

Russian Officials Booking Vacations for Disabled Children to Oil-Contaminated Black Sea Resorts

January 27, 2025



Volunteers clean up oil from a beach in the resort city of Anapa. **Igor Onuchin / TASS**

Russian regional authorities are arranging summer vacations for disabled children at Black Sea resort destinations heavily impacted by last month's oil spill, despite [warnings](#) from federal officials that the affected areas will not fully recover and be safe for tourists until 2026.

In the southern Volgograd region, local media [reported](#) that authorities spent at least 16 million rubles (\$163,000) to send 160 orphans, disabled children and homeless children to the resort city of Anapa, which is bearing the brunt of the oil spill.

Plans for additional government contract bids [suggest](#) regional officials aim to spend up to 26 million rubles (\$265,300) on similar trips for disabled children.

Across Russia, regional governments have [spent](#) over 300 million rubles (\$3 million) on

children's vacations to Black Sea resorts in the two weeks following the oil spill, The Moscow Times' Russian service reported last month.

Thousands of tons of heavy fuel oil began spilling into the Black Sea on Dec. 15 after two Russian tankers were damaged in a storm off the coast of the southern Krasnodar region. President Vladimir Putin and scientists alike have described it as one of the worst environmental disasters to hit Russia in recent decades.

Russia's environmental watchdog Rosprirodnadzor [said](#) last week that it would file a lawsuit against those responsible for the spill but did not disclose which individuals or entities it plans to take to court. The two oil tankers were operated by Volgatransneft, while the heavy fuel oil on board the ships belonged to the state oil firm Rosneft

Volunteers have removed more than 170,000 metric tons of contaminated soil and sand from affected areas since the spill last month. However, Environment Minister Alexander Kozlov [told](#) Putin Friday that cleanup operations will not be completed until the summer of 2026.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/01/27/russian-officials-booking-vacations-for-disabled-children-to-oil-contaminated-black-sea-resorts-a87748>