

Welcome to

# *itineraries* for *independent travel*

**itforit**

***Each itinerary is supplied as a download of a pdf book***

It is suggested to print the book in A4 size, or US letter size  
See 'PDF info' on the *itforit.com* website

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***All itineraries provide a daily set of details for:***

What to do  
What to see  
What you need to know, to get the most out of each place visited

.....  
***All itineraries include:***

Places, personally visited and recommended  
Walks, with distances, and what to see (*all walks are in italics*)  
Photographs, to help enjoy places before, during and after your trip  
Pronunciations, where these will help  
Translations, where these will give an understanding

.....  
***All details are:***

Easy to read  
Accurate  
Comprehensive  
Honest and factual  
Up to date  
In the correct order, following the itinerary

.....  
***If you have any queries, please contact:***

*enquiries@itforit.com*

.....  
*This pdf download provides 4 demonstration days, from 4 separate itforit itineraries:*

*3 pages from the USA Grand Circle itinerary*

*3 pages from the USA New England itinerary*

*4 pages from the USA California itinerary*

*3 pages from the British Snowdonia itinerary*

***Note:***

*There is a policy of continual improvement, and therefore these examples must be accepted purely as an indication of the type of itinerary that is available.*

Date.....

Photographs cannot do this place justice. It is easy to escape from the crowds, just by walking a short distance along the rim.

Approximate miles = 10

**Day In Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona)**

• **Various Activities**

- There are all sorts of lectures, exhibits, films, Ranger-led walks, etc.
  - Evening illustrated talks, at Mather Amphitheater, cover subjects on human history, natural history, geology, and the seasons.
- Coach trips are available along the rim in each direction.
- Horses and wagons are available for rides in the forest, and along the rim.

• **Mule trips**

- These have to be booked up to one year in advance, but there is a daily waiting list for cancellations.
- It should be noted that there are various qualifications on the riders permitted, including a minimum height and weight.



- There is a one day trip to Indian Gardens and Plateau Point, which takes about 7 hours. It descends 3,200 feet to the Tonto Plateau, and then returns.
- There is also a two day trip to Phantom Ranch, deep in the inner gorge. This involves an overnight stay.
- The trips are operated by the Park management company, Xanterra ("zan-ter-ah"). Enquiries can be made by e-mail to: reserve-gcncr@xanterra.com

• **Steam Train to Williams**

- From Williams to Grand Canyon Village, this morning trip travels through Kaibab National Forest and across Arizona's northern plains, on a 75-year-old steam train.
- It starts from Williams at 9:30am, arriving at 11:45am. The return journey starts from Grand Canyon Village at 3:15pm, arriving at Williams at 5:30pm.
- One way fares are also available, and therefore it is possible to start at Grand Canyon, staying overnight at Williams, and returning next morning. Various options are available, with differing classes of service, and packages to include an overnight stay in Williams.



continued.....

**Grand Canyon National Park** (continued)

- Yavapai Point
  - This is close to the Museum, in the Village.
  - It is a good viewing place, and possible to see Indian Gardens, amongst the cottonwood trees, far below.
    - Indian Gardens is a lodge and campground, only reached by visitors on foot, on a mule, or from the Colorado River.
  - The mule path can also be seen, continuing to Plateau Point.
- Various Walks
  - *Along the South Rim, either east or west, in combination with the shuttle bus.*
    - *The walk along west rim path to Hermits Rest is 7-9 miles (15-8 miles return).*
  - *There are no easy walks descending into the canyon, but there are no restrictions on walking a small amount.*

- Bright Angel Trail

- *This starts from Bright Angel Lodge, and is a strenuous 19 miles return walk taking two days.*
- *It is a well-maintained path to Phantom Ranch.*



- Phantom Ranch

- *This is a peaceful retreat of solitude, 1 mile down from the rim, deep inside the inner gorge, with comfortable cabins and dormitories, together with eating facilities.*
- *It can only be reached by foot, on a mule or from the Colorado River.*
- *The original building was constructed in 1922.*
- *According to Havasupai Indian legend, a phantom once appeared in the area.*

- West Rim

- No private vehicles are allowed along this road.
- It is best to use the free shuttle bus for some points, and walk for others.
  - The shuttle bus journey from Grand Canyon Village to Hermit's Rest takes about 30 minutes.
  - The bus stops at all points:
    - Trailview Overlook.
    - Maricopa Point ("mah-ree-coh-pah").
    - Powell Point and Memorial.
    - Hopi Point ("hoh-pee").
    - Mohave Point ("mo-har-vie").
    - The Abyss.
    - Pima Point ("pee-ma").
    - Hermit's Rest.

continued.....

**Grand Canyon National Park** (continued)

- **Hopi Point**
  - This is on a promontory jutting deep into the gorge, giving expansive views.
  - On a still day, it is possible to hear the rumbling of Granite Rapids, almost a mile below.
  - A long, 100-yard-wide, section of the Colorado River can be seen.
- **The Abyss**
  - This is a sheer cliff, which drops 3,000 feet to the plateau below.



- **Powell Point**
  - From here, there is a view of Orphan Mine, one of the last mines in use in Grand Canyon.
- **Hermit's Rest**
  - This is so called after French-Canadian Louis Boucher lived, prospected and grew produce here in the 1890s.
  - **Hermit Trail**
    - *This is a very strenuous, 17 miles return walk, taking two days.*
    - *The path is not maintained.*

**Tusayan**

- This is about 7 miles south of Grand Canyon Village - actually just outside Grand Canyon National Park, on Route 64 / 180.
- Aeroplane flights are available by helicopter or fixed-wing.
  - Since 1977, various restrictions have been made on flights over the canyon.
- No tourist sightseeing flights go into the canyon. Helicopters fly about level with the rim, and fixed-wings fly about 1,000 feet higher.
- Prices vary for the choice of fixed-wing or helicopter flights, and variations on the length of the flight. For a similar length of flight, a fixed-wing flight is cheaper than in a helicopter.
- The IMAX theatre (the world's largest motion picture system), shows a 35-minute experience of Grand Canyon.
- There are also stores, restaurants, accommodations and other services here.



**Overnight at Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona)**

Date.....

Lots of beautiful scenery, and good walks - with the option of very little driving.

Approximate miles = 100

**Day around Lincoln / North Woodstock / Loon (New Hampshire)**

**North of Lincoln / North Woodstock / Loon:**

**Franconia Notch State Park (New Hampshire)**

- This is about 5 miles north of Lincoln, either side of Interstate 93, which is linked with Route 3.
- Franconia Notch is a narrow, 8 mile pass through the White Mountains, with surrounding peaks of 4,000 feet.
- **'Old Man of the Mountain'**

- This could be seen near the northern end of the pass. There is an 'Old Man Viewing Area' just off Interstate 93, about 5 miles north of the Flume Visitor Center.



- In May 2003, the 'Old Man' fell from the mountain. It is thought his chin fell first, which supported the rest of his face.
- The height of the face was about 40 feet, from the bottom of the chin to the top of the forehead.
- The rock face, resembling a human face, was a symbol of New Hampshire.
- Daniel Webster and Nathaniel Hawthorne both called him 'Great Stone Face'.

- *It is very good for walking. Shorter walks are described.*

- **The Flume**

- *This is a 2 miles loop walk, starting at the Flume Visitor Center - about 5 miles north of Lincoln.*
- *The path goes through the narrow granite gorge of Flume Brook, including a long section on boardwalk. At the end of the gorge is a 45 feet high waterfall. It also goes through two covered bridges - both of them are over the Pemigewasset River ("pem-ijer-woss-et").*



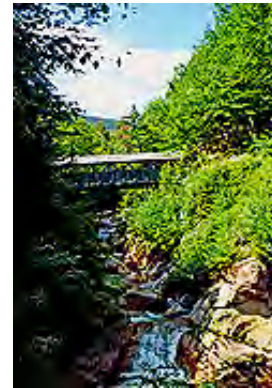
- *Flume Covered Bridge was built about 1871, and is 17 yards long.*

continued.....

**Franconia Notch State Park** (continued)

- **The Flume** (continued)

- *Sentinel Pine Covered Bridge was built in 1939 for tourists, and is 20 yards long. It was built from a Pine tree 5 feet in diameter, blown down in a hurricane in 1938.*



- **Mount Pemigewasset Trail**

- *This is 2.8 miles return walk, starting at the Flume Visitor Center.*
- *It goes to the summit of Mount Pemigewasset, at 2,557 feet.*
- *It is a good climb through the forest, and has excellent views from the top.*



- *An alternative route back from the top is via Indian Head Trail, which involves an extra 1 mile walk, north, by the side of Interstate 93.*

- **The Basin**

- *This is only a 0.5 mile return walk, starting at The Basin - about 2 miles north from The Flume.*




- *After walking through the underpass, follow the sign to the right for 'Pemi Trail'.*
- *It goes to a massive granite pothole, 20 feet diameter and 15 feet deep. It is still being formed by the Pemigewasset River, after tumbling down a waterfall.*

- **Kinsman Falls**

- *These are a further 1 mile return walk from The Basin, following the signs uphill for Kinsman, and other trails.*
  - *Shortly before Kinsman Falls, the trail crosses Cascade Brook, but this is not always possible to cross.*
- *The falls are in the beautifully rocky Cascade Brook.*
- *It is a moderate walk, but very rewarding - climbing over rocks and tree roots, following Cascade Brook.*

continued.....

**Franconia Notch State Park** (continued)

- **Lonesome Lake**
    - *This is a 3 miles return walk, starting from Lafayette Place, by another Visitor Center, 2 miles north of The Basin.*
    - *At the far end of the lake is the Appalachian Mountain Club hut, which is on the Appalachian Trail.*
  - **Bald Mountain and Artists Bluff**
    - *These can both be visited on a 1.5 miles loop walk, starting from just north of Echo Lake, which is at the north end of Franconia Notch State Park - about 6 miles north of The Flume Visitor Center.*
- 
- *There are good views from the summits, which are along short trails from the main circular path.*

**Franconia** (New Hampshire)

- This is about 3 miles northwest of Franconia Notch State Park.
- **'The Frost Place'**
  - This is south of Franconia, just off Route 116.
    - It is about 1 mile south of Exit 38 of Interstate 93, from where it is well signposted.
  - It is the farmhouse where Robert Frost wrote many of his poems, after returning from England.
  - He is famous for his poems about rural life, especially for those depicting life in New England. He won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry four times.
  - He died in 1963, and was buried at Bennington (see Day 8 or 8C).
  - The farmhouse contains many of Robert Frost's possessions, and has a slide presentation about his life and the area in which he lived - as it was such an influence on him. There is a self-guided tour.
  - *There is a 0.5 mile nature trail in the forest behind the house, with inscriptions of his poetry along the way. Some of these are in the precise place where he wrote the poems.*

continued.....

**South of Lincoln / North Woodstock / Loon:**

**Campton / Blair** (New Hampshire)

- This is about 12 miles south of Lincoln.
- There are three covered bridges in this area.
- **Turkey Jim's Covered Bridge**

- From Exit 28 off Interstate 9, take Route 49 west.
  - After 0.5 mile turn right into Branch Brook Campground.



- After 300 yards, turn left, and after 100 yards there are 5 white posts on your right. Walk past the posts towards the 'Office', and the bridge is 100 yards ahead.
- It was built in 1958, and is 20 yards long.
- Its real name is Stevens Bridge.
- Hundreds of turkeys drowned here in 1927, and hence its name.
- The original bridge was built in 1883, over a tributary to the Pemigewasset River.

- **Bump Covered Bridge**

- From Exit 28 off Interstate 9, take Route 49 east.
  - After 1 mile, turn right at the traffic lights, and follow the road round to the right.



- After 3 miles, there is a sharp left bend, followed by a sharp right bend. Do not take the right bend, but continue straight down a minor road.
- After 0.4 mile, turn right, and the bridge is 1 mile on the left.
- It was built in 1972, and is 23 yards long.
- The clapboards run horizontally, rather than the usual vertical fitting.
- The original bridge on this site was built in 1877, over the River Beebe.

- **Blair Covered Bridge**

- From Exit 27 off Interstate 9, turn left at the bottom of the ramp.
  - Go straight over at the crossroads, and the bridge is directly ahead.
- It was built in 1977, and is 97 yards long.
- It was reputedly built by a doctor who nearly drowned in the river.
- The original bridge on this site was built in 1869, over the Pemigewasset River.

continued.....

**Ashland** (New Hampshire)

- This is about 10 miles south of Blair.
- **Ashland Covered Bridge**
  - This is at the end of Little Squam Lake, about 1 mile from Exit 24 from Interstate 93.



- It was built in 1990 to an authentic design, and is 20 yards long, over the Squam River.

**Squam Lake** (New Hampshire)

- This is about 4 miles east of Ashland, along Route 3.
  - Route 113 also goes to the north of the lake.
- It is an attractive area, and was used in the film *On Golden Pond*, made in 1981.

**Center Sandwich** (New Hampshire)

- This is about 2 miles northwest of Squam Lake - about 15 miles from Ashland.
- It has an attractive church beside a pond.



**Lake Winnepesaukee** (New Hampshire)

- This is about 8 miles south of Center Sandwich, along Route 109.
- It is the largest Lake in New Hampshire, and has various towns around its shores.
  - Meredith, Wiers Beach and Wolfboro are the main places to visit, but they are not especially attractive in themselves.
- The scenery around the lake is the appealing aspect of the area.
- There are over 270 islands in the lake, and is attractive when viewed from any of the lake shore areas, or from tourist boats.
- Its name is Indian for 'smile of the great white spirit'.

**Overnight at Lincoln / North Woodstock / Loon** (New Hampshire)

Date.....

If you enjoy trees, scenery and trails, then today will be wonderful. There's plenty to see, other than big trees.

Approximate miles = 190

**Leave Three Rivers** northeast on Route 198.

**Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks**

- Ash Mountain Entrance to these is about 5 miles northeast of Three Rivers, on Route 198.
- Sequoia National Park is immediately south of Kings Canyon National Park and although there is a boundary between them, they are now jointly administered as one National Park.
- The area is 36 miles wide and 66 miles from north to south, but has few roads, which are all on the west side.
- There are many groves of giant sequoia trees, with beautiful trails.
  - The five largest giant sequoias by volume are in Sequoia National Park.
  - See the section 'Some Trees of California', at the front of this itinerary, for some facts about the giant sequoia.
- The General's Highway is the road that links the main features of the National Parks, roughly from south to north. The descriptions of features have been made in that same direction of travel, starting from Ash Mountain Entrance in the south.
- **Visiting Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks**
  - The recommended way to explore and enjoy the Parks is to drive about 85 miles straight to the most northeastern point, in Kings Canyon, and then work back.
    - The journey of about 85 miles normally takes about 3 hours.
  - In this way, an overview is gained of both the Parks, whilst enjoying the scenery.
  - Visiting all of the two Parks cannot be achieved in one day, but more time can be allocated on Day 13. That time can then be spent on the more southern section - nearest to the accommodation, and onward travel.
    - A suggestion is to leave the area around Giant Forest until Day 13.
  - The road between the Ash Mountain Entrance and Giant Forest has many bends, and can be time-consuming. However, after Giant Forest, the road becomes much easier to travel.
  - Distances are provided in the south to north direction - it is easy to work out the reverse.
- **Amphitheater Point**
  - This is about 10.4 miles from Ash Mountain Entrance.
  - It has an excellent view of the Kaweah River valley, Moro Rock above, at 6,725 feet, and Castle Rocks across the valley, at 9,180 feet.



continued.....

**Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks** (continued)

- **Crystal Cave**
  - The road to this is about 3.3 miles from Amphitheater Point.
    - It is about 9 miles (18 miles return) to Crystal Cave.
  - Crystal cave is really a cave system, which has been formed in marble.
    - Marble is the same chemical composition as limestone, but has been formed when limestone has been subjected to heat and pressure below the Earth's surface, which causes it to re-crystallize to a change of texture.
    - Most cave systems are formed in limestone, which dissolves relatively easily in water.
    - This cave has an interesting display of stalagmites and stalactites, which have been formed from marble being dissolved.
    - The caves in Oregon Caves National Monument (see Optional Day A2) have also been formed in this unusual way.
  - The cave is not especially well lit, in comparison with other caves, but this may be worthwhile for the geology interest.
  - There are 45-minute guided tours, generally starting on the half-hour.
    - Tickets must be purchased in advance, at either the Foothills Visitor Center, or the Lodgepole Visitor Center.
- **Giant Forest Museum**
  - This is about 2 miles from the turning to Crystal Cave.
  - Set in a grove of massive giant sequoias, this has exhibits about the natural and human history of the area.
- **Side road to Crescent Meadow**
  - This is a 3.3 miles road (6.6 miles return), which starts at Giant Forest Museum.
  - **Auto Log**
    - This is about 0.8 mile from Giant Forest Museum.
    - It is a horizontal section of a giant sequoia, which fell in 1917.
    - Rangers cut a section of the trunk so that people could pose for photographs with their vehicles.
  - **Moro Rock**
    - *This is about 0.8 mile from Auto Log, with a parking area at its base.*
    - *There is a 0.5 mile, well-made, return trail to the summit. It has nearly 400 steps, climbing about 300 feet.*
    - *From the summit, at 6,725 feet, there is a 360° panorama of the area and the Sierra Nevada.*
  - **Tunnel Log**
    - This is about 0.7 mile from Moro Rock.
    - A road tunnel, measuring 8 x 17 feet, has been cut through a giant sequoia, which fell in 1937.
    - The tree was 275 feet high, and 21 feet in diameter at its base.



continued.....

**Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks** (continued)

• **Side road to Crescent Meadow** (continued)

• **Crescent Meadow**

- This is about 1 mile from Tunnel Log - at the end of the road.
- It is a beautiful area, with many opportunities for walking.



• **Tharp's Log walk**

- *This is an easy 1-6 miles return walk to see an unusual home.*
- *First, follow the sign for High Sierra Trail, and then follow the signs for Tharp's Log.*
- *The trail includes two meadows. Crescent Meadow has been described as the "gem of the Sierras". Log Meadow is the site of Tharp's Log.*
- *Hale D Tharp (1828-1912) was the first white settler in the area, and established a cattle ranch here in 1858.*
- *He built his summer home at the end of a fallen giant sequoia, using the hollowed-out trunk from 1861 to 1890. It is the oldest cabin in the Park. He used the area as grazing for his cattle.*
- *In 1861, he climbed Moro Rock with his two stepsons.*

• **Big Trees Trail**

- *This is about 0-3 mile from Giant Forest Museum, along the General's Highway.*
- *It is an easy 1-2 miles loop trail circling Round Meadow. It ascends about 60 feet.*
- *It has interpretive signs explaining the balance of nature.*

• **General Sherman Tree**

- *This is 1 mile (2 miles return) along the side road to Wolverton.*
  - *The side road is about 2-2 miles from Big Trees Trail.*
- *It is the world's largest living organism by volume, being 275 feet tall, and 36.5 feet in diameter at the base.*
- *It is between 2,200 and 2,700 years old.*

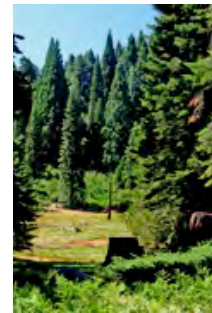


- *In 1879, it was named by a pioneer, who had served under General William Tecumseh Sherman in the Civil War.*
- *A 0.5 mile return trail goes to circle the tree. It descends about 50 feet.*
- **Congress Trail**
  - *This is an easy 2 miles loop trail, starting from the General Sherman Tree.*
  - *The trail follows a stream and goes to many giant sequoias of different ages.*

continued.....

**Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks** (continued)

- **Lodgepole Village**
    - This is about 1.6 miles from the side road to Wolverton.
    - It has various facilities and Lodgepole Visitor Center.
  - Travel about 23 miles northwest to the junction of the General's Highway and Route 180.
  - **Kings Canyon Scenic Byway**
    - This is a 50 mile road (100 miles return) of superb scenery along Route 180.
    - It starts at the west entrance, which is on Route 180, and finishes about 5 miles beyond Cedar Grove (see below).
      - The central section is not within the National Park.
    - This itinerary travels along about 35 miles (70 miles return), from the Grant Grove area (see below) to the end of the road.
    - It is a road with spectacular scenery beside the rushing waters of South Fork of the Kings River.
    - The Kings River was named by Spanish explorers in 1805 as 'El Rio de los Santos Reyes', meaning 'The River of the Holy Kings', when they discovered it further downstream in the San Joaquin Valley.
      - The Kings River now flows into a reservoir, and is used for domestic water and irrigation.
  - **Big Stump Trail** (*An extra 2 miles*)
    - *This is about 1 mile west of the junction of the General's Highway and Route 180.*
      - *It starts from the Big Stump picnic area.*
    - *It is a 1 mile trail, with a loop at the end. It descends about 100 feet.*
    - *It starts at the notice board, and it is suggested just to go to the Burnt Monarch, Mill Site and Shattered Giant.*
  - *At a fork in the trail, take the left trail, which goes round a clearing where there was once a mill, operated between 1883 and 1890.*
    - *In the clearing there are stumps of old giant sequoias, and large piles of un-rotted sequoia sawdust.*
  - *The trail continues over the Shattered Giant, and returns to the parking area.*
  - *Although this trail demonstrates the influence of man, there is also good evidence of the regeneration of new trees.*
- **Grant Grove area**
  - This is about 1.4 miles north of the junction of the General's Highway and Route 180.
  - It is an area with various facilities, a Visitor Center, campgrounds, and many trails - one goes to the Dead Giant, which was killed by man.
- **Panoramic Point**
  - *A 2.3 miles road (4.6 miles return) starts from the rear of the Grant Grove Visitor Center parking area, to the right of John Muir Lodge.*
- *From Panoramic Point parking area, there is a 600 yards return trail to a good view from 7,520 feet over Kings Canyon and the Sierra Nevada. It ascends about 100 feet.*

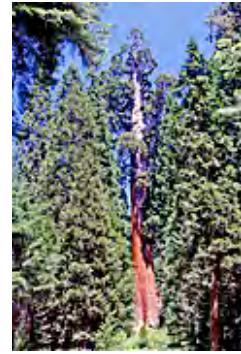


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**Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks** (continued)

• **General Grant Tree trail**

- This is about 0.2 mile from the Grant Grove Visitor Center, along a 0.5 mile return road.
- A 0.4 mile anti-clockwise loop trail goes to the General Grant Tree.
  - It is regarded as the USA's 'Christmas Tree'. A service is held here every Christmas Day.
  - It is 268 feet tall, and 40 feet in diameter at the base, and is the world's third largest giant sequoia.
- Along the trail are various other named features, including the Robert E Lee Tree, the Gamlin pioneer cabin (originally constructed in 1872), and the Centennial Stump, which is the remains of a tree, which was felled for partial exhibition in Philadelphia, in 1875.



• **Junction View**

- This is about 10.1 miles from the road to General Grant Tree (continuing north along Route 180).
- It provides a view into the South Fork of the Kings River, which is 8,200 feet below the surrounding mountains.
- At over 1.5 miles deep, it is deeper than Grand Canyon, which is about 1.2 miles deep.

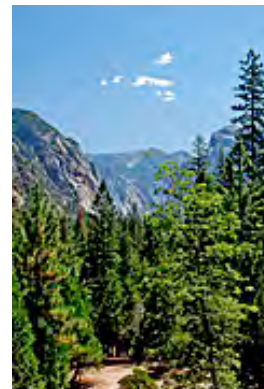


• **Cedar Grove**

- This is about 17.7 miles from Junction View, and is within Kings Canyon National Park.
- It has various facilities and a Visitor Center.

• **Canyon View**

- This is about 1 mile from the Cedar Grove turning, by the side of the road.
- It provides a spectacular view west along the canyon of the South Fork of the Kings River.
- It is the only view along the canyon from the road.

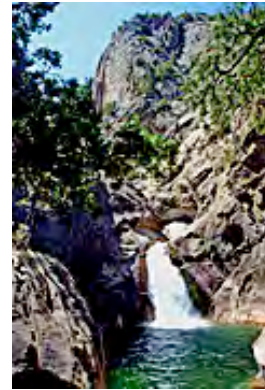


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**Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks** (continued)

- **Roaring River Falls Trail**

- *This is about 2 miles from Canyon View, starting from a parking area.*
- *It is an easy 600 yards return walk through trees, beside the Roaring River.*
- *Roaring River Falls is a powerful force of water through a narrow chasm and into an emerald pool.*



- **Zumwalt Meadow Trail**

- *This starts about 1-4 miles from Roaring River Falls Trail parking area.*
- *It is an interesting and attractive 1.5 mile trail, with a loop through a lush meadow, with high granite cliffs around, and beside the South Fork of the Kings River.*



- *A descriptive booklet of the trail is available near the parking area.*
- *Zumwalt Meadow is named after Daniel K Zumwalt, who was a campaigner for preservation, and for the creation of Sequoia National Park.*

- **End of the road**

- *This is about 1 mile from the Zumwalt Meadow Trail parking area.*
- *There is a good view from here, with Grand Sentinel rising 3,500 feet from the canyon floor to the south.*
- *North Dome, at 8,717 feet is to the north.*

**Overnight at Three Rivers**

Date.....

Around the Conwy valley today, with views, legend, history, industrial archaeology and wonderful gardens.

Approximate miles = 40

Today's map numbers - **115 & 116**

**Leave Betws-y-Coed** west on the A5 road.

**Ty Hyll** ("tee-heeh")

- This about 2.5 miles west of Betws-y-Coed, on the A5 road, at 756576.
- The translation of Ty Hyll is 'Ugly House', as it was built so quickly, using building methods and materials of unusual proportions.



- It is believed to date from the late-1400s. In order to obtain the freehold on common land, it was built quickly.
  - The custom was that if a dwelling could be built between dusk and dawn - with walls, roof and a smoking chimney - the freehold could be claimed.
- At one time, it was used as an overnight stop for Irish drovers taking cattle to English markets.
- In the early-1800s, it was used by the men constructing the road.
- In the mid-1800s, it was written about as a 'quaint cottage', but by 1988, it was abandoned and in a dilapidated state.
- It has been renovated by the Snowdonia Society, which uses the upper floor as office space.
- The ground floor has been furnished as an 1800s Welsh cottage, and has a display about the Snowdonia Society.
- It is open to visitors, and there is a small garden, together with a woodland walk through the remaining 5 acres.

Leave Ty Hyll north along a narrow country lane, beside the cottage.

**Viewpoint**

- This is about 1 mile northeast of Ty Hyll, at 765583.
- It provides a good view southeast, across the Conwy valley.

continued.....

**Cyffty Lead Mine** ("coov-tee")

- This is 1 mile northeast of the viewpoint, at 770589.
- Although some lead had been mined here before, it was in the 1850s that the main operation started.



- There are good views over the site from a rough parking area at the east, and there is a path around the site to obtain a closer look.
- There are two shafts - one at each end of the site. There is a viewing platform over the west shaft.
- There are the remains of various buildings from the 1870s, including a crushing mill, a row of cottages, a blacksmith's workshop and a buddle pit.
  - After crushing, the powdered ore was stirred around in the buddle pit, where the heavy lead laden particles dropped to the bottom, and the lighter waste was washed away.
  - Early buddles were just boxes, with running water.
  - Later versions were more elaborate with the crushed rock particles being fed along a duct, and dropped onto a central cone. Swirling water then took away the lighter particles to the outer edges of the buddle, leaving the heavier, lead laden particles near the centre. The water was released from the buddle, and it was then relatively easy to collect the lead laden particles, ready for smelting.
- Water from the mine shafts was pumped out using water power from a 35 feet water-wheel situated between the two shafts.
- Until the early-1900s, power for machinery was provided by water and horses. Coal then became available via the nearby railway, and steam power took over.

Return along the road for about 0.25 mile, and turn right (north).

**Llyn Geirionydd** ("hleen-gay-ree-on-eth")

- This is about 2 miles northwest of Cyffty Lead Mine, at 763610.
- **Monument to Taliesin** ("tal-ee-es-in")
  - This is at the north end of the 1-mile-long lake.
  - It was erected about 1850, to commemorate the area being the traditional birthplace of Taliesin.
  - The original monument was damaged by lightning and was re-erected in 1994.
  - **Taliesin**
    - He was an early bard of Wales, who may have lived a little later than King Arthur, but whose stories are inextricably interwoven with Arthurian legends.
    - He is thought to have lived in the 500s AD.

continued.....

Llanrhychwyn ("hlan-rookh-ween")

- Church of St Rhychwyn ("rookh-ween")

- This about 0.75 mile northeast of Llyn Geirionydd, at 775616.



- It is known as Llywelyn's Old Church, and was used by him and his wife until he built a chapel at Trefriw (see below).
- It is set in a wonderfully isolated and tranquil position in a farming area, with good views over the Conwy valley.
- Quaintly, there is no path to the church, and it is necessary to walk across the corner of the field, to enter through the 1762 lychgate (the original date has been altered to read 1462).
  - A lych is the old word for a body. A roofed lychgate was a place to rest with the coffin, before a funeral service.
- The south aisle of the church dates from the late-1000s to early-1100s, with later alterations and additions - particularly the north aisle, which was added in the 1500s.
  - It is the oldest church in Wales.
  - The window behind the altar dates from the 1400s, and is thought it may be the oldest glass in Wales.
- The small square font is one of the earliest known fonts in Britain, probably dating from the 1000s or 1100s.
- Much of the furnishings - such as the pulpit, altar rails and altar - date from the 1600s and 1700s.



- The general appearance is that the church has not altered much since those times, having managed to avoid been 'modernised' by the Victorians.
  - It is still lit by candles.
- St Rhychwyn was a 500s AD saint, who founded a place of worship here at that time. The original structure would have been of timber.

Trefriw ("trev-reeoo")

- This is 0.75 miles northeast of Llanrhychwyn on the B5106 road, at 780632.
- In about 1230, Llywelyn the Great had a hunting lodge, or held court, here.
  - He built a 'chapel of ease', to save his wife, Joan (Siwan), having to walk up to Llanrhychwyn Church (see above).
  - Nothing of the Trefriw Chapel of Ease now remains.
- At one time, this was a port, which shipped minerals, slate, bark for the tanning trade, cloth, wool and grain. However, the River Conwy became silted up, and river traffic stopped in the late-1940s.

continued.....

Trefriw (continued)

- Trefriw Woollen Mills
  - This is clearly signposted on the B5106 road, in the centre of the village.
  - Thomas Williams purchased the mill in 1859, and it is still owned and run by members of the same family.
    - The mill manufactures woollen cloth with traditional Welsh designs.
  - It is on the River Crafnant ("crav-nant"), which is a tributary of the River Conwy.
    - At one time the mill was powered directly with waterpower from the river.
    - Since about 1900, waterpower has been used to drive hydro-electric turbines, which produce electricity to drive electric motors.
    - Since 1952, the water has been piped from about 0.25 mile upstream - to provide greater power.
    - The soft water in the fast-flowing river was also used to wash the wool.
  - It is a commercial enterprise - but there is an interesting free self-guided tour round the mill machinery.
    - The tour includes blending of wool, carding, spinning, hanking, dyeing, washing, winding, warping and weaving. The hydro-electric machinery can also be viewed.
  - It is open daily, on weekdays only.

Bodnant Garden

- This is about 6 miles northeast of Trefriw, just off the A470 road.
  - The entrance is across the minor road from the parking area, at 802724.



- Bodnant is the family home of the Barons of Aberconway.
  - It was built in 1792, and purchased by Henry Pochin (1821-1895) in 1874, when he retired. He had been an industrial chemist, and had made two inventions connected with soap and paper manufacture, making him very wealthy.
  - The house passed down through his daughter, who married the barrister Charles McLaren (1913-2003). The house is still the private residence of the McLaren family. It is not open to the public.
  - The garden of 80 acres was given to the National Trust in 1949, and is open to the public.
  - The McLaren family and the Head Gardener manage the garden on behalf of the National Trust.
- Many of the old trees in the garden had been planted in 1792, but from 1904 to 1914, the Aberconway family designed and organised the layout of formal terraces close to the house. The family was also responsible for the introduction of many rhododendrons.
- The garden faces south across the Conwy valley with a wonderful backdrop of the Snowdonia mountains.
- Abundant water has been used to good effect in the creation of various ponds and pools, both formal and informal.

continued.....

## Bodnant Garden

- The garden can be divided into two areas.



- The upper area - near the house - is the formal Terrace Garden.
- The lower area - centred around the small Hiraethlyn ("hee-riy-thleen") valley - is The Dell, which is informal.
- The garden is at its best in the spring and early summer, when the many rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias and camellias are in bloom. The famous laburnum arch is also in flower at this time.
- During the summer, the herbaceous borders and roses come to life, and the water lilies flower.
- The Dell area has many attractive crossing points of the River Hiraethlyn, and a high weir.
- This is a National Trust property and opening times should be checked on 01492 650460. It is open from 10 am.

## Llanrwst ("hlan-roost")

- This is about 7 miles south of Bodnant Garden, on the A470 road, at 800615.
- It is a busy market town, on the River Conwy, and almost untouched by tourism. The centre of the town is Ancaster Square.
- A settlement has been here since at least 945 AD, and there may have been a Roman harbour on the river bank.
- It has been famous as a manufacturing town, for furniture, clocks and particularly harps.
- Church Street is a narrow, old street, leading from the corner of Ancaster Square.
- Almshouses
  - These are in Church Street, on the right.
  - They have been converted into an interesting museum about the town, and particularly about the almshouses.
  - They were established in 1610 by Sir John Wynn, of Gwydir Castle (see above), when he had recovered from an illness.
  - At first, they were for 12 poor men of the town, aged over 65. Each man had one single room.
  - After a 4-year court case ending in 1843, to establish who should provide further funds, women were also housed here.
  - They continued to be homes until the 1970s.


- Church of St Grwst

- This is at the end of Church Street.
  - It is kept locked, but the key is available from the Verger's house at 14 Church Street - the end house.



continued.....

**Llanrwst** (continued)

- **Church of St Grwst** (continued)
  - St Grwst ("groost") was a missionary, and founded this church in 540 AD. He was known as 'St Grwst the Confessor'.
  - Various headstones in the churchyard have been engraved with Welsh harps. A good example is immediately on the right, through the church gates - that of the harp-maker David Roberts.
  - The present church dates from 1170, but has been altered many times over the centuries.
    - The original part is at the west end.
    - In 1468, its thatched roof was destroyed by fire, and many alterations were then carried out.
    - In 1670, it was re-built, and had a major restoration in 1884.
  - **Rood screen**
    - This is very fine, with a gallery, which was used for the minstrels, who provided music for the services.
    - It was installed in 1538, having been brought by boat from the Cistercian Abbey at Maenan ("miy-nan"), when it was dissolved.
      - Maenan is about 2 miles north of Llanrwst.
  - **Mourning Bell**
    - This unusual feature is usually kept near the rood screen.
    - It is a hand-held bell, used to summon people to mourn.
    - Its 1655 inscription was the date of a repair. It is believed to date from at least 1100, and probably earlier.
  - **Gwydir Chapel**
    - This is off the chancel, on the south side.
    - Its design is attributed to Inigo Jones, and building was completed in 1634.
      - It was built by Sir Richard Wynn, the son of Sir John Wynn.
    - It was intended as a mausoleum and memorial chapel for the Wynns of Gwydir Castle, and has the remains of at least 14 members of the family.
    - It has the empty stone coffin of Llywelyn the Great (1173-1240), which had originally been at the Cistercian Abbey in Conwy.
    - It was moved with the Abbey to Maenan.
    - On the dissolution of Maenan Abbey, it loaded into a boat, to be moved to Llanrwst.
    - However, the boat capsized and the coffin fell into the River Conwy. It was later found in Llanrwst being used as a rubbish receptacle, and was transferred here.
    - A life-size stone effigy is of Howell ap Coetmore, who built Gwydir Castle.
    - There are also a reading table, timber roof and various sections of screen, which were rescued from Maenan Abbey.

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**Pont Fawr** ("pont-vowr")

- This is about 200 yards south of Llanrwst, at 798615.
- It is a graceful bridge with three arches over the River Conwy, and leads into Llanrwst.



- It was built in 1636, and was reputedly designed by Inigo Jones (1573-1652). However, it is considered very unlikely that he was responsible for controlling its construction, as it has had a history of problems.
  - The arch on the west side collapsed in 1642, 1678 and 1702.
  - In the 1800s, it was called the 'Shaking Bridge', as it was so unstable.
  - In the 1900s, it was reinforced, and is now safe.
- **Tu Hwnt I'r Bont** ("ti-hoont-lr-bont")
  - This is at the western end of the bridge.
  - Its translation from Welsh is 'the house over the bridge'.
  - It is a quaint 1400s building, and at one time was the local Courthouse.
  - It was then converted into two cottages.
  - It is now owned by the National Trust, and is a café.
  - It is frequently flooded during the winter.

**Overnight around Betws-y-Coed**