

DROSI BIKES

Cycle the Llangollen Canal to Telford's aqueduct

An easy, out-and-back ride to the spectacular World Heritage Site at Froncysyllte, a few miles east along the valley of the River Dee. Here you can walk across the very impressive aqueduct designed and built by Thomas Telford, completed in 1808.

Navigation is easy once you have found your way to the canal, just 300m from Drosi Bikes. Thereafter the route is virtually all traffic-free. Cycling along the tow path is allowed, but please respect other users.

Grade: easy

Distance (miles/km): 9.6miles / 15.4km round trip

Ascent (feet/metres): short, steep climb to canal, thereafter level.

Typical cycling time (without stops): approx. 1½hrs round trip

Highlights: mostly traffic free, no hills, World Heritage Site, Llangollen canal and River Dee.

Facilities en-route: Sun Inn at Trevor (passed in both directions); tea rooms, toilets, visitor centre/café and Telford Inn all close to the north end of aqueduct.

Route description:

From Drosi Bikes, turn left along Parade Street then left again, on Castle Street, to cross the river bridge. Go right on the main road and turn almost immediately left and steeply up to the canal. Just before the right bend, where the road crosses over the canal, turn left through the café seating area and double back right, under the bridge.

Follow the tow path for 4 miles, almost all the way to Trevor Basin at Froncysyllte. At bridge 32W, which marks the end of the towpath on this side, go up the ramp, over the footbridge and continue along the other side to a suburban road. Right would take you down to the river bridge, where you can view the aqueduct from below, but to visit the aqueduct go left for 150m then turn right as the road bends left, over a canal bridge and then right again, into the carpark for the aqueduct.

You can walk your bike across the aqueduct (not recommended if you suffer from vertigo!). Return the same way... OR...

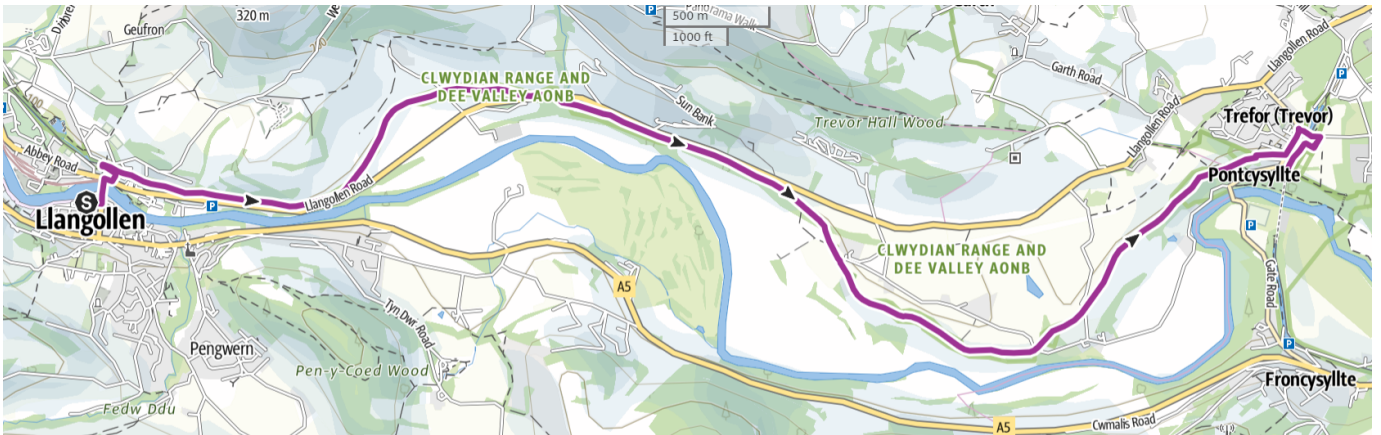
Continue along the tow path beyond the aqueduct for 600 yards to a lifting bridge, cross the canal, go up into the village of Froncysyllte and just as you are about to join the main A5 road, turn right and descend to the Dee River bridge for a view of the aqueduct, then back up the other side of the valley to re-join your outward route. This loop adds 1.3miles and involves a 50-metre descent and back up quite steeply.

Return to Llangollen the way you came.

Option to extend to Chirk:

After crossing the aqueduct you could continue for 6km along the tow path, to reach a tunnel (best to walk through this - or you can go up the ramp and over the top) and shortly after that another aqueduct, next to a railway viaduct - very dramatic! Return the way you came.

Route map (available as GPX and KML file on our website):



Optional extension to Chirk:

