

Cambrian Railway No.6 Llanaber - Barmouth

Distance: 3.25 miles Type: Moderate Time: 1.5 – 3 hours

The Cambrian Railways are a series of leaflets promoting self guided linear walks between railway stations on the Cambrian network. These have been developed to promote car-free accessible walks in the Mid Wales area that really make the most of the wonderful, varied scenery and wildlife this unique part of the world has to offer.



No.6 Llanaber – Barmouth

This stimulating walk starts and finishes at railway stations near two very different churches: the ancient 13th century St Bodfan's at Llanaber, and the impressive 19th century St John's overlooking Barmouth. Along the walk, the high and well-constructed dry stone walls that surround the fields are a notable and impressive feature of man's impact on the Merionethshire landscape. The route also passes a number of reminders of the area's industrial past, including a furnace, waste heaps and a workers' barracks (or hostel): all evidence of the 19th Century manganese mine workings. One of the mines, known as Hafotty, was operational from 1885 to 1894 and employed up to 52 men who extracted over 12,000 tonnes of ore. Bwlch y Llan was the scene of a tragedy in December 1943 when an Avro Anson military aeroplane flew into the hill in low cloud, killing all four crew members. The aircraft was on a routine navigation exercise and was returning to its base at nearby RAF Llandwrog.

Terrain: Mostly along clearly identifiable walled grassy tracks – although some areas may become boggy during prolonged periods of wet weather. The route involves a sustained ascent from sea level at Llanaber to near 950 feet above sea level with a similarly steep descent to Barmouth.

Refreshments: There are no outlets at Llanaber or en-route that offer refreshments. However, there are a wide range of shops, cafes, takeaways and pubs at the journey's end in Barmouth. The spectacular views afforded along this route make it ideal one for picnics.

For further information on...

Public Transport: 0871 200 22 33 www.traveline.org.uk

The Cambrian Railways: www.thecambrianline.co.uk

The area: Barmouth Tourist Information Centre

01341 280 787 www.gwynedd.gov.uk

Harlech Tourist Information Centre (seasonal)

01766 780 658 www.eryri-npa.co.uk

Accommodation:

To look and book in advance visit

www.visitmidwales.co.uk or telephone 0870 080 3436

The Cambrian Railways comprise the Main Line between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, with through trains to and from Birmingham International, and the Coast Line between Machynlleth and Pwllheli. Arriva Trains Wales operate two-hourly train services on both the Coast and Main Line, Monday-Saturday, with connections between the two lines at Machynlleth.



Things to remember when walking the Cambrian Trailways:

1. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear.
2. Take spare clothing - the weather in Mid Wales can change quickly!
3. Take plenty of food and water.
4. Tell someone where you're going, along which route and when you expect to return.
5. Don't rely on a mobile phone as many areas in Mid Wales have a poor or no signal reception.
6. Always obey the Countryside Code and leave nothing but footprints!

Disclaimer: The routes promoted in the Cambrian Trailways are along recognised public rights of way. The Cambrian Railways Partnership accepts no liability for injuries sustained or damage caused in undertaking the walks. It is the responsibility of those partaking in the walks to make sure that they are adequately prepared to do so before setting out.

