

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN TRAVELLING TO VLADIVOSTOK

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Vladivostok view

For every traveler, it is important to know what to expect when entering and staying in Vladivostok and how to make the most of your visit. This report provides useful tips and contact info for foreign visitors traveling to Vladivostok on business or personal trip. End summary.

VISA AND LEGAL ISSUES

Major Laws

The basic law that defines a legal position of foreigners in Russian Federation is the law ["On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation."](#)

Other legal documents pertaining to foreigners in Russia can be found here: <http://russiancourier.net/eng/info/legal/>

Visa

In order to be able to enter Russia, you need a valid Russian visa. There are different types of visas you can apply for depending on the purpose of your trip. The table below lists most common types of visas and applicable conditions.

Type of Visa	Visa validity	Notes
Tourist	Up to 30 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An invitation from an accredited Russian tourist agency is required (contacts listed below);• Russian Consulates accept faxed copies of the invitation;• Procedure for getting an invitation is simple and takes 1-3 days;• Tourist visas generally can't be extended;• Cost: \$ 50
Private/guest visa	Up to 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An invitation from a friend/relative in Russia is required;• Obtaining such an invitation is

		<p>a cumbersome and stressful process for a Russian citizen;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process takes 1-1,5 months; • Original invitation is required for applying for visa; • Private visas are single entry and generally can't be extended;
Business Visa	Up to 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires an official invitation from an organization authorized to invite business visitors to Russia (local tourist companies offer this service); • You don't have to have a business partner in Russia to obtain this type of visa; • Issuance of the invitation takes about a month; • Single/multiple entry visa; • Original invitation is required; • Cost: \$70-100
Student Visa	Up to 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitations must be issued by an accredited educational establishment; • The process takes about a month; • Original invitation is required; • An applicant must maintain a student status and take at least 10 hours of coursework per week; • After 3 months, visa can be prolonged if a visitor maintains student status

Detailed information in English on other types of visas can be found on the following websites:

- www.visatorussia.com
- www.russianembassy.com
- www.mid.ru
- www.waytorussia.net
- www.russianvisa.org
- www.expat.ru

The following tourist agencies in Vladivostok are authorized to issue invitations for **tourist and business visas** :

Voyage-Torg-Service

59, Krasnogo Znameni, suite 407, Vladivostok, 690002, Russia.

Tel/fax : (7 4232) 45-44-65, 45-94-83.

E-mail: info@voyage-service.com

Web: www.voyage-service.com/

Note: The company's website allows to [apply for a tourist/business invitation online](#), which is still a rarity for local tourist operators; the site also offers insights into Russian visas and registration issues and contains other useful tips

Fregat Aero

69, Okeanskii Prospect, Vladivostok, Russia

Tel: (7 4232) 300 347

Fax: (7 4232) 43 24 43

Email: tour@fregat-aero.ru

Web: www.fregat.primorye.ru

Method of payment: the company will accept a bank transfer on the company's account or will charge your credit card for the necessary amount

Terra Tour Plus

5, Uborevicha, Vladivostok, Russia

Tel/fax: (7 4232) 26 16 49

Email: terratour@vladivostok.ru

Contact: Julia Nepomnyaschaya

Method of payment: bank transfer

Lucky Tours Co, Ltd.

1, Moskovskaya St.

Vladivostok, 690106

Phone: (7 4232) 449944; 491444

Email: vladivostok@luckytour.com

Web: www.luckytour.com

Note: The Company only accepts cash payments for their services of issuing an invitation. If you don't have friends/contacts in Vladivostok, you won't be able to use their services unless you book some other services to send the whole amount by bank transfer (e.g. hotel, transfers, etc.)

Mirabel Tour

8-41 Mordovzeva, Vladivostok, 690091, Russia

Tel/Fax: (7 4232) 222-060, 408-116

E-mail: mirabel@vladivostok.ru

Web: www.mirabeltour.com

Method of payment: The company will accept a bank transfer on the company's account. Major credit cards and cash are accepted.

Alternatively, you can apply for and pay for your invitation online through the specialized websites, such as www.waytorussia.net and others. This way, you will need to include Vladivostok when asked which cities you plan to visit. In general, include all cities you might be visiting in Russia for longer than 3 days when applying for an

invitation; otherwise you might run into unnecessary problems with registration and other legal issues.

If you plan on taking Russian classes, 2 Universities in Vladivostok offer year-round Russian courses for foreigners and are able to issue invitations for student visas:

Far Eastern National University—Russian College

22, Avrorovskaya st, 690950

Tel: (7 4232) 453 844, 450 857

Fax: (7 4232) 436 134, 457 200

Web: <http://www.dvgu.ru/dip/RC/Index.htm>

Email: RussianCollege@dip.dvgu.ru

Email: office@dip.dvgu.ru

1-10 months Russian language programs; individual programs, University housing available

Vladivostok State University of Economics and Service

Department of Russian Language for Foreigners

Tel/fax: (7 4232) 40 41 27

Website: <http://www.vvsu.ru/fryai/> currently available only in Russian

Email: viktoria.soleynik@vvsu.ru

Contact: Viktoria Soleynik

1-10 months Russian Language programs; individual programs, University housing available

Useful tips:

- According to Russian law, your Russian visa should be registered within 3 working days on your arrival. If you are staying at a hotel, the hotel will take care of your registration. If you are traveling on a private visa and staying in an apartment, you need to register with the corresponding branch of Passport and Visa Department. The process is quite cumbersome and will require extensive involvement of your landlord. If you obtained your invitation from a tourist company/education establishment/other institution, they can usually take care of your registration for a fee once you supply them with the necessary documents;
- Check your visa for the point of entry and dates of validity (on upper right of the visa). You won't be allowed into the country before the entry date, and you will have difficulties exiting the country if your visa expired;
- Effective February 10, 2003 all foreign nationals entering the Russian Federation are requested to fill in the [Migration Card](#) and present it to the Border Control Officer along with their passports.

GETTING AROUND IN VLADIVOSTOK

Driving:

To be able to drive in Vladivostok, you need to have your foreign drivers license officially translated into Russian by an accredited Russian agency. The following companies based in Vladivostok are able to provide this service:

Lingva

45A Aleutskaya, #626, Vladivostok, 690000
Tel: (4232) 400035, 401254
Fax: (4232) 400035
E-mail: lingva@farpost.com

Ritex

59, Krasnoe Znamya Ave., Vladivostok, 690000
Tel: 491197, 453928
E-mail: perevod@ritex.org
Web: www.ritex.org

Bureau of Translation and Interpretation

6G, Sukhanova, Vladivostok
Tel: (7 4232) 43 25 25
Tel/fax: (7 4232) 300 692
E-mail: inoperevod@mail.ru
juliafru@mail.ru

Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Primorye division

13A, Okeansky Prospect
Tel: (4232) 267 229
Fax: (4232) 227 226
Email: palata@online.vladivostok.ru
Web: www.ptpp.ru

If you are driving someone else's car, you will need a power of attorney, signed by the owner of the car and prepared according to a standard form. This power of attorney doesn't need to be officially notarized and can be hand-written as long as it includes the owner's signature and other details.

Another option for a foreigner is to rent a car. In order to do this, you need to be 25 years or older and have at least 2 years of driving experience. You will also need to present your passport, driver's license, officially translated into Russian, and temporary registration with the Passport and Visa Department (usually attached to your passport). Following is the list of car rentals in Vladivostok:

Renta Vostok

14, Borodinskaya, suite 105
Tel: (7 4232) 55 72 31
Cars: Japanese cars, auto transmittion, years: 1993-2000, business and economy class
Price: \$30-40 per day, includes insurance
Renting a car requires a collateral of \$200-250, which will be returned to you if you don't damage the car.

City Cars

Tel: (7 4232) 451 723

Cars: Japanese, automatic transmission, years: 1993-1998

Price: \$ 30-50 per day

Collateral: \$200

Alternatively, you can rent a car with a driver by contacting the following companies:

Erti Tour

115, Svetlanskaya st, office 1A

Tel: (7 4232) 22 94 11

Price: a regular Japanese car with a driver: \$ 15/hour per car, regardless of the number of passengers; minivan with a driver: \$20/hour, 30-seat bus: \$ 30/hour

Email: ertitour@stl.ru

Grand Kortezh—luxurious cars for rent

3, Semenovskaya, 4th floor, suite 4

Tel: (7 4232) 71 44 84

Cars: Mercedes, Chrysler, Toyota Crown

Price: \$ 70-80 per hour, with a driver; \$20 per hour for Toyota Crown

Email: honeymoon@mail.primorye.ru

Taxis:

Although Vladivostok has a well-developed public transportation system, getting around by public buses or trams can become a serious challenge for foreigners, not fluent in Russian. The best alternative to avoid confusion is to call a cab. Following is the list of most popular companies providing advance reservation taxi services:

Udacha (120 ru/30 mins):	57 57 57
Taxi 201 (120 ru/30 mins):	201-201
Auto Pilot (120 ru/30 mins):	51-12-12
DilzhansTaxi (100 ru/30 mins):	300-808
Primorye (180 ru/hour):	205-405
Narodnoe taxi (70 ru and more/30 mins):	405-800

TRAVELLING TO AND FROM VLADIVOSTOK

There are no direct flights from U.S. to Vladivostok. If traveling from/to U.S. West coast, you'll have to transfer in Seoul, Korea. There are daily flights from Seoul to Vladivostok provided by Korean Airlines or a Russian company Vladivostok Avia.

You can purchase tickets for Korean Air flights through most of the Internet travel websites, such as Expedia, Orbitz, etc. Vladivostok Avia doesn't sell tickets online, but you can contact a local travel agency that will book a ticket for you (contacts given below). Once you arrive in Seoul, you will buy out your ticket at Vladivostok Avia registration desk at the airport.

Alternatively, you can arrive to Vladivostok from Moscow—there are several Moscow-Vladivostok flights per day, run by the major Russian aviation companies. A roundtrip ticket ranges from \$600 to 800 on non-stop flights. In addition, there are direct flights connecting Vladivostok with China, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, and major Russian cities. Current timetable in English with **flight information** to and from Vladivostok is available at:

<http://www.airagency.ru/English/Passenger/TimeT/Vl/timetable.htm>

With any inquiries regarding your travel to and from Vladivostok, as well as for assistance with **airport pickup**, hotel and ticket reservations, tourist activities and travel in the RFE and Western Russia, contact the following Vladivostok travel agencies, both able to communicate in English.

Primorsky AirAgency

Tel/Fax: (7 4232) 40 77 00

Fax: (7 4232) 413 878

Email: tour@airagency.ru

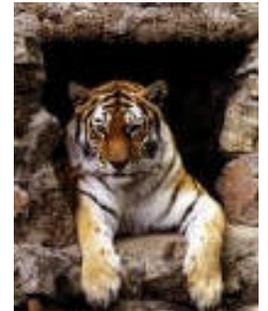
Web: www.airagency.ru

Services: Invitations for tourist visas, reservation and sale of avia and railway on any route, tours throughout Russia, including eco-tours to Kamchatka, hotel reservation, car rent, airport pickup. Major credit cards are accepted.

For **inbound tourism** and eco-tours in Primorye and other Russian Far East regions, including Kamchatka, contact **Mirabel Tour** and **Voyage-Torg-Service** companies, mentioned in section 1 of this report. The companies' English-language websites contain very thorough descriptions of eco-tourism opportunities in the RFE, with pictures, details, and cost for specific tours:

www.mirabeltour.com

www.voyage-service.com



Amur Tiger at Tiger Nursery, Primorsky Krai

Primorsky Club

18, Fokina, Vladivostok, Russia

Tel/fax: 7(4232) 26-56-38

Tel: 7(4232) 26-19-56

Email: Primorskyclub@mail.ru

Web: www.primclub.ru Currently available only in Russian

Services: Reservation and sale of avia and railway tickets, invitations for tourist visas, airport pickup. Major credit cards are accepted.

STAYING IN VLADIVOSTOK

Hotels in Vladivostok:

Hyundai Hotel* ** *

29, Semyonovskaya St., Vladivostok, 690001

Tel: (4232) 40 22 33

Fax: (4232) 407008



Hyundai Hotel

<http://www.hotelhyundai.ru>

Email: marketing.vbc@gin.ru

Description: Hyundai is a modern, business-style hotel located downtown. Hotel has a fitness center although hotel guests still have to pay for its services (50% discount for the hotel residents); 2 restaurants, sky bar, coffee shop, casino, business center, and money-exchange office.

Standard room rate: \$186, reservations by fax and online

Versailles Hotel***

10, Svetlanskaya, Vladivostok, Russia

Tel: (7 4232) 264201

Fax: (7 4232) 265124

Email: Versailles@bk.ru

Description: Versailles is a classic-style hotel conveniently located in the downtown area, just a few minutes off the Central Square and the city beach area. The hotel has restaurant, coffee shop, casino, business center, money-exchange office and art gallery on the ground floor. Versailles does not provide fitness center services.

Standard room rate: \$130-140 USD; reservations accepted by fax



Versailles Hotel

Vlad Motor Inn***

11, Vosmaya, Vladivostok, 690024

Tel: (4232) 331351

Fax: (4232) 330717

<http://www.vlad-inn.ru/>

Email: guestservices@vlad-inn.ru

Description: Vlad Motor Inn(VMI) is a nice, western style hotel run by Canadian managers and located in a well-heeled suburb of Vladivostok near the Bay, 20-35 minutes drive(11 miles) from downtown. VMI has a restaurant that serves Western-style food, fitness and business centers, tennis court, White Rabbit Games Room/Bar, Internet access, American satellite TV, VCRs and videos.

Standard room rate: \$120, online reservations



VladInn

Economy-class hotels:

Acfes Seiyō***

103, Stoletie Ave., Vladivostok, 690000

Tel. (4232) 319000, 318971

Fax: (4232) 319009

E-mail: aseiyo@vtc.ru

Description: A modern business-style hotel, located 10-15 minutes drive from downtown and offers restaurant, conference rooms, and cable TV services.

Standard room rate: \$104-134, reservations by fax and email



Acfes Seyc

Gavan***

3, Krigina St., Vladivostok, 690000

Tel: (4232) 495363, 512415

Fax: (4232) 495 363

E-mail: hotel@gavan.ru

Web: <http://www.gavan.ru/>

Description: Gavan hotel is located 7 mins drive from downtown. Services include fitness center, business center, restaurant and bar, conference rooms facilities, billiards, beauty salon, cable TV, refrigerator.

Standard room rate: \$55-100, reservations by fax, email, and online.



Gavan hotel

Vladivostok Hotel **

10, Naberezhnaya

Tel: (4232) 412808

Fax: (4232) 412021

E-mail: vladhotl@fastmail.vladivostok.ru

Web: <http://www.vladhotel.vl.ru/>

Description: A large hotel, conveniently located downtown, by the city beach area. Services include beauty salon, business center, shopping, 2 restaurants, a bar and casino, cable TV, refrigerator.

Standard room rate: \$50-60, reservations by fax, email, and online.



Vladivostok hotel lobby

More info on Vladivostok hotels can be found here:

<http://www.voyage-service.com/> Voyage-Torg Service offers discount rates for several Vladivostok hotels for their clients;

<http://www.mirabeltour.com/engl/hotels.htm>

Renting an Apartment

If you plan on staying in Vladivostok for a lengthy period of time, you can rent an apartment through a real estate agency. The following real estate companies specialize in working directly with foreigners and have English speaking agents on staff:

Lincom

55, Derzhavina Str., Vladivostok, Russia.

Tel:+ 7 4332 70-97-35 (English) +7 4232 555 133 (Russian), Fax

+7 4232 45-23-49

Email: lig@lincom.ru

Web: www.lincom.ru (In English, contains pictures of apartments for rent)

Services: Very comfortable, fully furnished and fully equipped (high speed internet, SAT TV, autonomous water, heat and electricity supply) apartments exclusively for foreign visitors in a secured apartment complex downtown. Average price: \$1000-1500 per months for 2-3 bedroom apartments. No fees, and no commissions. Large 5-6 bedroom apartments are also available.



One of Lincom apartments for rent

Erti Company

115, Svetlanskaya st, office 1A

Tel: (7 4232) 22 94 11

Email: ertitour@stl.ru

Apartment for rent; \$500 per month and more; agency commission: 80%

Alternatively, you can contact a regular local real-estate company. In this case, it is highly recommended to have an interpreter or a Russian friend assisting you with this undertaking in order to avoid misunderstandings and save on rent. The longer you plan on staying, the easier it is to find an apartment. Renting a standard Russian-style 1-2 room apartment not far from downtown, with a telephone and basic furniture will cost you \$250 to 500 a month, depending on the level of comfort and location. In addition, real estate agencies will charge you a one-time fee for their services, usually about 70-80 % of the monthly rent. Note: a 1-room apartment in Russia doesn't correspond to a 1-bedroom apartment in Western thinking and literally means that there's only one room. Among the major real estate companies that have a wide selection of apartments for rent are:

Viktoria

58, Partizansky prospect, suite 511

Tel: (7 4232) 485 023, 205 707, 205 737

Email: victory@vladkvaltira.ru

Web: www.vladkvaltira.ru (only in Russian)

Services: Various apartments for rent, long-term, short-term lease (including daily rates for less-than-a-month stay)



A Russian-style apartment offered by Viktorya Agency
www.vladkvaltira.ru

Avega

9, Lazo St., Vladivostok, Russia

Tel: (7 4232) 22 89 47

Email: avega@atrus.ru

Other housing options include University dormitories and hotels, provided for foreigners taking Russian classes. Living in a student dorm or a hotel is usually inexpensive, yet you will have to abide by University housing rules and have limited privacy. Please contact the Universities mentioned in the previous section for more information on available housing.

INTERPRETERS

Companies providing the services of **English-language interpreters** for events and individual assistance:

Ritex

59, Krasnoe Znamya Ave., Vladivostok, 690000

Tel: 491197, 453928

E-mail: perevod@ritex.org

Web: www.ritex.org
Cost: \$10 per hour

Linguistics Agency (Buro Perevodov)

6G, Sukhanova, Vladivostok
Tel: (7 4232) 43 25 25
Tel/fax: (7 4232) 300 692
Email: juliafru@mail.ru
Cost: \$15 per hour

Voyage-Torg-Service

59, Krasno go Znameni, suite 407, Vladivostok, 690002, Russia.
Tel/fax : (7 4232) 45-44-65, 45-94-83.
E-mail: info@voyage-service.com
Web: www.voyage-service.com/
English speaking tour guides: \$ 8 per hour, business meetings: \$15 per hour

Erti Company

115, Svetlanskaya st, office 1A
Tel: (7 4232) 22 94 11
Email: ertitour@stl.ru
Cost: \$10-12 per hour, interpreters and tour-guides

Mirabel Tour

8-41 Mordovzeva, Vladivostok, 690091, Russia
Tel/Fax: (7 4232) 222-060, 408-116
E-mail: mirabel@vladivostok.ru
Web: www.mirabeltour.com
Cost: \$5-10 per hour, tour guides and interpreters at business meetings

US CONSULATE IN VLADIVOSTOK

32, Pushkinskaya st, 690001, Vladivostok, Russia
Tel: (7 4232) 30 00 70
Fax: (7 4232) 49-93-72
Web: <http://vladivostok.usconsulate.gov>

American Citizen Services

Monday-Wednesday: 1400 - 1630
Thursday, Friday: 0900 - 1630

OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES IN ENGLISH

<http://www.zrpress.ru>

Vladivostok-based business magazine; offers online English summaries of the regional news articles and covers all RFE regions;

<http://www.deita.ru>

Information agency covering all RFE regions with English version of the current news available online. The site also offers current information about weather and currency rates in regional banks.

<http://www.vn.vladnews.ru>

English version of "Vladivostok" newspaper (Internet edition).

<http://www.in-russia.net/vlad/english.html>

English-Russian web site containing pictures, general information about Vladivostok, list of companies, restaurants, tourist sites, and a city map.

<http://www.primpogoda.ru>

The official site of Primorsky Weather Forecast Agency providing information on weather, climate, and environment situation in Primorsky Krai in English and Russian.

<http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/Vladivostok/index.html>

A historical walking tour on Vladivostok

http://www.mirabeltour.com/engl/about_us.htm

English-language website of a Vladivostok-based tourist company Mirabel Tour, contains information on eco- and sightseeing tours in Primorye, Kamchatka, and Western Russia as well as overview of Vladivostok hotels;

<http://www.luckytour.com>

A comprehensive website in English provided by a tourist company LuckyTour, contains info on the RFE, visa and legal tips, list of consulates and embassies in Russia, picture gallery, info on Vladivostok hotels, etc.

<http://www.fegi.ru/prim/index.htm>

Information on Primorsky Krai, provided by the Far Eastern Branch of Russia Academy of Science

<http://www.waytorussia.net/FarEast/Vladivostok/Guide.html>

General info on Vladivostok from WaytoRussia.net

<http://en.uralairlines.ru/>

English-language website of Russian Ural Airlines company. Flight schedules and rates, frequent flyer programs, online reservation of tickets, etc

<http://www.vladavia.ru>

Website of a Russian Aviation company Vladivostok Avia, contains general info on Vladivostok, and useful links

<http://www.viba.vl.ru>

Website of Vladivostok International Business Association

<http://www.vladmission.org/aboutus/aboutus.htm>

Mary Mother of God Mission Society

<http://www.geocities.com/WallStreet/1242/vlad.html>

General info on Vladivostok, not updated

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