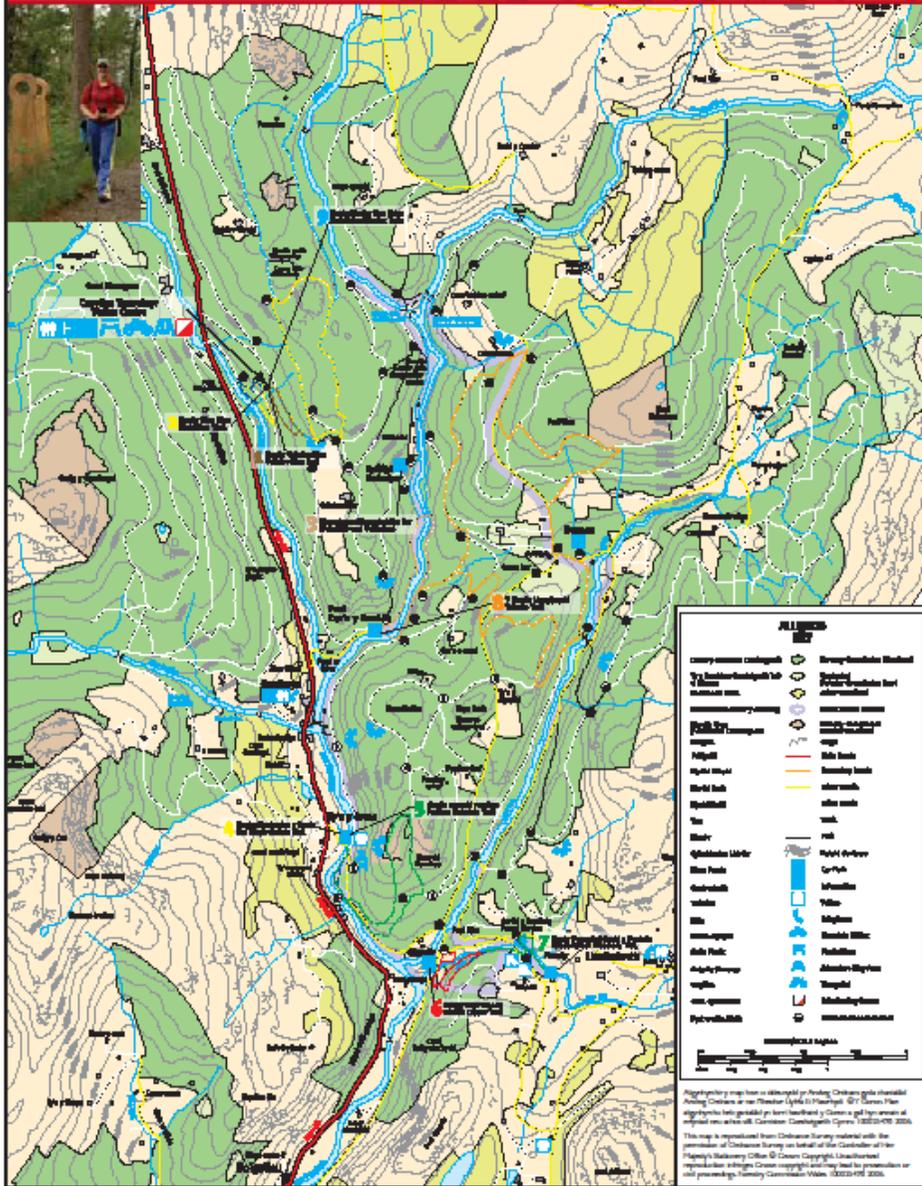
Start

From Tyn y Groes Car Park say 'tin-uh-groyse' (Disabled toilet block and family friendly picnic site and games area)

Highlights

See the magnificent Douglas firs, the biggest trees in Coed y Brenin on this walk suitable for all abilities.

Teithiau cerdded Coed y Brenin walks



About Coed Y Brenin...

At Coed Y Brenin you will find a new state of the art visitors centre. A Cafe with balcony views to Cadair Idris, gift shop, adventure playground, picnic areas and walks to suit all the family.

Waterfalls, rivers, view points and historic sites await you.

It is home to an amazing array of plants, birds and animals.

There is a shy fallow deer, huge wood ants' nests, some of which are decades old. Pearl Mussels lurk in the rivers and otters may even be seen.

Birds which can be seen include, dippers, herons, jays, woodpeckers, goldcrests, goshawks, merlin and flycatchers.

The rocks here are as ancient as any in Wales, dating back to when time began.

They hold precious hoards of minerals including copper, gold and iron ores. They also reveal glimpses of the folds, faults and heat transformed minerals.

Industries such as copper and gold mining in the furnaces once thrived here supporting local jobs. The copper works at Glasdir employed 160 people in the 1800's. Medieval "Bloomeries" were furnaces used to get iron from the peat.