



Crimea Крим

POP: 2 MILLION / AREA: 26,200 SQ KM

Includes »

Simferopol.....	161
Yevpatoriya.....	165
Bakhchysaray.....	167
Sevastopol.....	172
Balaklava.....	185
Yalta.....	187
Gurzuf.....	195
Sudak.....	196
Novy Svit.....	197
Kara-Dag Nature Reserve.....	199
Koktebel.....	199
Feodosiya.....	201
Kerch.....	203

Best Places to Eat

- » Kezlev Kyavesi (p166)
- » Aliye (p171)
- » Barkas (p184)
- » Izbushka Rybaka (p186)
- » Kubdari (p202)

Best Places to Stay

- » Sevastopol (p183)
- » Kichkine (p193)
- » Knyaz Golitsyn (p198)
- » Dolina Privideny Lodge (p196)
- » Dacha Koktebelica (p200)

Why Go?

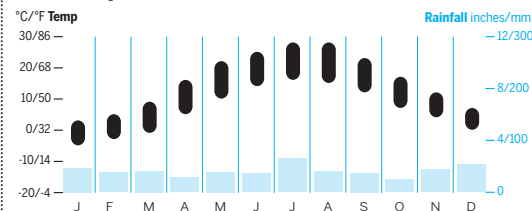
Diamond-shaped Crimea is a gem that has adorned many different crowns. From ancient Scythians to Russian tsars, everyone wanted to possess this little subtropical paradise with its bluff limestone plateaus, lush coastal forests and turquoise bays. If you were an army roaming in the vicinity, we bet you'd soon be invading it, too!

The latest horde to swarm the peninsula is that of ex-Soviet holiday-makers, who fill every patch of Crimea's narrow pebbly beaches in summer. Yet few foreigners are here on a beach holiday. Instead many of them are lured by infinite opportunities for outdoor adventure as well as the peninsula's fascinating ethnic mishmash.

Still, the main pull of Crimea for foreign visitors is its history. You'll encounter ruins of an ancient Greek colony and Genovese fortresses, medieval cave cities and Crimean War battlefields, residences of Tatar khans and Russian tsars – even a short holiday in Crimea turns into a dizzying journey through time.

When to Go?

Simferopol



May-June Feel the flower power as orchards bloom and mountains are covered in wild tulips.

July-August Beaches are packed but the sea is warm and the Kazantip rave is under way.

September-October Crowds wash away. Time for jazz in Koktebel and mountain hikes.

Crimea Highlights

- 1 Enter a top-secret Soviet nuclear facility and sample Black Sea fish in the beautiful bay of **Balaklava** (p185)
- 2 Conquer the cave-city of **Mangup-Kale** (p171)
- 3 Get spooked by thousands of gravestones covered in ancient Hebrew script at **Isofatova Valley** (p169)
- 4 Stay with Crimean Tatars, learn their heart-breaking story and sample their food in **Bakhchysaray** (p167)
- 5 Explore Crimean War battlefields and party in a **Sevastopol** (p172) gay bar
- 6 Soar above Crimea in the paragliding paradise of **Koktebel** (p199)
- 7 Get decadent touring the paradise lost of royal estates near **Yalta** (p187)
- 8 Trek through the striking volcanic formations of **Kara-Dag** (p199) nature reserve
- 9 Take a breathtaking cable-car ride to the top of **Ay-Petri plateau** (p193)

