

Sixty six LLANDUDNO JUNCTION – CONWY (WALLS & TOWN).

Conwy is a lovely, ancient, walled town on the beautiful Conwy Estuary. Enjoy the views and the splendid historic buildings on this tour.

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 to the supermarket. *Above the road bridge ahead you can just see the Sychnant Mountain behind Conwy.*

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. 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).*

Just before the end of the promenade go up to your left and then turn right along the main road. *To your left you can see Telford's suspension bridge and Robert Stephenson's tubular railway bridge.*

As you enter the town the castle is on your left. Cross the road towards the Guildhall. Go up the steps to the left of the Guildhall.

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 category two (concessions) and it is open 09.00-17.00 daily except Christmas and New Year*

Go left across the car park towards the walls. Climb the steps up to the parapet and go right along the walls. *Edward I had the walls and castle built in 1285 to 1287 to protect this new English settlement.*

Descend to street level again down some steps in a tower. Turn left to go to Lancaster Square. *The railway station is on your left.*

Turn left onto Rosemary Lane. About 100yds along it turn right onto Railway Terrace (opposite a building called Twr Llewelyn).

Go right down the steps and along the railway platform. At the far end go towards the walls and up the steps to parapet level.

Go right and head up to the high tower. *From here there are great views of the town, mountains and castle.*

Walk right past the tower and follow the wall down to the sea. *The wall juts out to protect the quay.*

Retrace your steps to the last tower and go down the steps.

Turn right through the walls and then right again through lower gate. This takes you onto 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 used to sail to Liverpool from this quay.*

On your right is the smallest house in Wales! *It is open 11.00-16.00 daily from 25th March to 1st November.*

Further on the right near the town gate is The Liverpool Arms. *It's a lovely old pub serving food and real ales.*

Continue along the quayside and turn right through the arch and then right along Castle Street. *There are old fashioned shops and on the right hand side is a cottage from 1589.*

Opposite the Bluebell go left through the gates into the church yard. *The church is St Mary & All Saints. It was built as a Cistercian Abbey in 1184.*

Go out of the far end of the churchyard and then to the right onto Lancaster Square. *The English Monarch is the Duke of Lancaster. There is a statue to Llewelyn Ap Iorwerth and notice the police station.*

Go right down High Street *for more traditional shops.*

On the left is the large Elizabethan 'Plas Mawr' - literally 'great place'. *It's a wonderful building inside and out! Admission is category two. Open 09.00 to 17.00 Tuesday to Sunday, April to October. Tel: 01433 336000 (Cadw). Website: www.cadw.wales.gov.uk.*

Continue down the street and The Castle Hotel is on the right. *This sells real ale and great food in a very attractive bar.*

Opposite the Castle Hotel is the Palace Cinema *with a striking facade.*

On the right at the cross road is Aberconwy House. *This building dates from 1300 and is the only mediaeval building to survive the Victorian rebuilding of the town. Admission: category one (concessions) Open 11.00-17.00 daily (except Tuesday) between 13th Feb to 31st October. Tel: 01492 592246. Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk*

Carry on down High Street and through the gatehouse arch onto the Quay.
Liverpool Arms and a well earned rest?

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, MODERATE (steps and steep bits on the walls)

VIEWS, PUBS, CAFES, CASTLE, RIVER, CIVIL ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, HISTORIC BUILDINGS, SHOPS, COAST

RAIL FARE: category seven

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