The Tunnel of Love

A railway path in Ukraine provides a beautiful sight

Points for Reading

- この場所はなぜ「愛のトンネル」と呼ばれていますか。
- 「愛のトンネル」を形成する木々はどのような目的で植えられましたか。

■愛のトンネル（ウクライナ、リウネ州）
「愛のトンネル」には、以前は年間数万人が訪れていましたが、情勢により現在は客足が激減しています。列車の運行や立ち入りは可能ですが、2026年現在、ウクライナ全土に戒厳令が敷かれているため、一般の観光客が訪問することは困難な状況にあります。 AdobeStock

NOTES

00. railway path 鉄道路線、線路の道
00. Ukraine [juːkréin] ウクライナ
00. sight [sáit] 光景、景色
03. Klevan クレーヴェン（ウクライナの町名）
04. bush [búʃ] 低木、茂み
08. sunlight [sʌ́nlàit] 日光、太陽の光
12. romantic [roumǽntik] ロマンチックな
24. military base 軍事基地
30. branch [brǽntʃ] 枝

■愛のトンネルを通過する列車
列車の運行は1日3回程度です。樹木の保護と観光客の安全のため、警笛を鳴らしながら時速5～10kmの低速で慎重に走行します。 AdobeStock

The Tunnel of Love is a famous railway path in western Ukraine. It is near a small town called Klevan. Trees and bushes grow on both sides of the railway and make a green tunnel. The tunnel is about four kilometers long. If you walk through the thick green tunnel on a sunny day, the sunlight through the leaves makes the place feel very quiet and peaceful.

People call the path the Tunnel of Love because of its romantic image. Many couples visit it and take pictures there. There is a local story that if true lovers make a wish there, it will come true. Internet photos showed many people the path's beauty. Many photographers and movie makers also helped make the tunnel famous.

How the tunnel was made is an interesting story of nature and history. Local people say the railway was once used to carry things to a nearby military base. To make the military activity harder to see, trees were planted along the line. The trees grew very thick, so trains that carried military goods were hidden from people for many years. Trains passed through the line and cut the branches little by little. Over time, this created the tunnel shape.

The tunnel looks different in each season of the year. In spring and summer, the leaves are deep green. In autumn, they change to yellow and orange. In winter, snow covers the trees and turns the path white. The tunnel is beautiful, but it is also a real railway line. The line is no longer used for the military, but trains still pass through the tunnel to carry wood to a factory. ■

■冬の愛のトンネル
木々に結ばれたリボンは、永遠の愛を願ったカップルが結んだものです。当初はカップルがそれぞれ持参して結んでいましたが、のちに観光地の入り口近くの売店や屋台でも販売されるようになりました。 shutterstock

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Website リウネ州観光 HP（英語）- https://en.rivne.travel/locations/tunel-kohanna
Book ウクライナ一著『美しきウクライナ 愛しき人々・うるわしの文化・大いなる自然』日経ナショナル ジオグラフィック

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