

Talyllyn - Pennorth panoramic walk

Llwybr panoramig Talyllyn - Pennorth

Distance: 3 miles/4.8km
Time: Aprox 1.5-2 hours

- 1 Start from the old phone box in Talyllyn - now a mini information centre run by Llyn Syddafan History Group. With your back to the phone box turn right (north) along the road.

Talyllyn is a relatively new village - most of the houses were built after the opening of the railway station in 1863. The station was a junction with lines from Newport, Hereford and Llanidloes converging here before heading into Brecon. It may seem like a sleepy backwater today, but a century and a half ago this was a well-connected transport hub.



Gnarled old trees line the ridgeway path.
Gnarled old trees line the ridgeway path.

- 2 At the junction turn left up the hill (signed to Brecon).

Known locally as the 'tunnel pitch' this road is directly above the old railway tunnel. Opened for the horse-drawn Hay Railway in 1816, the tunnel was later widened for steam trains and by the 1950s was the oldest railway tunnel in the world still in use. The trains stopped in the early 1960s and there is now no access to the tunnel, which has become an important bat roost.

- 3 At the top of the hill turn left through the gate. The first few metres of track can sometimes be muddy - but the rest of the route is mostly dry.

- 4 Continue straight along the obvious track. The path follows the spine of the hill, often as a narrow sunken lane, to the hilltop and down the far side.

The ridgeway path is probably an ancient route, in use for hundreds, maybe even thousands, of years before Talyllyn appeared. There are some fantastic gnarled old trees in the hedgerows beside the path.

The Trig is positioned at the highest point of the hill. At just 263 metres/863ft above sea level this is a mere pimple compared with the surrounding mountains - but it has some of the best views in the area.

The TV mast was built in 1976 to boost reception down in the Usk valley (all those scenic mountains were blocking the signal!)

- 5 When you reach the road turn left.

- 6 Just past the phone box in Pennorth, turn left (signed to Talyllyn).

Pennorth phone box has been restored by the local community and is now used as a library. If you continue along the main road for a few metres you cross the old railway bridge. It was built to carry the road over the Brecon & Merthyr Railway which opened in 1863 and closed in 1962. There was never a station in Pennorth - villagers had to walk to Talyllyn if they wanted to catch the train. Beyond the bridge is the Tabernacle chapel. Built in 1841 and rebuilt in 1893, it is now the only chapel still in use around Llangors Lake.



The ancient ridgeway path.
The ancient ridgeway path.

- 7 Follow the road back to Talyllyn (watch out for traffic - the road isn't busy but you'll probably meet a few vehicles).



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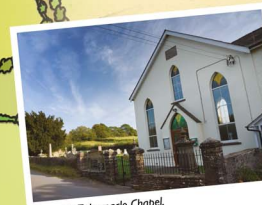
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Talyllyn phone box.
Blwch Ffon Talyllyn.



Pennorth Tabernacle Chapel.
Chapel Tabernad Pennorth.