

Tourism in Crimea at Post-Soviet High, Russian Official Says

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More tourists have visited the annexed Crimean peninsula in 2018 than in any other year under Ukrainian or Russian control since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, a Russian official has said.

Moscow seized the Black Sea peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and opened a 19-kilometer bridge to connect it to mainland Russia in May 2018. Western countries condemned the unilateral moves and imposed several rounds of economic sanctions on Russia in response.

Tourist numbers [plummeted](#) immediately after the annexation as visitors – President Vladimir Putin among them – denounced the state of Crimea’s resort facilities and lack of service infrastructure.

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The head of Crimea's Moscow-controlled tourism administration [said](#) Tuesday that 6.16 million tourists had visited the peninsula this year – comprising a 29 percent year-over-year increase.

With three months to go before the end of 2018, the figure has surpassed the 2012 [record](#) of 6.1 million tourists, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency quoted Vadim Volchenko as saying.

This year, tourism inflows brought an estimated 400 billion rubles (\$6 billion) in revenue, Volchenko [told](#) Interfax.

According to the official, one out of six tourists who visited Crimea in 2018 was Ukrainian.

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