Note: This map is intended as a rough guide only. You should use the most recent version of the relevant Ordnance Survey map (see below) when walking the route.

Distance: 8 miles (13km) (there and back)
Ascent: 3071 feet (936 metres)
Time: About 6 hours (there and back)
Grade: Mountain Walk
Start / Finish: Llyn Cwellyn Car Park, off the A4085 (SH 564 551)
Relevant Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL 17 (Snowdon & Conwy Valley)

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Snowdon Ranger Path, Snowdon

This path up Snowdon is thought to be the earliest of the six main routes to the summit. Before the road through Llanberis Pass was built, men lugged copper ore from the Britannia Copper Mine on Snowdon up the eastern side of the mountain to Bwlch Glas. Horses would then draw the ore down on a sledge along this path to the shores of Llyn Cwellyn to be transported by horse and cart to Caernarfon.

The path was named in English after a mountain guide called John Morton who called himself the ‘Snowdon Ranger’. At the beginning of the nineteenth century he built an inn on the site where the Youth Hostel stands today, opposite the car park. The inn was known as the ‘Snowdon Ranger’, ‘Snowdon Inn’ or ‘Glanllyn’ (meaning ‘lakeside’), from where he would guide visitors to the summit of Snowdon along this path.

The path climbs gradually up, and around the slopes of Moel Cynghorion to Bwlch Cwm Brwynog. It then climbs steeply over the shoulder above Clogwyn Du’r Arddu before merging with the Llanberis path, and then the Pyg and Miners’ tracks at Bwlch Glas, and then on to the summit.

Parking
Pay and display car park – make sure that you have enough loose change. In the high season you may descend by another of the Snowdon paths and catch the Sherpa bus back to your vehicle.

Facilities
One accessible unisex toilet, benches.

The Route

1. Across the road and to the right of the car park entrance you will see a bridleway sign. Follow the sign that directs you along the path to the right of the entrance to Cae’r Orsaf. Go through the gate and to the left along a fenced path. Go through another gate and turn right over the train tracks, through a gate beside the cattle grid and continue towards Llwyn Onn farmhouse.

2. Once you pass the farmhouse the path will fork. Go to the right and through the gate. You will shortly reach another gate, after which the path will zigzag up the mountain pasture. Please keep to the path and don’t take shortcuts – the public right of way is along the path only.

3. Shortly after going through another gate you will reach a sign providing information about biking restrictions on the path. The public footpath to the left from here leads through Bwlch Maesgwn which is between Foel Goch and Moel Cynghorion, and then down to Llanberis. You need to follow the path straight ahead.

4. In a while you will cross another fast flowing stream and reach another gate. From the gate the path will veer to the left around the lower slopes of Moel Cynghorion.

5. After walking around the northern end of Llyn Ffynnon y Gwas you will arrive at Bwlch Cwm Brwynog.

6. From Bwlch Cwm Brwynog the path climbs very steep and loose underfoot nearly all the way to the summit, so take care from now on. After walking parallel with Llyn Ffynnon y Gwas for a while the path will start to zigzag steeply up the shoulder above Clogwyn Du’r Arddu.

7. Above Clogwyn Du’r Arddu the climb levels out a little not very well defined so take care on this section, especially in misty or wintry weather. The path will begin to climb again shortly, but more solid underfoot. In a while you will reach a standing stone that marks the crossing of the Snowdon Railway line (remember about it on your way down – especially if it’s misty as the start of the path can be very difficult to locate otherwise).

8. From the standing stone, cross the Snowdon Mountain Railway line and walk straight ahead until you reach another standing stone that marks the junction of the Snowdon Ranger path and the Llanberis path.

9. Follow the path to the right and after walking around 50 metres you will reach another, much larger, standing stone at Bwlch Glas. This stone marks the spot where the Pyg and Miners’ tracks merge with the Llanberis and Snowdon Ranger paths. From the standing stone, walk straight ahead - by walking at a leisurely pace, you can expect to reach the summit in around a quarter of an hour.

Remember!
Though you are in the Snowdonia National Park, please remember that the path crosses the privately owned farm and grazing lands of Gwastadannas, where dogs are not welcomed unless under close control or on a lead.

On your way to the summit you will see evidence of essential footpath restoration work carried out by the National Park Authority. Please keep to the footpath to prevent further erosion.