

### Key Information

Llyn Tegid is the largest natural lake in Wales, set in the stunning mountain scenery of southern Snowdonia. It is an important conservation area and is home to a wealth of wildlife and plants. The lake is free from large boats and has a number of access points and trip options.

#### Start and finish:

Llyn Tegid foreshore  
car park, Bala  
LL23 7SR

#### Portages: 0

**Time:** 2–4 hours

**Distance:** 8 miles (circular)

**OS Map:** Explorer OL23

Cadair Idris & Llyn Tegid



#### For more

information  
scan the QR code  
or visit:

[bit.ly/3rEZYtn](https://bit.ly/3rEZYtn)



The route can be paddled in either direction, from 3 main public access points. The anti-clockwise option is described here, starting and finishing at Llyn Tegid car park. Llyn Tegid is an open stretch of water and the wind can have a real bearing on time and ability to paddle. The route can be adapted or shortened.

Llyn Tegid is managed by Snowdonia National Park Authority and a permit must be obtained before launching. These can be purchased from the Warden's Office (Llyn Tegid foreshore) or the pay and display machines at the foreshore, Llangower and Glanllyn car parks.

Park at the foreshore car park (pay and display). The Warden's Office is located here, along with a café, watersports centre, toilets (accessible) and showers. Access is via either the grass/paved foreshore (10m from the car park) or a concrete jetty with adjacent parking.

1. Launch from the foreshore and paddle along the northwest side of the lake, keeping the wooded shore on your right.
2. Continue past Llanycil and Mary Jones World. There is also an alternative access point here: From Feuno car park (pay and display) reached by a set of 23 steps. Enjoy the spectacular views of Aran Benllyn – the 885m peak at the end of the lake.

3. As you near the end of the lake you'll see Glanllyn Caravan and Camping Park at the edge of a sheltered bay. The campsite offers access to the lake for its guests (a permit is still required and can be purchased through the pay and display machine that's situated on the foreshore in Glanllyn campsite).



4. Head around the small bay and across the mouth of the River Dee (Afon Dyfrdwy) which starts its journey some 5 miles upstream, above the village of Llanuwchllyn. This part of the lake is usually busy with birds. Otters have been seen here, so watch out for the wildlife!
5. Turn to follow Rheilffordd Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake Railway) along the southeast shore, enjoying the spectacular views of Arenig Fawr (854m) to the north. If you're lucky you might see Alice, one of the steam locomotives that runs between Llanuwchllyn and Bala.
6. Llangower is a great spot for a picnic, with stunning views of the Arenig Mountains. It has a large gravel beach, grass areas, a concrete jetty and toilets (accessible). It is also an alternative public access point with a car park (pay and display). Access to the car park and toilets is via a level hard-surfaced path (50m) which crosses the steam railway track (gated). Permits can be purchased through the pay and display machine.
7. Paddle around Llangower Point and past Pant yr Onnen campsite. The campsite offers access to the lake for its guests (a permit is still required).
8. Continue your scenic paddle until you reach Bala Sailing Club, which offers access to the lake for its members (day/temporary membership is available). Take care to avoid any sailing boats in the area.
9. The exit of the River Dee (Afon Dyfrdwy) signals the last stretch of the journey. The level of the lake is controlled by large sluice gates further downstream. Paddle along the foreshore back to your launch point.



Looking towards Aran Benllyn

Photo: Clare Rutter



Llyn Tegid foreshore

Photo: Clare Rutter

There are 3 main public access points (described on the previous pages), and the trail can be started from any of these (permit required). Much of the shoreline is an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest): please only use designated access points for launching and landing.

The lake is around 3½ miles long, ¾ mile wide and over 40m deep in places. This means the water can be cold, even in the summer!

Over the years 129 species of birds have been seen around the lake and its waters are home to 14 species of fish, including the Gwyniad, which is unique to Llyn Tegid. Legend has it that it's also home to Tegi, a monster that lurks in the darkest depths of the lake.

The water levels are artificially controlled to meet the water demand of some areas of northwest England. Downstream from where the River Dee leaves the lake are sluice gates that control the levels. Surplus water is held back in the winter and is then released during the summer, to ensure there is enough water to meet the demand during the drier months.

Boat and equipment hire is available at Bala Watersports, located on the lake foreshore.

As the water levels are controlled they can vary across the year. A webcam in the Warden's Office shows the levels and conditions on the lake: [bit.ly/3zPCQBT](http://bit.ly/3zPCQBT)

Further information can be found at the following websites:

[www.canoewales.com](http://www.canoewales.com)

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk)

[www.gopaddling.info](http://www.gopaddling.info)

[www.snowdonia.gov.wales/home](http://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/home)

[www.visitbala.org.uk](http://www.visitbala.org.uk)

[www.balawatersports.com](http://www.balawatersports.com)



## Safety and Licences

We want you to enjoy a safe trip, so here are a few tips for staying safe and paddling responsibly.

**Paddle Safe. Be prepared and take the right kit:**

- Wear a correctly sized buoyancy aid
- Mobile phone – in a waterproof case
- Whistle – to attract attention in case of emergency
- Map and/or route description
- Appropriate clothing for the weather conditions + spares in a dry bag
- Food, drink & suncream!

**Paddle Responsibly. Respect the natural environment and other users:**

- Respect other waterway users #sharethespace
- Be environmentally aware, minimise your impact
- Ensure you have the correct licence if required
- Observe navigational rules – keep right and give other users space
- Check, Clean, Dry after every trip!

**Licences:** A permit is required to paddle on the lake. This is not included with a Canoe Wales Licence. If you paddle regularly you should consider becoming a member of Canoe Wales (or British Canoeing if you live in England). Membership gives you a whole range of benefits including a licence to paddle on 4500km of Britain's waterways and Civil Liability Insurance, worth up to £10 million. Not only will membership help save you money, it will give you peace of mind when out on the waterways. For more information on Canoe Wales membership please click [here](#).