

Foreign Tourists in Sevastopol Get 3-Day Visa-Free Regime

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A view of Sevastopol Bay

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on Wednesday signed a decree establishing a three-day visa-free regime for international tourists visiting Sevastopol by ferry.

The move is meant to "create favorable conditions for visits to the Crimean Federal District by citizens of countries that make up the main stream of tourists to Russia," a statement on the government's website said.

"The decree will allow for an increase in the region's tourism appeal and will enable the development of tourism as a whole," the statement said.

The decree was submitted by the Foreign Ministry on Sept. 15.

The Black Sea port city of Sevastopol was added to Russia's Crimean Federal District in March after it was annexed from Ukraine along with Crimea.

Sevastopol is not the only port city to offer more lenient visa rules for foreigners. Currently,

Russian law allows all tourists visiting port cities by cruise ship or ferry to stay for up to 72 hours visa-free.

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