



Tour Information



Great Castles of North Wales





Travel

The tour starts and finishes at **The Imperial Hotel, Llandudno.**

Vaughan Street

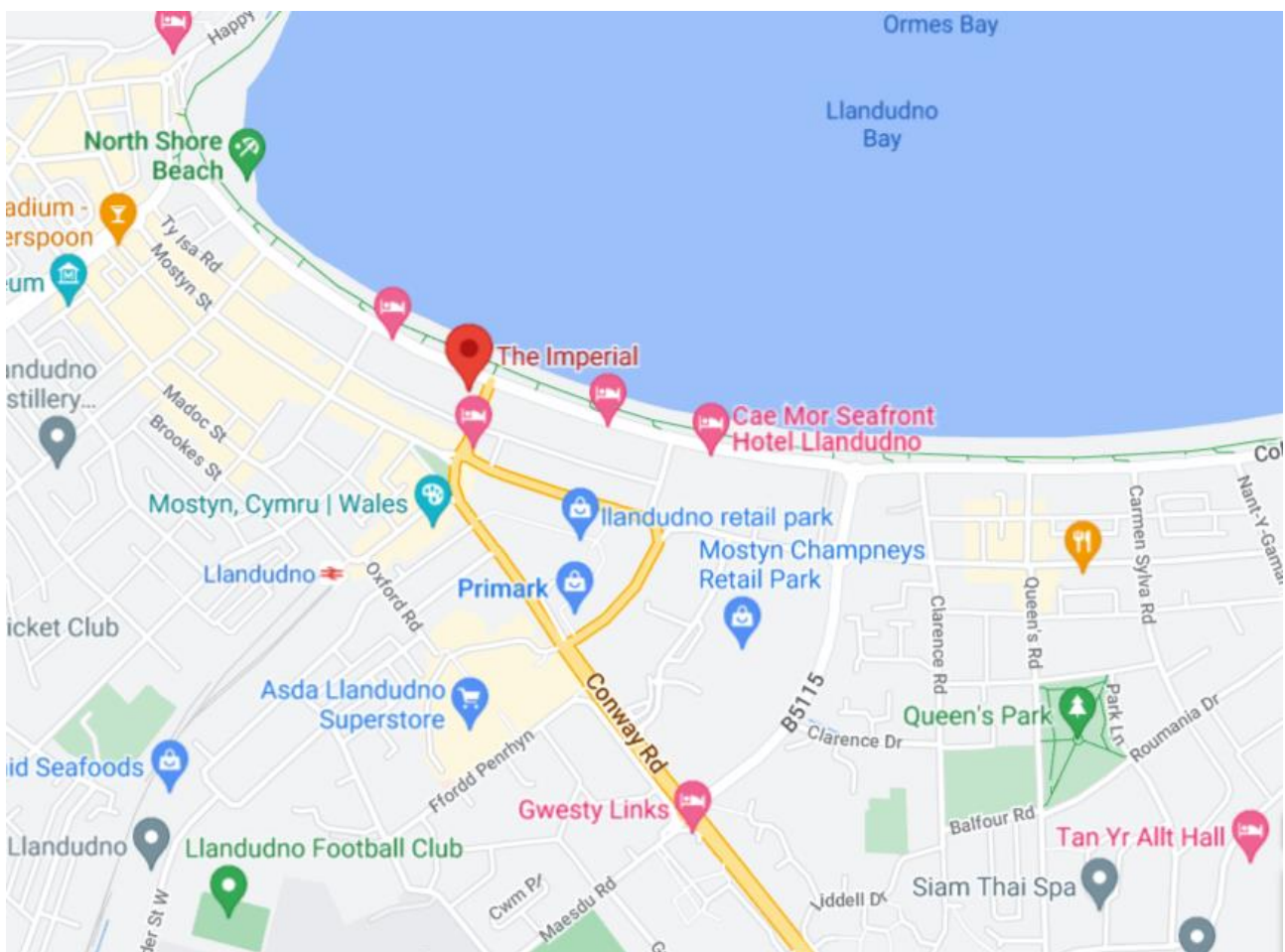
The Promenade

Llandudno

LL30 1AP

Tel: 01492 877 466

Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.



Transport

Travelling by car: The hotel is located right on the seafront in the centre of Llandudno so simply follow signs for the seafront and turn right along The Parade/A546. The hotel is on the right.

Travelling by rail: The nearest station is Llandudno less than half a mile away – approx. 10-15 minutes' walk



Accommodation

The Imperial Hotel, Llandudno

The four-star Imperial Hotel is located in the heart of beautiful Llandudno along the seafront with picturesque views across the bay. The hotel provides a bar, restaurant, fitness centre, heated indoor swimming pool, spa, sauna and steam room. Bedrooms are comfortable with en-suite bathroom, TV, telephone, free wifi, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities.

Car parking: There is a free small car park at the rear of the hotel on a first come, first served basis. Alternatively, there is pay and display parking along the seafront promenade in front of the hotel.

For more information, additional details can be found on the website:

<https://www.theimperial.co.uk/>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day of the tour, the tour will finish at approximately 16.30 - 17.00 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on a bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

Dining

On the first night of your stay, a private dinner is provided with wine. During the second evening of the tour, dinner is provided at the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on each day of your stay is included in the price. All other meals other than these stated are not included.



Places Visited

Rhuddlan Castle

For centuries, Rhuddlan had been a fiercely contested strategic location leading to much bloodshed. Edward's muscle power triumphed long enough to build a muscle-bound symmetrical castle, showcasing the latest in 'walls-within-walls' technology. Edward I needed access to the sea to keep his castle supplied so he diverted the River Clwyd for over 2 miles (3.5km) to provide a deep-water channel for ships. The remains of a defended river gate still exist in the outer ring of the walls. The castle also played a seminal role in Welsh history: it was here that a new system of English government was established over much of Wales by the Statute of Rhuddlan (1284) – a settlement that lasted until the Act of Union in 1536. After the Civil War the castle was rendered untenable – hence its present condition.

<http://cadw.gov.wales/daysout/rhuddlancastle/?lang=en>

Conwy Castle

Built for Edward I, by Master James of St George, the castle is amongst the finest surviving medieval fortifications in Britain. In a word, exceptional. You can't fault it, from the grandeur of its high towers and curtain walls to its excellent state of preservation. An estimated £15,000 was spent building the castle, the largest sum Edward spent in such a short time on any of his Welsh castles between 1277 and 1307.

<http://cadw.gov.wales/daysout/conwycastle/?lang=en>

Caernarfon Castle

Caernarfon is architecturally one of the most impressive of all of the castles in Wales. Its defensive capabilities were not as overt or as powerful as those of Edward I's other castles such as Harlech and Beaumaris (which indicate the pinnacle of castle building and defences in Britain), but Caernarfon was instead intended as a seat of power - and as a symbol of English dominance over the subdued Welsh.

<http://www.caernarfon-castle.co.uk/>

Dolwyddelan Castle

Dolwyddelan Castle (Welsh: Castell Dolwyddelan) is a Welsh castle located near Dolwyddelan in Conwy County in North Wales. It is thought to have been built in the early 13th century by Llywelyn the Great, Prince of Gwynedd and North Wales. Though the castle was then only one tower with two floors, a second tower was built in the late 13th century and a third floor was added to the first during the late 15th century repairs.

<http://cadw.gov.wales/daysout/dolwyddelan-castle/?lang=en>

Harlech Castle

Spectacularly sited Harlech Castle seems to grow naturally from the rock on which it is perched. Like an all seeing sentinel, it gazes out across land and sea, keeping a watchful eye over Snowdonia. The English monarch Edward I built Harlech in the late 13th century to fulfil this very role. It was one of the most formidable of his 'iron ring' of fortresses designed to contain the Welsh in their mountain fastness. Ironically, in 1404 it was taken by Welsh leader Owain Glyn Dwr who proceeded to hold a parliament here. A long siege here during the Wars of the Roses inspired the stirring song 'Men of Harlech'. Although an imposing edifice, Harlech is at one with the surroundings a quality rare in the great Edwardian castles. There is a sense of harmony here, created by the way in which the castle builders took care to exploit the sites natural advantages.

<http://www.harlech.com/>

Beaumaris Castle

Beaumaris Castle on the Island of Anglesey is the great unfinished masterpiece. It was built as one of the 'iron ring' of North Wales castles by the English monarch Edward I, to stamp his authority on the Welsh. But it was never finished money and supplies ran out before the fortifications reached their full height. Beaumaris is nonetheless an awesome sight, regarded by many as the finest of all the great Edwardian castles in Wales. Begun in 1295, it was also the last. The king's military architect, the brilliant James of St George, brought all his experience and inspiration to bear when building this castle, the biggest and most ambitious venture he ever undertook. In pure architectural terms Beaumaris, the most technically perfect castle in Britain, has few equals. Its ingenious and perfectly symmetrical concentric 'walls within walls' design, involving no less than four successive lines of fortifications, was state of the art for the late 13th century.

<http://www.beaumaris.com/>

Your Speaker

Your speaker, Dr Marc Morris, a medieval historian, broadcaster best known for his TV series on British castles and is the author of many bestselling books about the Middle Ages, including a critically acclaimed biography of Edward I, *A Great and Terrible King*.



Marc will give the following talk during the tour:

'A great and terrible king: Edward I and the forging of Britain'.

Practical Information

Tour manager - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment, and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

Walking Content – This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing



Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday, please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason, you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 09.00-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07831 133079

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

Travel Editions

3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE: THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PRINTING. IT IS MEANT AS A GUIDE ONLY
AND WE CANNOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ERRORS OR SUBSEQUENT CHANGES