



Walk on the WILD SIDE

JO VAUGHAN'S HIKE IN THE BRECON BEACONS IS FOR THE SERIOUS WALKER – BUT FOLLOW HER ROUTE AND YOU ARE WELL REWARDED

THE CLUB site at Pandy is a fantastic starting point for a walking holiday, as it is right on the outskirts of the Brecon Beacons National Park. This walk is very strenuous as it takes you to the top of Skirrid, which can be seen rising behind the site, but the views from the summit are spectacular. If you fancy a stroll that's a little less strenuous there are no

fewer than eight pubs nearby, the closest being just 50 yards from the site.

There are a few things to watch out for. Firstly, make sure you follow the route on the suggested Ordnance Survey map. I found that throughout this part of Wales the local authorities and farmers make it difficult for walkers by not maintaining footpaths or signing rights of

way. Also, it can get very muddy and slippery so proper walking boots are essential, as is a walking pole to beat back the bracken in places. Some of the stiles are a little difficult too, and there are lots of grazing sheep around the route so if you have a dog, ensure it is always kept on a lead. This is not a walk for ill-equipped or inexperienced ramblers.



DIRECTIONS

1 Leave the site via its main entrance and turn left up the road. Go across the bridge. When you come to a turning on the left, signposted 'Llanthony', go over the stile on the opposite side of the road following the footpath sign.

2 Head diagonally across the field towards the house in the distance. Go over another stile in the far corner of the field and rejoin the road, turning right.

3 Just past Trewyn Mill, turn left through a gate with a yellow arrow on it. Go through three more metal gates at the back of the millhouse until you come to a wide open field with hills facing you. Head straight across the field to a metal gate situated near the top left-hand corner. Rejoin the road, turning right.

4 After a while, the road bends to the right so that you're now running parallel to the hill on your left. When you come to a double footpath sign on the right-hand side of the road, turn left through a metal gate and head diagonally across the field to the far right-hand corner.

5 Go through the metal gate to the left of the animal shed and then almost immediately through a second metal gate. Continue straight ahead, keeping the trees and wire fence to your left. Go through another metal gate and, at the next metal gate ahead of you at some animal shelters, follow the track around to the left, over the stream. In front of a large house, go through another metal gate next to a yellow public footpath arrow.

6 Walk past the right side of the house and go through a wooden gate at the bottom of the hill. When you come to a T-junction, just past the church, turn left. At the house on your left go through the metal gate straight ahead, and then through two more metal gates next to farm buildings.

7 Continue up the steep concrete track, through two more metal gates, until you reach a cottage. Here, veer round to the right, following a white arrow next to a tiny stream. You will come out into a field; cross this diagonally uphill until you come to a stile near the corner, signposted with a white arrow. Cross this and go diagonally across the next field towards a house.

8 Cross a broken wooden and stone stile marked with a yellow arrow. Follow the path through bracken to the left of the house and go over another wooden stile. Then, at a small section of drystone wall, turn to the right through bracken, keeping the perimeter fence of the house to your right.

9 Level with the end of the house, the path doubles back uphill through more bracken. Turn to the left in the direction of the yellow arrow, and follow another yellow arrow, after which you finally reach the top of the ridge. From here you get the most amazing views.

10 You come out by a stone marker signposted 'Oldcastle' – turn left here and walk along the ridge. Where the track splits, keep to the left and continue past the white hilltop marker post, after which the path starts to descend. Continue as the wide track descends quite steeply and bends to the left. After a drystone wall on your right, join a gravel track carrying on in the same direction.

11 At the metal gate, where the track turns into a tarmac road, continue down the hill. Follow the lane as it bends 90 degrees to the left. When you come to a crossroads, turn left and continue down the lane marked with a blue sign, 'Unsuitable for Heavy Goods Vehicles'.

12 Continue down the tarmac lane as it twists and descends quite steeply. Pass through the hamlet of Tre-wyn, past the dovecot on your left where there are metal railings on each side of the lane. Where the road bends to the right, go through a kissing gate on the right and continue straight ahead through an avenue



of trees. At the end of this avenue, go through another kissing gate, cross the road and continue straight ahead back to the caravan site.



INFORMATION | GENERAL

NEAREST CLUB SITE: Pandry Club Site, Pandry, Abergavenny NP7 8DR. Tel 01873 890370. Open: 14 March to 27 October
DISTANCE: 7.5 miles/12km
TERRAIN: Mostly rough tracks. Sometimes muddy
NUMBER OF STILES: 5
ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: Ordnance Survey Explorer Map sheet OL13 – Brecon Beacons National Park - Eastern Area. Walking pole, boots and waterproofs, food and drink
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Strenuous
REFRESHMENTS: None
TOILETS: None

INFORMATION | TOURISM

National Park & Tourist Information Centre, Swan Meadow, Monmouth Road, Abergavenny NP7 5HH. Tel 01873 853254

INFORMATION | ATTRACTIONS

- **Court Cupboard Gallery**, New Court Farm, Llantilio, Pertholey, Abergavenny NP7 8AU. Tel 01873 852011 or see courtcupboardgallery.com. Open: all year from 10.30am-5pm (4pm in winter). Free. Exhibitions and displays regularly change – see website. Disabled access: full
- **Longtown Castle**, Longtown, Hereford. Tel 0121 625 6820 or see english-heritage.org.uk. Open: all year. Free. Ruined castle with great views of the Black Mountains
- **Abergavenny Museum and Castle**, Castle Street, Abergavenny NP7 5EE. Tel 01600 713519 or see abergavenny museum.co.uk. Free. Regular programme of temporary exhibitions, although always available is the children's activity room and a gift shop. There are also regular workshops. Disabled access: possible to most areas, but could be awkward