

# An Incomplete Guide to Visiting Llandudno!

Hi,

Some students have asked me for ideas of places to go in and around Llandudno, with the idea of staying an extra night or two when on a weekend course, to explore the area. So I've put together these suggestions.

## Accommodation.

Llandudno has some highly rated B&Bs (amongst the best in the world, according to Trip Advisor!). There is an [article here](#) about this. Otherwise, a search on Trip Advisor will give you reviews of course.

I do advise you to book well in advance if possible, as Llandudno can be pretty busy all year round. If you look on google maps [here](#) there are tons of B&Bs and hotels in the area - zooming in on an area should show up more (the search is set for 'hotels' - changing it to 'bed and breakfast' may turn up different results). The venue for the weekends is the Trinity Centre, Trinity Avenue, Llandudno, LL30 2TQ, in case you want to book accommodation nearby.

There is a new Travelodge too, which has rooms for only £39 if you book far enough in advance

If you can't get in Llandudno (or don't want to!), Conwy town is only a short drive and is very pretty. Deganwy is also cute. Rhos-on-Sea is fine (retirement home land). Colwyn Bay is very mixed (some rough bits, some super-posh bits). Llandudno Junction is not awful, but not great either. Anywhere down the Conwy Valley is usually lovely.

There are campsites nearby. Prices are around £10 to £15 quid a night for tents. Here and here for example. There is also a Youth Hostel in Conwy.

## Transport

This is a good site for [planning journeys by public transport](#).

If you are not getting a direct train, do check out ticket splitting websites - they can save you quite a bit off the ticket price sometimes.

There are many more trains to nearby Llandudno Junction than Llandudno itself though, so if you are checking trains then check both stations! A taxi is about £8 from the Junction, but we could sort out lifts and/or taxi sharing. I'm also really into sorting lift sharing - let me know if you need help.

## Walking

There are hundreds of walks to do in the area. You can [download some from here](#) (although some you have to order online from the tourist office).

In terms of walking near Llandudno itself, remember it has two very different beaches (the North Shore and the West Shore) for short walks.

The Great Orme is a fantastic walk. You can download leaflets from the link above. Look out for the wild goats.

The [Little Orme](#) often gets overlooked, but is lovely. There is a colony of seals that live at Angel Bay on the Little Orme. You can park your car at the end of Penrhyn Beach E, LL30 3RW, and walk up.

[Bryn Euryn Nature Reserve](#) is another nice short walk - [leaflet here](#). Also [Nant y Gamar](#), and Vardre in Deganwy

These booklets of walks in the area are great and inexpensive...

- [Llandudno](#)
- [Conwy Valley](#)

- [Conwy](#)

Not to be missed is the Sychnant Pass. You can drive up it and there is a small car park, from there you can either walk the beautiful Conwy Mountain, with its fantastic sea views, or venture inland to explore the foothills of the Carneddeu mountains. You may well see the wild Carneddau ponies.

There are tons of walks down the Conwy valley, including walks in the lovely [Gwydir Forest](#), and some great walks starting from Llanfairfechan along the coast too. I also recommend [Llyn Crafnant](#), [Aber Falls](#), [Llyn Elsie](#) and [Llyn Ogwen](#).

## Places

Llandudno is lovely to explore. It also has a [small museum](#) that is worth a look. You can drive both up and around the Great Orme – definitely worth doing the drive around (Marine Drive). [St Tudno's church](#) and graveyard on the Orme is atmospheric spot. The ancient (Neolithic) [copper mines](#) on the Orme are well worth a visit. Personally, I stay away from the summit centre and café on the top of the Orme though – vile! There is also a [tram](#) and a [cable car](#) up the Orme – both are fun and worth doing.

There are two beaches in Llandudno. The Victorian promenade of the North Shore, and the stunning West shore.

Conwy Town nearby is very cute. You can walk the ancient [town walls](#). Plus the [castle](#) and [Plas Mawr](#) town house are worth a visit. There is a nice walk along the harbour and through [Bodlondeb Woods Local Nature Reserve](#).

[Bodnant Garden](#) is just wonderful. It is huge too (you can easily spend the best part of a day there if you want).

[Gwydir Castle](#). Atmospheric and worth a visit.

[RSPB Conwy nature reserve](#). The proximity of the A55 means there is a lot of background traffic noise in places, but it's still lovely, and has a café with a panorama window overlooking one of the small lakes.

[Penrhyn Castle](#). Eccentric and worth a visit. Look out for the Rembrandt. Don't miss the bog-garden in summer.

[Ffyn-y-Parc](#) art gallery and café. Some surprisingly good exhibitions at times.

Betws-y-Coed is lovely. There are great walks from there, including a lovely river stroll, [Swallow Falls](#), and more strenuous walks in hills, woods and by lakes. There are trains from Llandudno down the [Conwy Valley line](#) – it's a lovely valley and you get to see the scenery more than driving.

Further afield, Llandudno is on the doorstep of the Snowdonia National Park. Anglesey and the beautiful Llyn Peninsula are also not too far.

## Cafes

Our personal favourite cafes in Llandudno are

1. [Bistro Bach](#). A bit out of the way (in Craig-Y-Don), but our favourite café.
2. [The Rabbit Hole](#). Stylish. Run by the charity Mind. Good food and usually has **gluten-free** and **vegan options**.
3. [The West Shore Beach Café](#). Best setting, especially if it's nice enough to sit outside (and you can get a table). Good food.
4. [Characters Old Curiosity Shop & Sandwich House](#). Characterful. Great for afternoon tea and scones.
5. [3rd Space](#). Our newest and funkiest café.
6. [Providero](#). Llandudno's own hipster café. **Vegan** and **gluten-free** options.

Worth a mention...

- [Kava Cafe](#)
- [Inglenook Cafe & Restaurant](#). Best coffee in town by a mile.
- [Orient Express Cafe & Restaurant](#).
- [The Looking Glass Ice Cream Parlour](#).

Cat and I tend to eat out at lunchtimes rather than evenings, so I can't comment a lot on restaurants. But these are ones we have tried and can recommend...

- [Blue Elephant](#). Probably the best Indian food in Llandudno.
- [Johnny Dough's Wood-Fired Pizza](#).
- [Mamma Rosa Italian Ristorante](#). Good food.
- [Romeo Ristorante Italiano & Pizzeria](#).
- [The Lilly Bar & Grill](#).
- [The Cottage Loaf](#).
- [Jaya](#).
- [East](#).
- [Fish Tram Chips](#).
- [Tops](#). Best rated Chinese.
- [The Albert](#). Good pub food in a relaxed and friendly place.
- [Barnacles Chip Shop](#). Cheap 'n' cheerful chip shop café with a *huge* range of chip-themed dishes, including lots of vegetarian, vegan and **gluten-free** offerings.
- [The New Mediterranean Restaurant](#). Food from Turkey, Spain, Greece, Italy and France. Good range of fish dishes.

Otherwise, have a look on [Trip Advisor Llandudno restaurants](#).

Further afield...

- [Chapter 2 Coffee Shop](#). One of our favourite places too eat. Good **vegan options**. Not open in the evenings though.
- [Jai Ho](#) Indian Restaurant in Deganwy.
- [Paysanne](#) in Deganwy (limited vegetarian though).
- [Mexican Wave](#). In Rhos-on Sea. Very reasonably priced Mexican café and take-away. Whilst you are there, check out the nearby [Holy Well and Chapel of St Trillo](#).
- [Jalsa Tandoori Restaurant & Takeaway](#) – best Indian food for miles. You do need to book though! Also [Ls](#), and [Amelies](#),
- [Alpine Coffee Shop](#) in Betws-y-Coed. Great food (including vegetarian, **vegan** and **gluten free**), and a truly huge range of speciality teas and coffees. Also [Hangin' Pizzeria](#).
- [Ty Gwyn](#) just outside Betws-y-Coed. About a 25 minute drive from Llandudno, but the food is really, *really* excellent – best in the area. A quirky old coaching inn.

### Only for the brave!

[Llandudno Dry Ski Slope](#) and Toboggan run On the Great Orme, and open in the evenings.

[Zip World](#). Not a chance I am doing this one personally! But some of you might love it!

[Go Below](#). Nor this for me!

[Zip World Titan](#). Nope again!

[Bounce Below](#). Might try this though – looks amazing! It is in Blaenau Ffestiniog. If you are in Bleanau, don't miss the amazing [Llechwedd Slate Caverns](#) too – really interesting.

[Surf Snowdonia](#). Surf on a lake!

Hope you enjoy it!