

## **The queen of Welsh resorts**

A self guided walk around the seaside town of Llandudno



Discover why this site was chosen for a seaside resort in the Victorian era  
Explore the planned town with its grid system, promenade and elegant hotels  
Learn what rules and regulations ensure that the town's character is preserved  
Find out how the town has adapted to changing economic circumstances

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This booklet is to be used alongside the audio commentary for this walk

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Cover image: The curve of Llandudno Bay © Nigel Swales (Creative Commons License)

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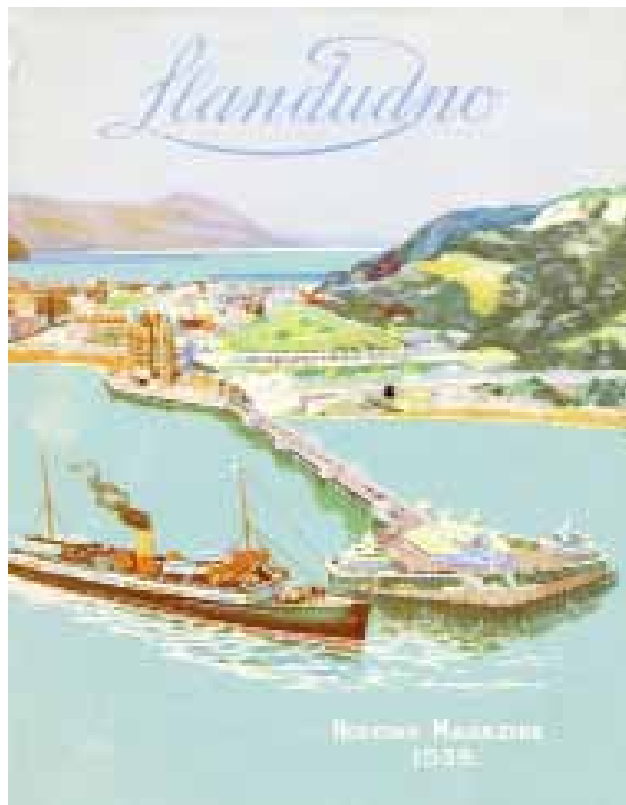
# The queen of Welsh resorts

## Explore the elegant seaside town of Llandudno

Promenades, Piers, Punch and Judy – all essential elements of the British seaside resort. You can find these and much more in Llandudno on the North Wales coast.

On this walk you will discover why the marshland behind Llandudno Bay was chosen for a new seaside town intended to rival the great resorts of the Mediterranean.

Walk along broad avenues and the curved seafront to appreciate how the design of the town was carefully planned. Admire elegant hotels and find out about the regulations that controlled the size and design of buildings. Enjoy a quiet stroll in well-tended gardens and the thrill of going on the pier.



Magazine cover (1939)

By kind permission of Conwy Archive Service

Llandudno attracted wealthy clientele who came to stay in exclusive hotels for the season, as well as ordinary families from the industrial cities who came for their annual holidays year after year.

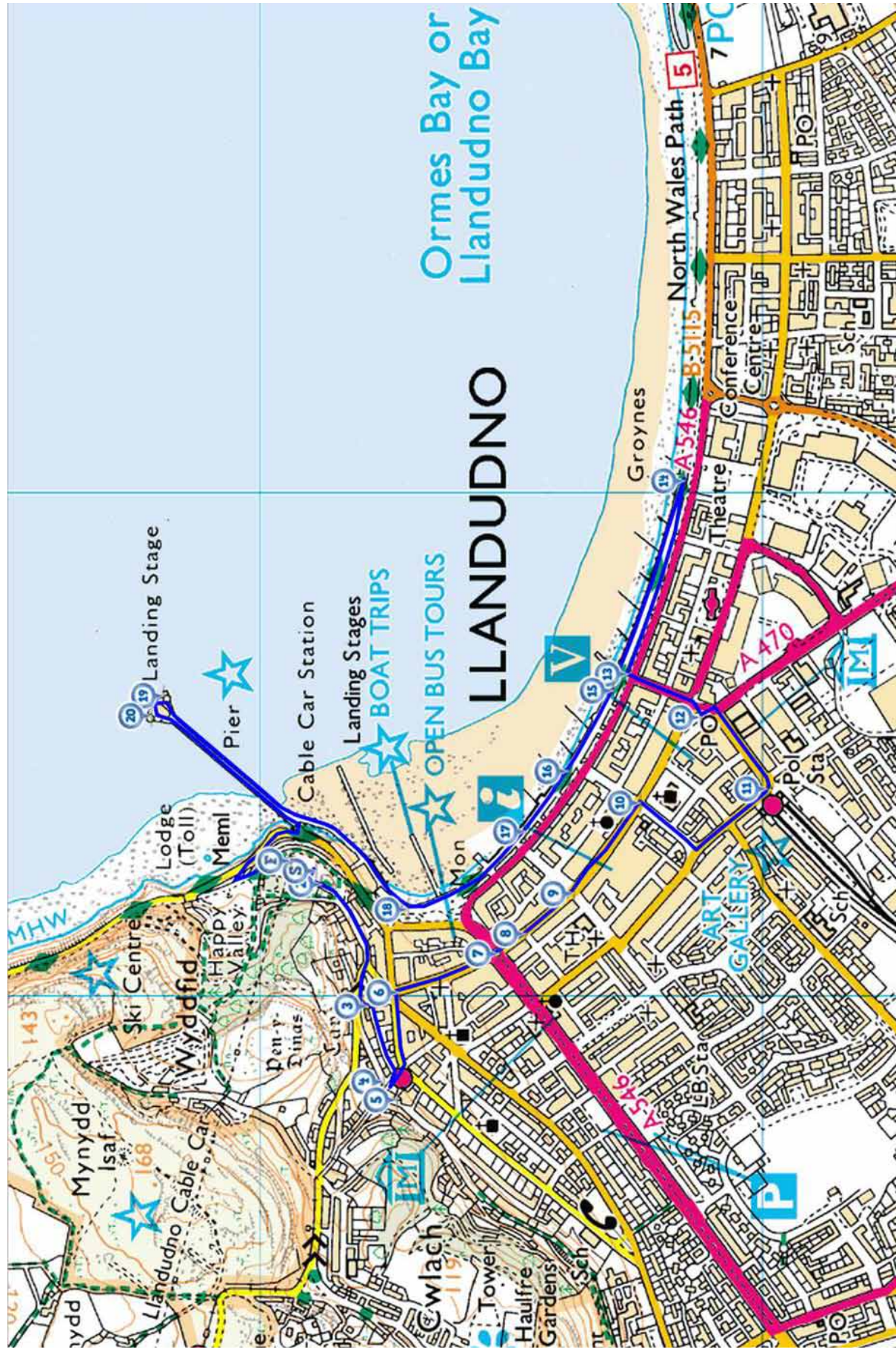
While cheap package holidays threatened many British seaside resorts find out how Llandudno has adapted to the changing circumstances while maintaining its character.



Chatsworth Hotel on the seafront  
Jenny Lunn © RGS-IBG Discovering Britain



## Route overview



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## Practical information

<b>Location</b>	Llandudno, North Wales
<b>Start point</b>	Camera Obscura, Hill Terrace, LL30 2LS
<b>Finish point</b>	Great Orme Cable Car station, Happy Valley Gardens, LL30 2ND
<b>Getting there</b>	<p><b>Car</b> - Llandudno is easily accessible from the A55 North Wales Expressway. Various car parks in the town centre (charges apply) plus plenty of street parking available</p> <p><b>Train</b> - Llandudno Junction is served by direct trains from London Euston, Birmingham, Manchester and Cardiff. There is an hourly shuttle from Llandudno Junction to Llandudno.</p> <p><b>Bus</b> - Llandudno is served by long distance coaches and a variety of regional and local buses</p> <p><b>Bicycle</b> - Llandudno is on National Cycle Route 5 (Reading to Holyhead)</p>
<b>Directions from railway station to start</b>	It is just under a mile from the railway station to the start point. Follow signs for the seafront and pier. From there follow signs for Happy Valley Gardens.
<b>Walk distance</b>	3 miles
<b>Level</b>	Gentle – An easy walk round the town with a couple of very short steeper sections near the beginning and end
<b>Terrain</b>	The whole route is along paved surfaces (pavements, paths and the promenade)
<b>Suitable for</b>	<p><b>Families</b> – Plenty to entertain children including the beach, Punch and Judy (seasonal), pier, cable car and tram</p> <p><b>Wheelchairs / Pushchairs</b> – A step free route is possible</p>
<b>Conditions</b>	It can be breezy along the seafront and on the pier so take warm clothing; likewise if you plan to go to the top of the Great Orme

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### **Refreshments**

A variety of cafes, restaurants and pubs along the walk route to stop for refreshments and food

The beach and promenade, as well as Happy Valley Gardens, are suitable for picnics

### **Toilets**

Public and community toilets on the walk route (most with disabled and baby change facilities)

- Happy Valley Gardens – near Stops 1 and 21
- Tram station – near Stops 4 and 5
- George Street – near Stop 8
- Victoria Shopping Centre, Mostyn Street – between Stops 9 and 10
- Marks & Spencer, Mostyn Street – between Stops 9 and 10
- Railway station – Stop 11
- North Western Gardens – Stop 12
- Arcade near entrance to pier – near Stop 18
- Near end of pier – Stops 19 and 20

### **Places to visit**

**Camera Obscura** – Open from mid/end April to mid/end September daily from 11am to 4pm (later in summer and weather dependent)  
Admission: Adult £2, children £1.

**Great Orme Ancient Mine** – Open daily from March to October from 10am (last admission 4.30pm). Admission: Adult £6.75, children over 5 £4.75.

**Great Orme Country Park and Local Nature Reserve** – Visitor Centre at the summit of Great Orme open 10am to 5.30pm from Easter to November.

**Great Orme Tramway** – Trams run 7 days a week from 10am to 6pm (5pm in winter) Return tickets: Adult £6, children £4.20.

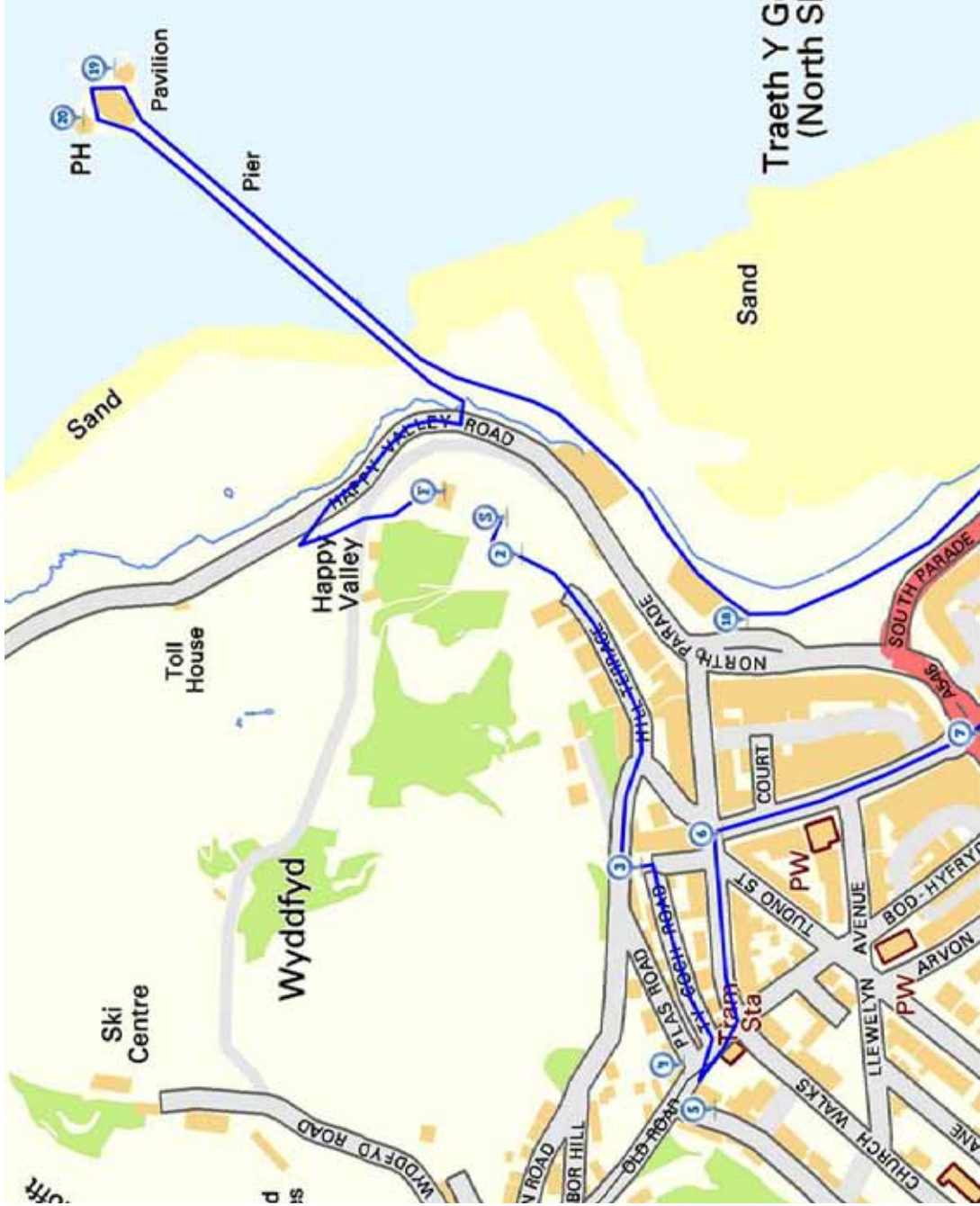
**Llandudno Museum** (Chardon House, 17-19 Gloddaeth Street) – Opening times vary through the year. Admission: Adult £2, children £1.

### **Tourist information**

Llandudno Tourist Information Centre  
Library Building, Mostyn Street  
Tel: 01492 577577 Email: llandudnotic@conwy.gov.uk



## Detail of first and last part of route



## Stopping points

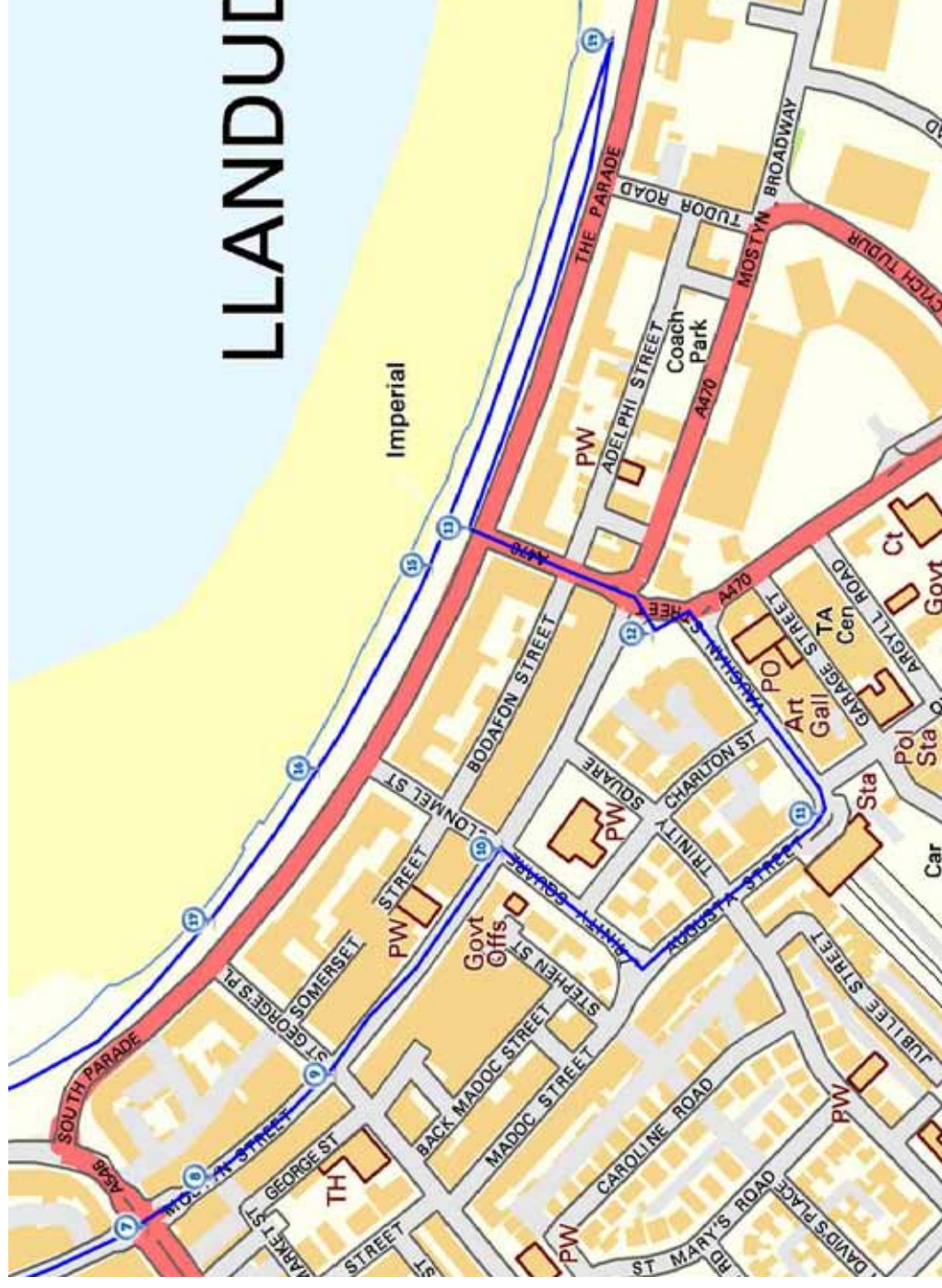
- 1.** Camera Obscura, top of Hill Terrace
- 2.** Camera Obscura, top of Hill Terrace
- 3.** Steps to Tan-yr-Ogo Terrace
- 4.** The Kings Head, Old Road
- 5.** The Kings Head, Old Road
- 6.** Empire Hotel, junction of Church Walks and Mostyn Street
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- 18.** Entrance to pier
- 19.** End of pier
- 20.** End of pier
- F** Great Orme Cable Car station



## Detail of middle section of route

## Stopping points

7. Junction of Mostyn St and North Parade
8. Mostyn Street at junction with Market St
9. Crossroads of Mostyn St, St George's Place and Lloyd Street
10. Holy Trinity Church, crossroads of Mostyn St, Clonmel St and Trinity Sq
11. Llandudno railway station, Augusta St
12. North Western Gardens, junction of Mostyn St and Vaughan St
13. Promenade opposite end of Vaughan St
14. Promenade opposite Venue Cymru
15. Promenade opposite The Imperial Hotel
16. Promenade opposite The Queen's Hotel
17. Promenade opposite St George's Hotel



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## Directions

Listen to each track then read the directions in the boxes below to get to the next stop.

### 1. Welcome to Llandudno

#### Camera Obscura, top of Hill Terrace

##### Directions 1

Remain at Camera Obscura.

### 2. Headlands and bays

#### Camera Obscura, top of Hill Terrace

##### Directions 2

Go down the steps or slope behind the Camera Obscura. Turn left and follow the path to Hill Terrace. Go down Hill Terrace, which is steep at first then levels off. At the end turn right up Ty-Gwyn Road. The pavement is narrow in places so take care. After about 50 metres, look for a flight of steps leading down to the left signposted to Tan-yr-Ogo Terrace. Go down the first 5 steps and stop at the corner.

### 3. An ancient village

#### Steps to Tan-yr-Ogo Terrace

##### Directions 3

Continue down the steps taking care as they are uneven in places. Before the bottom set of steps turn right into Ty-Coch Road which is a narrow lane. Continue to the end of the lane and ahead is the tram station. Turn right up Old Road, cross over the tram tracks and stop outside the Kings Head pub.

Note: To avoid the steps continue up Ty-Gwyn Road then bear left down Plas Road. At the end cross over Old Road and stop outside the Kings Head pub.

### 4. Changing times

#### The Kings Head, Old Road

##### Directions 4

Remain outside the Kings Head.

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## 5. Grand designs

### The Kings Head, Old Road

#### Directions 5

Turn back down Old Road away from the Kings Head. Immediately below the tram station turn left along Church Walks which goes downhill gently. Stop at the first junction outside the Empire Hotel.

## 6. A bent grid

### Empire Hotel, junction of Church Walks & Mostyn St

#### Directions 6

Walk down Mostyn Street away from the Empire Hotel. At the bottom is a roundabout which has a clock tower in the centre. Stop on the corner.

## 7. Design principles

### Junction of Mostyn Street and North Parade

#### Directions 7

Cross over South Parade and continue along Mostyn Street for about 50 metres. Stop by the junction with Market Street which is a narrow lane to the right.

## 8. Iron and glass

### Mostyn Street at junction with Market Street

#### Directions 8

Continue along Mostyn Street for about 100 metres. Stop at the major crossroads with St George's Place and Lloyd Street.

## 9. Urbs in rure (Town in country)

### Crossroads of Mostyn St, St George's Place & Lloyd St

#### Directions 9

Cross over the junction and continue along Mostyn Street. Pass a church with a spire on the left then stop at the next major crossroads looking at the church with a tower.

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## **10. A corner of Wales that is forever England**

### **Holy Trinity Church**

#### **Directions 10**

Turn right along Trinity Square with the church on your left. At the end turn left into Augusta Street. Stop outside the railway station.

## **11. Let the train take the strain**

### **Llandudno railway station, Augusta Street**

#### **Directions 11**

With your back to the station go straight ahead along Vaughan Street. Stop after about 150 metres at an open space on the left side called North Western Gardens.

## **12. Open spaces**

### **North Western Gardens, junction of Mostyn St and Vaughan St**

#### **Directions 12**

From the gardens continue along Vaughan Street towards the sea. When you reach The Parade (the seafront road), use the pedestrian crossing to go over onto the promenade.

## **13. People watching**

### **Promenade opposite end of Vaughan Street**

#### **Directions 13**

Walk along the promenade with the sea on your left. Stop after about 400 metres opposite a modern building with a glass frontage.

## **14. Let me entertain you!**

### **Promenade opposite Venue Cymru**

#### **Directions 14**

Retrace your steps back along the promenade towards the pier. Immediately after passing the end of Vaughan Street stop opposite The Imperial Hotel.



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## 15. Know your place

### Promenade opposite The Imperial Hotel

#### Directions 15

Continue along the promenade for about 200 metres. Immediately after passing the end of Clonmel Street stop opposite The Queen's Hotel.

## 16. A commodious hotel

### Promenade opposite The Queen's Hotel

#### Directions 16

Continue along the Promenade for about 200 metres to the far end of the terrace. Stop opposite St George's Hotel.

## 17. Important guests

### Promenade opposite St George's Hotel

#### Directions 17

Continue along the promenade. Stop at the entrance to the pier.

## 18. Like a Maharajah's palace

### Entrance to pier

#### Directions 18

Walk all the way along the pier and stop at the end.

## 19. Walking on water

### End of pier

#### Directions 19

Remain at the end of the pier.

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## 20. Diversification

### End of pier

#### Directions 20

Retrace your steps along the pier. Use the exit on the right before the Grand Hotel. Turn right along Happy Valley Road. After passing the parking area look for some steps on the left side. Go up the steps and slope and turn left at the top. To avoid the steps, continue along Happy Valley Road to the Toll House. Fork back left up the sloping path. Cross the road at the mini roundabout and go up the steps to the cable car station.

## 21. Conservation and change

### Great Orme Cable Car station

#### Directions 21

This is the end of the walk. We recommend a ride on the cable car up to the top of the Great Orme if it is open. Alternatively you can go on the tram or walk.

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## Credits

The RGS-IBG would like to thank the following people and organisations for their assistance in producing this Discovering Britain walk:

**Martin Haslett** for creating the walk, taking photographs and providing the audio commentary

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