The Pony Path from Tŷ Nant is the main footpath up Cader Idris from the Dolgellau side of the mountain. It is a reasonably safe route, which also offers the most rewarding views.

The Fox’s Path rises from the Gwernan hotel. This path requires walkers to walk along a very steep and loose scree slope above Llyn y Gader in order to reach the summit. Extreme care is needed when undertaking this path, especially when it's windy, wet or when the stones are covered with ice and snow. Descending this path requires very good physical fitness and we do not recommend anyone who are not experienced on these kinds of terrain to choose this path.
The path starts at the entrance to Ty Nant farm. As you walk from the car park, you will see Ty Nant farmhouse on your left, and beyond it the Cader Idris Ridge with, from left to right, Mynydd Moel, Pen y Gader - the summit (2,927ft, 893m) and Cyfrwy (The Saddle), with the conspicuous notch which is Idris’ Table.

Follow the track up to Ty Nant, and pass through a kissing gate beside the farmhouse. Soon you cross a concrete bridge over a stream and pass through a mixed woodland of birch, hazel, sycamore, ash and hawthorn.

The path is rocky and climbs very gently. This section, as most of the path up Cader Idris, has suffered badly from erosion in the past. Slates have been sunk across the path to prevent hill-slip and to drain off surface water.

Please Remember
The path passes through privately owned farm land. Dogs must be kept under close control, preferably on a lead when in the vicinity of livestock, and kept on a short lead at all times between 1st March and 31st July to protect ground nesting birds.

Note: This map is intended as a rough guide only. You should use the most recent version of the relevant Ordnance Survey map (OL 23) when walking this route.
Shortly you will come to three large sweet chestnut trees where you must turn right (marker post). Pass through a kissing gate and cross the stream by the stone bridge.

Passing through a gap in a dry-stone wall by a stream, you will notice that the terrain has become more open. The only trees around are dwarfed and twisted hawthorns.

Keeping to the steps built into the slope ahead, you will eventually pass through a gate (please close) and over a small bridge. To your left are the impressive cliffs of Cyfrwy.

Soon you will come to another gate in the wall. As you pass through the gate (please close) you will notice a large area of very green grass to your left beside the banks of a stream.

The path starts to climb very steeply by some stone sheep pens on your right. At the top of the stone steps a barrier fence stops you going straight ahead. Please turn left here (waymarker) and zigzag up the steep slope known as Rhiw Gwredydd.

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After a steep climb the path levels out until it reaches an intersection of fences with a gate and stile. This point is known as 1842ft. (560m.) - the spot height.

Passing through the bleak terrain of frost-shattered rock, you are on top of the cliffs overlooking Llyn y Gader. Follow the path to the right.

Close to the summit cairn is a shelter which is maintained by the Snowdonia National Park Warden Service.

On your return, make sure at the beginning that you aim towards the right direction, especially when it's foggy. Keep to the right when descending. In about 25m you will pass an old fire place which was part of the original cafe, and after about 25m further the path forks. Keep to the right here. The left hand path will take you down towards Bwlch Cau and the south side of the mountain. When descending, the pillow lavas should soon be on your left hand side.