The Moscow Times
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Russia Could Introduce E-Visas by 2021, Media Reports

January 10, 2019



Alexandra Mudrats / TASS

Russia is planning to introduce an electronic visa regime by 2021 in a bid to boost tourism, the RBC media outlet reports.

Five regions in Russia's Far East currently offer free week-long e-visas for business and tourist travelers. President Vladimir Putin has tasked the government to increase tourism revenue to $15.5 billion by 2024.

Russia's national Digital Economy Program project calls for the e-visa regime to be rolled out nationwide by December 2021, the RBC news website reported Thursday.

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Citing a draft federal project dubbed "Digital Governance," the outlet reported that the

system is set to be developed by October and later launched as a pilot project at limited border crossings.

RBC did not specify the cost of the e-visa project, which will reportedly include automated border controls and electronic migration cards.

Responsibility for carrying out the e-visa project will be shared between the Digital Development, Communications and Mass Media Ministry, the Transport Ministry and the Federal Security Service (FSB).

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/01/10/russia-could-introduce-e-visas-by-2021-media-reports-a64099