

Vivian Trail



Essential information

We want you to enjoy your visit to Padarn Country Park but please be aware that some areas of the Park can be dangerous and children should be supervised at all times.

- Only follow way-marked trails
- Do not enter building ruins
- Keep away from old quarry structures
- Some paths have uneven surfaces and steep drops
- Some of the features of the Park include old quarry workings, steep woodland paths and deep waters

1 From the Padarn Country Park Information Kiosk at *Gilfach Ddu*, walk towards the Llanberis Lake Railway station building. Follow the dark blue waymarks to the Vivian Quarry pool area. The quarry pit is known as a 'sinc'. When the pumps were switched off the sinc filled with water and formed a pool. The pool is 20 metres / 60 feet deep. Slate was lifted out of the sinc by the blondin winch above.

2 The quarry galleries above look like steps cut into the mountainside. Note the different colours of slate. Nature is slowly reclaiming the quarry area.

This building once housed the Fire Queen locomotive. It moved slate products between Dinorwig and *Y Felinheli*. The Fire Queen is now on display at Penrhyn Castle. Removing slate from the rockface was known as 'winning' the slate. To reach the slate, quarrymen tied a thick rope around their waist and leg and dangled themselves from the rockface. They loosened the slate with crow bars and gunpowder and it fell to their workmates on the gallery below. This was dangerous work.

3 The row of buildings on the left was known as *Gwalia*. Huge blocks of slate were hauled from the gallery and skillfully split and dressed here. Finished slates reached the *Gilfach Ddu* yard via the Winding House and incline. The weight of the trucks loaded with slate raised the empty trucks on the other side. The railway took the slates to the port at *Y Felinheli* on the Menai Strait. From there they travelled to Liverpool for export around the world.

Two trails can be followed from here. See point 8 for **The Vivian Top Trail**. **The Vivian Lower Trail** continues on to the Vivian Incline ahead and the Quarry Hospital Museum.

4 This building was called *Y Caban*. The quarrymen had their meal breaks here. It was also a place for the workers to talk and celebrate Welsh culture. The quarry's Ambulance Shed can be seen below.

5 The Dinorwig Quarry Hospital was built in 1860 to care for quarry workers. It is now a museum.

6 Walk down the wooden steps and cross the bridge over the Llanberis Lake Railway. The bridge was once the same height as the steps. Tram lines carried slate waste across the bridge from point 3 where it was then tipped into the lake.

7 This area was part of a tall slate waste tip. The base of the waste tip is 30 metres / 100 feet below the surface of the lake.

8 **The Vivian Top Trail.** Turn right through the gap in the wall. This will lead to the 4th level of the quarry, then through the *Coed Dinorwig* woodland and around to the top of the Vivian Quarry.

9 This is the *Barics Dre Newydd / Anglesey Barracks*. Quarry workers from outside of the local area lived in these barracks during the week. Many were from Anglesey. Each house had two small rooms and was shared by four men. There were few windows at the back of the houses. Shelter from the elements was more important than the view.

10 Walk between the rows of houses to the quarry incline. Turn left to reach the Dinorwig View Point.

11 Alternatively, follow the footpath from the Barracks to join *Y Llwybr Main / Zig Zag* path. This path was made by quarry workers. It was built within the spoil heap for protection from the weather. Their skill can be seen in how well the slate blocks fit together. The seats built into the wall were resting areas for quarrymen who walked long distances to work. Turn right at the road. Follow the sign to Padarn Country Park and the *Gilfach Ddu* car park.



Vivian Walk	
Lower trail: Approx. 1.5Km Allow 1 hour	Top trail: Approx. 5Km Allow 2.5 hours
Llwybr Vivian Vivian Trail	
Llwybrau Eraill Other Footpaths	
Ffin y Parc Park Boundary	