

Russia Allocates \$56M to Support Crimea Tourism Hit by Ukrainian Attacks

July 13, 2026



People walk at the beach in Yevpatoriya, Crimea. **REUTERS / Alexei Pavlishak**

Russia's government has [allocated](#) more than 4.3 billion rubles (\$56.3 million) from its reserve fund to support the tourism sector in the annexed Crimean peninsula and the city of Sevastopol, saying thousands of businesses have been hit by the fallout from Ukrainian attacks.

The funding comes as Kyiv steps up its campaign to disrupt Russian logistics and infrastructure supporting the occupied peninsula, leaving parts of Crimea grappling with fuel shortages, power outages and water disruptions that have dealt a heavy blow to the peak summer tourist season.

The government said the payments would support employees at more than 4,600 tourism-related businesses that had found themselves in a "difficult situation" because of Ukrainian attacks.

Of the total package, 3.7 billion rubles (\$48.5 million) will go to Crimea, while 584.5 million

rubles (\$7.7 million) has been allocated to Sevastopol, according to the government's press service.

Related article: [‘I Don’t Know When This Will End’: As Ukraine Steps Up Strikes, Crimea Grapples With Fuel Shortages and Blackouts](#)

The Russian Tour Operators Association (ATOR) said that by the end of July around 1 million trips to Crimea and Sevastopol had been canceled.

The association estimated the value of canceled bookings at 20 billion–25 billion rubles (\$262 million–\$327.5 million), including 5 billion–7 billion rubles (\$65.5 million–\$91.7 million) in losses borne by tour operators.

ATOR has urged the government to grant tour companies and hotels in Crimea temporary relief on refund obligations to customers, as well as tax and social insurance payment deferrals.

Crimea was hit by a fuel crisis in late May after intensified Ukrainian strikes targeted supply routes to the peninsula and Russian oil refineries. Regional authorities [declared](#) a state of emergency on June 26.

On July 6, Ukrainian [attacks](#) on electrical substations [left](#) the entire peninsula without power before water supplies were also disrupted.

Russian authorities say electricity and water problems persist across parts of Crimea.

The disruptions have also led to [shortages](#) of some staple foods, including sugar, buckwheat, rice, flour and salt. Some supermarkets have reportedly [introduced](#) purchase limits for certain grocery products.

Fuel prices at filling stations have risen to 185–200 rubles (\$2.42–\$2.62) per liter, while black-market prices have reportedly climbed to 250–400 rubles (\$3.28–\$5.24) per liter.

On June 24, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky [announced](#) the start of what he described as an operation to compel Russia to make peace in Crimea. Ukrainian officials have since [said](#) they aim to isolate the peninsula and disrupt its tourism industry.

By late June, about 2,000 vehicles had [lined up](#) to leave Crimea, rail service between the peninsula and Russia had been [cut](#) roughly in half, and videos circulating on social media last week [appeared](#) to show largely empty beaches during what is normally the height of the summer holiday season.

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