



Lodge Cwm and Llethrid Walk – Gower

Description:

A great walk but with about 1 mile on the main road, the rest of the walk will get you really off the beaten track, I would recommend taking the explorer map for Gower OS164. Very few people walk this way, but it's a beautiful walk through the wooded valleys to Cillibion and Llethrid at the far side of the old deer park. Long enough to recommend taking a sandwich and drink. **For those of you not staying with us you are welcome to use this walk but as there are no rights of way through the grounds, please see the note and the [diversion map](#) on the walks page to help you circumnavigate.**

Distance covered: 6.2 miles **Average time:** 4 hours **Terrain:** Easy under foot.

Directions:

Walk out of the front door of the house and turn right, walk past the end of the house and up the corral (fenced in area).

Follow the track through the corral and along the old Church path, you will pass the trout ponds on your right and valley gardens on your left immediately after this there is a cross roads – take the track straight on across the fields and through the woods.



At the woodlands end you will cross a stile next to a gate, here the track will bear left taking but you need to take the small stoney path which heads up the hill at a 2 o'clock direction (do not take the path immediately on your right which follows the wood boundary)

When you meet the un-surfaced road at the top of the rise follow it to the right, you will see Cefn Bryn (a name which translates to Hill or ridge) rising up in front of you.

Follow the road for about half a mile you will pass the track which leads up the hill and the road will begin to drop downhill gently.

When you see a fork in the road in front of you, look to your right and you will find a kissing gate which you can cross back over the park boundary, a short footpath takes you to a wide forestry track which you can follow downhill for about a mile.

Continue following the track downhill until you will arrive at an open valley stretching off to your left called green Cwm, you will also see the old game keepers cottage on the opposite side of the valley. Turn left. In another 200yds you will see a track forking off to your left, follow this track, it takes you to Lodge Cwm.

History:

Its name comes from the old Lodge farm which was once situated at the head of the valley, all that remain of the farm are some ruined wall's in the wood. Also near the top of the wooded part of the valley is an old lime kiln on the right hand side of the path behind the kiln there used to be an old lunch house used by the gentleman who shot game in the woods in the days when the Vivian family owned the estate. If you look carefully at the rock face behind the kiln you will just make out the black soot still staining the face where the chimney was built into the rocks.

When you reach the Cwm you will cross a stile into the farm land and follow the field boundary down the right hand side of the field, keep the strip of woodland on your right until you meet a farm track which crosses the wooded strip, follow it to the opposite side of the wooded strip and turn left again keeping alongside the boundary of the wood until you emerge onto Cefn Bryn common.

Walk out to the road and follow it to the right, turn right at the road junction and follow the road all the way back until it drops down around Llethrid barns to the narrow river bridge. Immediately after the bridge turn right through the wooden gate and follow the forestry track through the fields and back into the woods.

In the first clearing you come to you will off on your left is the entrance to tooth cave, it's the longest of Gower's caves and was occupied during the bronze age, the remains of six adults and two children were found here during excavations. Unfortunately the cave is gated and locked, its dangerous to visit due to flooded sections and some really tight squeezes. If you are a keen caver you will need to get in touch with south Wales caving club for more information.

Keep following the main track now for about one and a half miles through one cross roads where you will see the old head game keepers cottage nestled in the woodland at the edge of the cwm, continue down the wide gravel track past Giants Grave on our right.



History:

Giant's Grave is a Neolithic (4000-3000bc) tomb belonging to the so-called Severn-Cotswold group. The burial site was first located in 1869 when it was plundered for stone and re-excavated in 1960-61 by R J C Atkinson. Bone fragments belonging to 40 individuals have been recovered. All were adults except for three, also discovered were two rims of Neolithic pottery. Take a look at the rounded stones on the southern corner of the tomb, it is thought the stones were washed by a river which once ran along side the tomb but which has found its way underground into the limestone rocks below.

When you meet the tarmac lane at the end of the Cwm turn right and continue up the drive to the house.

Walking map Lodge Cwm & Llethrid Walk:

