

Cerdded | Scenic Walk



Summary

A circular walk to the summit of Moel Emoel (549 m 1,800 ft) over farmland, moorland and short sections on minor roads, with excellent views of Bala, the lake and surrounding mountains

Bala & Penllyn Tourism Association have checked the information given in this leaflet but changes may occur. You must be responsible for your own safety, please heed warnings, follow the Country Code & see Safety and Conduct information at www.GoBala.org (Information/Safety)

Tourist Information:	www.VisitBala.org or www.visitsnowdonia.info
Trails Information:	www.GoBala.org

Plan your Trip

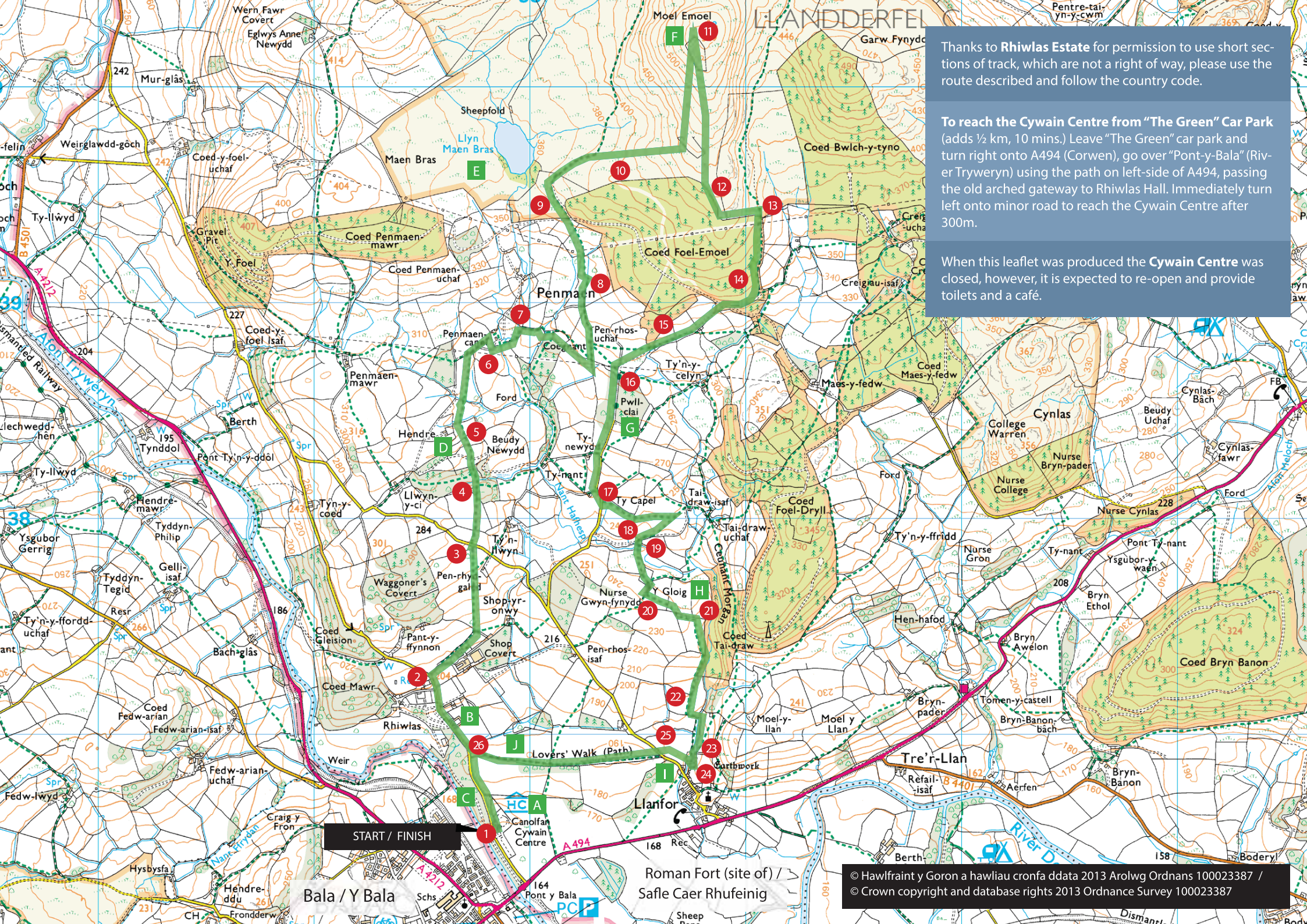
Distance	11½ km (7¼ miles)
Ascent	450 m (1,475 ft)
Time	4 - 4½ hrs
Map	OS OL18
Terrain	Paths, quiet-roads, farmland, moorland
Start / finish	Cywain Centre, near Bala (SH928365)
Parking	At the start
Toilets	Green Car park, Bala (SH928361)
Refreshments	Bala
Public Transport	www.GoBala.org (Information/Public Transport)
Important	Over farmland with cattle, possibly a bull, dogs not recommended, many stiles. Route not obvious in some places. After rain the ground will be wet and boots are required. No refreshments or toilets.

The Trail

- 1** **START** Leave the Cywain Centre **A** turn right onto the minor road (north) for 800m, passing Rhiwlas Estate **B** former stable block with arch. On the left is the River Tryweryn **C**.
- 2** Just after Bwthyn (brick terrace), turn right through double gates onto the access road to Estate Buildings (this is not a right of way and is permitted by the Rhiwlas Estate), after 50m bear left through gate, keeping trees on right, then through a field gate, straight on passing a sycamore tree, through a field gate, straight on, through field gate into field. Then uphill to the left of a white cottage (Pen-rhyd-galed) then keep straight on to 2 stiles at fence/hedge (right of large ash tree).
- 3** Cross road into field at stile. Go straight-on across field (if crops growing, please skirt field) through hedge and over a stile. There are views of Moel Emoel (bare hill) ahead. Keep straight-on over field through small hidden "Wicket" gate in fence, into the wood.
- 4** Go into wood, bear slightly left the through a gap in trees, then downhill, straight-on at way-marked post, over stream, uphill, straight-on at way-marked post, to "Wicket" gate. Leave wood & go straight-on over field, through "Wicket" gate, straight-on down & up a small valley & through a "Wicket" gate.
- 5** Note farm buildings **D** on left (Hendre) straight-on across field, through field gate, straight-on across field, through a field gate, immediately over ditch, continue over field and through a field gate (under electric cables) continue to two buildings (Penmaen-canol).
- 6** Follow the track, ford the stream and immediately bear left to enter woods via a stile. Then walk upstream with the stream on your left. After around 100m, fork right along a small stream, this may be dry, then climb up to a stile, hidden behind an oak tree. Continue along the field with the hedge on your left to go over a stile in the corner.
- 7** Turn right and follow the fence/hedge on your right down to and over a stream, turn left & continue along the old hedge (way-marked), cross to the other side of the old hedge, go uphill, pass a way-marked post and continue along the old hedge under electricity cables. The path continues over boggy and rough ground, which can be avoided by crossing the field (uphill) to the fence then turn left along the fence to a metal gate. Go through the gate and turn immediately left to enter woods at a metal gate/stile behind some standing stones.
- 8** Continue through the wood along a break in the trees on an "elevated path", cross a stream and continue in the same general direction. Cross boggy ground to leave the woods at a stile, then continue ahead on a path through gorse bushes, uphill to and through a gate, then cross the un-surfaced road through a second gate (Open Access).
- 9** Continue ahead on a vehicle track, take the gate/stile to leave the track enter open moorland. Moel Emoel is now ahead of you and Llyn Maen Bras **E** **F** to the left.
- 10** Bear right and climb to the south ridge parallel to the plantation (Coed Foel Emoel) now mainly cut-down, following a faint track. Upon gaining the south ridge follow it to the summit.
- 11** From the summit (549 m 1,800 ft) (SH937402) there is an excellent panoramic view **E** **F**.

- 12** From the summit take a faint track along the south ridge to just before the plantation (Coed Foel Emoel), then turn left through a gate/stile. Go downhill keeping the plantation on your right.
- 13** Turn right at field gate/stile (end of Open Access) to keep the plantation on the right.
- 14** Follow the bank/wall downhill. Just before the end of the field, take the field gate, on right, into plantation and continue downhill on track through plantation that swings right. (Sections of the track are not a right of way and is permitted by the Rhiwlas Estate) At cross-track, turn right, uphill, after 10m bear left onto track downhill.
- 15** Leave the plantation at a gate, continue on track downhill. Now, with views of the lake and Aran mountains ahead.
- 16** Pass under overhead power lines, continue on track through gate with wood on left (Pwll-clai **G**), through another gate, onto tarmac minor road downhill.
- 17** Continue past several footpath signs until you see a footpath sign with a large stone building on the left. Turn left, through gate, to pass directly in front of the stone building – a former chapel (Ty Capel, PANT GLAS 1903). Go over a step-over stile, hiding behind a bush, into the field. Continue downhill with the field boundary on left.
- 18** At field corner go over a step-over stile, over ditch, then left. After a short distance, on right, there is a step-over stile then bear left to access an overgrown path downhill through the wood, leave the wood by a step-over stile. Alternatively continue around the wood downhill to reach the exit stile. Then downhill to a vehicle track, turn right onto track, at a single standing/gate-post stone turn left, down to bridge/gate complex.
- 19** Go over the bridge through the 2nd gate and bear left over meadow, after 60m bear right through gap uphill to a derelict house in trees (Y Gloig **H**).
- 20** Pass to right of Y Gloig, pass outbuildings & turn left into field, go across field uphill pass electric poles to reach fence on right then left along fence to & through gate near a large tree. Turn left and follow the fence/old field boundary downhill to wood/stream (Ceunant Morgan).
- 21** Just before wood turn right and go downhill keeping the wood/stream on left, continue through several fields.
- 22** Then along an old field boundary, downhill onto a faint track, then left to wood. Turn right through gate, downhill, on track with stream on left.
- 23** At bridge, cross the stream and then right through farmyard to road. Llanfor **I** is to the left.
- 24** Turn right onto minor road uphill for 120 m.
- 25** Turn left, through gate, on to the "Lover's Walk" **J** - a tree lined avenue. Near the end of the 2nd field, bear right downhill to a gate.
- 26** Turn left onto the minor road to return to the Cywain Centre.

FINISH



Thanks to **Rhiwlas Estate** for permission to use short sections of track, which are not a right of way, please use the route described and follow the country code.

To reach the Cywain Centre from "The Green" Car Park (adds ½ km, 10 mins.) Leave "The Green" car park and turn right onto A494 (Corwen), go over "Pont-y-Bala" (River Tryweryn) using the path on left-side of A494, passing the old arched gateway to Rhiwlas Hall. Immediately turn left onto minor road to reach the Cywain Centre after 300m.

When this leaflet was produced the **Cywain Centre** was closed, however, it is expected to re-open and provide toilets and a café.

START / FINISH

Bala / Y Bala

Roman Fort (site of) /
Safle caer Rhufeinig

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Local Tradition: you should carry a stone with you to place on the summit cairn and dip one foot in the small pool near the summit!

A Ysgubor Isaf: A brush making factory using twigs from the local hedgerows. More recently it became part of the Cywain Centre a Heritage Centre (now closed).

The land nearby is used for major events including the National & Youth Eisteddfod, the County Show and Sheepdog Sales/Trials including the World Sheepdog Championships.

B Rhiwlas Estate: the major estate in the area - owned by the Price family.

C The River Tryweryn is supplied with water from Llyn Celyn and has hosted the world championships for slalom and white-water racing. The National White-water Centre (Canolfan Tryweryn) is a short distance along the A4212. At the centre you can go white-water rafting or walk along the **Tryweryn Trail** up to the dam.

The River Tryweryn is one of the few places that freshwater pearl mussels are found which is an indication of how clean the water is. The lamprey, a rare eel-like fish, is also found in the River Tryweryn, as well as otters, Atlantic salmon, brown trout and grayling. For more wildlife information see the **Wildlife** Guide on GoBala.

D Hendre: meaning summer dwelling is from the ancient Welsh farming custom of "Hendre and Hafod" (transhumance). Hendre referred to the main homestead down near the valley floor – the winter base – whilst Hafod referred to the upland summer pastures.

E Llyn Maen Bras: a reservoir which now supplies water to the Rhiwlas Estate for hydro-electricity.

F From the summit of Moel Emoel there are views, in the foreground, of Llyn Maen Bras, Bala Town, & Lake Bala, and further away the Aran ridge (rising from the lake), then clockwise: Cadair Idris, Rhobell Fawr (south-west), Dduallt, Arenig Fawr, Mynydd Nodol, Llyn Celyn, Arenig Fach (west), Foel Goch (north-east), the Berwyn mountains (east to south), and more. You can enjoy the views, the solitude and possibly a Skylark overhead



To the west of the summit is:

- Eglwys Santes Anne (Church Saint Anne): the site of a medieval hermitage/church.
- Eglwys Anne Warren ffridd: the warren was for farming rabbits which were sent to London for the dinner table of Gentlemen.

G Pwll-clai: Clay Pit for the Rhiwlas Estate – the clay was used to make bricks.

H Y Gloig: the tannery for the Rhiwlas Estate.

I Llanfor: The village of Llanfor is thought to date back to the medieval period - it held local markets and fairs up until the 14th century, when such events were relocated to Bala.

Llanfor Church: Built in 1875, the church of St Mor and St Deiniol, is now closed. In the graveyard is the mausoleum of Richard John Lloyd Price of the Rhiwlas Estate, a famous sportsman, author and founder of a whiskey distillery at Frongoch. The mausoleum has an inscription referring to Bendigo – a racehorse which won the Kempton Park Jubilee which helped to revive the fortunes of the Rhiwlas Estate.

Llanfor Roman Fort: There was a massive early Roman fort of mostly wooden structures near to Llanfor that could accommodate 1,760 soldiers. The fort was situated in area between the rivers Dee and Tryweryn and to the south of the A494. It was identified by aerial survey.

J Lover's Walk: this tree-lined avenue was used by the bride and groom as they travelled from the Rhiwlas Hall to Llanfor Church.

