

conwy valleyline



From the Sea... through the Valleys... to the Mountains



conwyvalley RAIL INITIATIVE

The Conwy Valley line train takes you from the beautiful bay of “the Queen of the Welsh Resorts” at Llandudno on a 30 mile journey of contrasts along the Conwy and Lledr valleys as the scenery changes from gentle rolling pastures to the rugged mountains and the splendour of the Snowdonia National Park. Our train will climb to 790 feet above sea level, and pass through the mountains to arrive at the slate mining town of Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Our journey starts at **LLANDUDNO**, the largest resort in Wales which in addition to its beaches and pier has an excellent range of hotels and shops.

As we travel towards **DEGANWY** we see the North Wales coastline and glimpses of Anglesey and Puffin Island, to slow down for **LLANDUDNO JUNCTION** and see the magnificent Conwy Castle, built in 1284, forever standing guard over its walled town.

Excellent rail and bus connections are made at “the Junction” and you may be tempted to pause and have something to eat at **Denise’s** station buffet.

Leaving the main line we closely follow the broad sweep of the Conwy estuary to **GLAN CONWY** where at low tide a variety of wading birds gather.

Some two miles from **TAL-Y-CAFN** is the world famous **Bodnant Gardens** with its 80 acres of magnificent gardens.

Nearing **DOLGARROG** you catch a glimpse of the pipes from a dam high in the mountains supplying hydro electric power.

The valley narrows as the line nears **NORTH LLANRWST** (formally Llanrwst & Trefriw) a station which once had to compete with river steamers for passengers. **LLANRWST** now offers a convenient stop for this ancient picturesque market town with its Inigo Jones 17th Century Bridge, Gwydr Castle and St Crwst Parish Church. The **Almshouses Museum** provides a remarkable insight into bygone times.



Now deep in the forests of Gwydr we arrive at the famous inland resort of **BETWS-Y-COED**, which is a centre for walking, climbing and trekking and has a host of tea rooms, restaurants and accommodation.



Five minutes walk from the station, which also serves as a bus interchange, brings you to the **Tourist Information Centre** at the Stables where a wealth of local information is to hand.

The **Snowdon Sherpa** is a network of bus services which run into and around the busiest part of the Snowdonia National Park. An excellent day ticket

allows you to hop on and off the Sherpa network just as you please. Open top buses operate some services.

For details of all bus services please see the **Gwynedd** and **Conwy Public Transport Guides** available from the Tourist Information Centres and bus operators or call **Traveline Cymru**. (0871 200 22 33)



No visit to Betws-y-coed is complete without calling at the **Conwy Valley Rail Museum** where you can trace the history of this line, ride the steam and diesel trains, and enjoy a cuppa in a 1950's railway carriage, taking home with you a memento from the excellent model shop.

On leaving Betws-y-coed the line climbs steeply as it enters the Lledr Valley. “Gethin’s” Bridge, an imposing stone-built seven arch viaduct, carries the line dramatically across this valley floor, and our train negotiates the steepest gradient on the line (1 in 47) as **PONT-Y-PANT** comes into sight.

We next call at the picturesque village of **DOLWYDDELAN** where the local people take great pride in their station. Just beyond you will see the castle guarding the pass, once home of Llewelyn the Great, Prince of Wales.



The mood changes yet again as we press onwards through **ROMAN BRIDGE**, the mountains very much close in, and our train suddenly plunges into the darkness of the 2 mile 333 yard long tunnel under Moel Dyrnogydd.

We emerge into the world of slate at **BLAENAU FFESTINIOG** and are surrounded by evidence of the very reason why this line was built in the first place (between 1863 & 1879) – the conveyance of slate products.



You can step back in time with a visit to the world’s deepest slate mine at **Llechwedd** and enjoy a spectacular sound and light programme illustrating the life of a Victorian Miner and see how slate was mined by hand. **Your rail ticket will secure you a 10% reduction on tour prices!**

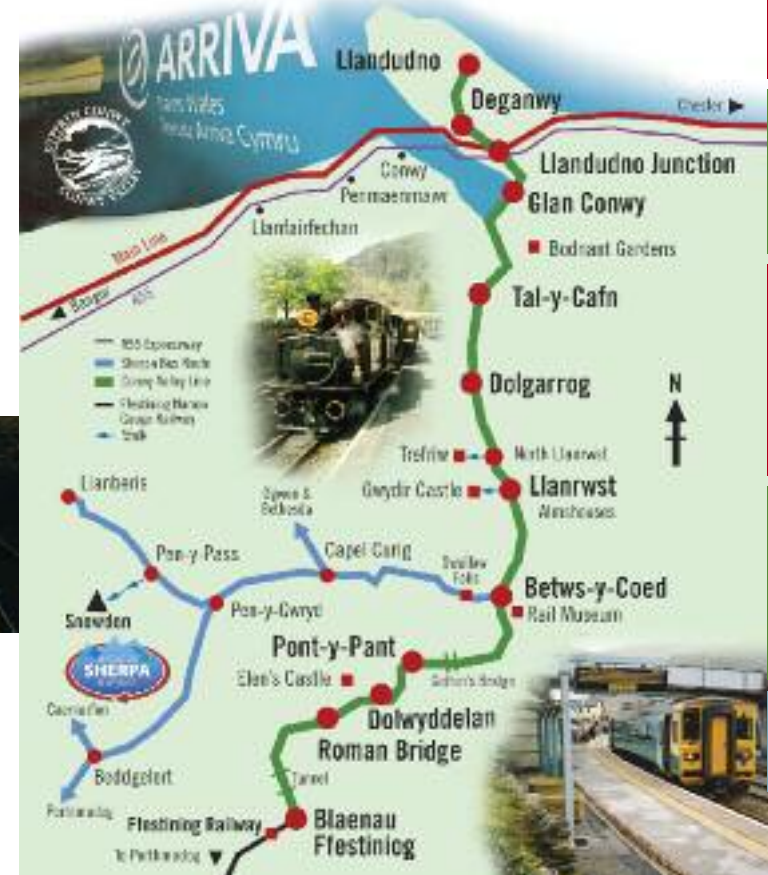


At Blaenau Ffestiniog, the Conwy Valley Line shares a town centre terminus with the **Ffestiniog Railway**, also built to take the slates to the sea and indeed you can follow them to Porthmadog.

Most trains are steam hauled. **A joint ticket for both lines gives significant savings and makes for an excellent day out!**

And so, we wish you farewell at Blaenau Ffestiniog, a railhead for onward travel into Gwynedd. Our Conwy Valley line is not just a railway; it is part of our heritage and way of life and is strongly supported by a local community rail initiative who have penned these words for you.

We hope you enjoy your journey with us and we look forward to seeing you time and time again along the Conwy Valley line.



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Ticketing products change with the seasons but attractive offers are always available. In particular see leaflets on **TOCYN TAITH** (New Rail/bus Zonal ticket)

National Rail Enquiries	08457 48 49 50	www.nationalrail.co.uk
Welsh Language Service	0845 60 40 500	
Text phone	0845 60 50 600	
Traveline Cymru	0871 200 22 33	
www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk		

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

Llandudno	01492 876413	Llandudnotic@conwy.gov.uk
Conwy	01492 592248	conwytic@conwy.gov.uk
Betwsycoed	01690 710426	Tic.byc@eryri.npa.gov.uk
Blaenau Ffestiniog	01766 830360	Tic.blaenau@eryri.npa.gov.uk

SOME USEFUL NUMBERS

North Wales Accomodation Booking Line	08705 168 767
Conwy Valley Railway Museum	01690 710568
Ffestiniog Railway	01766 516000 www.festrail.co.uk
Llechwedd Slate Caverns	01766 830306
Bodnant Gardens	01492 650460
Conwy Valley Railway	www.conwyvalleyrailway.co.uk

WALKS : An interesting set of leaflets giving details of walks in the areas served by our line can be obtained from: Glasdir Rural Development Centre, LLANRWST, Conwy LL26 0DF (Tel 01492 640640) (glasdir@conwy.gov.uk)

- Dolwyddelan (£2) • Llanrwst (25p)

Further information on local events can be found at www.visitconwy.org.uk; www.dolwyddelan.org; www.llanrwst.net; www.4snowdoniaholidays.co.uk; www.betws-y-coed.co.uk

Concessionary travel pass holders resident in Conwy and Gwynedd can travel free on all Arriva Trains Wales services between Llandudno and Blaenau Ffestiniog as result of a 12 month pilot scheme from May 2008