

Warm Winter Wakes Moscow's Bears Early

March 05, 2020



The bears are being reintroduced to food slowly. **Sergei Kiselyov / Moskva News Agency**

This unseasonably mild winter has caused the in Moscow Zoo bears to wake up earlier than usual, the city's mayor's office [said](#) Wednesday.

Last year, the two Himalayan bears and one Kamchatka brown bear began [coming out of hibernation](#) in April.

“Our zoologists were preparing for the bears to wake up earlier due to the abnormally warm winter,” said Moscow Zoo’s CEO Svetlana Akulova in a statement.

She said Roza, the 28-year-old brown bear, and Alladin and Budur, the 25 and 26-year-old Himalayan bears, will start coming out of their pens at the “Island of the Bears” enclosure Friday.

Related article: [Abnormally Warm Winter Keeps Siberian Bears From Hibernating](#)

While bears in the wild have to be ready to readjust as soon as they wake up, the end of hibernation at the Moscow Zoo is a gradual, stress-free process.

Having not eaten a hearty meal in months, the bears are reintroduced to food slowly — starting with small portions of berries and fruits and later moving on to larger portions including meat.

Moscow isn't the only city to report early bear sightings a month earlier than usual in 2020.

Bears at the Voronezh Zoo south of Moscow [woke up](#) and took their first stroll this week, and hunters in Kirov region east of Moscow [spotted](#) a wild bear roaming the forests. The early wake-ups in both cases were attributed to the abnormally warm winter.

The warm winter stopped some brown bears from [going into hibernation](#) in Siberia last year. Hundreds of brown bears in a southern Russian nature reserve didn't go into hibernation in 2018.

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