

## 2 3 Beacons Horseshoe

**Cmwgedi Car Park (310m) – Plas-y-gaer (290m) – Pont y Caniedydd – Bailea (297m) – Cwmcynwyn (358m) – Bryn Teg – Cribyn (795m) – Pen y Fan (886m) – Corn Du (873m) – Obelisk – Llyn Cwm Lluch – Cmw-Llwch – Car Park**

**Starting point:** Cmwgedi Car Park (310m), reached from the A470 from “Merthyr Tydfill”. At the roundabout (crossroad with the A40), straight ahead towards “Brecon” (B4601). Past the traffic lights and right before the pub “Drivers Arms” (left-hand side), turn right on to “Ffrwdgrech Road”. Through a tunnel and then after about 1 mile (1.6km) keep left at the three forked road (road sign “Cwmgedi”). After 1.5 mile (2.5km) go straight ahead across a “cattle grid” towards “Cwmgedi Car Park”. [Brecon, Wales – Great Britain]

**Time:** 5 – 6 hours.

**Difficulties:** long mountain tour (distance 15km), with a considerable difference in height of almost 600m and some small in-between climbs (50 to 150 height metres). Good paths and roads, but climb “Cribyn” partially goes across a steep bone. Take enough food and drinks along and pay attention to weather changes!

**Why worth it?:** THE tour in the “Brecon Beacons”, with a climb of Beacon's highest: “Pen y Fan”.



### **ROUTE DESCRIPTION:**

From the parking lot we go upwards towards the end of the road to the information board (also parking possibilities). Here we go downwards on a diagonal left foot path towards a small creek (“Nant Gwdi”). We cross it and on the other side go up again. Keeping the creek to our left we follow it for a while until the path bends away.

A grass and bush filled landscape, where sheep graze, follows and walk by a grating on our left hand side. We come to a fork in the road containing road signs (also one pointing back to

“Cwmgedi Car Park” from where we came). Here we go left through a fence and then right, straight across a meadow towards a second fence and asphalted road (blue markings).

At the asphalted road we go right towards a cottage (“Plas-y-gaer”). Road signs point left around the house and further through 3 more meadows. Then we see a big farm with stables in front of us. In this meadow we go upwards on a diagonal right angle towards a passage to another meadow. Here we go down towards a fence and then left towards an asphalted road (road signs “Cribyn”).

We follow the asphalted road to the right (road signs “Cribyn”), going downwards for a while and at the lowest point cross a bridge (river “Nant Sere”). From here it’s one long climb to our first top: “Cribyn” (795m). The difference in height totals at almost 550m! Then we follow the asphalted road first past “Bailea” (297m) and later on straight ahead up the mountain on a wide path, with typical stone walls on both sides. We reach an open field and a “National Trust sign” (“Cwmcynwyn”, 358m). We keep to the right of the grassy mountain side. We find a clear path and continually follow it upwards. The “bone” that we’re climbing is called “Bryn Teg”. From here we also have a nice view of the Beacon's highest top: “Pen-y-Fan” (right hand side).

After some time we follow a somewhat even plain (around 600m height) after which the last bit of this first climb follows: the small bone of “Cribyn”. Although these last 135m height metres are steep, there is a good path. Some measure of sure footing and a lack of fear of heights is necessary. The top has a “Cairn” on top (“man of stone”).

From the top we keep right (West). Across a broad newly laid path we first descend about a 130 height metres and next climb our second top: “Pen-y-Fan” (886m). Especially the last part goes across a more steeper and rougher, rockier terrain. At the top we have a good overview of the rest of our tour: descending again via “Corn Du” and the mountain lake “Llyn Cwm Llŵch”.

“Corn Du” (873m) lies southwest of Pen-y-Fan: we follow the broad path down, for about 50 height metres and then a short climb to the top. Passing the top we go on in western direction. Going down steeply towards an “Obelisk” visible in the distance. In a curve we walk above past an idyllic mountain lake, past the Obelisk and then descending steeply to the right at a y-fork towards the mountain lake (“Llyn Cwm Llŵch”). Vanaf hier hebben we ook weer een mooi uitzicht op Corn Du en Pen-y-Fan.

From the lake we follow a nice path down out of the valley across large meadows. We again pass a “National Trust sign” and a slightly forested area. Passing through we reach a typical “cottage”. Just before the cottage we go left across some steps and then walk left around the house. Behind the cottage we reach a broad path (stone wall leftovers on both sides) and we follow it onwards in the Northern direction. Past a parking lot and a camping area and further along a fence we end up on a small, asphalted road which we follow.

First we go through a forest and then through meadows with high hedges on both sides of the small road. At a crossing we go right and cross a river (“Nant Cwm Llŵch”). Past several farms we reach a y-fork. Here we keep right as well. At the next fork we reach the “cattle grid” and soon arrive at the parking lot at the right.

*Tour done in 2006*

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Rating Legend:

- **1** Moderately easy tour (also perfect for a late afternoon walk). 2 hours max.

- **2** With some physical condition, no difficulties. 1 to 3 hours max.
  - **3** Average tour, a moderate, good physical condition is needed! 2 to 4 hours max.
  - **4** Difficult tour. Sometimes you have to use your hands to climb (not all the way, just smaller parts). Between 3 to 6 hours.
  - **5** Very difficult tour. Here you're at the boundary of "real" mountaineering. The "climbing factor" takes the overhand. Mostly between 5 and 7 hours.
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