



## Three dramatic walks from Devil's Bridge station

Walks 1 and 2 involve entry fees, and are operated as a quite separate enterprise from the Vale of Rheidol Railway. Detailed descriptions of these two famous walks are unnecessary, because route-finding is not required; the paths to follow are very clear, and there are descriptive sign-boards along the way.

### Walk 1 The Devil's Punchbowl.

**0.4 km (¼ mile) max. About ½ hour. 10.30 am train from Aberystwyth, catch the return train at 12.30 pm from Devil's Bridge.**

Turn left on the main road out of the station area, and walk downhill past the Hafod Hotel, and across the bridge. Be very careful of traffic, especially at busy holiday times. The entrance to Walk 1 is on the right, to Walk 2 is on the left.

Walk 1 involves a short, sharp, steep path and steps with exciting gorge viewpoints. You can view the three bridges, and the water-cut gorge, followed by refreshments at the Hafod Hotel or Two Hoots café (at the station).

### Walk 2 The Mynach Falls.

**0.75 km (½ mile). About 1 hour: 10.30 am train from Aberystwyth, catch the return train at 12.30 pm from Devil's Bridge at a pinch, (or 2.15 pm yellow/green timetables only)**

This walk is quite tight for time...don't linger if you are to catch the 12.30 pm train back! You may prefer to catch a later train and do Walk 1 as well, plus lots of relaxation and refreshments in Devil's Bridge...

It will be a little challenging for many visitors because of the places where the path is very steep and slippery. See Walk 1 for directions from the station. Once through the pay-turnstile on the left of the main road, you experience a close up view of the 'three bridges' of legend, and then follow a pleasant scenic walk down to a timber 'gazebo' viewpoint. The exciting descending steps of 'Jacob's Ladder' is next, daunting for some, but you are then rewarded by close encounters with a wonderful series of powerful waterfalls where the Afon Mynach falls hundreds of feet to join the Rheidol in its upper reaches.

### Walk 3 Non-circular walk from Devil's Bridge station to Rhiwfron Halt.

**3 ½ km (2 miles). About 1 hour: 10.30 am train from Aberystwyth, catch the return train at about 12.35 pm. from Rhiwfron**

*The walk is wonderfully scenic, with lovely views down to the upper Rheidol valley, but the path is steep and slippery in places; with a steep uphill climb at the end. It is a little difficult to follow in places, but there are frequent waymarks. This is a non-circular walk, catching the returning train at Rhiwfron Halt.*

1. From the station, turn right on the main A4120 road and walk about ½ km along the road in the Aberystwyth direction. Be careful of traffic, particularly in the holiday season. As you pass the last houses of the village on your right, a footpath sign is reached on the right-hand side. This is rather indistinct, but is on a left hand rising bend.

2. Go through into the meadow on the right here, looking for a waymark post straight ahead of you. The path is not clearly defined, but follow the direction of the waymark arrows, bearing gradually round to the left. You are on a long-distance path from Borth to Devil's Bridge, and the waymarks have

a characteristic design. In the meadow, you will see traces of a footpath edged by trees on the left. Look out for the chain of further waymark posts and signs to follow; very soon the path becomes much clearer through woods, and the railway is seen below you to the right.

3. A sharp zig-zag descent in the path leads you out onto open meadowland by the railway, and now you have to look out for waymark posts to follow in order to find the way as the path is again indistinct. The arrows point you round to the left and you descend into the wooded gully of Nant Fawnog. You cross the stream on a footbridge; there is a small waterfall, but the charm of the little glade is somewhat spoiled by a few rusty industrial remains. A little further on the clear path overlooks the railway, with good views into the valley. You then descend to cross the railway, approximately 20 minutes after the start of your walk.

After crossing the railway, zig-zag down through the forest on the descending path, with the sound of the river below getting louder, the path levelling off and then even rising again, eventually reaching a stile where a fine view opens out ahead of you to the west down the valley.

4. Keep an eye on the time! Allow 20 minutes for the last section, the steep climb up to the Halt. You are close to the river here, but now turn left, cutting back on yourself a little on quite a small path climbing sharply up through the forest. A little way up the hill and after some slippery sections of narrow path, you meet a wider one ascending in roughly the same direction. There is still quite a long pull up before you arrive at the eastern end of Rhiwfron Halt.

