

Itinerary 2:

# The princes of Gwynedd in the Conwy valley

Llandudno - Llanrwst - Betws y Coed **Duration: ONE DAY**

Visit the historic market town of Llanrwst and enjoy a moment of quiet contemplation at Gwydir Chapel, attached to St Grwst's Church. Here rests the stone coffin of Llywelyn the Great (1173–1240), who ruled most of Wales during the early 13th century. Originally buried at Aberconwy Abbey, Conwy, Llywelyn's coffin was later moved to Maenan Abbey near Llanrwst, after Edward I forced the Cistercian monks to move there from Conwy in 1283.

At Betws y Coed, stop at St Michael's Church next to the railway museum to meet a descendant of the princes. Inside the 14th-century church is a life-sized limestone carving in battle armour. The effigy is thought to be that of Gruffydd ap Dafydd Goch, who fought alongside the Black Prince at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356. Gruffydd was the grandson of Dafydd ap Gruffydd, the last prince of an independent Wales.

**TRAVEL:** Take the train from Llandudno, changing at Llandudno Junction station to travel up the Conwy Valley to Llanrwst, or take the no.19 bus from Llandudno Junction train station. Jump back on the train to Betws y Coed to visit St Michael's Church. Finish your journey at Betws y Coed Tourist Information Centre, where you will find a small exhibition about the ages of the princes.



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Sarcophagus of Llywelyn the Great, Llanrwst

