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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Number of Russians Traveling Abroad Suffers Biggest Drop in 15 Years

By The Moscow Times

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There were 34 percent fewer Russian tourists visiting Europe than in 2014.

Russia in 2015 has experienced the largest decrease in foreign travel in 15 years, Russian Tourism Industry Union spokeswoman Irina Tyurina said, the Interfax news agency reported Monday.

From January to September, there has been a 31.4 percent drop in journeys abroad when compared to the same period in 2014, Tyurina said.

Previously, the biggest drop in foreign tourism was 18 percent in 2009.

All foreign countries, except for Lithuania, have shown a negative trend in the number of Russian tourists. The number of Russians traveling to Lithuania increased 51 percent, but Tyurina referred to this as "a statistics miracle."

There were 34 percent fewer Russian tourists visiting Europe than in 2014 — with Greece,

Spain and Croatia experiencing the sharpest drop in Russian tourists.

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