Note: This map is intended as a rough guide only. You should use the most recent version of the relevant Ordnance Survey map (see below) when walking the route.

Distance: 7.5 miles (12km) (there and back)
Ascent: 2936 feet (895 metres)
Time: About 6 hours (there and back)
Grade: Mountain Walk
Start / Finish: Rhyd Ddu Car Park, off the A4085 (SH 571 526)
Relevant Map: Ordnance Survey Explorer OL 17 (Snowdon & Conwy Valley)
Rhyd Ddu Path, Snowdon

This path up Snowdon is the quietest of the six main routes to the summit, and the one that offers the most striking mountain scenery, especially towards Moel Hebog and the hills of Nantlle.

The first mile climbs gradually along the old track that served the Bwlch Cwm Llan slate quarry, but it then leaves the track and climbs quite steeply over rocky terrain to Llechog ridge. The path follows the ridge over bare and exposed ground and then along Bwlch Main before the final climb to the summit.

Some parts of the final section leads along a narrow and rocky path with steep slopes below, so extreme care must be taken on these parts. When there is snow and ice on the ground this part should be left to experienced walkers with the appropriate equipment.

Parking
Pay and display car park – make sure that you have enough loose change. In the high season you may descend by another of the Snowdon paths and catch the Sherpa bus back to your vehicle.

Facilities
Public conveniences open during the day.

The Route
1. With your back to the main road, go to the left passed the public toilets and continue to the far end of the car park. Go through the gate on the right and cross over the railway – remember to shut the gates. Follow the track ahead.
2. Go to the right when the track forks, and around the vehicle barrier. The private track to the left goes to Ffridd Isaf farm.
3. After going through the gate near a shed you will reach another gate. From here the path veers to the left and climbs gradually towards Pen ar Lôn. In a while, you will reach two adjacent gates.
4. After the two adjacent gates, keep an eye out for a gate on your left hand side. Go through the gate and follow the path that leads over rushy and marshy terrain. You will shortly reach another gate with sheep pens on the left on the other side.
5. The path will shortly begin to climb steeper and rougher underfoot and eventually you will arrive at the ruins of an old stone hut where refreshments were sold to thirsty walkers.
6. From the ruins of the old refreshments hut the path climbs steeply over rocky terrain. After the next gate you will come out on the shoulder of Llechog ridge. Follow the path that leads up to the right towards the ridge.
7. Follow the path that leads over open and rocky ground.
8. The visitor centre and summit cairn will soon come into sight in the distance.
9. Go through a gate in a stone wall.
10. From the gate the path continues to follow the Llechog ridge around Cwm Clogwyn, before zigzagging up towards Bwlch Main. At the top of the zigzag section the path becomes very narrow with a steep slope below. Take care on this section, especially in bad weather, and keep to the path. When there is snow and ice on the ground this final section becomes a serious undertaking and should only be attempted by experienced walkers carrying the appropriate equipment.
11. After traversing the slope you will see the South Ridge path join in from the right. The spot where the two paths meet marks the start of Bwlch Main, also known as the "Saddle" (on your way back down to Rhyd Ddu, remember to bear right here).
12. Shortly, the Watkin Path will join the Rhyd Ddu Path from the right – at a spot marked with a standing stone. From here the path climbs steeply and rocky all the way to the summit.

Remember!
Though you are in the Snowdonia National Park, please remember that the path crosses the privately owned farm and grazing lands of Gwastadannas, where dogs are not welcomed unless under close control or on a lead.

On your way to the summit you will see evidence of essential footpath restoration work carried out by the National Park Authority. Please keep to the footpath to prevent further erosion.