

Tourists Spent Record \$13.5Bln in Moscow Last Year – City Hall

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Andrei Nikerichev / Moskva News Agency

Foreign tourists have spent a record 864 billion rubles (\$13.6 billion) in 2018 in Moscow, City Hall said Wednesday.

Some 5.5 million foreign tourists visited the Russian capital last year, according to the mayor's office. The influx placed Moscow in the top-20 list of the most visited European capitals last year, City Hall [said](#).

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Thanks to the increase, Moscow's budget revenues from tourism quadrupled from 2010 and totaled 118 billion rubles (\$1.8 billion) last year, deputy mayor Vladimir Yefimov [said](#) Wednesday.

A recent survey of international tourists has suggested that many are not traveling to Moscow

because they [think](#) it's too expensive and unsafe.

Meanwhile, the Boston Consulting Group [forecast](#) that Moscow could be among the world's fastest-growing tourist destinations by 2025 if its administration adopted a comprehensive strategy tailored toward improving potential visitors' experiences.

Officials say they [expect](#) 15 percent more tourists in 2019 due to the positive image created by the FIFA World Cup last summer.

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