

## Christmas, 2022

## There's a New World Out There...

January brought us snow! A lot of snow. According to local weather history, our town gets an average snowfall of about 2 inches and that usually melts in a day. This year gave us about waist high snow that stayed around for several days. It wasn't exceptionally cold, hovering around freezing, but it wasn't melting either. Our street is just a one block dead end, and snowplows are non-existent in this area. One of the neighbors called to hire a tractor that never showed up, so we all grabbed our shovels and took to the street, each house clearing the bit in front of them...got it done by the end of the afternoon.

As we didn't get residency in the Fall, we had to leave the country after 6 months to reset our visas. So, in early February, we went to Tashkent, Uzbekistan for a week to visit a friend and do some sight seeing...nice place, friendly people, lots of history, and great food!

In the Spring, we again applied for residency. And, again, no go.

May 9th, our first Victory Day celebration, a BBQ with friends (Russians and a refugee from Lugansk) and memories.

We spent a week in Moscow in July and did a little sight-seeing there.

Come August, another visa reset, this time Istanbul. Interesting city, lots of tourists, kind of like an amusement park gone wild, and more good food...one T-shirt read "Istanbul, they call it chaos, we call it home". We met up with a guy we had met in Tashkent, had dinner, and talked business.

Most of the year has been busy, complicated, and a bit bizarre. Maybe in the future, we'll have more time to elaborate further. Three months in Pskov. Then off to South Africa...business with Pete.

But, for now, we wish everyone the happiest of winter holidays and best wishes for the future.

Links to travel photos:

Uzbekistan: <u>https://durandinterstellar.com/photos/2022\_Uzbekistan/</u> Moscow: <u>https://durandinterstellar.com/photos/2022\_Moscow/</u> Istanbul: <u>https://durandinterstellar.com/photos/2022\_Istanbul/</u> Pskov: <u>https://durandinterstellar.com/photos/2022\_Pskov/</u> On the Road Again: <u>https://durandinterstellar.com/photos/2022\_On the Road Again/</u>

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Pictures of the house from bare land to now: <u>https://durandinterstellar.com/photos/Our\_New\_Home/</u>



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