

Sales of Crimea Vacation Deals Fall by Almost Third

June 19, 2017



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Russian travel agents have seen sales**⊠**of package holidays to Crimea fall by almost a third, new data has revealed.

Sales for trips to Crimea was down 30 ■ percent in June compared to the same time last year, the Russian ■ Travel Industry Union (PCT) reported on Monday.

PCT spokesperson Irina Tyurina said⊠that more Russian holidaymakers were choosing to travel abroad thanks⊠to the growing stability of the ruble. The end of Kremlin sanctions vagainst Turkey — a popular destination among Russian tourists — also affected the domestic travel market, with resorts across Russia's Black Sea coast suffering similar declines, she said.

The number of Russians traveling abroad plummeted in 2015-2016, falling from 17 million to 9 million people annually. The trend sparked a pledge from the Kremlin to boost domestic

tourism, although growing prices in Crimea has caused many Russians to holiday elsewhere.

Original url:

https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2017/06/19/sales-of-crimea-vacation-deals-fall-by-almost-third-a58 219