

Holiday report of Conwy, Conwy Castle and Llandudno

On the 3rd day of our student exchange to Manchester we went to Conwy and Llandudno in North Wales. At 9 am the bus picked us up at our accommodation. We arrived at 10:45 in Conwy and started to visit Conwy Castle at 11.15. This Castle was built between 1283 and 1287 by Eduard I and belongs to the Shire of Gwynedd. The famous architect of this Castle was James of St. George. The castle walls extend to 90m x 30m, so that it is one of the largest castles in Wales. The 8 identical round military towers have a diameter of 12m. In 1986 Conwy Castle was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

We walked through the ruins of the Castle, also into the 2nd tower on the right hand side looking from the main gate into the precinct. From above the towers one has a great view all over Conwy and also over the Castle. Most of the foundations walls are preserved, so one can see where the rooms used to be.

After visiting Conwy Castle we walked in a group of 6 through the small city centre of Conwy. There were many little shops with handmade stuff like soap, honey, marmalade and porcelain. Directly on the bank of Conwy River stands the smallest house in Great Britain, built in the 14th century. It is 3,5m high, 1,8m wide and painted red. Inside there is space for only two people, and anyone who is too tall has to incline their head. In front of the door of the house there is a small fireplace. On the right hand side of the door there are also stairs which lead to the second room of the house. That room includes a bed, a mirror and a commode. All in all the furniture of this house is from the Victorian era.

Until leaving Conwy to drive to Llandudno our group went into a pub for some drinks. At about 2pm we went by bus to Llandudno, which took 20 to 30 minutes. Unfortunately it did not stop raining, so Phil said we were going to stay just an hour and a half. The bad weather was the reason for us to sit in a restaurant again for some drinks and food, too.

After coming back from the trip to North Wales the whole group went to a pub called "Moon under Water". Usually in pubs there are no dance floors but in this one there was and we had much fun together. Standing outside for some fresh air I met two Mancunians and talked to them for half an hour about living and working in Manchester. Most of the time I saw the Mancunians' life from a different point of view as it actually is. The social life in Manchester is characterized by a high rate of unemployment, fear of career structure ??? and increasing living costs.

As a conclusion I would say it was a wonderful and interesting day regarding the historical and interpersonal aspects.