

# The Skirrid Inn Pub Walk

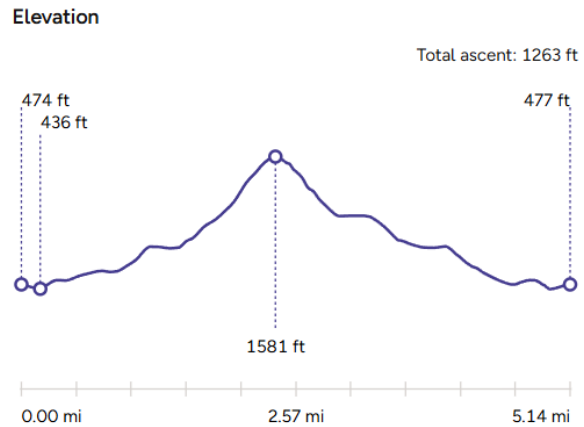
## Skirrid Fawr/Ysgyryd Fawr/Holy Mountain Circular Walk

### OVERVIEW

The walk from the Skirrid Mountain Inn to Skirrid Fawr begins with the mountain already in full view, rising above the fields.

The path draws you steadily towards that great green scar, the fields falling away behind you as the ridge begins to dominate the sky.

It's one of those rare walks where the destination is visible almost from the first step, yet the mountain keeps changing character as you approach.

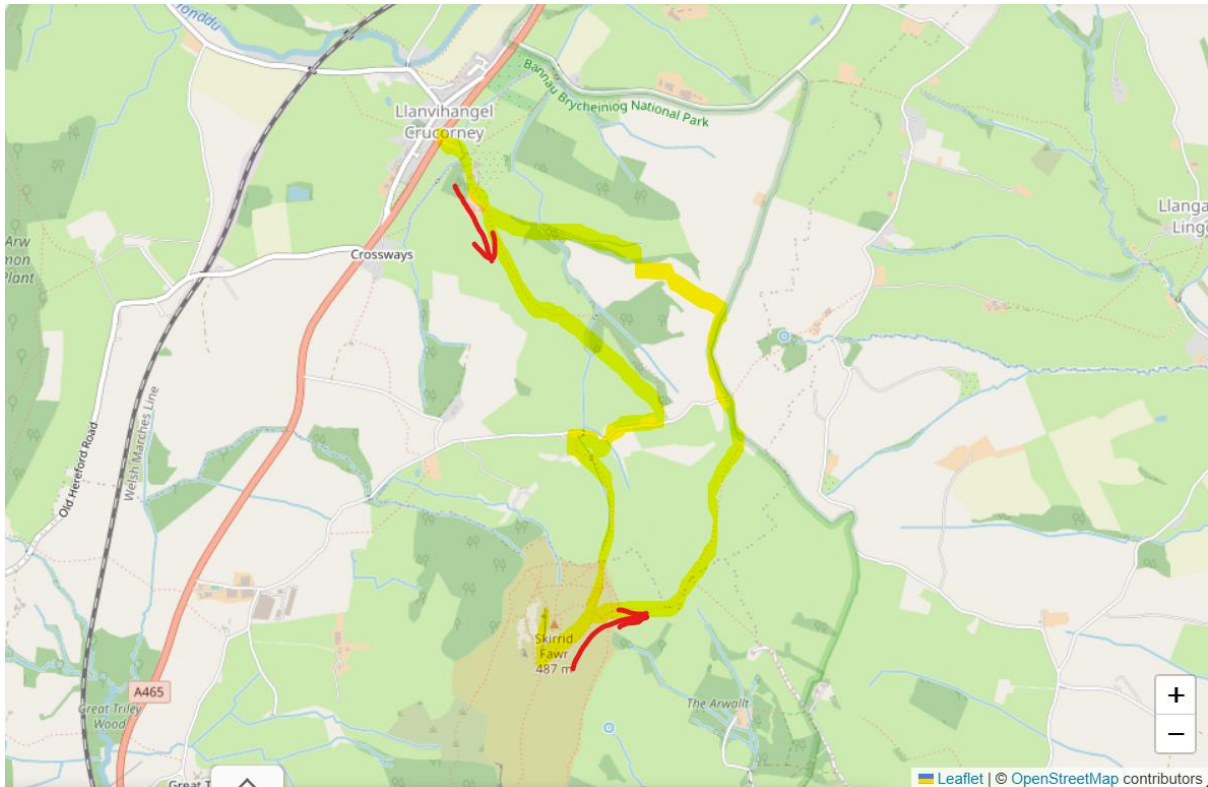


And the story to tell? Locally known as Holy Mountain a popular legend tells how the dramatic landslide on the north of the mountain (the scar to the right) was caused by an earthquake or lightning strike at the moment of the crucifixion of Jesus!

<b>Start/Finish</b>	In the village of Llanvihangel Crucorney. You'll see the church along the only street. The walk starts by following a path downhill opposite it.			
<b>Parking</b>	Park at the pub, but there is street parking through the village if its busy. I was able to park on the roadside in front of the church.			
<b>Grid Reference</b>	SO 326 206			
<b>What3Words</b>	///opera.mixes.digit			
<b>Distance</b>	5 miles / 8 km	<b>Time</b>	2.5 hours	<b>Ascent</b> 1263 ft / 390 m
<b>Paths/Terrain</b>	Quiet lanes, fields, and well-defined footpaths. Gates and stiles. I found some stiles to be unstable, in need of attention, so take care. Lots of sheep!			
<b>Difficulty</b>	It's an uphill out and a downhill back. If you tackle the hill head on it can be properly challenging & you might face an involuntary scramble to the right-hand side as you approach. But there are options to suit all tastes, and I've suggested a pragmatic approach here.			
<b>Public Transport</b>	Served by bus #23 that runs on the Abergavenny-Hereford route.			

<b>Toilets</b>	At the pub
<b>Other Pubs Nearby</b>	Check opening times: The Llantony Priory, Llantony; The Hunters Moon Inn, Llangattock Lingoed. Both are excellent and worth visiting. The Crown Inn at Pantygelli also very good.

## DIRECTIONS



1. Across the road from St Michael's Church in the village of Llanvihangel Crucorney a lane leads down to the main A465 road, which you need to cross.
2. Join another lane straight ahead that leads towards Llanvihangel Court. It's open for tours on selected days: [Guided tours in Summer and Christmas Fair - Llanvihangel Court](#). Follow the lane around the walls of the Court, rising uphill to pass a superb medieval barn. Watch out for peacocks in the grounds.
3. Continue on this lane until you see footpath signs to the right leading into fields, and wonderful views of Skirrid Fawr.
4. Signs guide your way upward through fields (of sheep) along fence boundaries, eventually crossing a field to a woodland, with a gate leading you into the woods. It's a short traverse before you emerge through another gate into the next field.
5. From here, you bear right to continue to rise uphill through the next few fields. There were shetland ponies minding their own business here. Just stick with the direction of the footpath markers, but the goal is a gate into the next field and then top left of that field to the side of a house where a gate takes you through a hedge onto a lane.

6. Turn right and continue until you pass a house called The Steppes. Its garden and parking for The Steppes is to the right of the house further up the lane, and the footpath leads up off the lane in front of its gate. There are some helpful signs to guide you.
7. More fields to traverse from here as the steady uphill continues, all guided by footpath markers on the various gates and stiles.
8. You're generally heading for the base to the left-hand side of the Skirrid, and a gate out of the last field should deliver you there.
9. There are options now. My recommendation is to continue along the path that continue straight ahead to the left-hand side of the mountain. You'll soon see a route that cuts across the slope uphill, very well marked and manageable. Ignore others that appear to take a more direct route to the summit, unless you're the scrambling type.
10. This path will deliver you to the ridge approx. 100 metres below the summit. You'll immediately see that you need to turn right for the final approach to the trig point to celebrate your arrival at the top.
11. The ridge is the main path up for those approaching from the Abergavenny direction. For the return, go back to where you joined it on the way up, a hundred metres or so back down the ridge.
12. Retrace your steps down this path on the side of the Skirrid. Towards the bottom, instead of heading left, the direction you came from, continue straight ahead to cross into the field in front of you.
13. The route guides you down the field to the fence/gate on the other side. To your left, take the stile into the field, now heading in the direction of the village. I found some of the stiles from here onwards quite fragile, so take care!
14. You can follow the fence line up and over the brow, then head to the left to follow the fence line in front of you until you meet a gate. There's been a slight re-route of the marked path, but the gate into the next field is the logical exit from the field you're in.
15. Follow the waymarked path downhill from here towards farm buildings. Pass through a series of gates to the left at the bottom, heading through the yard to join a lane.
16. Turn left along the lane and continue straight ahead, ignoring the junction left at the hamlet of Pen-y-Parc. The next turn is a footpath to the left beyond the next house, opposite a pond.
17. You're on the final run back towards Llanvihangel Court now. The path is marked but I got the sense that this area isn't walked as much as the outward route. Pass by a ruined house to cross into a field.
18. Continue down the field and into the next one. Keep your eyes peeled for the footpath sign to the right. It takes you eventually onto a lane, and another gate gets you into the field on the other side of the lane.
19. You follow the path downhill in the next field until a gate on your left in woodland, beyond a stream, leaves the fields to join an access lane where a giant oak has fallen some time ago.
20. This is the lane that leads back past Llanvihangel Court, so continue to familiar ground for the return to the village.