





27 POWYS PEN Y FAN & CORN DU




■ Distance: 4¼ miles/7.6km ■ Time: 2½ hours ■ Grade: Moderate  

SUMMIT OF THE SOUTH



CHOSEN BY...
REBECCA LEES
Pen y Fan (2907ft/
886m) is not only
the highest mountain in the
Brecon Beacons National
Park, it is also the highest
in southern Britain, and
undoubtedly among the

most spectacular; a flat-
topped, bare-sloped Old Red
Sandstone giant. On clear
days, panoramic summit
views stretch north to the
Cambrian Mountains,
southwards over the Bristol
Channel, and across the full
breadth of the national park.

The 'motorway' route to the
top from Pont ar Daf is the
busiest, but the alternative
path from Storey Arms,
taking in a section of the
Cambrian Way and the sister
peak of Corn Du (2864ft/
873m), offers breathing
space away from the crowds. 



Pen y Fan from Corn Du.





OS Explorer map OL12 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

1 Start
From N end of the car park, follow track to Storey Arms outdoor centre. Go through gate next to the iconic red phone box and follow path uphill. Path climbs the flank of Y Gyrn but bypasses summit, which is slightly further N.

2 1½ miles/2.1km
At brow, pass through the gate and descend to Blaen Taf Fawr stream. Hop across and continue uphill. Corn Du looms ahead impressively but don't forget to look back, where you'll be rewarded with views to the Carmarthen Fans on a clear day.

3 2 miles/3.4km
The path steepens considerably at Craig Cwm Llwh, overlooking the glittering Llyn Cwm Llwh to

N. Directly above it (a detour L) is an obelisk in memory of five-year-old Tommy Jones, who was tragically lost on the mountain in 1900.

4 2½ miles/3.9km
After a sharp scramble, you're atop Corn Du, usually the quieter peak. Its name translates as 'Black Stack', and it marks the site of a Bronze Age burial chamber. Walk E across the summit and follow path into the saddle, before climbing to peak of Pen y Fan.

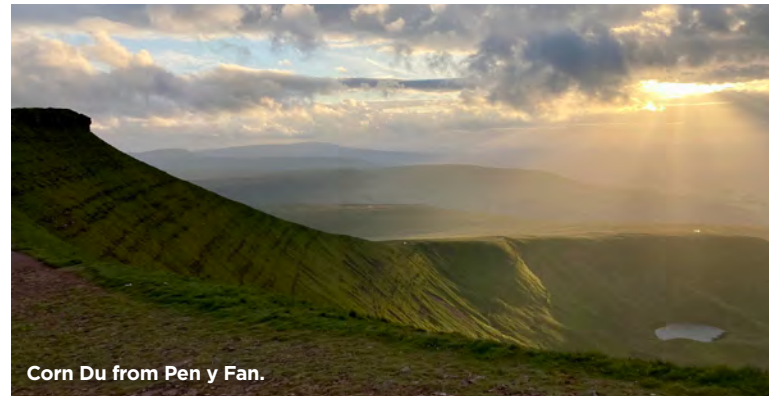
5 2¾ miles/4.5km
Prepare to queue for a summit selfie. Pen y Fan is popular – especially at sunrise and sunset – but views fanning out all around make the wait worthwhile. The striking pyramid E is Cribyn, while SE are the Neuadd

DON'T MISS...

 **Corn Du at sunrise – the best spot from which to see Pen y Fan in a glorious silhouette.**

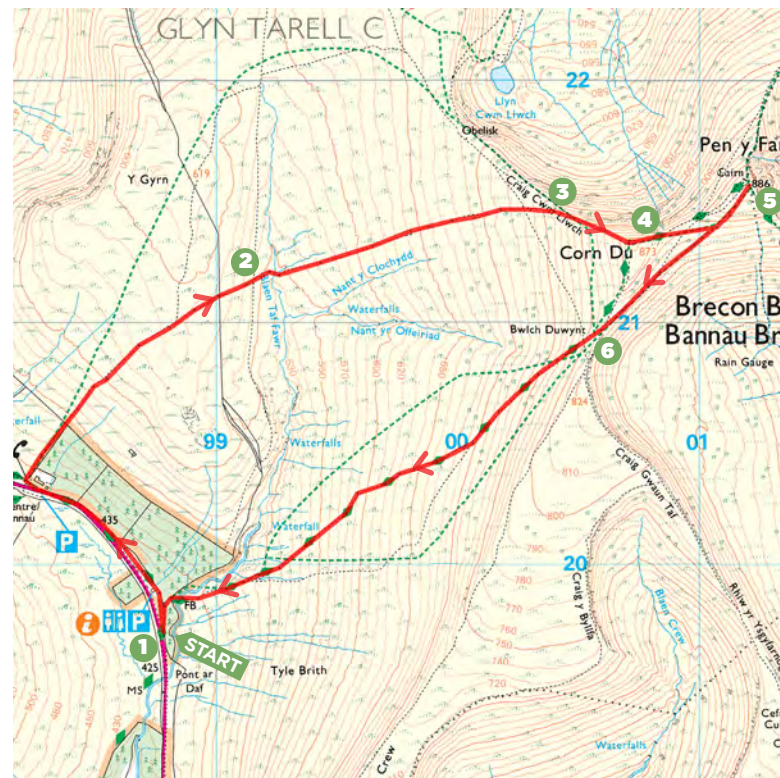
reservoirs. From summit, drop back into saddle and follow path below Corn Du's peak.

6 3 1/3 miles/5.3km
At Bwlch Duwynt (Windy Pass), take care to bear SW on the Beacons Way. A cairn used to mark the spot but has recently been removed, and in mist it's very easy to continue S and find yourself on the exposed ridge of Craig Gwaun Taf. From Bwlch Duwynt, follow path back to Pont ar Daf. It's a busy route, so be nice and say hello. [CW](#)

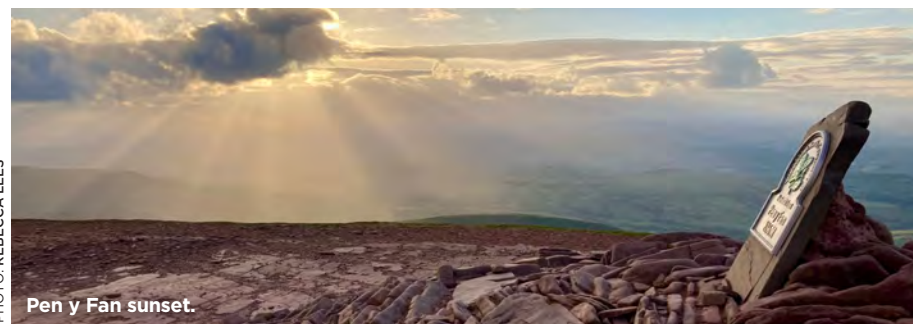


Corn Du from Pen y Fan.

PHOTO: REBECCA LEES



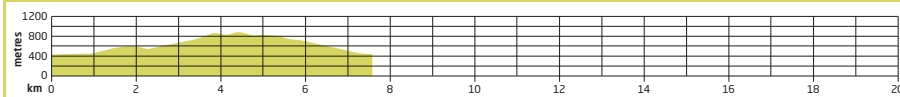
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Pen y Fan sunset.

PHOTO: REBECCA LEES

GRADIENT PROFILE



PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Pont ar Daf car park (National Trust, P&D), grid ref SN988197

Is it for me? Clear paths all the way, with some steep climbs and disorienting sections in poor visibility

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Brecon
Refreshments Hot drinks and burger van at Pont ar Daf. Bistro bar and restaurant at Nant Ddu Lodge, Cwm Taf (4 miles south), selection in Brecon
Public toilets Portable loos at Pont ar Daf
Public transport Bus T4 Cardiff-Brecon to Storey Arms (stagecoachbus.com)
Maps OS Explorer OL12, Landranger 160; Harvey Maps Brecon Beacons E

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

walk100miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

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