

Barmouth to Tal y Bont

Before the 18th century Barmouth was a small, remote fishing village. By the 1750s however shipbuilding had become a thriving trade, and by 1770 the town was well established as a small port. Much of its commerce centred on the woollen industry of Meirionnydd as well as slate exports. The harbour was deepened and a new quay constructed in 1802, boosting its capacity. The arrival of the railway in 1867 paved the way for Barmouth to grow into a thriving seaside resort. [Find out more.](#)

 **Stamp Locations:** St Mary and St Bodfan's Church. Phone box, Tal y Bont.

Directions:

1. Beginning from the harbour front, walk along the promenade with the sea on your left and buildings on your right. Once past the sand dune sections you have the option to walk along the beach or the promenade (following Coast path signage until point 4).
2. Walk the full length of the promenade 2200 metres. At the end of the prom, follow the track leading to the small railway crossing. Cross on the green light and follow the road winding upwards to the main road.
3. At the main road, turn left and continue walking, passing a small church on your left. Keep walking for 650 metres until you reach the lych gate entrance to the large graveyard and St Mary & St Bodfan's church, Llanaber.

 The site was established for Christian worship in the 6th century by St. Bodfan. The present church dates back to the 13th century although has had many enlargements since then. Two 5th/6th century stones (known as the 'Calixtus Stones'), inscribed in Latin, are located in the north aisle. [Find out more.](#)



4. Return to the main road (through the lych gate) and turn left passing the church with the sea on your left. Cross the road and follow the footpath sign up the small road. Follow the road to reach a gate at its end, go through this gate and immediately up to the right following the footpath sign.
5. The byway runs between two walls here. Go through the gate and continue on the byway up the hill. Follow the byway through the gates/stiles and two open fields before once more returning into a walled byway. At the end of the byway (where you

meet a mound of stones, with walled sections at the top), turn left and keep the wall on your left to reach a small gate.

6. Go through the small gate and walk straight to the large round post about 8m ahead of you, from here you can pick out an obvious grassy path that meanders uphill. Take this path until it brings you alongside a wall and stile (left).

7. Once over the stile follow a small grassy path towards the middle of the field and uphill to spot the walled remains of a settlement to the left. A bit of a track continues straight into a boggy area, at the far slight left edge of which you'll find a good grassy path leading leftwards uphill to reach another stile (to avoid the bog you can head to the rubble remains to the left and keep to the high ground, skirting the edge of the bog).

8. Cross the stile in the wall and pick out a narrow path through the gorse bushes, again leading uphill to reach a stile in a wall that runs parallel to the sea. Continue again on the grassy path to reach bumpy mounds (mining area) and a second stile parallel to the sea.

These are disused Manganese Ore mines. This area was mostly mined from about 1835 to the end of the 19th century when better quality ore became available from Europe.

9. Turn left once over the stile and keep the wall on your left down to the base of the valley (240 metres). Cross a stile, small bridge and stream and head through the ruined buildings and continue on the path keeping the v groove and the sea to your left.

10. Go over this stile and keep the wall on your left for 675 metres, through two more stiles until you reach a corner that takes the wall away. Leave the wall and walk to the right of the mound in front of you and to the right of the fenced mine area and between a large wall gap. From here walk diagonally up hill to reach a post marker.

11. From the post marker you should be able to spot a gap in the wall, with a good stone wall going down to the left and a broken wall running to the right. Go through this and walk keeping a stone wall on your left until you can cross into the adjacent left field. Walk diagonally down to the bottom left corner to find a metal gate.

12. With sheep pens to your right, keep the wall on your left over a good but rocky path/track for 1250 metres. Keep going as the wall changes to a fence then wall again

and then meets a gate and stile. Go over the stile and leave the walls, heading straight/slightly left in the field on the faint track, keeping the sea to your left. The track then meets another farm gate and stile. Cross here and spot a huge collection of large stones to the left, keep to the main track going downhill to meet a wall with a walking signpost, keep going downhill, with the wall on your left. At the next track divide keep left between the walls to meet a farm gate and tarmac track.

13. Go through the gate and keep right to cross the bridge, the gate on the bridge is marked Pontfadog. To visit the Neolithic Burial Chamber follow the below directions, otherwise skip to 14.

When you reach the houses, continue following the road for about 400 metres to reach the Neolithic Burial Chamber to the left of the road (If you reach the stream you have gone too far). When you are ready, walk back to the houses you last past, directly opposite these is a footpath (signposted) leading you into the woods beside the river.



This Neolithic Burial Chamber dates to about 4,000BC. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance the knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices.

14. Keep left to stay on the large main path along the riverside for just under 2km. Go through a wooden foot gate. Keep left at the bench going downhill to bring you back to the river's edge (but do not cross the river, always keep the river to your left). Go over two small streams, past a wooden hut and through a large gate. Follow the river until it leads you to the main road in Tal-y-Bont.

 Stamp located at the phone box beside the public toilets (main road).