The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Long Line for Ferry to Crimea Turns Deadly

By Ivan Nechepurenko

August 17, 2014

Thousands of car passengers have been waiting in line for days to board ferries.

A man died and a woman ended up in a hospital in separate incidents in the line for the ferry between the Krasnodar region and the recently annexed Crimea over the weekend, local news website Kerch.FM reported.

The woman sustained a head injury Saturday after being attacked by other passengers for allegedly attempting to jump the line for the ferry back to the Krasnodar region, the website reported. In recent days, people have spent up to 40 hours in the line for the ferry service. Another man died from a heart attack after spending hours waiting to board a ferry to Crimea.

After border control was imposed between Crimea and Ukraine following Russia's annexation of the peninsula last March, most Russian tourists and visitors to the popular summer tourist destination have started taking the ferry there instead of driving through conflict-torn

eastern Ukraine. There is no border control for the ferry service.

Thousands of car passengers have been waiting in line for days to board ferries traveling in both directions. According to the website of the local transportation authority, the ferries transported 3,897 cars Saturday, of which 1,689 were traveling in the direction of Crimea.

Following the annexation of Crimea, which is not connected by land to Russia, President Vladimir Putin pledged to build a bridge to link the peninsula with the rest of the country. In June the state-run road construction and maintenance company Avtodor estimated the cost of the 19-kilometer bridge at up to 376.5 billion rubles ($10.4 billion) and said it would take at least four years to build.

Two million visitors had traveled to Crimea this year as of Aug. 11, according to the region's Tourism and Resorts Ministry. The government agency predicted the figure would reach 3 million by year-end. Last year 5.9 million tourists visited Crimea, according to the same agency.

Nine ferries currently operate on the route, providing a total of 95 trips every day, according to the local transport authority. There are also regular flights to Crimea from Russian cities by airplane, with 36 flights to the peninsula on Monday from Moscow airports.

See also:

As Crimea Braces for Billions in Development Funds, Russia's Other Regions Take a Back Seat

Contact the author at i.nechepurenko@imedia.ru

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2014/08/17/long-line-for-ferry-to-crimea-turns-deadly-a38414