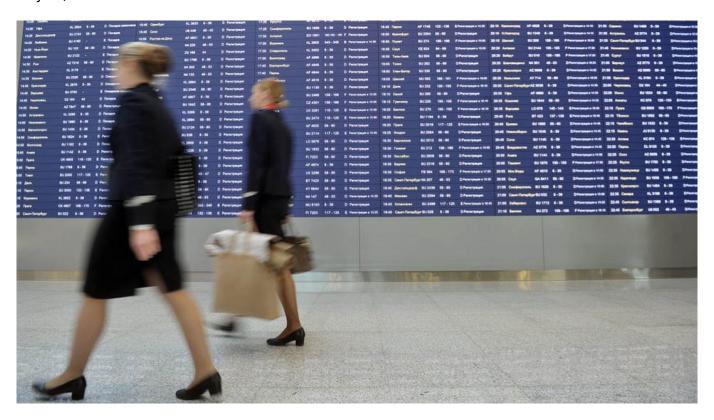


Russian Passport Drops in Worldwide Ease-of-Travel Ranking

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Anton Kardashov / Moskva News Agency

Russia has fallen four spots in three months in a ranking of countries whose citizens enjoy the most freedom of travel abroad, according to a quarterly rating of passport "strength."

The country had <u>tied</u> for 47th place in the January-March index compiled by the Henley & Partners residence and citizenship planning firm, with 118 destinations available to its passport holders.

In April-June, Russia tied for 51st with Bosnia-Herzegovina. Both countries' passport holders can now <u>travel</u> to 116 destinations without a visa or by obtaining a visa on arrival.

Russia fell in the ranking because Djibouti and Benin now require Russians to obtain e-visas instead of visas on arrival, Russia's Kommersant business daily <u>reported</u>.

Russia <u>remains</u> third among post-Soviet countries, behind Ukraine with 126 available destinations and Moldova with 119.

Related article: Russian Passport Holders Enjoy 47th-Highest Ease of Travel - Ranking

Henley & Partners ranks the strength of 199 different passports based on the availability of visa-free or visa on arrival travel to 227 destination countries.

Japan and Singapore shared the top spot with 189 destinations available to their passport holders visa-free or on arrival.

Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan held the last three spots, with 29, 27 and 25 destinations extending relaxed visa rules to their citizens respectively.

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