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Slovenia Halts Tourist Visas for Russian Citizens

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Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. **Aleko Kezevadze / unsplash**

Slovenian visa centers in Russia have stopped accepting tourist, student and work visa applications, the visa operator VFS Global said Tuesday.

As of Monday, Nov. 16, Slovenia will accept applications for family reunification with EU citizens, visiting family members, business trips and international transportation workers.

The new rules were published without an explanation or an end date.

Kovcheg, an organization that helps Russian citizens abroad, said that Slovenia's Embassy in Serbia, which is a major destination for Russian visitors, has begun canceling visa appointments for Russian applicants that had been booked prior to the announcement. It said at least nine appointments were scrapped between Monday and Tuesday, while a 10th applicant was turned away in person.

"The Slovenian Embassy in Serbia explicitly said the restrictions are being introduced solely

for applicants with Russian citizenship based on a revised edition of the Slovenian Foreign Ministry's guidelines," Kovcheg said on Telegram.

It attached what it said was the Slovenian embassy's letter to one Russian applicant canceling their appointment date.

Slovenia issued 1,254 mostly single-entry Schengen visas to Russian citizens in 2025. Across the EU, 680,000 visas were issued to Russian nationals in 2025.

The latest update comes as EU member states weigh broader Schengen visa curbs for Russian nationals amid growing concerns over Kremlin-linked hybrid attacks and sabotage across the bloc.

The European Commission is expected to present formal proposals to tighten visa rules for Russian citizens in January 2027.

Since the invasion of Ukraine, a number of EU countries have stopped issuing tourist visas to Russians, while major destinations like France, Italy and Spain have continued to do so.

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