

THE ANGEL HOTEL

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The Blorenge

a walk on top of the Blorenge with wonderful views of Abergavenny and the Usk valley



The Blorenge from the river Usk

Length and duration: approx. 1½ miles (2.5km), 50 metres of ascent, 1 hour

General Information: An easy walk, sometimes rough underfoot and can be boggy in parts. Sensible footwear and wet weather clothing recommended as the weather on top of the Blorenge can change very quickly and is often completely different from the weather in Abergavenny.

Map: Walks are naturally taken at your own risk and you may wish to use an Ordnance Survey Explorer map (OL13 - Brecon Beacons National Park East). This may be purchased from Abergavenny Bookshop, higher up Cross Street, on the corner by the Market Hall. Starting point OS Grid Reference Explorer Map OL13 SO 263108.

Please follow the Countryside Code

- Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people

Getting there by car

From the hotel car park turn right, then left at the crossroads onto Merthyr Road. At the roundabout take the first exit over the River Usk bridge. At the next roundabout, take the first exit to Llanfoist, passing under the Head so the Valleys dual carriageway (A465). At the next roundabout go straight over into the village of Llanfoist along the B4246. Go through the village and on towards Govilon then take the next left, signposted Blaenavon. This takes you over the **Monmouthshire and Brecon canal**, around a couple of tight hair pin bends, and then a steep climb brings you up the side of the Blorenge mountain. There are some good views looking back across the Usk valley but be aware that sheep often wander across the road. Keep going up, past the Cordell Country Inn (named after the local author, Alexander Cordell, whose novels include 'Rape of the Fair Country') until the road begins to level out. On the left you will see Keeper's Pond (named after the gamekeeper's cottage that once stood nearby). The first turning on the left takes you to the pond. Take the second turning on the left, and, after about

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one mile, you will come to **Foxhunter** car park on the left, near some large radio masts. Park here.

Directions

There is a well-worn track from the **Foxhunter** car park, over moorland to the summit of the Bloreng (which, incidentally, rhymes with 'orange'). Simply follow the track, heading away from the radio masts. Look out for the **Foxhunter** memorial as you leave the car park. The Foxhunter car park is named after the horse Foxhunter, which was ridden by Sir Harry Llewellyn when he won gold in the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki. The remains of the horse are buried near the car park, with a small memorial dedicated to him. Sir Harry Llewellyn died at the age of 88 in November 1999, at his home in Abergavenny. His ashes were scattered over the Bloreng mountain.

The ground can be rough, boggy and slippery so be careful. At the summit there is a trig point and a large cairn of stones. Continue along the path that leads past the cairn to the north-east, until you reach the front of the mountain. Here you are rewarded with one of the best views in the area – a bird's eye view of Abergavenny nestling in the beautiful Usk valley. Look for:

- the **River Usk** - you should be able to trace the path of the river as it meanders through the valley
- the **Town Hall** with its distinctive weathered copper roof
- the **Castle** ruins a short distance from the town hall
- the **Sugar Loaf** mountain, north of the Bloreng, the highest mountain around Abergavenny. It has three spurs running off it, Llanwenarth Breast, the Rholben and the Deri (from left to right).
- The **Skirrid Fawr** mountain, to the right of the Sugar Loaf. Historically considered a holy mountain, there is a rich mythology attached to this mountain. Its distinctive shape comprises a long with a jagged western side resulting from ice age landslips.
- On a fine day, you'll see the central **Brecon Beacons** to the north-west, and the **Malvern hills** to the north-east.

After enjoying the view, retrace your steps back to the car park.
