

Brecon Wellbeing Walk



Ty Newydd to Brecon Basin

walk time 1¾-2 hours
distance 5.6km / 3½ miles



The Walk - Step by Step

The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal is set in Brecon Beacons National Park with the Black Mountains as a spectacular backdrop. This is Welsh walking - a waterside trail in the company of mountains and sheep, with the taste of real air to feed your boots. The 'Mon & Brecon' is isolated from the main canal network, leaving an intimate cohort of boats roaming to and fro at will. Once busy with boats laden with coal and iron, the canal now offers a relaxing escape, with wildlife to spot and birdsong in its trees and hedgerows.

-  Head down to the canal and turn right along the towpath under Storehouse Bridge 158 (the B4558).
- 1** Your surroundings are moored boats on the opposite side of the canal and fields heading up the hill to a line of trees beyond the towpath's lush hedgerow.
- 2** Just beyond the beautiful stone bridge 159, the canal curves around the glorious setting of Cambrian Cruisers' boatyard at Ty Newydd, overlooked by Pen y Fan's distinctive flat peak.
- 3** The canal now runs through a dappled wooded stretch, with glimpses of the River Usk below to your right. Keep your eyes peeled for herons, kingfishers and perhaps even a water vole or otter.
- 4** At Turn Bridge 162, cross the bridge then go through the gate to rejoin the towpath on the opposite side. On the bridge is a diamond-shaped signpost, one of many on the Mon & Brecon Canal, which warned drivers of new-fangled motors to be aware of the weight limit.
- 5** Passing popular moorings, the canal crosses Brynich Aqueduct. Built by engineer Thomas Dadford in 1797, the four-arched aqueduct elegantly carries the canal over the River Usk below.
- 6** The canal turns sharply westwards to Brynich Lock and lock house. Cross over the road and through the gate to rejoin the towpath next to the lock.
- 7** The towpath is cooled under a canopy of trees on both sides, lush green in summer and ablaze with colour in the autumn. Occasional benches invite you to linger a while and listen out for soaring buzzards or red kites.
- 8** Road noise briefly intrudes as you walk under the busy A40, but soon quiets again. At Watton Wharf, a wooden statue of a horse pulling a tram tells some of the canal's history. Limestone quarried in the hills was brought in boats along the canal, unloaded into burning hot limekilns to be broken down into quicklime, and then loaded onto waiting carts for transportation.
- 9** Go through the wooden stile and gate just beyond the wharf, taking care as the towpath shares a short stretch of road past Watton Bridge 165. The canal's sloping grassy banks and a backdrop of houses signify your arrival into Brecon.
-  Beyond Dadford's Bridge 167, moored boats indicate the walk's end in Brecon Basin. Day boats for hire and a trip boat offer an alternative way to retrace some of your route.

CANAL: Monmouthshire & Brecon

START: Storehouse Bridge
OS Grid ref: SO085258 Postcode: LD3 7LJ

FINISH: Brecon Basin
OS Grid ref: SO047282 Postcode: LD3 7EY

DISTANCE: 5.6km / 3½ miles

APPROX TIME: 1¼-2 hours

PUB/CAFÉ: Theatr Brycheiniog Café & Bar in Brecon Basin

PARKING: Nearest car park – Brycheiniog (postcode: LD3 7EW)

TRAIN: Nearest train station - Abergavenny
National Rail Enquiries Tel: 03457 484950
www.nationalrail.co.uk

BUS: Traveline Cymru
Tel: 0871 2002233 www.traveline.info
BRECON BUS: Stagecoach
Tel: 0345 241 8000 www.stagecoachbus.com

