

Spanish hoteliers adapt to Russian influx

More than 1 million visitors from Russia and the ex-Soviet republics visited Spain during 2012, a 40% increase from the prior year

Restaurant menus written in Cyrillic characters, premium vodkas at the hotel bar and children's clubs staffed by employees with names like Sasha and Tatiana. Russians travelers have arrived in Spain, and the country's hoteliers are trying to accommodate with open arms.

The growing influx of guests from the former Soviet Union are filling Spanish hotel beds that have gone empty in recent years from the drastic fall in domestic and regional travel triggered by southern Europe's economic implosion.

Last year, 1.2 million visitors from Russia and the ex-Soviet republics chose Spain for their vacations, a 40% increase over 2011 and twice the number that arrived the previous year, according to Spanish tourist board figures.

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