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Crimean Tourist Board Wants Tax for Russians Holidaying Abroad

By The Moscow Times

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The Crimean branch of Russia's Tourism Board has suggested introducing a tax for Russian tourists choosing to holiday abroad, it said on its website.

"An additional cost for tourists going abroad would be small, but for the state it would serve as another source of income to develop domestic tourism," it announced.

But Rosturizm, Russia's Tourism Ministry, criticized its Crimean colleagues.

"Rosturizm does not support the suggestion to introduce a tax for tourists going on holiday abroad and considers this a violation of the rights of Russian citizens" said Oleg Safonov, the head of Rosturizm.

In August, President Vladimir Putin supported the idea of introducing a resort tax to develop Russia's internal tourism.

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