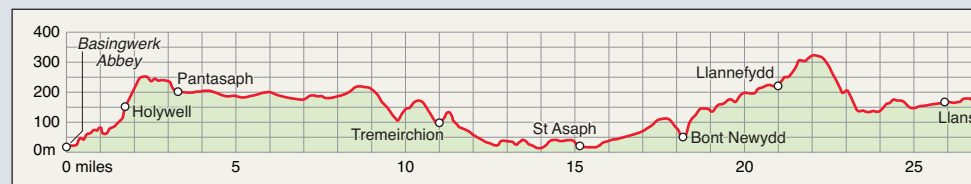


PRACTICAL INFORMATION



- **Terrain** Wide range of footpaths and lanes; frequent, sustained ascents and descents.
- **Difficulty** Challenging (particularly on the two-day option)
- **Directions & GPS*** 017.pdf, 017.gpx, 017.kml at <https://trailblazer-guides.com/press>
* See p10-11 for more information on downloads

ROUTE OVERVIEW

33 miles (53.1km)

This slightly longer pilgrimage is best spread across three days to give you time to enjoy the pilgrim highlights along the way, but if you're up for a challenge it can also be done in two days.

Three-day option

Basingwerk Abbey to St Asaph

15 miles (24.1km)

- **Time** 6hrs 45 mins actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 687m / 2254ft
- **Map** OS Explorer 265 *Clwydian Range*, 264 *Vale of Clwyd*

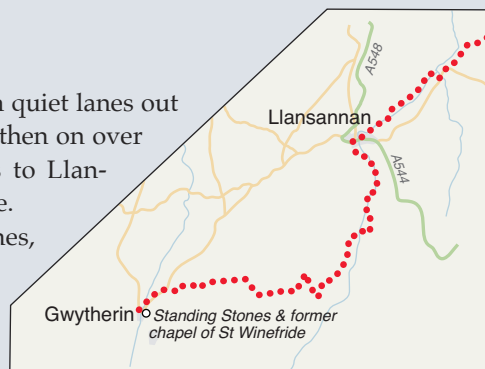
From Basingwerk Abbey, follow the Celtic cross markers of the North Wales Pilgrim's Way for **1.1 miles** to Holywell, and on to climb over rough pasture, via the summit of Pen-y-Ball, for **3 miles** to Pantasaph. You then leave the Pilgrim's Way along quiet lanes for **6.6 miles** to the outskirts of Rhualt. From here, follow a path across meadows to climb, then descend to reach Tremeirchion, after **1.5 miles**, before taking lanes and paths over level meadows for **4 miles** to St Asaph.

St Asaph to Llanfynydd

10.7 miles (17.2km)

- **Time** 4hrs 35mins actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 725m / 2378ft
- **Map** OS Explorer 264 *Vale of Clwyd*

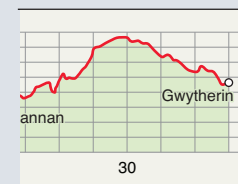
Pick up the North Wales Pilgrim's Way on quiet lanes out of St Asaph for **3 miles** to Bont-Newydd, then on over gently undulating country for **2.8 miles** to Llanfynydd, leaving it shortly before the village. After Llanfynydd you initially follow lanes, then the valley of the River Aled, for **4.7 miles** to Llanfynydd before returning to the Pilgrim's Way just after Bryn Rhyd-yr-Arian.



Llanfynydd to Gwytherin

7.3 miles (11.8km)

- **Time** 2hrs actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 197m / 646ft



- **Map** OS Explorer 264 *Vale of Clwyd* & OL17 *Snowdon*

Today's much shorter walk takes the North Wales Pilgrim's Way all the way to Gwytherin. The route runs along the Aled Valley for **3 miles**, before climbing steeply and crossing high moorland for **3.5 miles**, followed by the final descent via a lane to Gwytherin.

Two-day option

Basingwerk to Llanfynydd

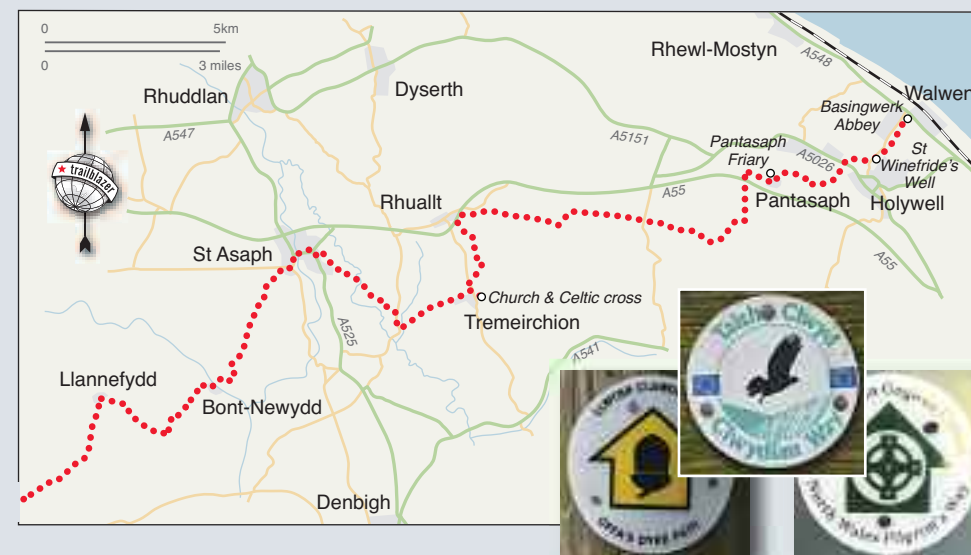
21 miles (33.8km)

- **Time** 9hrs 45mins actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 1202m / 3943ft
- **Map** OS Explorer 265 *Clwydian Range*, 264 *Vale of Clwyd*

Llanfynydd to Gwytherin

12 miles (19.3km)

- **Time** 3hrs 45mins actual walking time
- **Total ascent** 407m / 1335ft
- **Map** OS Explorer 264 *Vale of Clwyd* & OL17 *Snowdon*



Where to eat or stay along the way

- **Holywell** For a true pilgrim experience **stay** at *St Winefride's Guest House* (☎ 01352-714172, bridgettine.org, 20 New Rd), formerly the Pilgrims' Hospice, now run by the Bridgettine Sisters.
- **Tremeirchion** Stop for lunch at the *Salisbury Arms* (☎ 01745-710532; from noon).
- **St Asaph** *Talardy Hotel* (☎ 01745-799314, talardyhotelstasaph.co.uk, noon-10pm).
- **Llanfynydd** *Hawk and Buckle* (☎ 01745-540249, thehawkandbuckle.com; Wed-Sun from 6pm, food 6pm-8pm).
- **Llanfynydd** *Red Lion* (☎ 01745-870256, facebook.com/redlionllansannan).

			Walk 17 to Basingwerk Abbey to Gwytherin
Distance since start	Distance since last direction	OS refs	
0	0	SJ 19663 77493	From the car park on the A548 at Greenfield take the path that runs to the left behind the parking area, climbs alongside it, then turns right on a wide tarmacked path. On this initial stretch of the walk we are following the official North Wales Pilgrim's Way, and their signs are often a useful guide to the route in many places, but not all.
140yds/130m	140yds/130m		Reach the ruins of Basingwerk Abbey. You can get a Pilgrim Passport, and have it stamped, at the Cadw visitors' centre. Continue up the wide tarmacked path, with the river to your right.
1mile/1.6km	0.9mile/1.5km	SJ 18576 76434	Just past the factory unit, bear right off the main path and bear left onto the B5121.
1.1miles/1.8km	220yds/200m	SJ 18533 76384	Arrive at St Winefride's Well and shrine. To continue, leave the shrine and cross over the B5121, taking the track that runs past a small car park and climbs uphill to a track junction.
1.5miles/2.4km	660yds/600m	SJ 18042 76458	Bear left off the main track here, and climb up the hill, ignoring a more distinct path that crosses the route, aiming for a narrow path at the top, right-hand corner of the field, which passes between houses to emerge on Holway Rd, the A5026.
1.6miles/2.6km	220yds/200m	SJ 17824 76342	Cross over Holway Rd and bear slight right to pick up a track between houses. It bears left behind them.
1.7miles/2.7km	110yds/100m		Just before a five-bar gate with a Private sign on it, turn right onto a narrow path with a footpath and Pilgrim's Way sign, that runs uphill between hedges.
1.8miles/2.9km	220yds/200m	SJ 17709 76123	Go straight ahead to the stile at the top of the field, and then straight on again.
1.9miles/3.1km	330yds/300m		At the top of this field go over the stile and bear right. Keep walking the same line, keeping the trig point at Pen-y-Ball's summit to your left.
2.2miles/3.6km	550yds/500m	SJ 17195 75738	Bear right, and the path picks its way through a gorse thicket, moving to the left of the route shown on OS maps but then coming alongside the fence to your right.

2.4miles/3.9km	330yds/300m	SJ 16846 75839	Bear left before a house and then swing right behind it to skirt an old quarry, keeping the quarry close to your left.
2.5miles/4.1km	220yds/200m	SJ 16680 76014	The path bears slight right, leaving the quarry behind, to reach a stile in the corner of the field. In the next field, bear slight left, aiming for a galvanised steel kissing gate on the far side.
3miles/4.8km	770yds/700m	SJ 16219 76055	Turn left before the kissing gate and follow the field margin to the corner, where a stile takes you right into the grounds of Pantasaph Friary.
3.1miles/5km	660yds/600m	SJ 16117 75992	Arrive at Pantasaph Friary. To continue, take the driveway to the right of the car park towards Monastery Rd. At this point we stop following the official North Wales Pilgrim's Way.
3.3miles/5.3km	330yds/300m	SJ 15967 75867	Turn right onto Monastery Rd. This stretch of the route follows quiet lanes and minor roads.
4miles/6.4km	0.7mile/1.1km	SJ 15248 76170	Turn left at the T-junction. The road passes above the A55. Continue to a crossroads.
4.7miles/7.5km	0.7mile/1.1km	SJ 15243 74902	Turn right at the crossroads onto a very quiet lane with little traffic.
5.3miles/8.6km	0.7mile/1.1km	SJ 14319 74332	At the slightly flattened crossroads at Pant, take the lane to your right and pass Pant Farm (on your left).
5.6miles/9km	440yds/400m		At the next junction, ignore the lane to your left, and keep straight on.
6.5miles/10.5km	0.9mile/1.5km	SJ 12593 74988	At the crossroads, where the B5122 crosses left to right, go straight ahead.
7.2miles/11.6km	0.7mile/1.1km		Ignore the lane joining on your left, keep straight on.
7.4miles/11.9km	330yds/300m		At the crossroads, keep straight on.
7.8miles/12.5km	660yds/600m	SJ 10665 75172	At the crossroads at Brick Kiln, turn left.
8miles/12.9km	440yds/400m	SJ 10375 74891	At the Y-junction, take the right-hand fork onto Brick Kiln Gate.
9miles/14.5km	1mile/1.6km		At the crossroads, keep straight on.
9.2miles/14.8km	330yds/300m		Ignore the lane joining on your left and keep straight on.

9.4miles/15.1km	330yds/300m		Ignore the lane on your right joining on your right, and keep straight on, the lane now signposted as a dead end.
9.7miles/15.6km	550yds/500m	SJ 07835 75155	Just before you reach the bridge over the A55, turn left onto the path. Here we pick up a short stretch of the Offa's Dyke Path, marked with roundels showing a black acorn against a yellow background.
9.8miles/15.7km	110yds/100m	SJ 07758 74947	Turn left, away from the A55, and over a meadow. Go straight ahead through the next two fields. In the third, large field, there is a belt of oaks running left to right. The Offa's Dyke Path passes between the fourth and fifth trees, counting from the right, and then bears right at Maen Efa.
10.2miles/16.4km	770yds/700m	SJ 08110 74348	When the path reaches a lane, cross it and keep straight on into woods. Our route leaves the Offa's Dyke Path at this point. The path skirts the St Beuno Retreat Centre, which is to your right, passing initially through woodland and then emerging to follow a field margin, with the woods to your right.
10.5miles/16.9km	550yds/500m	SJ 08231 74001	As the woods end, turn sharp left to descend through an often very muddy field, passing to the right of a cottage at Plesyn and leading to a lane.
10.6miles/17km	110yds/100m	SJ 08372 73907	Turn right onto the lane and continue to the B5429.
11miles/17.7km	770yds/700m	SJ 08026 73415	At B5429, turn left to reach the village of Tremeirchion.
11.1miles/18km	330yds/300m	SJ 08118 73141	Turn left off the B5429 on a path that takes you to the village church and pub.
11.2miles/18.1km	110yds/100m		Arrive at Tremeirchion, with the church Corpus Christi and St Beuno's Well, and the Salusbury Arms pub. To continue, retrace your steps along the path to the B5429 and turn right.
11.4miles/18.4km	300yds/300m	SJ 08074 73182	Turn left off the B5429 onto a lane. Continue for just over a mile, up to a lane joining from the right by a house called Brynibod.
12.7miles/20.5km	1.3miles/2.1km	SJ 06194 72207	At the junction by Brynibod, turn right.

13miles/21km	550yds/500m	SJ 06074 72687	Just before Dormitory Wood, take the footpath that leaves the lane to your left, crossing a stone stile and keeping the woods to your right. Signs for the Clywydian Way (its roundels depicting a buzzard in flight) and Pilgrim's Way appear after this point, and are a useful guide on the approach to St Asaph. The path runs across a series of meadows and is easy to follow.
14.3miles/23km	1.2miles/2km	SJ 04517 73814	Turn right along the bed of an old railway track for the final approach to St Asaph.
14.7miles/23.6km	660yds/600m		Turn left at the corner of the school playing fields and reach the A525, Upper Denbigh Rd.
14.8miles/23.8km	220yds/200m	SJ 04048 74162	Turn right on Upper Denbigh Rd, the A525, and cross over to approach St Asaph's Cathedral.
14.9miles/24km	220yds/200m		Arrive at St Asaph Cathedral. <i>St Asaph is a suggested overnight stop.</i> To continue, walk through the cathedral grounds to reach High St. The route once again follows that of the North Wales Pilgrim's Way.
15miles/24.1km	110yds/100m	SJ 03853 74353	Turn left onto High St, walk through town and cross the River Elwy.
15.2miles/24.5km	440yds/400m	SJ 03457 74224	Turn left onto Lower Denbigh Rd, the B5381.
15.5miles/24.9km	440yds/400m	SJ 03402 73901	Bear right to take Glascoed Rd, the B5381.
15.6miles/25.2km	330yds/300m	SJ 03136 73841	Take the lane that leaves Glascoed Rd to the left. The route now follows a series of very quiet lanes.
17miles/27.4km	1.4miles/2.2km		Ignore the lane that turns left just before Coed Penwyn, and keep straight on.
17.6miles/28.3km	990yds/900m	SJ 01698 71344	At the junction in Cefn Mairwen, turn left.
17.7miles/28.5km	220yds/200m		Follow the lane as it turns sharp right and descends towards Bont-Newydd.
17.9miles/28.9km	440yds/400m	SJ 01464 71050	Turn left onto the footpath that descends steeply to Bont-Newydd, avoiding a section of road.

18.1miles/29.2km	330yds/300m	SJ 01283 70824	Cross the river in Bont-Newydd and then bear right at the T-junction, following the lane that climbs alongside the River Elwy.
18.3miles/29.4km	/220yds200m		Take the path, which bears an official Pilgrim's Way sign, that leaves the lane at an acute angle, climbing through a pine plantation. Official Pilgrim's Way signs are a useful guide for the next section of the walk.
18.5miles/29.7km	330yds/300m	SJ 00940 70895	As you emerge from the woods, you will find that the path on OS maps has been superseded by a permissive path that turns left and follows the field margin, turning right at the first corner and following a farm track past the buildings at Croen-llwm-mawr before bearing left at a field margin and reaching a lane via a five-bar gate.
19miles/30.5km	880yds/800m	SJ 00470 70234	Cross the lane and take the track up to the house at Tyddyn Bartley. There are no Pilgrim's Way signs here, but the path runs to the right of the house, through a gate, turns right and then bears left to follow and then enter a belt of trees, where it continues as a green lane.
19.3miles/31km	550yds/500m	SJ 00133 69930	Bear left at Tyn-y-Bedw to leave the wooded area and continue along a track.
19.5miles/31.4km	440yds/400m	SJ 00102 69613	Where this track is joined by another at a junction, turn right.
19.9miles/32km	660yds/600m	SH 99576 69784	Where the track meets a lane, turn right. In 30m, when you reach a crossroads of lanes, go straight ahead towards the village of Llanefydd.
20.2miles/32.6km	660yds/600m		Here, shortly after the track leaving right for the farm at Bodysgaw Ucha, the official Pilgrim's Way leaves the lane to the left, but we continue along the lane to Llanefydd, a suggested overnight stop.
20.9miles/33.6km	0.6mile/1km	SH 98256 70581	Arrive at Llanefydd. <i>If you are staying here overnight, the Hawk and Buckle Inn is on your right.</i> To continue on the walk, turn left at this point, opposite the inn, and take the lane that climbs out of the village.
21.1miles/34km	440yds/400m	SH 98121 69948	At the Y-junction of lanes, take the right-hand option.

21.8miles/35.1km	0.7mile/1.1km		Ignore the lane to your left, keep straight on.
22.3miles/35.9km	880yds/800m	SH 97311 68633	At the crossroads, keep straight on, shortly afterward passing houses at Minffordd.
22.9miles/36.9km	0.6mile/1km	SH 97047 68475	Take the path that leaves the lane to the left, descending to cross a stream and then bearing gently left
23miles/37km	110yds/100m		At a crossroads of paths on the edge of woodland, continue straight on, the route skirting the trees, which are on your right, as it continues to descend. The path then crosses through a thin belt of trees and continues with woods now to your left to reach a lane.
23.2miles/37.4km	440yds/400m	SH 96116 67923	Turn left onto the lane, with the River Aled to your right.
24.4miles/39.2km	1.1miles/1.8km	SH 95664 67371	At the crossroads in the hamlet of Bryn Rhyd-yr-Arian, go straight on. Almost immediately after the crossroads, take the path that leaves the lane to the right. The route rejoins the official Pilgrim's Way at this point. The path crosses the river and bears left through woodland, running high above the River Aled, toward the village of Llansannan
25miles/40.4km	0.7miles/1.2km	SH 94271 66357	Follow the path over the bridge, then bear right to follow it along the other riverbank.
25.5miles/41.1km	770yds/700m	SH 93582 65862	Where the path reaches the A544 on the outskirts of Llansannan, turn right to follow it into the village.
25.6miles/41.3km	220yds/200m	SH 93347 65800	Arrive at Llansannan. <i>This is another suggested overnight stop.</i> To continue, take the lane opposite the Red Lion, Ffordd Gogor, that climbs out of the village. The route follows the official Pilgrim's Way now until the end of the walk at Gwytherin.
25.9miles/41.7km	440yds/400m	SH 93447 65446	Take the path that leaves the lane on the left, passing through Gogor Ganol farmyard and descends to the River Aled.

26miles/42km	330yds/300m	SH 93666 65373	Take the footbridge over the river and turn right to continue along the far bank. Note: on OS maps the footbridge is inaccurately shown as being further along the river.
26.4miles/42.5km	550yds/500m	SH 93880 64446	At this point you need to take an unsignposted footbridge across a stream that runs into the River Aled. Look out for a narrow path descending to your right, and for the bridge. Cross the bridge and continue along the bank of the Aled.
26.8miles/43.2km	770yds/700m	SH 93771 64433	At Pont-y-Nant, where the path meets a lane, cross straight over the lane and continue along the path.
27.3miles/43.9km	770yds/700m	SH 93729 63913	When the path reaches a lane at Acrau-isaf, turn right into the lane
27.5miles/44.2km	330yds/300m	SH 93711 63379	Turn right off the lane (there is a Pilgrim's Way sign) and pass through Rhyd-loew before descending to the river. Bear left along the riverbank.
27.8miles/44.7km	550yds/500m	SH 93436 63393	Turn right to take the footbridge across the river, then climb steeply at an angle 45 degrees left to emerge in a meadow. Head for the farmhouse at Cae-du.
28miles/45.1km	440yds/400m	SH 93174 63199	At Cae-du, bear left to follow the path as it runs parallel with, and high above, the River Aled.
28.4miles/45.7km	660yds/600m	SH 93057 62646	At Hendre-Aled Cottage turn slight right then immediately left to continue along the path.
28.6miles/46km	330yds/300m	SH 92882 62354	At Hendre-Aled Farm, go right then left to pass through the yard and continue on the path.
28.9miles/46.6km	660yds/600m		Shortly after Cleiriach farm follow the path as it bears left.
29.1miles/46.9km	330yds/300m	SH 92315 61740	When the path meets a lane, turn right into the lane. The route now leaves cultivated farmland and passes over high moorland.
29.6miles/47.6km	770yds/700m	SH 92040 62337	At a junction of lanes, turn sharp left.
30miles/48.2km	660yds/600m	SH 91741 61905	At a Y-junction of lanes, take the right fork.
30.4miles/49km	880yds/800m	SH 90965 61859	Where the lane turns sharp right, continue straight on along the track, cross the stream and walk uphill into the field. After 70m, when the track goes left, take the

			footpath on the right and follow it as it descends, with moorland to your right fields, and a stream, to your left.
30.9miles/49.8km	880yds/800m	SH 90350 62278	At the derelict Hafod-gau farm, go left through the gate and then pass to the right of the building. Now walk uphill to a stile.
31miles/49.9km	110yds/100m	SH 90215 62246	Go over the stile and cross the lane. Pick up the path on the other side keeping the fence to your left, going over two stiles.
31.2miles/50.3km	440yds/400m		At a small, shallow stream, the River Rhydelechog, in a depression, ford it and continue straight on.
31.4miles/50.6km	330yds/300m	SH 89552 62208	When you reach a lane, turn right, then almost immediately left to take the track to Llethr farm.
31.5miles/50.7km	110yds/100m		Just before the farm buildings, where the track bears right, take the left-hand path, go through a kissing gate then take the stile to the field on your left. Keep straight ahead, go through a gate and reach a stream. With the stream on your right, bear slightly left, going uphill and through a gate.
31.8miles/51.2km	550yds/500m		Bear left, crossing two fields and then a stream. Keep straight on through the next two fields, then turn right in the third to follow the field margin.
32.2miles/51.9km	770yds/700m	SH 88378 62046	Cross the stile to reach the B5384. Turn left and follow the road down into Gwytherin.
33miles/53.1km	0.7miles/1.2km	SH 87630 61511	Arrive in Gwytherin, with St Winefride's chapel to your left and The Lion B&B to your right.