

Pets' Mews



The NewsPaper for Instagramming Plushies, Pets, and their People

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Introducing our latest Plushie Reporter, Artie!



[CLICK HERE TO READ PM IN GERMAN AND RUSSIAN](#)



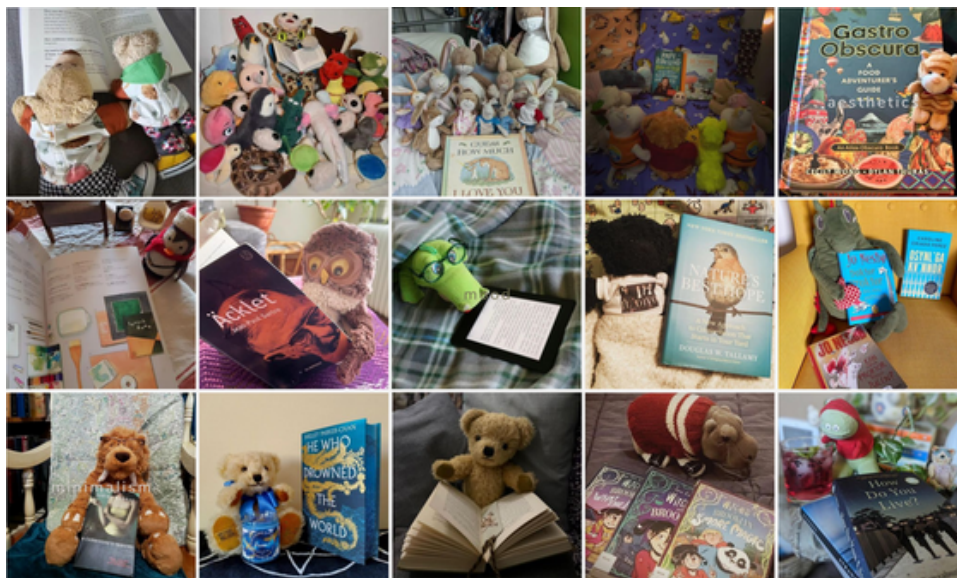


Plushies' Reading Hour

by [@spybatmissions](#)



September 8th is the International Literacy Day. UNESCO has been working with this day for over 50 years in order to promote literacy as a way to work for equality, democracy, sustainability and peace. As a part of International Literacy Day, the Read Hour movement was started in Finland in 2019. The concept of Read Hour is to read for one hour this day, and also to read together. This can be done in many ways: read aloud to each other in a group, sit in the same room but read in silence, or share what and when you're reading on social media! Read Hour has since the start spread all over the world, and this year there was also an event in the plushie community, [#plushiesreadhour2023!](#) The official time for Read Hour is 7pm to 8pm in your time zone, but the most important thing is to read, so for the plushie event, any time during the day was fine. And you could read anything: fiction, nonfiction, comics, manga, newspapers, magazines, e-books, audiobooks... Snacking while reading was also highly encouraged! [#plushiesreadhour2023](#) was a successful event, and many good reading tips were shared. Please enjoy some pictures from the evening!



Plushies' Reading Hour 2023

Our Readers are: [@gasbricki](#), [@doctor.spot](#), [@nutty_the_hare](#),
[@stebbiegraphie](#), [@piotasan](#), [@a_cat_named_jackson](#), [@nilsuggla](#),
[@kroko.dil](#), [@divothespeech](#), [@candyfrankson](#),
[@deborahmargarethedgehog](#), [@birdofbearsandbooks](#), [@hemmy_reads](#),
[@merrythethoughtfulbear](#), [@eat.drink.colin](#)



A magic winter tale in the Ruskeala Mountain Park



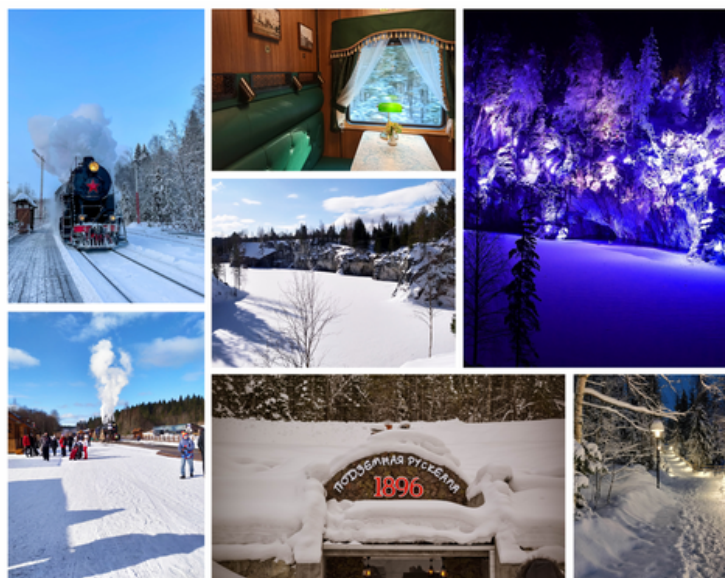
by @artie.way

"Frost and sunshine: day of wonder!"
Alexander Pushkin

In the Karelia Region (Russia), there is a small town of Sortavala where the journey into a fairy tale begins. It is here that you can take the retro train "Ruskeala Express". This train is pulled by a real steam locomotive, and the carriages are decorated as a late XIX century train!

You can go to the Ruskeala Mountain Park at any time of the year - the park is always magnificent, and at any time it has its charm. But it is a magical place in winter, especially when the sun shines! Snowdrifts are very high in the Ruskeala Mountain Park. There is a lot of snow, and the snow is twinkling like a sea of diamonds. And the air here is amazing! So fresh and clean!

In winter, when it's frosty, the sounds of nature can be heard all around, but all the beauty of this winter music can only be heard far from the city - birds begin to sing, the snow creaks underfoot, the whistle of a steam locomotive can be heard in the distance, children skate somewhere, and their laughter rings out...



In the Ruskeala Mountain Park, you can just walk in the park or take a tour, such as the tour called 'Underground Ruskeala'. This trip allows you to walk through the empty galleries where the marble was extracted. Initially, 'Ruskeala' was a significant marble deposit that was used regularly in the past centuries. The marble excavated from this location was used to construct Isaakiyevsky Cathedral in Saint Petersburg. The park has become a tourist attraction that is actively developing and improving, and mining activities are not currently being carried out there.

You will learn how marble is mined in the gallery, and during this tour, you will be able to see a marble hall with an underground lake. Interesting exhibitions of ice sculptures are present in winter. Ice for these sculptures is taken from the Marble Quarry Lake. This ice is as clean as a tear!

The galleries aren't as dangerous as it might seem, as the path isn't slippery and there's illumination everywhere. It's important to stay on the path to avoid getting wet feet. Helmets were given at the entrance to prevent one's head from hitting the ceiling which is quite low in some areas.

The Marble Quarry is what makes Mountain Park 'Ruskeala' so special. Most postcards, tourist booklets, or magnets have it as a landmark. During the mid-20th century, it was flooded. The quarry water is transparent and beautiful in an emerald green colour during summer, but becomes white in winter!

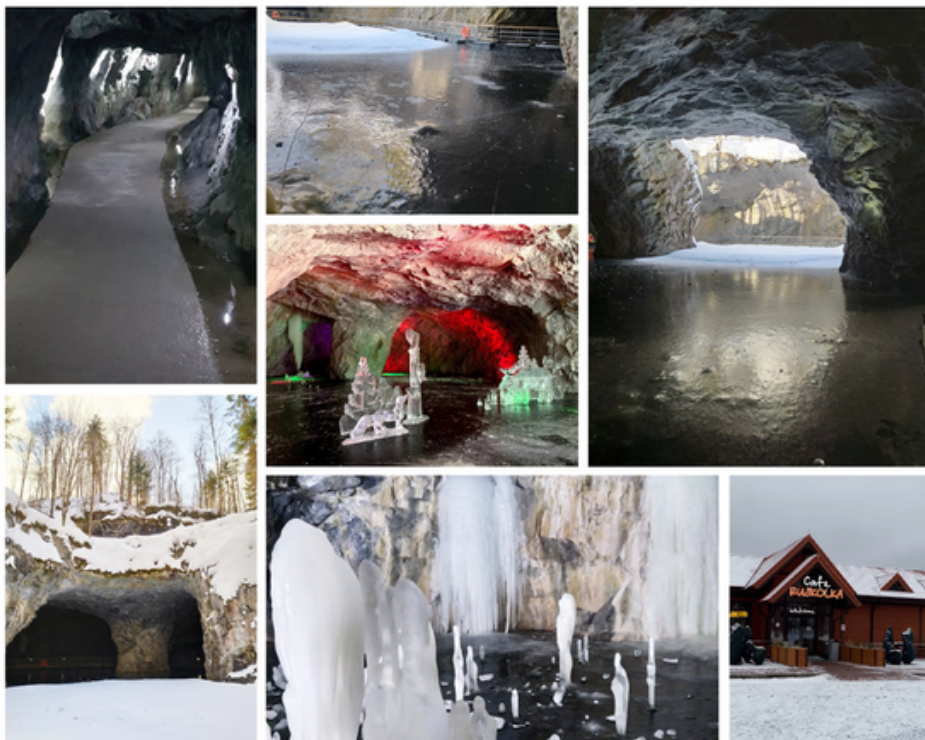
While walking through the park, you can not only appreciate the Marble Quarry, but also take a look at the gallery from above!

Concert venues can be found at both the Marble Quarry and the Italian Quarry during summer. The sound quality in this place is incredible! Listening to music in the countryside is enjoyable!

In the park, there are numerous cafes where you can eat. My favourite is «Ruskolka». Although there are many cafes, there are still too many people, which could cause issues with the place. So, you could even have some snacks and eat them outdoors with a stunning view of the quarries.

Starting in November, there is a special magic in the park during the evening! The Marble Quarry is illuminated with lights on the paths and art lighting. The beauty is amazing! But it happens only in winter when the days are very short.

If you're looking for a truly amazing winter and enjoy a beautiful day in the fresh air, come to the Mountain Park 'Ruskeala'!



Experiment - Simulating winter



by_gasbrick

Recently we harvested seeds from our maple tree.
We want to try to grow a new tree.

Like most other seeds, maple seeds have a natural inhibition of germination, which is broken in cold germinators* by a cold period. Usually winter does this but we decided to try it in the fridge => Artificial germination~.

To do this, we filled moist soil into eggshells and placed the seeds in them.

For safety, everything is sealed in a tupperware. Now, we have to wait a few weeks, and then we hope that with light and warmth we will germinate the seeds!

*Cold germinators (frost germinators) are plants whose seeds must have undergone a cold or frost period before germination is triggered.

~The artificial triggering of the germination of cold germinators by a cold treatment of the seeds is called stratification³

³In horticulture, stratification is a process of treating seeds to simulate natural conditions that the seeds must experience before germination can occur. Many seed species have an embryonic dormancy phase and generally will not sprout until this dormancy is broken





How to declutter your own wish list

by Miu @ausruheulen

Across countries and cultures, people and their plushies often have similar rituals at the turn of the year. People take time to reflect on their goals for the coming year and hope that this time they will succeed in achieving them. There are now numerous guides available to make the path to these goals easier step by step.

However, before you give in to the stress of achieving these goals, there is one fundamental question to ask yourself: which goals deserve to be on the to-do list in the first place? Are these goals wishes for ourselves, items on a personal wish list? And why do some of these wishes motivate us, while others offer us little incentive to get up in the morning?

People often talk about heart and head goals. Although these terms are trite, banal, and already often used, they are nevertheless a good indication of whether it makes sense to invest time in pursuing a goal.

Heart goals arise from desires that are driven by inner needs, while head goals are based on external incentives. We speak of intrinsic and extrinsic goals. The joy of achieving intrinsic goals is long lasting and we feel it coming from deep within us. In contrast, the joy of extrinsic goals is superficial and quickly vanishes. It is often merely a relief that another item on the to-do list has now been ticked off.

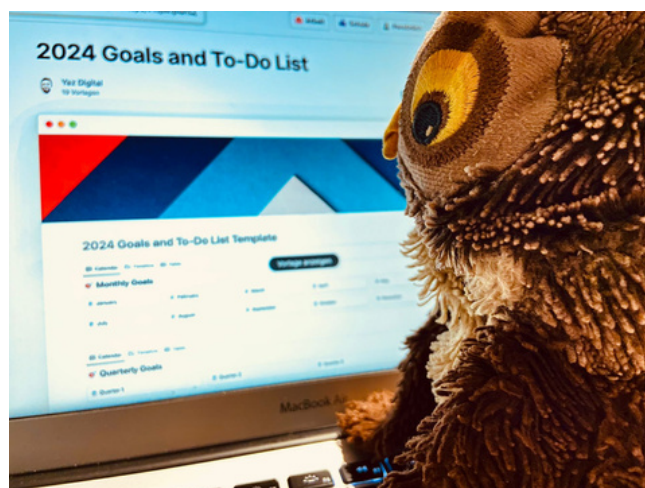
Heart goals reflect our talents and gifts. They usually arise from a long-held wish that we have often never shared with others. However, the idea always comes from us, not from others. We can also recognise heart goals by the fact that they release energy within us and the willingness to put this energy into achieving them. Such goals are existentially important for our identity and are comparable to essentials such as food and oxygen.

Extrinsic goals, on the other hand, are shaped by external influences. The idea of achieving these goals does not come from ourselves, but we have copied them from others or other people think that these goals should be desirable for us. Extrinsic goals are often trend-oriented, with the focus often being on recognition from others.

To prevent frustration over possible failure to achieve goals, it is advisable to check beforehand whether the goals on our wish list stem from our authentic self or not.

Otherwise, pursuing such goals could be a waste of valuable lifetime. With this in mind:

Happy New Year to you humans and plushies! May all your wishes truly be your own before they come true!





Red pants or a stick on the back: 5 interesting New Year's Eve traditions from all over the world.

[by_@doyka_and_hedge](#)

So, you're about to enter a new year – 2024. You hope for the best and have that one wish prepared for when the clock strikes 12. How do you welcome a new year? Sitting on a favourite couch with a glass of champagne? Or maybe in a nightclub, ready to scream “Happy New Year” as loud as you can? If you are living in one of the countries from our list, you probably follow some of these interesting traditions to celebrate New Year. If not, maybe it's time to consider visiting these countries on December 31? Here are the most interesting New Year's Eve traditions all over the world.

1. Brazil

What do you do if you don't have snow on New Year's Eve to dive in? The answer is simple: jump into the sea as soon as the clock strikes 12! And not just jump – do it seven times, making a wish every time you get underwater. Oh, but we forgot to mention that you need to wear underwear of different colours for each wish. And it must be brand new. So, pack those briefs and swimsuits of yours and come to Brazil for a New Year celebration.

Feliz Ano Novo! (Happy New Year in Portuguese)

2. Bulgaria

Have you ever wished to beat someone with a stick while fighting for holiday season discounts in the mall? Well, come to Bulgaria where they have a tradition of beating themselves on the back with a decorated cornel cherry branch. The tradition is called Survakane, and it's meant to bring good health and long life ahead for the person. Sweet polite Bulgarian kids even go from door to door offering people to hit them on their back for a small reward. What? You can get reward for hitting people? One ticket to Bulgaria, please.

Честита Нова година! (Happy New Year in Bulgarian)



3. Italy

Red. Remember: red, red, red. This is the colour your underpants must be if you celebrate New Year's Eve in Italy. Size doesn't matter. Style doesn't matter. The only thing that matters is the colour: red. Hmmm, we wonder if Italian stores and boutiques turn red shortly before Christmas and New Year?

Felice Anno Nuovo! (Happy New Year in Italian)

4. Scotland

Have you ever wanted to be the first anywhere? Well, you can be the "first foot" in Scotland on the New Year's Eve. All you need to do is to come for a visit to a house and be the first to do so in the new year. And don't forget to bring something good with you! The best options are a silver coin (for good luck), bread, coal and, of course, whisky for prosperity, food and warmth. Be that first foot for your neighbour who blesses their house!

Bliadhna Mhath Ùr! (Happy New Year in Scottish Gaelic)

5. Spain

If you happened to be in Spain on New Year's Eve, make sure you have grapes with you. Yes, grapes. You will need 12. The tradition is to eat one grape per each strike of the clock, making that wish you prepared a long time ago. If you don't have grapes with you, no worries, you will probably be able to find them in any tourist shop or café. They even sell them in convenient pack of 12!

¡Feliz Año Nuevo!" (Happy New Year in Spanish)

Do you have a New Year's Eve tradition?





Art by: by @doyka and hedge

From all of us at Pets' Mews, thank you for reading and your support and kind words! We wish you and your loved ones all the joys of Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year! xxx

