



CARMARTHEN FAN The Black Mountain

A walk in spectacular and remote scenery.

7.5 miles/12.1km 4hrs 30min **Ascent** 2,000ft/610m **Difficulty** 3

Paths Faint paths, trackless sections over open moorland, no stiles **Map** OS Explorer OL12 Brecon Beacons National Park Western & Central areas **Grid ref** SN 798238 **Parking** End of small unclassified road, southeast of Llanddeusant **NOTE** Best not undertaken in poor visibility

1 From car park at end of unclassified road, head back towards Llanddeusant and after about 100yds (91m) turn sharp **R**, almost doubling back on yourself, to continue on faint track that contours eastwards around hillside. Follow track as it veers northeast into small valley carved out by Sychnant brook.

2 Track becomes clear for short period, but don't be drawn uphill to north, instead remain true to course of stream, keeping **L** at confluence with another distinct valley, this one belonging to Nant Melyn.

3 Track is faint but reasonably easy going up valley, crossing small tributary and following bank above Sychnant. Numerous paths and sheep tracks cross your way, but continue unhindered upwards, aiming for shallow saddle on blunt ridge above. Stream eventually swings to **R** and peters out. At this stage, bear **R** and head along ridge.

4 You're now aiming for steep and obvious spur

of Fan Foel, which lies southeast, approximately 1.5 miles (2.4km) away. Follow whatever tracks you can find over Waun Lwyd and, as ridge starts to narrow, keep to crest where you'll meet path coming up from northeast.

5 Climb steeply up narrow path on to escarpment and keep **R** to follow escarpment along. Path becomes clearer as it drops steeply into Bwlch Blaen-Twrch. From here, climb up on to Bannau Sir Gaer and continue to summit cairn.

6 Stay with main footpath and follow edge of escarpment above precipitous cliffs into small saddle or col and up again above Llyn y Fan Fach. Continue around lake, with steep drop to **R**; good path drops down grassy spur to outflow of lake.

7 Follow this obvious footpath and then, at dam, pick up well-surfaced track that heads back downhill. This leads **R** of waterworks' filter beds and to car park.