

# Herd of goats takes over deserted resort in Britain amid lockdown

By The World, adapted by Newsela staff on 04.15.20

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Image 1. Mountain goats roam the streets of Llandudno, Wales, on March 31, 2020. The goats normally live on the rocky Great Orme but are occasional visitors to the seaside town. A local councillor said the herd was drawn this time by the lack of people and tourists due to the COVID-19 outbreak and quarantine measures. Photo: Christopher Furlong/Getty Images

A herd of Kashmir goats invaded a seaside resort in Wales. The town of Llandudno, Wales, sits on the Irish Sea and is known for its beaches. The spread of the coronavirus has forced everyone to stay inside, leaving the town's streets deserted.

The coronavirus is a new illness that scientists have not seen before. It emerged in December 2019 and has since spread across the globe. There is no treatment for it. People around the world are practicing social distancing to slow the spread of the virus. Social distancing means staying at home and keeping 6 feet apart from other people in public.

The goats normally roam free on a nearby headland that juts out into the sea. Instead, they wandered into Llandudno for three days at the end of March. There, they feasted on garden hedges and flowers.

The country of Wales is part of the United Kingdom. Like other countries affected by the coronavirus, the U.K. has established strict rules for social distancing. The U.K. has closed shops and schools. Officials are asking everyone to stay at home except for essential travel.

The streets of Llandudno have been unusually quiet so the goats have been free to wander around undisturbed.

### **The Goats Don't Like People**

Andrew Stuart lives in Llandudno and works as a video producer. He said the goats are roaming around town. He said the goats avoid people who go out to photograph them.

"You're not going to come close to them because they don't like you, as much as you wouldn't like to have a meeting with one of them in close quarters," Stuart said. The goats have big horns on their heads.

"Because of the lockdown, there are no people, no cars, no noise, there's nothing to stop them. So they are just exploring places which they haven't explored before," Stuart said.

Carol Marubbi is a local leader in Llandudno. She said the goats didn't normally come into town unless the weather was awful. Now, she said, they probably realized something unusual was going on because there were so few people around.



"I think they're probably feeling a bit lonely and they have come down to have a look around," Marubbi said.

### **Goats Are A Hit On Social Media**

Kashmir goats have lived near Llandudno since the days of Queen Victoria, almost 200 years ago. The species became popular in Britain because of their soft cashmere wool. People made shawls out of it.

Marubbi said the herd of about 150 goats were a well-known local attraction. Most residents did not mind having their hedges nibbled by them.

"I'm a big fan," she said. "I love them because they are characters."

Millions of people are stuck at home sharing light-hearted content online to ease the tedium of the lockdown. Images and video of the goats roving around the streets were a hit on social media.

Stuart has been filming and photographing the goats in Llandudno, and his Twitter posts have gone viral. He is known around the world, as he put it in one tweet, as the man who stares at goats. He says this event has made for a very memorable lockdown.

"I thought about what could possibly come out of lockdown? What's going to happen? I did not think that this would happen. I don't think anyone could have guessed this," Stuart said. "It's just so weird and bizarre and really funny at the same time."