

“Village Life In Wales”



Departure Dates 2010

Spring: 14th April & 28th April.

Summer: 9th June, 7th July* & 18th August*.

Autumn: 1st September*.

***SOLD**

Once again we have great pleasure in inviting you to join our popular Village Life In Wales Tour. This tour focuses on some of the special features of the country, its lush well-kept countryside, picturesque villages, small market towns, fine gardens, medieval castles and a lot more. We will also introduce you to its rich culture as well as to some of the special people who make their living in the Welsh countryside. Differently to previous years, our 2010 tour will be based at two centres, the stylish coastal resort of Llandudno and Betws y Coed, the village in the heart of the Snowdonia National Park.

Itinerary

Llandudno is a classic British seaside resort where the seafront is lined with a wide promenade and backed with rows of elegant Victorian pastel coloured facades, the entire scene framed between the cliffs of the Great and Little Orme Headland.



Llandudno



Great Orme



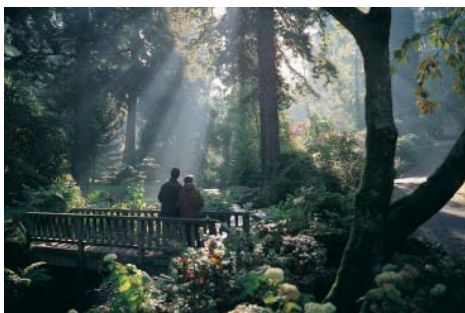
Llandudno

Wednesday: Arrival at Llandudno

Arrive at our hotel in Llandudno anytime after noon, free time to relax and then meet for a welcoming drink and get-together before dinner (D).

Thursday: Llandudno, Great Orme, Bodnant Garden (NT), Evening Choral Concert

A relaxing start with a walk along the promenade to board Britain's only remaining Cable Operated Street Tramway which takes us up 680ft. to the **Great Orme Country Park**, a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). We will have time to enjoy the views over the ocean, a walk, and visit the information centre before leaving to visit to the magnificent **Bodnant Garden** (NT), this is one of Britain's premier gardens. After dinner we attend a Male Voice Concert at St. John's Methodist Church. (BD)



Bodnant Garden



Bodnant Garden



Sheep Dog Centre

Friday: Mountain Farm, sheep and sheep dogs and 'The Ladies of Llangollen'

Today our drive takes us through the upper reaches of the **Conwy Valley** to visit a mountain farm. Here we will learn how Border collie sheep dogs are trained and see them at work, meet the farmer, and enjoy a home cooked lunch. In the afternoon, we continue our journey to **Llangollen**, the small town that 'Welcomes the World' each year when it hosts the International Music Festival. We visit **Plas Newydd**, home of the legendary 'Ladies of Llangollen' from 1789 to 1829 and return via the scenic Horseshoe Pass. (BLD)

Saturday: Conwy's Medieval Castle, Traditional Woolen Mill, and Betws y Coed

We depart our hotel mid-morning and travel to the classical walled town of **Conwy**. Its circuits of walls extend over three quarters of a mile and are guarded by eighteen towers. This is where we can step back in time and wander through the narrow streets, and enjoy the traditional shops and quaint houses of this ancient town. In the afternoon, we join our specialist guides for a tour of Conwy's Mighty Castle constructed in the late 13C on the orders of King Edward 1st of England. Late afternoon our journey continues to Trefriw Woolen Mill, one of the few mills remaining

Itinerary continued:

that continue to operate traditional Dobcross looms. The present owners, Morgan and Elaine, are fifth generation of the Williams' family to produce traditional Welsh double weaves (tapestry), bedspreads and tweeds at **Trefriw**. We join Morgan for a tour and demonstration before continuing the journey to **Betws y Coed**, our base for the next four days. After checking in, our guide will take us for a familiarisation walk before dinner. (BD)

Betws-y-Coed is a lively village located in the Conwy Valley where the River Conwy meets its three tributaries, the Llugwy, the Lledr and the Machno. It has a wonderful setting surrounded by dense woodland and magnificent mountain country that is further enhanced by cascading waterfalls, hill-top lakes, river pools and ancient bridges.



Betws y Coed



Trefriw Woollen Mill



Conwy Castle

Sunday: Pottery and Ancestral Home of the Wynne Family

Morning at Leisure.

After lunch we journey to remote woodland by **Porth Llwyd Falls** to meet Vicky Buxton at her pottery studio and workshop where she makes a selection of ceramics, decorative stoneware and porcelain. We then visit **Gwydyr Castle**, the ancestral home of the powerful Wynne family. Not a castle in the traditional sense, but a fine example of a courtyard or fortified Manor House. The property has been restored by the present owners Judy Corbett and Peter Wellford. A full account of the work is described in Judy's book entitled 'Castles in the Air'. (ISBN 0-091-89731-9) (BD)

Monday: Art Gallery, Male Voice Choir Rehearsal

At 1.00 we begin our journey through the dramatic **Llanberis Pass** to visit the Slate Museum, where we gain an insight into the slate industry and the communities which grew around it through demonstrations and film. We then drive to the **Isle of Anglesey** to visit Oriel Mon, a premier purpose built art gallery and showcase for local artists and craftspeople.

A visit to "Llanfairpwllgwyngychgogerychwyrndrobwylllandusuliogogogoch" the small village with the longest name in the world is a must, after which we will enjoy a meal at a traditional Pub followed by a visit to the Penrhyn Male Choir at their rehearsal room in **Bethesda**. This choir is one of Wales' oldest and best known male choirs. (BD)



Penrhyn Choir



Slate Museum



Pottery

Itinerary continued:

Tuesday: Portmeirion, Beddgelert, and a very special Ice Cream

From **Betws y Coed** we take the road through the **Lledr Valley** to the mountain town of **Blaenau Ffestiniog** to board one of the 'Great Little trains of Wales' on a twelve mile scenic journey through the vale of Ffestiniog to the sea. Then onwards to the 'fantasy' village of **Portmeirion**, created by the architect Clough Williams- Ellis between 1925 and 1972 and was the setting of the 1969's television series "The Prisoner" After enjoying the village, garden and extensive woodlands our tour continues to **Beddgelert**, one of Snowdonia's' prettiest villages to taste Cadwaladr's' homemade ice cream, take a river bank walk, and then enjoy the drive back to Betws y Coed through the **Nant Gwynant Pass** and the rocky heights of Snowdonia.

Farewell dinner.



Portmeirion



Beddgelert



Ffestiniog Railway

Wednesday: Tour ends after breakfast

Inclusions:

- Three night B&B accommodation in a 3 star hotel in Llandudno.
- Four night B&B accommodation in a 3 star hotel in Betws y Coed.
- Five evening dinners at hotels, one pub meal and farewell dinner.
- Two lunches.
- Farewell dinner.
- Admission and entry fees, docent guides.
- Comprehensive programme of sightseeing as detailed in itinerary.
- All rooms with private bathroom, TV, hairdryer, tea and coffee facilities.
- Transport throughout by modern mini coach with experienced driver/guide.

Not Included:

- Visits, food, laundry, personal items and any other item not specifically mentioned in the itinerary.
- A gratuity to driver/guide is at participant's discretion.

Price:

£969 p.p. sharing - single supplement £140.

Deposit required £200 per person, balance payable 70 days prior to departure.

Optional: Return Manchester/Liverpool to Betws y Coed transfer with visit to the historic city of Chester all for £130 (net).

Contact:

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