




27 GWYNEDD CROESOR & CNICT

▶ Distance: 6½ miles/10.5km ▶ Time: 3½ hours ▶ Grade: Challenging  



THE MATTERHORN OF WALES

The path to Cnicht.



**CHOSEN BY...
JULIE ROYLE**

Cnicht is a favourite mountain for many walkers because its pyramidal profile conforms to the popular paradigm of the perfect pointy peak. The mountain flaunts this seductive shape for the length of your ascent from Croesor, and it's only when you finally reach the top that it reveals itself as a bit of a tease; it's not a pyramid after all, just the end of a ridge. But it's easy to forgive the deception when the ascent has been so much fun, and when the

view embraces most of Snowdonia and an expanse of coast. Some walkers include the Moelwyns with Cnicht in a circuit from Croesor, and there are good reasons to do so. On the other hand, Cnicht is such an appealing mountain that it's tempting to make it the solo star of the show, lingering over the walk to enjoy it to the full, leaving the Moelwyns for another day. So a very simple walk, with Cnicht as the only summit, is now something


of a classic, and that route is described here. It's essentially a high-level circuit of Cwm Croesor, easily followed in clear conditions. It returns to Croesor by Rhosydd Slate Quarry, which operated from the 1840s for about a century (exact dates uncertain). The site is fascinating to explore, but take care as there are underground workings, unfenced drops and unstable buildings. 



PHOTO: JULIE ROYLE



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► OS Explorer map OL17 & OL18 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop



1 Start Follow a rising lane north-west out of Croesor, crossing Afon Croesor, passing the former school and a chapel and continuing uphill as the lane becomes a track. Turn R after about 500m where a sign indicates Cnicht. Follow an obvious path for about a mile along a ridge. The path is waymarked and well-trodden, so never in doubt. A short scramble gains you the summit of Cnicht. Continue north-east along the ridge, passing a secondary summit. Make for Llyn yr Adar (the little lake with an island), and approach to within 200m of it, keeping it

on your L, then proceed on to a cairn.

2 3 miles/5km Join a path R and head south-east between rocky outcrops on an undulating route to Llyn Cwm-corsio. The path is intermittent and you should take care not to be lured R to some smaller lakes, Llynau Diffwys. Pass R of Llyn Cwm-corsio then proceed to Rhosydd Quarry.

3 4 miles/6.5km Descend to Bwlch y Rhosydd to join a wide track R (a former miners' road) descending gently across the

DON'T MISS...



Croesor was an important mining village in the 19th century and the area is rich in industrial archaeology. Croesor Tramway was a narrow-gauge railway built in 1864 to transport slate in horse-drawn wagons to Porthmadog.

north-western flank of Moelwyn Mawr above Cwm Croesor. The route back to the village is unmistakable. **CW**



Cwm Croesor from the path to Cnicht.

PHOTO: JULIE ROYLE



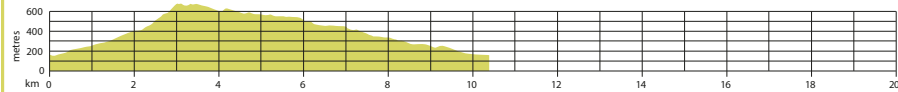
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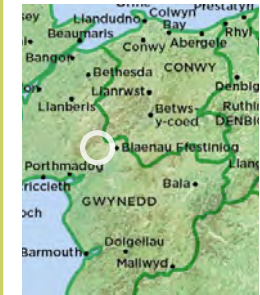
PHOTO: JULIE ROYLE

The mountain is a mixture of crag, grassland and bog.

GRADIENT PROFILE



PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Car park at Croesor, grid ref SH631446, postcode LL48 6SR

Is it for me? Well-defined paths, boggy patches, intermittent path between Llyn yr Adar and Rhosydd Quarry so do not attempt in mist; easy scrambling to reach summit of Cnicht **Stiles 8**

PLANNING

Nearest town Penrhyndeudraeth
Refreshments Caffi Croesor in the village
Public toilets At car park
Public transport Bus S97 stops at Brandonw Arms, Garreg, 2 miles from start
Map OS Explorer OL17 & OL18; Landranger 115 & 124; Harvey Snowdonia North

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

TIME TAKEN
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

YOUR RATING
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○