

The 35th LUPTS Bus Tour: Saturday 30th April 2011

The Fflying Llansman

Welcome Aboard our tour, which this year is heading through some great scenery to a number of railways and attractions in North Wales.

The Timetable is as follows, but this may change, so please listen carefully for announcements.

<u>Town</u>	<u>Attraction</u>	<u>arrive</u>	<u>depart</u>	<u>visit time</u>
Rhyl	Rhyl Miniature Railway	09:30	10:30	1:00
Llandudno	Great Orme Tramway* Historic town/Victorian Parade	11:15	13:00	1:45
Llanberis	Llanberis Lake Railway**/ National Slate Museum	14:00	15:45	1:45
Betws-y-Coed	Conwy Valley Railway Museum	16:30	17:30	1:00
Llangollen	Seajays Fish & Chips, pubs	18:30	19:15	0:45

* tram departs 11:40, approx 25 minutes each way to summit.

** Steam train departs 14:15, returns 15:10.

We plan to return to Prenton around 20:30 and to Liverpool by 21:00.

Please attempt to be on the bus promptly so we can depart at the stated times.

Decisions, Decisions.....

Please decide on the following options during the day. There are two yellow-covered information packs of leaflets and menus circulating in the bus, and also separate leaflets on the various attractions we are visiting.

By 10:30 on leaving Rhyl

In Llandudno, do you wish to ascend the Great Orme on the tramway (tram ascends at 11:40, additional £5 payable), or alternatively explore the town and maybe see the Victorian Parade? Town Maps and copies of the Llandudno Historic Town Trail leaflet are available on the bus.

By 13:00 on leaving Llandudno

In Llanberis, do you wish to ride the Llanberis Lake Railway (price included), or alternatively have more time to see the adjoining National Slate Museum, or explore the town? £5 rebate if not riding the steam train. The train departs at 14:15 and returns at 15:10.

By 17:30 on leaving Betws-y-Coed

Please complete the Saturday tea order form if you wish to dine in or take away from Seajays Fish & Chip Shop in Llangollen. To speed the service, orders will either be phoned through in advance or handed in upon arrival.

By 19:15 on leaving Llangollen

If attending Sunday lunch at the Cock & Bottle in Tarleton, please complete the food order form. Orders will be phoned through upon arrival in Liverpool.

Our Vehicle

Our vehicle today is a recent acquisition to the fleet of Hiltons Travel. Currently registered RED 448, this is a significant vehicle, being the last Volvo Citybus built for use in the UK. It was new as Nottingham 346 with registration FE02 AKX, and subsequently operated by New Punjab of Slough, before being acquired in December 2010 by Hiltons Travel. It is a Volvo B10M-55 Citibus, with East Lancs Pioneer bodywork.

Our Route

Our route takes us from Liverpool (1), Abercromby Square/Oxford Street, to Tithebarn Street outside the old Exchange Station, which incidentally closed on this day, 30th April, in 1977, and then to our final pick-up point in Prenton (2). We head down the M53, and then commence our loop of North Wales, as we head out to Queensferry. We follow the North Wales coast to Rhyl (3) for the Rhyl Miniature Railway and then to Llandudno (4) for the Great Orme Tramway and historic town, before turning inland to Llanberis (5) for the Llanberis Lake Railway and the National Slate Museum. Our return journey takes us over the Pass of Llanberis to Betws-y-Coed (6) for the Conwy Valley Railway Museum, then to Llangollen (7) for Seajays fish and chip cafe and/or liquid refreshments, before heading north skirting Wrexham and Chester on our way back home.



My Thanks

To all those who have assisted with the planning and execution of today, and in particular to Jonathan Cadwallader for his 'guidance', to Rob Marsh for organising the Friday fringe activities, and to Paul Hollinghurst for the mapping. But my particular thanks to You All for attending today and enabling the continuance of the LUPTS Bus Tour tradition. See You Again in 12 months time!

Rhyl & The Rhyl Miniature Railway

The one-mile railway is located at the Marine Lake. The railway opened 100 years ago this very weekend, on 1st May 1911. It was originally operated by Miniature Railways of Great Britain Limited, with W J Bassett Lowe as Managing Director and with Henry Greenly as Engineer. Now operated by the Rhyl Steam Preservation Trust, there are a number of operational steam locomotives, a 1950's tramcar, and original wooden coaches.

Refreshments and toilets will be available at the railway.



Llandudno & The Great Orme Tramway

A number of options exist for our time on Llandudno. Please familiarise yourselves with a map of the town. We hope to set down on Gloddaeth Street (number 10 on the town map). It is hoped that we can pick up the bus at 13:00 the setting-down point, but we will all convene at 13:00 at the setting down point from where we may have a short walk.

Gloddaeth Street is just a few minutes walk from the tramcar station (number 39). Places have been reserved on the 11:40 tramcar to ascend The Great Orme, which takes about 25 minutes, including a change of tramcar. There should be the opportunity to spend about 20 minutes at the summit before the 25 minute descent. An extra £5 is payable for this return trip.

For those wishing to stay in the town, there is a pier and promenade to explore, as well as an interesting Victorian town centre. Copies of the Historic Town Trail leaflet are available on the bus.

The Llandudno Transport Festival is taking place this weekend, but is on the other side of the town. However, the Victorian Extravaganza is holding its daily parade commencing at 12noon from The Queens Hotel on Clonmel Street, proceeding to The Main Arena next to Llandudno Town Hall. The Parade route is approximately 3/4 mile and lasts for about 45 minutes (see map below). This may cause some disruption to our departure from Llandudno.



Llanberis, The Llanberis Lake Railway & The National Slate Museum

The Llanberis Lake Railway has been operating for 40 years. We depart from their main station, Gilfach Ddu, and firstly experience the new extension into the town, before returning and continuing along the lakeside to Penllyn. Refreshments are available at Gilfach Ddu.

Please note there are no toilet facilities either at the station or on the train. Please use the toilets next to the coach park.

The National Slate Museum is situated alongside the railway. Unfortunately, time permits only a brief visit after the train ride, but those wishing to spend longer there can forgo the train ride. The museum is housed in Victorian workshops that once serviced and maintained the enormous Dinorwig slate quarry above it, which once employed 3,000 men.

An introductory film is screened every half hour at 00:00 and 00:30. A slate cutting demonstration takes place hourly at 00:15 and lasts about 30 minutes.

There are both toilets and a café at the museum.

Betws-y-Coed & The Conwy Valley Railway Museum

The Conwy Valley Railway Museum is situated adjacent to the station. In addition to the museum and various model railway layouts, there is a shop, and there is a miniature steam railway; an 8-minute trip is included in our admission.

The Buffet Coach café is staying open for our visit, and serves a variety of drinks, cakes and snacks.

Toilets are located at the back of the museum, and in the buffet coach.

The railway station serves the scenic Conwy Valley Line, which runs from Llandudno south to Blaenau Ffestiniog, where it connects with the Ffestiniog Railway.

Llangollen & Seajays Fish & Chips

Our final visit will be to Llangollen. We will stop in the car park on Market Street. Seajays Fish and Chip shop is on the corner of Castle Street and Oak Street. We have the option of dining in their adjacent café or take-away. To serve us efficiently, all orders should be completed in advance when we leave Betws-y-Coed.

The public toilets close at 6pm, but facilities are available in Seajays café, and in various pubs on Castle Street.

There is a pleasant stroll along the River Dee, accessed by the bridge on Castle Street.

