



Trip Report Snowdonia

26TH - 28TH AUGUST 2023



DAY 1 - SNOWDONIA!

Our second Welsh trip of the year saw more unsettled weather, but that didn't stop five intrepid club members breaking for the border on Friday, pitching up in a very quiet campsite and enjoying the late sunshine of the day. It wasn't long before we found the Cross Foxes pub, and our first taste of the long Bank Holiday weekend.



Heavy rain overnight gave us all a good soaking on the campsite, and Simon had to resort to re-roofing his tent with heavy duty groundsheet to avoid further tent leaks. We all woke up to a damp Wales, greeted by "in and out" views of the Rhinog mountains, cloud covering the tops, so (boo!) no climbing on Saturday.

Ian and Simon made plans to mountain bike at the nearby outdoor centre, joined by Jon later in the day. Jim and Ken decided to hike at low level and covered a fairly meandering cross country path down to the same place. The return leg ended up as a battle through the jungle-like forest tracks, following a satellite photo on Ken's phone!

Later in the day, everyone visited the nearby crags at Trawsfynydd, with a bit of impromptu bouldering (Ian was solo-ing). We retired to our favourite pub for a hearty Welsh dinner, eventually helping them run out of Snowdonia ale.





Trip Report Snowdonia



DAY 2 - RHINOG FACH

We co-ordinated ourselves on a cloudy but steadily improving Sunday morning and even set off early, heading for the relatively unexplored climbing routes in the Rhinogs. After a 2 hour walk-in to Rhinog Fach, we geared up for the breezy and showery climb ahead.



Jim and Jon climbed first on the multi-pitch route, taking turns on lead and climbing the 170m VD 4a South Ridge. Ian was lead for the next team on twin ropes, with Simon and Ken seconding and all enjoying some spectacular views over Llyn Hywell, and out to the coast, between the showers.

We all gathered on the summit of Rhinog Fach, and agreed - well worth it! Fantastic as it was, we didn't stay there for too long, and our timing on the climb was good. As soon as we descended, walking down on the Cambrian way, the weather came in, and it turned, as the saying goes, "wetter than an otter's pocket".

We all endured the 2 hour walk back out, but were soon at the campsite again, ready for some reliving of the day's great moments in our new favourite pub, the Grapes. The food was excellent, (Welsh Rarebit a popular choice) and a very happy group of climbers toasted the day and looked forward to sleeping soundly after a big day in the mountains.





Trip Report Snowdonia



DAY 3 - CARREG YR OGOF

Our final day in Wales and a difficult decision to be made, as the weather was still very mixed. In the end, the crags that we looked at on Friday turned out to be our destination. We said goodbye and thanks to our fellow climber Jon for his company, while Jim, Ian, Ken and Simon headed back to Trawsfynydd to climb the crag there.



After a short 10 minute walk in to Carreg yr Ogof, on the shores of Llyn Trawsfynydd, Jim was leading on Toxic Texan (VD) with Ken seconding, while Ian led on the adjacent route Far for the Fledgling (S 4a), with Simon seconding. Both routes were nice and compact at 15m, seeming like a sprint compared to our long multi-pitch on Saturday.

We scrambled back down at the far end of the ridge and regrouped, just as the rain came on. At that, as Zebedee says, "time for bed", or in our case, time to head off and escape any further wet weather. We all agreed Carreg yr Ogof was a fine setting for climbing, well worth a return trip.

A classic Bank Holiday weekend, we made the most of it and adapted with the weather. Our big day out climbing in the Rhinog mountains will stay with us forever. Thanks to everyone for being such great company, another excellent club trip!



WCC CLIMBERS:

Ian, Jim Simon, Jon, Ken

Special Guest: Tarka the otter (well, could have been!)