



Tim Saunders & Family visit popular Victoria Seaside Town

# L L A N D U D N O

Popular Victorian seaside town Llandudno in North Wales is known as 'Flandidno' by the locals. The town has wide boulevards, art deco metalwork and ornate roofs. Queen Elisabeth of Romania stayed here in 1890.

Its seafront is lined with pastel coloured hotels, the choice of palette the requirement of the landlords, the Mostyn estate. We take the Great Orme Tour in a 1958 Leyland Tiger Cub coach. The knowledgeable driver explains that in 1848, Owen Williams presented Lord Mostyn with plans to develop the marshlands behind Llandudno Bay as a holiday resort.

We stay for four nights and five days at the three star Somerset Hotel, with its five star food hygiene rating and car park for self-drivers, owned by Daish's Holidays. Most guests arrive by Daish's coach. A substantial property with 86 en-suite bedrooms, some with sea views, there's a bar, dance floor and games room that the children love. Guests stay on a half board basis. A wonderful holiday feel with lots of chatter and new friends made quickly. After checking into our family room we go to dinner indulging in a three course meal. We enjoy the vegetable soup of the day and desserts including bread and butter pudding and spotted dick.

After an evening stroll along the seafront we return to the hotel to be entertained. What fun; we all take to the dance floor and there are covers of George Ezra's Shotgun and Pharrell Williams' Happy.

We learn, while on the hop on hop off bus tour, that there are 160 wind turbines 10 miles off the shore that provide electricity for up to 400,000 homes. The name Llandudno derives from 'llan' meaning church or parish and Saint Tudno who brought Christianity to the area.

Britain's smallest house can be found in the walled market town of Conwy where there's a castle,

suspension bridge, a vintage toy shop and the Royal Cambrian Academy gallery.

Returning to Llandudno we watch Punch & Judy. To think this very act has been entertaining visitors to the happy valley since the town was established. The original puppets are used to this day. That's the way to do it.

At Bodnant Garden there are 80 acres of superb gardens and during some pond dipping we find some baby mosquitoes. Breathtaking landscapes include waterfalls, lakes, lily ponds and views of Snowdonia in the background.

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