The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia Welcomed 10% More Tourists in 2018, FSB Says

February 27, 2019



Andrei Nikerichev / Moskva News Agency

Russia saw a 10 percent surge in international tourist arrivals last year, dominated by visitors from China, Germany and South Korea, state media cited the authorities as saying.

Russia has introduced visa-free travel for Chinese tour groups and hired Chinese-speaking staff at airports and train stations to accommodate growing tourist numbers from the country of 1.4 billion. Officials say they expect an influx of 15 percent more tourists in 2019 after Russia hosted the FIFA World Cup last summer.

Related article: Russia Approves $4.7 Bln Investment for Crimean Infrastructure and Tourism

Russia welcomed 4.2 million tourists overall in 2018, the state-run Vesti news website reported Monday, citing the Federal Security Service (FSB) border service.

The numbers pointed to an increase of 10 percent from 3.8 million inbound tourists in 2017,

according to the FSB's tally.

China accounted for the largest number of visitors — 1.26 million — a 14.5 percent increase from 2017, according to the FSB's press service.

Germany and South Korea also increased their numbers by 10.5 percent and 45 percent each, contributing the second and third-most visitors at 451,400 and 342,300 tourists respectively.

Russia also saw 227,000 American visitors last year, up by 1.5 percent, and 164,000 Israelis – an increase of 10.8 percent.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/02/27/russia-welcomed-10-more-tourists-in-2018-fsb-says-a64630