

Sixty four LLANDUDNO JUNCTION – CONWY (bridges, castle and quay).

See the impressive achievements of the civil engineers in creating these grand approaches to the lovely little fortified town of Conwy.

Catch the Liverpool stopping train to Newton-Le-Willows and change there to catch the Llandudno/North Wales train soon after on the same platform. Alight at Llandudno Junction Station.

At the station exit, cross the car park and turn left along the road. At the mini roundabout fork left. Walk ahead crossing the side road that goes into the supermarket. *Above the road bridge ahead you can just see the Sychnant Mountain.*

Carry on under the road bridge and then under another one. Ascend the steps on the left immediately after the second road bridge in order to cross the railway. *There used to be a lovely old level crossing here with a great view across to Conway but the area is now a mess as a result of the 1958 road scheme.*

Walk along the right side of the road. *You cross the horribly noisy 1980s A55 that tunnels under the estuary.*

Drop down to the promenade created as part of the 1958 bridge scheme. *There is a good view towards the sea (Conwy left and Deganwy right). The bridge curves to the right of the castle. On one of the mock tower bases is a plaque commemorating the opening in 1958.*

Just before the end of the promenade go up to your left and back slightly to cross the A55 (busy) towards a set of iron gates. Turn right through the gates and walk down towards Telford's suspension bridge. *(admission charge £1) open daily 11.00-17.00 from 13th March to 31st October. [Tel:01492 573282](tel:01492573282). Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk*

Constructed directly towards the castle (as if a drawbridge) it has turreted towers. The suspension chains are like large bicycle chains anchored in the approach embankment and at the other end into the castle rock itself.

Before crossing the bridge go to the right and down some steps to get a view under these bridges and to see the turbulent waters of the river. *The bridge was opened on 1826 as part of the London to Holyhead road to speed Dublin to London travel following the Act of Union of 1800. It was seen by Telford as an opportunity to practice before building the large suspension bridge over the Menai Straits to Anglesey.*

As you cross the bridge the railway bridge is to your left. *Part of the Chester and Holyhead railway of 1848 to speed travel to Ireland. Designed by Robert Stephenson it is also a revolutionary structure built to try out the techniques for the Menai Straits crossing. It consists of tubular box girders between two large fortified gatehouses and takes the railway to the left of the castle. The tubes were floated from the river bank steered by capstans and cables. They were then gradually jacked up with the masonry added beneath them.*

Leave the suspension bridge and walk ahead with the castle on your left and towards the Guildhall.

To visit the castle:

Cross the side road that goes left and go up the steps left and take the path round behind this building. You come to the castle entrance. *Edward I had the castle built in the 13th Century to bring the area under control. It is well preserved providing terrific views of the area from its turrets.*

Admission is currently (2010) £4.70 (concessions) and it is open 09.00-17.00 daily except Christmas and New Year

To visit the Quayside:

Cross over the main road towards the town wall and small garden. Turn right through the walls and left down to the Quay. It's a relaxing place to sit and take in the view. There is often a sailing ship berthed here. Before the railway ships use to sail to and from Liverpool form this quay. On the left near the town gate is The Liverpool Arms. It's a lovely old pub serving food and real ales. Further on is the smallest house in Wales! It is open 11.00-16.00 daily from 25th March to 1st November.

To return to the junction:

You can catch a bus back to the Junction on Castle Street or walk back to the bridge over the estuary and along the 1958 promenade. Cross the new A55 in the cutting and take the steps down on your left and turn right under the two road bridges and go straight ahead towards the station which is opposite the Junction Hotel.

Cross the car park to the station entrance. Catch a Manchester train and change at Newton le Willows for the stopping train to Eccles.

CLASSIFICATION: MEDIUM, EASY

VIEWS, PUB, CAFES, CASTLE, RIVER, CIVIL
ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE

RAIL FARE: category seven

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