



MINISTRY OF HEALTH RESORTS AND TOURISM OF THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA

# The CRIMEA

INFORMATION AND ANALYTICAL BULLETIN

# RESORTS & TOURISM



# VASILIIY DZHARTY: ‘THE CRIMEA WILL BE A REAL SUCCESS TERRITORY’

**M**r. Dzharty, has the Crimea changed over this past year and what is in store for this sunny republic in future?

– The guests whom we are looking forward to welcome with the launch of this summer holiday season are bound to notice that the Crimea is not what it used to be a year ago. The peninsula is becoming better and more beautiful.

I can say without exaggeration that we are opening a new chapter in the history of this peninsula today. With support of the President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich, the autonomy has launched wide-ranging reforms intended to bring its economy to a new level of development, ensure prosperity and dignified life to its citizens. The peninsula is changing rapidly and establishes itself as a territory with significant investment potential and low risks. We enjoy complete trust and understanding of the central government. We have started implementation of the Strategy for Economic and Social Development of the Crimea until 2020. Thanks to adoption of new laws, we have curbed the corrupt “squandering” of land and chaotic development. Open land auctions are held and investors’ rights are strictly protected. For instance, Alushta will have a famous Hyatt hotel chain coming to that town, which were reluctant to make this step earlier, due to corruption of the previous authorities. A Regional Development Agency has been established for the first time, which will be supporting investment projects throughout the whole period of their implementation. One-stop-shop permit centers have been opened. We are looking forward to welcoming investors, for whom we have developed a whole portfolio of proposals.

Our first successes are obvious. It is not incidentally that we have received a «stable» rating from Standard & Poor’s international rating agency. This is just the beginning of the positive changes, which will turn the Crimea into a tourist Mecca within the next 20 years.

**- A working group was set at the previous Councils of Ministers’ meeting charged to develop proposals with**



**regard to development of the Crimea’s western region. Journalists are reporting about future emergence of the «Crimean Antalia.» Would you please elaborate on these plans?**

– The Crimea is not only the peninsula’s south coast. In the Western Crimea, beyond Yevpatoriya, in the Chornomorsky raion, there are large stretches of coast with wonderful sand beaches, where comprehensive modern development could be implemented. The present investment potential of the Western Crimea is more than 200,000 hectares. We intend to develop this area as competitive, year-round, national and international health resort, recreational and tourism center. To this end, the Crimean government has set up the relevant working group. I think we must consider not only the advantages of, that same Antalia, but also to think about some new, more modern methods. We are also developing attractive tax terms for investors. By the way, a motorcycle racing track, which will be Europe’s best, will open near Yevpatoriya already next year, with the investment of \$200 million.

**- And when will we be able to go on vacation to this “Crimean Antalia”?**

– In about five years. The projects are now being reviewed by experts. We plan to concentrate our efforts here after the Europe 2012 Football Championship.

– Let's return to this coming summer. What will be its main features?

– Reasonable prices, renovated seafronts, repaired roads, new trolleybuses, more light and cleanliness.

– In the opinion of many tourists, its quite difficult to get to a Crimean beach: the inheritance of the Soviet times still includes lines, need to make changes of vehicles etc. — all these things are tiring and irritating. For many years now, there is talk about a bridge over the Kerch sound, second airport, tunnel to Yalta, electric train along the coast...

– We have already launched two new, comfortable trains Moscow-Simferopol. A new, improved-comfort local electric train has been put in service, which has got the name: The Crimea, the Pearl of Ukraine (on the route Simferopol-Sevastopol). A construction has started of a local-communication rail terminal in Simferopol. We bought about 60 modern trolleybuses over the past year. New interchanges are under construction.

Now, about global projects. The second airport will be built, by all means, in the western part of the Crimea, most likely, in the Yevpatoriya area. VTB Bank and Vneshekonombank of Russia are currently bidding to participate in this project. Austria and Italy have scores of tunnels and this does not harm the environment. As regards a bridge over the Kerch sound, let's draw on the wisdom of history. A telegraph line from Asia to Europe (Delhi-London) ran exactly through the Kerch sound. This is a realistic project, however, at least a year will be needed for its preparation and expert assessment. Indeed, we plan – again, after the Euro 2012 Football Championship – to phase in a rapid train service along the coast, running on a circular route, as is the case for many resorts. By the way, such a project was considered already in the tsarist Russia.

– The Swallow's Nest, which is one of Crimea's landmarks, used to house a restaurant and the only path to it was leased by private entrepreneurs, who cadged (cannot be called otherwise) the passage fee from visitors. Local authorities only made helpless gestures, saying it was all legal, and we have lost in courts, since... you understand. It seems only the lazy did not write about



this at the time, but nobody could put a stop to this nonsense. What is the situation with this monument today?

– Just imagine, how totally lacking any self-respect is a state, which silently observes how a gang of fraudsters openly and impudently enrich themselves at its expense, and even refer to protection of the law!? They paid about 15,000 hryvnias per year for lease of this famous historical and architectural monument. As a citizen I was indignant to hear about this outrage. We have found a lawful method to return the Swallow's Nest to the people. Today, it is Crimean property, and following a decent restoration, the hall will become the venue for art and other exhibitions. A cableway will be built to it soon, and the pathways will be renovated.

– They say, it is not the only case you have won in courts. Maybe, the famous Tsar's Path, where fences started to emerge, could also be returned to the people?

– Actually, there are no longer any fences there. We have won all the actions and we have managed to return to the State more than 3,000 hectares of unlawfully allocated valuable land, and take palace parks under protection.

– Is there a lot of work still ahead in order to make the Crimea a prestigious international resort?

– Of course, there is still quite a lot of work ahead. But, as the saying goes, "what the eyes fear, the hands do." We are conducting a systematic work to modernize all the existing resort and recreational infrastructure, extending the holiday season, attracting new tourists to the peninsula, and implementing international service standards and modern formats of tourist business. Not only the government, all the Crimeans are now working to make our republic better. I am positive that the Crimea will become a regional leader among the Black Sea countries and a real success territory.

# RESORTS AND TOURISM INDUSTRY AS PRIORITY NO.1

## THE FOUR REASONS WHY THE RECREATION SECTOR HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS NO.1 PRIORITY BY THE CRIMEAN GOVERNMENT

1. The Crimea's resorts and tourism sector, despite all its problems, is currently generating (with service sectors) at least 25% of its consolidated budget revenues.

*REFERENCE: The Crimea's consolidated budget revenues directly linked to serving holiday-makers (including related sectors) are estimated at 25%, since the three key regions with resort mono-economy, which are hosting and serving about 75% of organized tourists – Yalta (38%), Alushta (19%), and Yevpatoriya (19%) - generate more than 20% of the autonomy's consolidated budget revenues.*

2. Development of the tourism industry gives a substantial (with a factor of 3.5-4.0) multiplier effect in other sectors of the Crimean economy.

*REFERENCE: The revenues from resort industry enterprises amounted to 6.12% of revenues for budgets of all levels in 2010 and 6.37% in 2009. Assuming the above estimate is correct, the share of Crimea's consolidated budget revenues related to tourism amounts to 25%, which make one to estimate the multiplier budget effect from tourism at 3.5-4.0, i.e., 1 hryvnya in taxes paid by health-improvement centers, boarding houses, and travel agencies corresponds to up to 4 hryvnias in taxes paid by retail, service, transport enterprises and/or individuals engaged in hospitality business.*

3. Tourism business is a core and/or additional activity for more than 20% of adult population in the Crimea and a significant source of income for at least 50% of the Crimeans.

*REFERENCE: Since the 1970s, the number of tourists staying in private homes has been three to four times greater than those using services of the official tourism sector. In 2010, the private tourist accommodation sector demonstrated its market competitiveness by winning 2/3 of the annual tourist flow growth.*

A sociological study conducted in April 2011 provided the first-ever insight into the extent and parameters of this economic phenomenon.

*REFERENCE: According to the findings of a poll conducted by the Razumkov Center think tank, about 4% of Crimea's adult population, including pension-*

*ers, are engaged in providing services to holiday-makers on a year-round basis (the adult population of the Crimea is about 1.6 million). Thus, the full-time tourism industry employment can be estimated at 60,000-70,000 persons. Also, the direct employment at tourist accommodation facilities is about 40,000. However, the 4% of those permanently employed in the tourism sector are joined by another 18% in the Crimea in general, including 9% in rural areas, 16% in industrial, and 32% in resort areas.*

Therefore, about 21% of adult population (more than 350,000 persons) are directly engaged in tourism business in the Crimea. Also, this is the main activity for 27.9% (about 100,000 persons), and about 67.9% are providing tourist services as additional occupation.

Every third adult resident of resort areas (and nearly all the population, if we include family members) is engaged in this business on a seasonal basis. Also, about a half of those (44.2%), i.e. about 155,000 persons, let lodgings to holiday-makers.

Historically, the "unofficial" segment of the tourist business was outside any taxation for decades. Its gradual legalization, with preservation of market advantages, creation of special normative-legal framework, and development of special professional standards for this sector would make it possible to generate an additional budget effect.

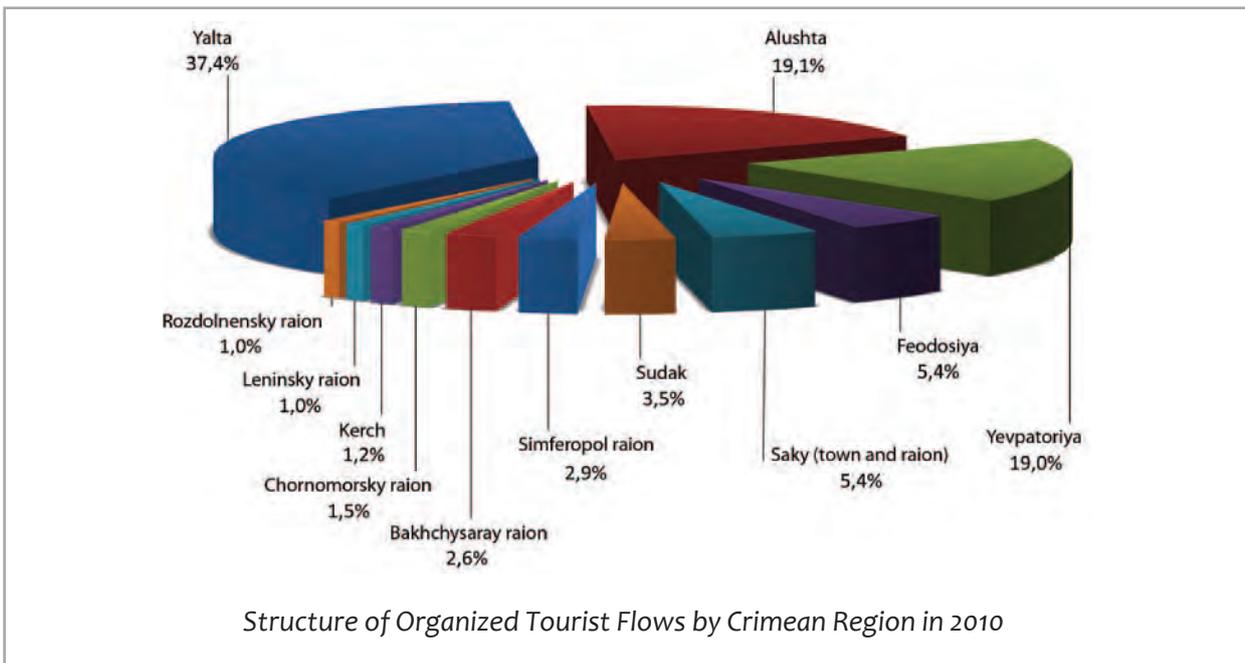
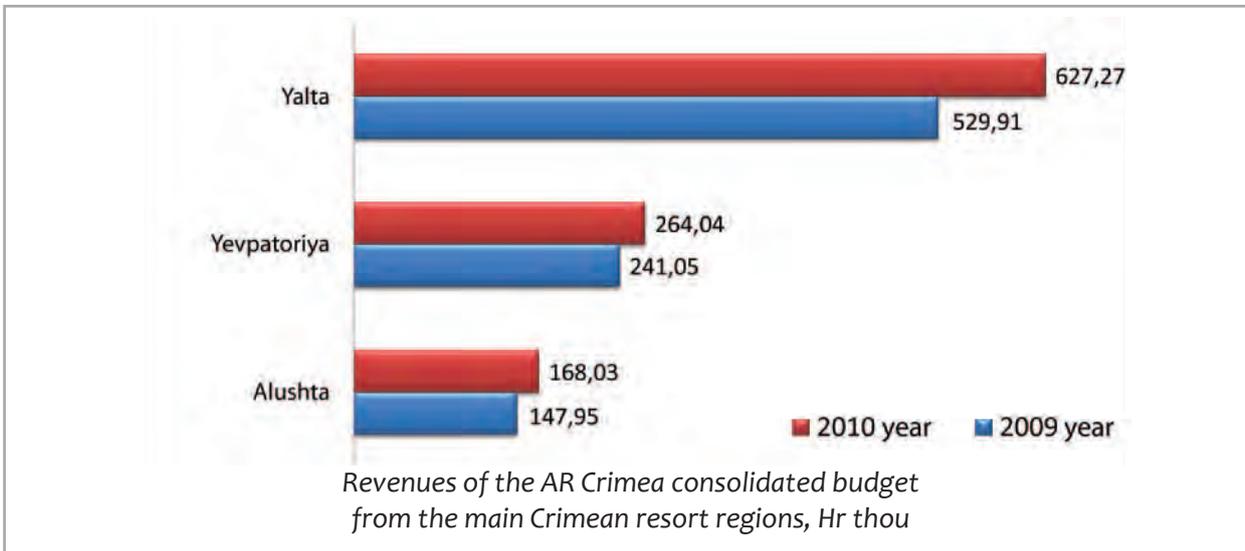
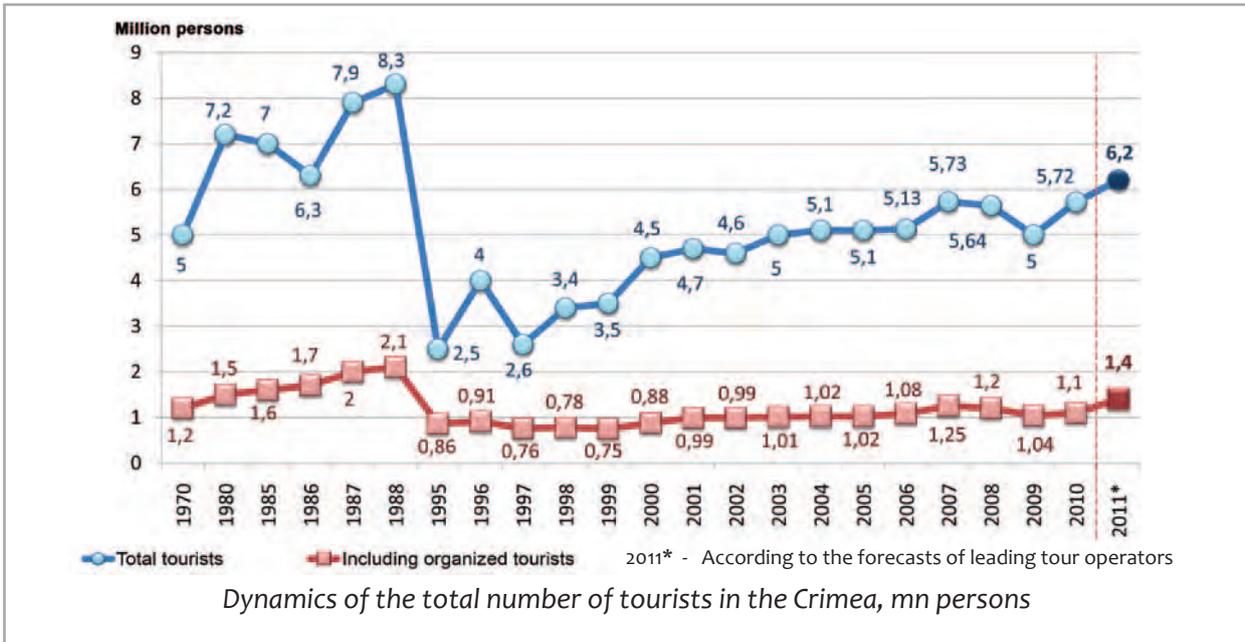
4. The Crimea has large reserves of rooms within the existing accommodation facilities.

Despite complicated economic processes of the preceding 20 years, the Crimea has managed to preserve almost intact both the number of health-improvement and resort institutions, and the number of beds in them.

All the tourist accommodation facilities have plots of land, usually located in recreational areas, near the sea or with a view of the sea, as well as buildings and structures, engineering services (even though the majority of them is in need of complete or partial reconstruction and modernization).

Also, their occupancy ratio of about 0.33 on average clearly shows the reserves available.

The reserve of room stock in the accommodation facilities in 2010 for the main resort regions, including the facilities only operational during the summer season, amounts to 68% or 40% without such facilities (i.e., only in the year-round tourist centers).



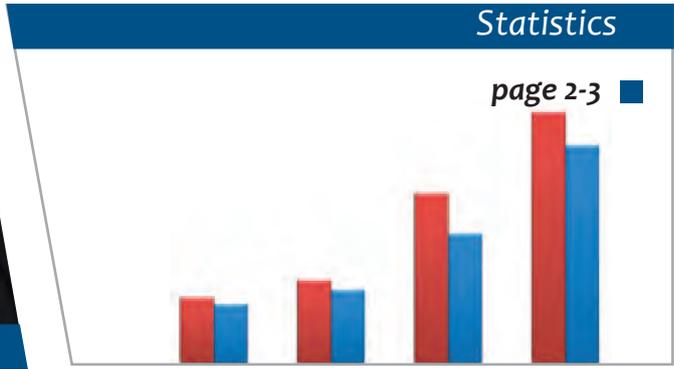
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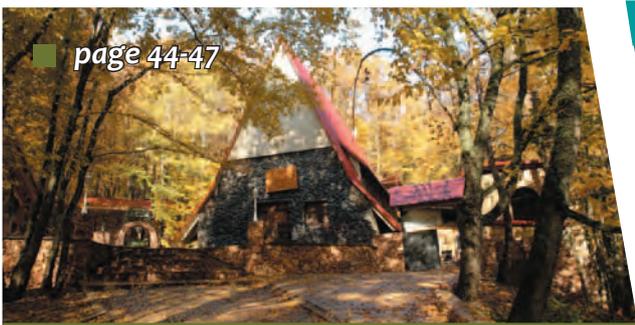
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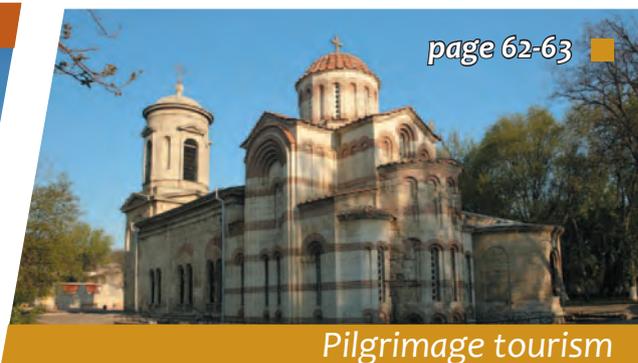


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# WHY DID TSARS GO TO THE CRIMEA?

After Crimea's annexation by the Russian empire, **Catherine the Great** became the first empress to visit the Crimea. She came to this unknown and wild country to admire new acquisitions. As turned out, Russia got itself a real piece of paradise.

Her son and successor Paul I, however, did not care much either for the Crimea or anything that existed outside his Mikhailovsky castle.

The new emperor **Alexander I**, however, appreciated the beauty of this southern province at its true worth. He bought an estate of Lower Oreanda here in 1825. Charmed with the beauty of the southern coast, he even declared: "Soon, I will move to the Crimea and will live as a private person here." He died mysteriously the same year, however.

Incidentally, F. Desser, a French chemist who was the first manager of the tsar's estate, has greatly contributed to studying and promoting the Crimea as health resort in general and of the Saky therapeutic muds, as an effective curative factor in the Crimean balneology, in particular.

**Nicholas I** inherited the estate. His wife Aleksandra Fedorovna was frequently ill, and when it turned out that



the Crimean climate is quite beneficial for curing various ailments, Nicholas I ordered to built a palace and lay out a park for her. In 1852, the emperor with his wife and court came to the Crimea again, to the first tsar's palace built in Lower Oreanda.

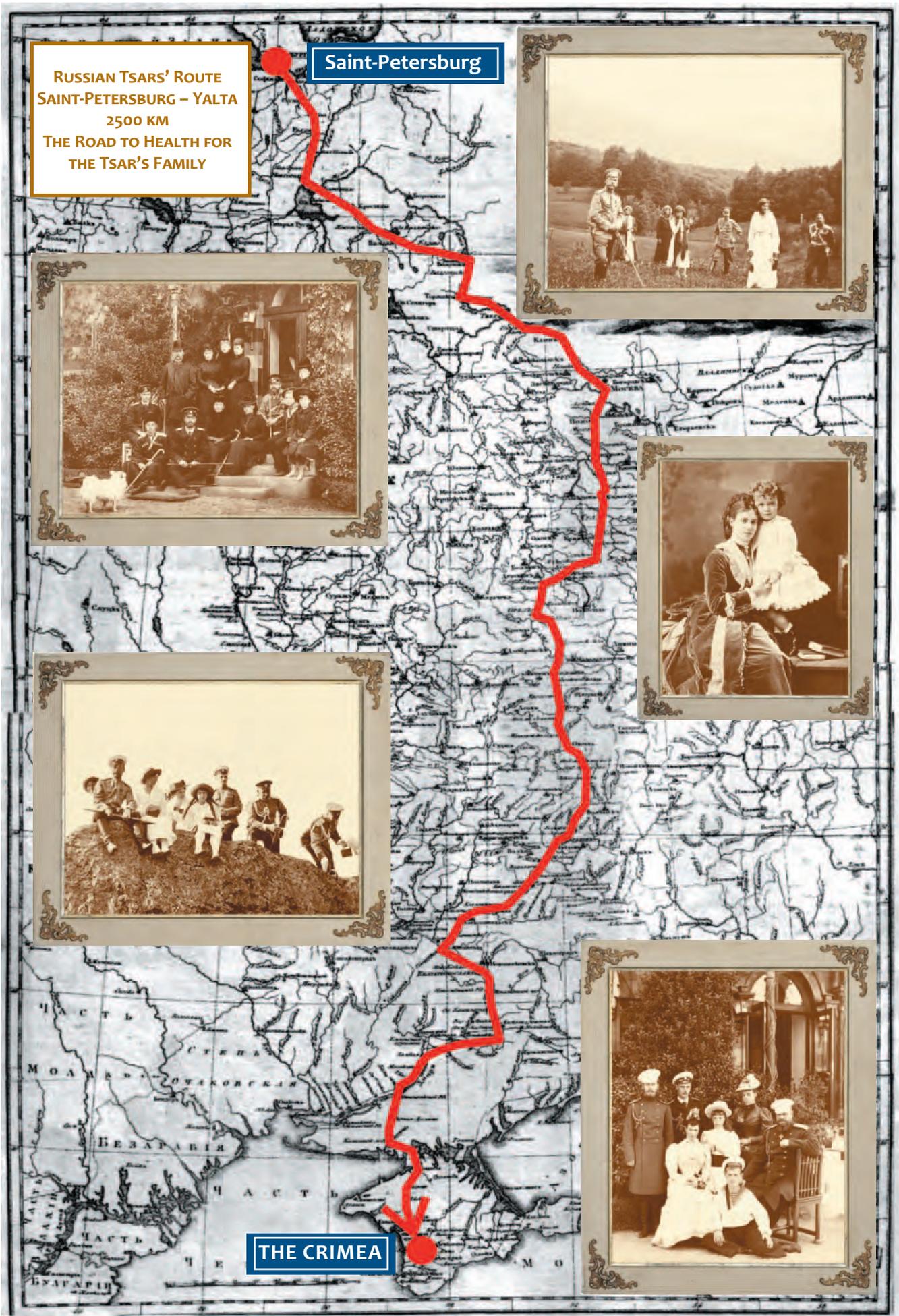
In 1860, **Alexander II** bought the Livadia estate from count Potocky and gave it to his wife Maria Aleksandrovna, who suffered from tuberculosis. According to her doctors, the salutary climate of the Crimea should have had a beneficial effect on the course of disease. Since that time, the imperial couple came regularly and stayed long in the Crimea. The doctors were right. The Crimean climate prolonged empress' life considerably.

Other royalty also built palaces in the Crimea and came here for recreation and medical treatment. Tuberculosis was a common disease at that time. People from all walks of life suffered from this disease, including the Romanovs, sovereigns of the empire. The royalty (who were then followed by other TB patients, including A.Chekhov) came regularly to the Crimea for medical treatment or stayed to live here permanently.

Annual visits of the emperor with family and other royalty to the Crimea, salutary effect of the Crimean climate, Crimea muds, and Crimean mineral springs on sufferers' health, which was confirmed by doctors, established a well-deserved fame of salubrious land for the Crimea in just a couple of decades.

The personal example of the imperial families only strengthened this fame. It is thanks to them that one of the first railroads was built to such a distant province and then quickly interlinked the different parts of the peninsula. Here they built highways, palaces, villas, dachas, health centers, and hospitals. Commerce, gardening, wine growing and wine making also developed here. Power stations, telegraph, telephone, lifts, and automobiles appeared in the Crimea soon after their emergence in Saint-Peters-







burg, and long before they appeared in other Russian cities. The numerous emperor's family have adorned the peninsula with masterpieces of palace architecture admired by visitors and Crimean residents alike to this day.

Starting with **Alexander II**, the Crimea became an unofficial capital of the huge Empire from spring to late autumn. As in Saint-Petersburg, emperors were surrounded here by magnates, ministers, deputies, ambassadors, rulers of other countries; here, they discussed and made important political decisions.

After the death of Alexander II the Liberator, his son **Alexander III** the Peacemaker continued to bring his family to spend their holidays in the Crimea. He adored the Small Livadia Palace and always only stayed there. In October 1888, as the result of another terrorist act, the tsar's train was derailed near Kharkiv, which resulted in numerous casualties, and the emperor himself was injured. Despite his injury, however, he supported the collapsed rail car roof, while his family got out of the wreckage. Such an extraordinary exertion was not without consequences, as the health of this giant, who had an enormous strength, was impaired. It did not change his lifestyle



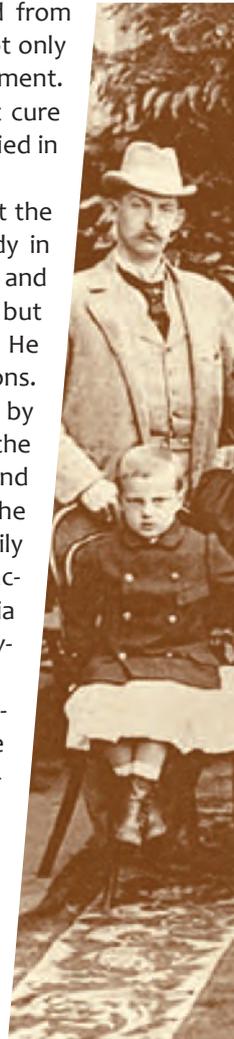
however. Every summer, the family moved from the capital to Livadia, where the emperor not only rested and worked, but also received treatment. He believed that even if the Crimea did not cure him, it would prolong his life. The emperor died in the Crimea. In Livadia.

Were it not for the Crimea, it is possible that the rule of **Nicholas II** could have ended already in 1900. However, he survived typhus, a serious and dangerous illness, not in the Winter Palace, but in the Livadia Palace, in the healing Crimea. He got well, in spite of all doctors' apprehensions. Tsarina Aleksandra Fedorovna, exhausted by frequent childbirths, and then by care over the incurably ill cesarevitch, had a weak health and only saved herself by extended visits to the Crimea in spring or autumn. The imperial family physician E.S.Botkin successfully treated exacerbations of cesarevich Aleksey's hemophilia with mud of the Saky Lake, which was delivered in barrels to the Livadia Palace.

The last Russian emperor Nicholas II said repeatedly that he did not want to leave the Crimea, that he wanted the capital of the empire to be in the Crimea, and when he abdicated, he asked for the Livadia estate to be retained for himself and the family, so that he could live there as a private person.

Several generations of the Romanov dynasty loved tenderly the Crimea and their Crimean estates. In fact, the peninsula became the Crimea, which is known worldwide today, became a competitor of European resorts, the treasure-trove of the multitude of world-level historical and cultural valuables, and the all-Union health resort, "an order on planet's breast"

(according to the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda), also thanks to the tsar's family and tsar's relatives, thanks to the Romanovs. Basically, it is the Russian tsars who laid down the foundations of many types of tourism, which are actively practiced in the Crimea today. For instance, mountain hiking, archaeological, hunting, riding, gastronomical, yachting, automobile touring, pilgrimage, event tourism, wine tasting... and even congress tourism.





# THE CRIMEAN WORLD AND TYPES OF TOURISM

**T**he Crimean tourism emerged in the late 19th century and has been actively developing the old and mastering new formats of tourist excursions, walking tours, and trips ever since. Enthusiasts set up a Crimean Mountain Club in Yalta in 1890, creating an organized format for the local tourism. The club members developed routes and guided the first excursions along the South Coast and to the mountains both for visitors and locals. In the 120 years, which elapsed since that time, the Crimean tourism business has mastered more than 17 types of tourism.

**THE MOUNTAIN HIKING** tourism has been in existence in the Crimea for more than a century now. Routes have been laid down to all the most interesting, including hard-to-access locations. Tourist trails bring the enthusiasts of this type of recreation to plateaus and peaks of the Crimea mountains, to waterfalls, rivers and lakes. Tourist centers in the Crimea guarantee shelter and rest to those not used to sleeping in tents.

**MOUNTAINEERING** is mostly the activity for professional athletes. The Crimean rock formations are used by sport masters, experts and veterans of ascents to the world's famous peaks to perfect their climbing techniques. Nevertheless, novices also have an opportunity to learn the climbing basics and make their first ascents under the guidance of experts.

**SPELEOLOGICAL TOURISM** has become popular in the Crimea after the opening of old and newly discovered caves

for visitors. Many of them are still waiting for their explorers and discoverers. However, those opened to regular groups of sightseers are equipped with handrails, stairs, passages, and lighting.

**MOUNTAIN BIKE TOURISM** has been developing rapidly in the Crimea, especially in the last decade. There are all the conditions here for testing one's endurance and admiring the wonders and sights of the peninsula.

**SCUBA DIVING.** Divers from all over the world descend on the peninsula every year. Wonderful underwater scapes with grottos and caves, utensils and everyday objects from

various epochs, sunk ships – all these are located at reasonable depths and in accessible locations.

**THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL TOURISM** offers the greatest number of tours of Crimean sights. It is hardly possible to participate in all the interesting excursions during one visit to the Crimea. A huge slice of world history has left a great number of monuments in the Crimea. These include museums, temples, memorial houses of writers and artists, picture galleries displaying

works of prominent masters, palaces of khans, tsars, and aristocracy.

**ARCHEOLOGICAL** tourism is equally rich in places of interest – from Neanderthals' and Cro-Magnons' caves, to the digs of ancient and medieval cities, fortresses, castles and monasteries, which belonged to various peoples and civilizations, various empires and kingdoms.

*There are 154 natural reserve stock objects in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, with the total area 146,200 hectares. The areas and objects of the natural reserve stock occupy 5.6% of Republic's area. They include six national reserves, 29 special nature serves, eight preserved natural tracts, landscape resources (160 caves).*



**AERO TOURISM.** It is in the Crimea, in Koktebel, that such a sport as gliding emerged. Today, tourists can participate in aero-routes on motorized hand gliders, gliders, paraplanes accompanied by trainers, as well as make parachute jumps. In summer, helicopter excursions over mountains and the sea are offered to tourists.

**EQUESTRIAN** tourism is one of the first types of activity tourism developed in the Crimea as early as the tsarist times. Today, more than 20 horse riding clubs offer both short- and long-distance riding tours over mountain trails under the guidance of experienced trainers.

**THE HUNTING AND FISHING** tourism also has its old history in the Crimea. Game preserves offer fowling and hooved animal hunting with rest in comfortable lodges. Fisheries offer fresh- and sea-water fishing and comfortable rest to the enthusiasts.

**GASTRONOMIC** tourism in the Crimea can be subdivided into two subtypes: wine tours to the tasting rooms and wine cellars of famous wineries, such as Massandra, Novy Svet, Inkerman and others, as well as introduction to the Crimean cuisine, or more specifically, to dishes of various peoples, who resided in the Crimea earlier and still live here now. The tours offer tasting of dishes of the Armenian and Greek, Karaite and Crimean Tatar, Bulgarian and Jewish, German and Georgian cuisines.

**ECOLOGICAL** tourism allows getting acquainted with the plant and animal world of the Crimea in six nature reserves: the



Crimean Nature Reserve, Yalta Mountain and Forest Reserve, Karadag, Kazantyp, Opuk, and the Martyan Cape reserve. Green tourism enthusiasts can choose rural locations with comfortable farmsteads for their vacation.

**ETHNOGRAPHICAL** tourism allows familiarizing with the cultures of Crimea's peoples, their way of life, customs and traditions, festivals and rituals.

**YACHTING AND CRUISING** tourism. An extended coastal line, available bays, harbors, ports, as well as unique natural and historical and cultural resources make the development of cruise and yachting tourism in the Crimea quite promising. There are all the conditions in the Crimea for development of yachting marinas and holding of regattas.

**CONGRESS** tourism. There are more than 500 various seminars, conferences, and symposia, including international ones held in the Crimea every year. An excellent infrastructure of Crimean hotels and boarding houses provides the conditions for holding events in any format.

**PILGRIMAGE** tours to the Crimea lead believers to holy and historical sights, to relics of saints and holy prelates, to monasteries and temples, to the settlements mentioned in the hagiography of the Crimean saints.

**EVENT** tourism. There are scores of cultural events held in the Crimea every year. These include guest performances, festivals, contests, tournaments, meetings with famous musicians, poets, actors from various cities and countries. All these events attract a great number of spectators and listeners from among visitors and local residents.

**A MOTORIST** will experience in the Crimea a lot of discoveries, expanse of the steppe, extended foothills and mountains, the Black and Azov seas. There are roadside and tourist facilities along Crimean roads, including more than 30 camping sites, about 100 car parks.

**RECREATION WITH MEDICAL TREATMENT** in the Crimea started to become popular in the early 19th century, when doctors found out which combination of the local curative factors brings recovery to

patients. These include climate, Saky muds, and mineral water. Over the last two centuries, medical treatment and recreation in the Crimea have led to the development of a network of powerful health centers and research institutions. In recent years, they were supplemented by numerous spa centers. The Crimean peninsula has everything required for an international spa. The benefits of **LOCAL SPAS INCLUDE** year-round use of natural curative resources: climate therapy, mud treatment, use of mineral water of various compositions from Crimea springs. The program of the Crimean spa center is based on individual approach to every client.

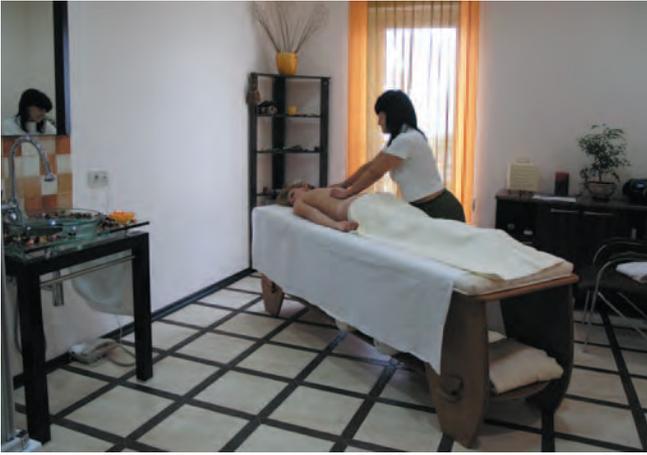
**CHILDREN'S RECREATION** in the Crimea not only includes sea swimming and beach recreation, but also a set of educational programs, pedagogically correct communication, and adequate medical support. Children's health centers and holiday camps successfully combine nearly a century of experience and modern achievements in the organization of children's leisure.

Children, however, travel to the Crimea not only for recreation, but also to improve their health. The list of children's diseases, which are cured in health centers of the peninsula, reflects the state-of-the-art medical innovations and **TECHNOLOGIES OF REHABILITATION OF CHILDREN.**

There are 27 health centers in the Crimea, which are open throughout the year and specialize in improving health of children with various pathologies. The majority of Yevpatoriya-based health centers specialize in medical treatment of children. Also, they admit for treatment children with their parents, which is convenient for the parents, when children referred to the Crimea for health improvement are still too young and need parental presence and care.







# TO THE CRIMEA FOR HEALTH

**N**early two centuries of medical research have demonstrated unequivocally that salubrious Crimean climate can work wonders. The climate is also assisted by curative muds and medicinal mineral springs. Quite a few doomed patients have achieved lengthy and stable remissions in the development of their ailments or were cured altogether after a visit to Crimean health resorts.

The variety of diseases subject to healing effects of Crimea's therapeutic factors is very impressive. Tuberculosis, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, gastrointestinal disturbances, kidney ailments, gynecological disorders, traumas, locomotor system disorders etc. So, what are the key treatment and curative factors of the peninsula, which yield such amazing, even though anticipated results?

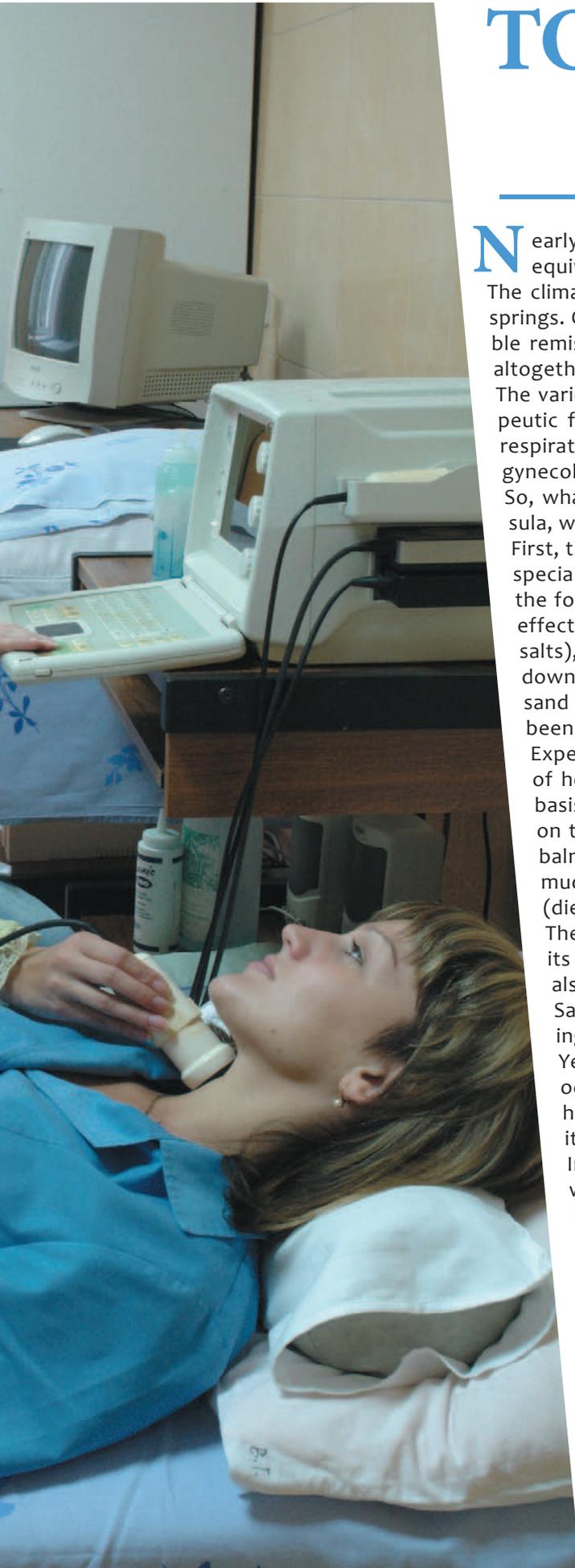
First, this is climatotherapy, i.e., use of various climatic factors and special features of area's climate to treat patients. There are all the four key factors in use in the Crimea: heliotherapy (insolation effects), arotherapy (air saturated with phytoncides and marine salts), thalassotherapy (sea swimming, dipping, sea water rub-downs), and psammotherapy (thermal procedures in sun-heated sand baths). All the listed medicinal factors of the Crimea have been studied and implemented by the Crimean health centers. Experienced doctors, experts in climatotherapy and other types of health resort treatment work with patients on a year-round basis, using the factors of climatic and spa treatment, depending on the season and weather conditions. Besides, use is made of balneotherapy (mineral baths and ingestion of mineral water), mud therapy, therapeutic physical training, and clinical nutrition (dietotherapy).

The Crimea has deposits of Saky Lake mud, which is unique in its therapeutic properties. It is not only used in the Crimea, but also purchased by foreign healthcare institutions. Using the Saky mud and brine, more than 30 types of diseases are being successfully cured today. The health centers in Saky and Yevpatoriya are extensively using it in their therapeutic methodologies. The Saky institution for mud cures have restored to health tens of thousands of patients throughout the years of its existence.

In addition to the Saky mud, the Crimea also has several lakes, whose silt also has curative properties.

Both in the tsarist Russia, and in Soviet times, and also today, thermal mineral waters extracted in various parts of the peninsula remain very popular. The Crimean mineral waters have a beneficial effect on gastrointestinal tract, and are used for treating various illnesses of the liver, pancreas, stomach, and the bowels. They are also applied as therapeutic baths for various diseases of internals and locomotor system.

All these factors, including the mud cure and mineral waters, are also actively and effectively used in the Crimea spa centers, which are quite numerous and popular today.



## THERAPEUTIC FACTORS OF CRIMEAN RESORTS

**H**ELIOTHERAPY means applying solar radiation (general and local sun baths) for prophylactic and curative purposes. Insolation (total solar radiation) is subdivided into three types: direct (coming directly from the Sun), diffused (by the sky), and reflected from the land surface and objects.

Heliotherapy is indicated for the majority of illnesses: including the initial symptoms of atherosclerosis and essential hypertension, rheumatism in inactive phase, inflammatory processes in the lungs, gastrointestinal tract, kidneys, joints, gout, and obesity, nervous system disorders, and skin diseases, as well as various types of depression.

**AEROTHERAPY** is a therapeutic action of fresh air saturated with salts, essential oils, and phytoncids in an open area. Around-the-clock aerotherapy and air baths (effect of air on partially or fully naked patients) are applied.

Around-the-clock aerotherapy is a prolonged effect (inhalation) of fresh air on a patient. The therapeutic, bactericidal, and healing effect emerges from increased supply of oxygen to a body, from effect of volatile aromatic substances released by plants, and phytoncids of seaweed, marine salts and ozone on the seashore.

Aerotherapy is indicated for nearly all diseases. It is especially effective for nonspecific chronic pneumonia and pul-

monary TB at a remission phase, bronchial asthma with infrequent spasms, cardiovascular diseases without arrhythmia, for atherosclerosis, essential hypertension, anemia, neurasthenia, kidney, gastrointestinal, skin, and ear, nose, and throat disorders, and others.

**THALASSOTHERAPY** means sea bathing, dipping, and sea water rub-downs, using the marine coast climate. It is applied for treating such diseases as chronic pneumonia and gastrointestinal disorders in remission, including bronchial asthma, stenocardia, postinfarction states, essential hypertension, nervous disorders, peripheral nervous system diseases,

lomotor system and post-traumatic disorders.

The therapeutic effect of sea bathing consists in natural hydromassage of one's body with waves, which stimulates circulation, and bather's active movements improve the muscle tone. Thermal regulation is being trained, vitality is improved, metabolism and oxidation processes are accelerated, nervous system is being stimulated, and general tempering of a body is

being achieved. Positive emotional impact is provided by soothing regular lapping of waves and beauty of marine and mountain views.

*There are mineral springs of various types in the Crimea (Yevpatoriya, Saky, Feodosiya, Aivazovske, and other fields): sulphate, hydrocarbonate and calcium, chloride sulphate, chloride-hydrocarbonate-sodium etc, which possess valuable therapeutic properties.*







**SAMMOTHERAPY** means taking sun-heated, i.e., naturally heated sand baths. Sand baths are employed as local thermal procedures of anti-inflammatory action. Used as a health-improvement procedure, sammotherapy is indicated to all healthy individuals. Therapeutic effect is achieved for loco-

motor system disorders of various origin (inflammatory, degenerative, metabolic) in a remission phases, for peripheral nervous system and reproductive system disorders in non-acute phases, for metabolic disorders of various origin in children as the consequence of previously suffered rickets

**MUD THERAPY.** According to a prominent scholar and academician V.P. Filatov, the Saky mud contains the so-called biogenic stimulants, i.e., the substances strengthening body's vitality, its resistance to diseases. The Saky Lake mud has antimicrobial properties. Mud therapy triggers complex processes in blood, nervous system, and endocrine glands. The mud cure activates the forces able to conquer disease in a body.

A salty Saky Lake with the area of 8 sq km and depth of a little more than half a meter was formed at the end of the last Ice Age, when the water level in the Black Sea raised by more than a hundred meters. On the site of the future lake, a bay emerged first, then, an estuary, and afterwards, due to climatic changes, the estuary gradually turned into a coastal salt lake.

The therapeutic black silts, called peloids, which had been deposited on the lake bottom for more than 5,500 years, have unique curative properties, even though they do not occupy the major part of the lake.

Mud formation is a very complex and lengthy process, which also continues at present. In addition to clay, mineral salts, remains of animals and plants, and sand, it is formed by special microorganisms, whose vital activity determines a number of important medicinal properties of the mud.

The Saky Lake is no longer a natural body, but an artificially regulated water reservoir with increased technogeneus load. However, it is used by the mud station according to all hydrogeological regulations, and therefore, the mud properties are not impaired.

Today, the Saky Lake is subdivided into two ponds: the western pond is considered an industrial one, and the eastern one is therapeutic. The mud and brine of the eastern

*More than 30 various diseases are being cured at the Saky resort using the Saky Lake mud and brine, thermal mineral water, and other natural resources*

pond of the Saky Lake are extensively used by health centers and resorts based in Saky, and by health institutions of other Crimean cities.

This soft mud, smelling of hydrogen sulfide, consists of soluble and insoluble mineral salts and oxides, microelements and microorganisms, thanks to which biologically active compounds are formed in the mud, such as hormones, vitamins and penicillin-type substances, and biostimulants. It has anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial action. Under the influence of all mud components, complex processes take place in a body, which influence the nervous, endocrine, and hematopoietic systems. The disease resistance powers are activated, and metabolic processes in effected organs are stepped up.

More than 30 various diseases are being cured at the Saky resort using the Saky Lake mud and brine, thermal mineral water, and other natural resources.

Therapeutic mud, brine, and mineral water improve metabolic processes, peripheral circulation, circulation of internal organs; they have an analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and adsorbing action; they strengthen body's vitality, normalize hormonal function, facilitate removal of radioactive nuclides from the body. The curative mud rejuvenates the body, stimulating the body itself to fight the illness.

Treatment with mud and mud preparations frees the body from radioactive nuclides, reduces its allergic reactions, normalized its hormonal background, and strengthens the immunity. Thanks to its balanced mineral and organic composition, the mud has anti-inflammatory, desensitizing, anti-microbial, resorptive, trophic, and regenerative action. The mud is bactericidal with regard to streptococcus, staphylococcus, blue pus bacillus, and it suppresses development of protozoa (trychomonads) and fungi.

As regards their cosmetic effect, mud-bath preparations have a cleaning and rejuvenating action, improve blood circulation of skin and strengthen its tone, stimulate regenerative processes, stabilize energy metabolism, and normalize the fat balance, which makes skin smooth and elastic.

The therapeutic effect of the Saky mud is caused by its thermal action, which expands the lumen of blood vessels, strengthens bloodstream, improves the conditions for nutrition of tissues. The therapeutic action is determined by a combination of actions of thermal, mechanical, chemical, and biological factors.

These factors have an anti-inflammatory, metabolic, trophic, immunomodulating, bactericidal, biostimulating, sedative, coagulating, and keratolytic effect. Under the influence of heat, chemical and biologically active substances (hormones, biogenic stimulants, and microelements) enter the body and have a desensitizing, anti-inflammatory, and resorptive action.

The therapeutic mud of Saky is used for general and local applications, for intracavitary use, as well as for electromud procedures. The dosing is carried out depending on the temperature of the Saky therapeutic mud, area, and duration of application. Procedures are carried out every other day or every two days after a day's break. The procedure duration is 15-20 minutes. The course of treatment consists of 10-12 procedures.

**BALNEOTHERAPY** involves treatment with mineral

waters of the Crimean springs. There are numerous mineral water springs in the Crimea (cold and thermal – hot), but only about ten of these are being used at present.

The most well-known mineral waters of the Crimea are Yaltynska, Mellas, and Krymska mineralna (bottled by Saky Plant) are effective for digestive system disorders (also used for mud-bath therapy with the Saky mud, its properties are close to those of Yessentuki-4 mineral water); Feodosiyska mineral water (its

composition is similar to that of Yessentuki No.20 mineral water); and Adzhi-Su mineral water for use in case of other diseases (comparable to the Aachen mineral springs and the Aleksandro-Yermolayevsky spring in Pyatigorsk; a specialized Chorni Vody hospital operates at the spring; it is used for treating rheumatism, sciatica, radiculitis, joint and ligament diseases, thrombophlebitis, skin diseases); Yevpatoriyska mineral water (thanks to its unique properties, it is also known as the Crimean Borjomi, used for treating chronic diseases of oral cavity and upper air passages, residual symptoms of poliomyelitis, radiculitis, neuritis, gynecological and cardiovascular disorders, ulcer, and gangrene).

**More than 30% of all Ukrainian tourist and recreational resources are concentrated in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The main recreational resources of the region include climatic resources; beaches stretching for 517 km; deposits of therapeutic mud (14 deposits with reserves of about 25,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>); mineral water springs (100 springs and more than 200 wells, the water of which has unique chemical composition); as well as balneotherapeutic resources currently used at 3.5% only.**

# SERVICES OF CLINICAL HEALTH CENTERS

**H**istorically, the Crimea has evolved as a climatic health resort. In time, natural health-improvement factors have been supplemented by the methods of combined impact of clinical (therapeutic) manipulations and health-improvement (sanatorium) factors. As the result of this, a present-day Crimean resort is no longer about just recreation and tourism, but also embraces a set of therapeutic and health-improvement methods implemented at clinical health centers.

For many years now, the problems of sanatorium-and-spa treatment have been researched by the S.I.Georgiyevsky Crimean State Medical University based in Simferopol, the I.M. Sechenov Crimean Republic Research Institute of Physical Methods of Treatment and Medical Climatology in Yalta, and the Ukrainian Research Institute of Children's Balneology and Physiotherapy based in Yevpatoriya, which is the only such institution in the CIS. Crimean health centers are engaged in active collaboration with the Ukrainian Research Institute of Medical Rehabilitation and Balneology in Odesa.

*There are over 600 health centers, resorts, and health-improvement institutions, and more than 2000 hotels and smaller boarding houses in the Crimea.*

There are about twenty year-round clinical health centers in the Crimea today, which specialize in treating various diseases.

Greater emphasis is made at the South Coast on the problems of pulmonological nature, cardiovascular disorders, as well as treating various forms of TB.

The Western Crimea is the leader in terms of the number of clinical health centers. There are more than ten of those in Yevpatoriya alone. They specialize in diverse fields: from general treatment to specialist hospitals. They are treating respiratory, locomotory, and cardiovascular diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis in children, children's gynecology, non-specific pulmonary diseases, ENT diseases; offer treatment for infertility, effects of environmental disasters, and serious locomotory traumas. Especially well-known are the centers for treating infantile cerebral paralysis, for instance, the Yevpatoriya Central Children's Clinical Health Centers of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.

Several health centers are located on the salty Saky Lake,



including the N.I.Pirogov Saky Central Military Clinical Health Center treating urological and gynecological diseases, locomotor system diseases in adults, as well as the N.N. Burdenko Specialized Spinal Health Center, which is the preferred treatment facility for patients with spinal traumas. An exceptionally convenient architectural solution of the health center, use of the unique Saky mud, unique methods of therapy, and exceptionally friendly staff make this health center a pilgrimage destination for spinal patients. The Saky muds, which have become a global brand for quite a long time, are widely used in treatment.

Mention must also be made of such major Crimean health centers, which combine clinical services with health improvement, as Central Military Clinical Health Centers in Feodosiya, Saky, and Alupka, the Prymorya base clinical health center for parents with children in Yevpatoriya, and the Poltava-Krym health centers in Saky (with the world-famous institution for mud cures), Miskhor clinical health center in Yalta, and Yuvileynyi clinical cardi-rheumatologic health center for parents with children in Yevpatoriya, which also operates as a research base for the S.I. Georgiyevsky Crimean State Medical University and the Ukrainian Research Institute of Balneology and Physiotherapy.



# DOLPHIN HEALERS

**D**olphin therapy as a new method of rehabilitation has been seriously studied in the Crimea since the late 1990s. The accumulated experience is actively used by health researchers in their work with children and adult patients.

In recent decades, the Crisis and Clinical Psychology Department at the Ukrainian Research Institute for Children's Balneology and Physiotherapy of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, as well as researchers of the Zmina children's health center in Yevpatoriya, have developed a program of medical and psychological rehabilitation of patients, including children suffering from infantile cerebral paralysis and adults after a stroke and locomotion system traumas, with the help of dolphins. In the course of program development, the relevant experience of the approaches to the problem in the USA and Central America were taken into account. In 1999, the Department moved from the research to the practical phase. Important component of dolphin therapy comprise a system of medical and psychological rehabilitation, as well as contact and interaction of a child or an adult with a dolphin acting as a co-therapist. According to many years

*A standard dolphin therapy course consists of five to ten sessions to be taken within two weeks.*

of observations by medical researchers, the condition of patients improves significantly after communication with dolphins, which becomes especially noticeable after a complete course of dolphin therapy.

The main indications for receiving a dolphin therapy course include infantile cerebral paralysis, infancy autism, Down's syndrome, and other genetic pathologies, brain dysfunction or attention deficiency syndrome with hyperactivity, functional disorders of the central nervous system, mental retardation (except its profound stage), speech and hearing disorders, perceptive deafness, neuroses of various origin, posttraumatic stress disorders, non-endogenous depressive disorders (subdepressive level), memory derangements, and learning disorders.

The first patients included terrorist hostages (including those from the Chechen war), victims of technogeneous and natural disasters (Chornobyl disaster and Armenian earthquake), and persons suffering from complex traumas (thermal injury, gunshot wounds).

Besides, these good-natured mammals have a beneficial effect on the health of pregnant women. Scientists have proven that swimming with dolphins before childbirth alleviates labor pains.



Given that the dolphin therapy includes the procedures of tempering, physical loads, and water aerobics, it also considerably strengthens immunity.

Medical treatment and rehabilitation with the help of dolphins are conducted at the State Oceanarium of Ukraine in Sevastopol and Partenit, and at the International Institute of Dolphin Therapy in Yevpatoriya. In winter periods, from 15 October through 15 December, and from 1 March until the end of April, the dolphin therapy courses are based at the Territorial Center of Balneology and Rehabilitation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces at the Krym Health Center in Partenit.

A roofed seawater pool with the temperature of 22-24°C and a recirculation water purification system (gravel-sand filters and additional chlorination) provides comfortable environment for conducting a therapeutic course.

In summer periods, from May through September, the Black Sea dolphin therapy bases in Sevastopol (Kozacha bay) and Yevpatoriya (Donuzlav Lake) are operational.

The research and practical work implemented by medical researchers to expand the range of applications of dolphin therapy for various types of diseases is continuing today. The introduction of new methods expands the lists of conditions, which the dolphins will be actively helping the doctor to cure.





There are 27 year-round health centers in the Crimea, which are working to improve health of children suffering from various pathologies. Yevpatoriya has been a recognized destination for health improvement of children in the Crimea for a long time now. The majority of health centers based in Yevpatoriya are targeted towards medical treatment of children. Notably, they also accept for treatment children with parents, which is quite convenient for the parents whose children referred to the Crimea for treatment are young enough and are in need of parental presence and care.

Doctors understand perfectly well that children come to the Crimea not just to rest and regain strength, but also for their health in the direct meaning of this word. Therefore, the list of conditions, which are treated by health centers of the peninsula, reflects the state-of-the-art of medical science. And the practitioners not only base their activity on the latest developments of the researchers, and the researchers themselves are working with children in Crimea's health centers and constantly perfecting the medical technology for rehabilitation of children.

For more than a century now, the Crimea has been a traditional location for treating tuberculosis, including TB in children. Also, the peninsula has children's health centers, which specialize in general, pulmonary, cardiorheumatologic, otolaryngological, neurological, and psycho-neurological disorders, diseases of the locomotion system, cardiovascular system, and skin. Besides, successful treatment is offered in the Crimea of infantile cerebral paralysis, gynecological pathologies in children, and effects of environmental disasters, which, in the light of ongoing events occurring throughout the world, appears especially relevant today.

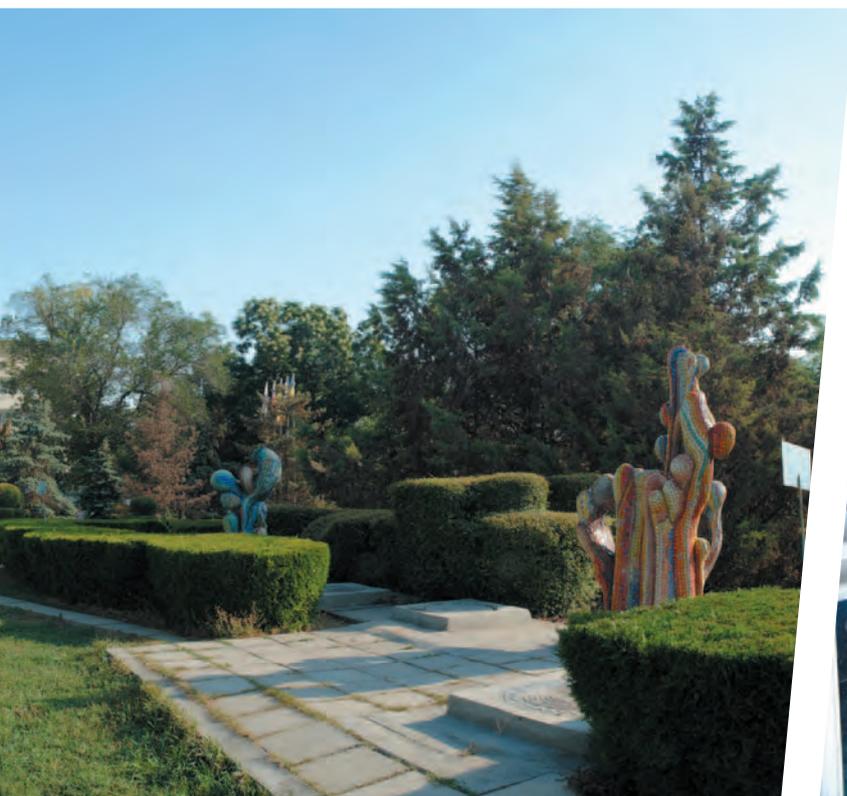


# THE PENINSULA FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

**Around 130,000 children receive treatment and improve their health in children's health centers of the Crimea every year.**

For instance, they study the issues of clinical rehabilitation of children from anthropological pollution zones suffering from deficiency anemia and tonsillogeneous cardiopathies in the Prymorya clinical health center in

Yevpatoriya; in addition to standard research intended for rehabilitation of children and teenagers with cardiac pathology and locomotion system disorders, the Taurida health center for children and adolescents in Yevpatoriya extensively studies the issues of health resort rehabilitation of children with diffuse pathology of thyroid gland, with delayed sexual development in boys; the Yevpatoriya Central Clinical Health Center for Children of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense is developing original methods of orthopedic and surgical correction of contracture of large joints in children suffering from infantile cerebral paralysis; the Slava health center in Alushta is developing new methods of climatotherapy for children and adolescents suffering from ear, nose, and throat diseases; the Yuvileyny health center of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health in Yevpatoriya is developing a program of health center and spa treatment for correction of immunity disruptions in children; and the Orlya health center of the Ukrainian Ministry of Health in Yevpatoriya is developing new methods of rehabilitation of children with diseases and traumas of locomotion system.



# SPA AS A SOURCE OF HARMONY

“Sanus per aquam” is a Latin phrase, which translates as “health through water” or “spa” in short form.

It is not for nothing when they say that anything new is a well forgotten old. The ancient Romans spent nearly half of their lives in water procedures. It is them who have laid the foundations of spa treatment. They say, it was the emperor Nero who invented this quite modern-sounding motto “Sanus per aquam.” The classics of old Roman literature, such as Lucretius, Marcialus, and Plinium celebrated spa treatment in their poems and letters, and expressed their delight with regard to wonderful results of these procedures.

The Belgian Ardennes were part of the Roman Empire. Since time immemorial, there was a spa there, still fully operational today. And this spa is called Spa. Probably, it is not incidental that the Romans gave this name to this health resort. Also, the procedures offered there are in correspondence with the modern concept of spa. Today, visiting spa resorts is considered fashionable, prestigious, and an indication of financial prosperity. It is unknown

who has launched the modern boom of spa health improvement, spa resorts, and spa tourism. You cannot find the names of inventors of modern spa centers either in directories or on the Web.

So, what does the “Health through water,” i.e., spa, actually mean?

In its contemporary meaning, a spa is a set of physiotherapeutic and other treatment and health improvement services, which includes, first of all, a wide range of hydrotherapeutic procedure, including those using mineral water (from hydromassage and contrast Japanese baths, to Vichy’s and Charcot’s douche, from swimming in a pool with underwater exercise apparatus to the Russian, Roman, Turkish, and herbal baths), as well as procedures using mud cures and medicinal plants, cosmetic procedures, stress relief, relaxation, various kinds of massage (Spanish, French, Thai, honey, lymphodrainage, anti-cellulite, classical), fitness and aromatherapy, healthy nutrition, and physical exercise. Also,

*There are 72 spa centers in the Crimea, offering a diverse range of programs: anti-stress, detoxication, figure correction. The number of spa centers is growing every year.*







practically every spa program starts with a consultation with a valeologist.

Acting via cutaneous covering, spa components activate body's metabolic processes. As the result, extra fat is burnt out, circulation is improved, toxins and wastes are removed, general state of health is improved, and stress is replaced by vivacity and energy, the joy of life returns, as well as the feeling of lightness and comfort. Therefore, spa today means universal health improvement and rejuvenation of the body and soul. Even a spa philosophy has already emerged.

All these spa procedures are now offered by the Crimean spa centers.

Both in terms of its nature, and thanks to an extensive expertise of health improvement centers, the Crimean peninsula has everything needed for an international spa. It is not surprising, therefore, that spa centers took root here at once.

There are 72 spa centers in the Crimea today. Some of them have been set up based at the existing health centers and boarding houses, others operate as part of hotels, either new or renovated, restored, and equipped to international standards. Let us name just a few of them: Marat-Vremena goda therapeutic and health improvement complex; Sosnovaya roshcha health center; Nizhnyaya Oreanda health center; Vremena goda boarding house; Palmira-Palace Hotel; Krasotel-Nord Hotel; 1001 Nights Hotel (all in Yalta); Krymskiye zori boarding house and More boarding house in Alushta; TES Hotel in Yevpatoriya; Atlantik

Hotel in Feodosiya; Argo Hotel in settlement Malorichenske. Travel companies Laspi in Sevastopol and Sezony-2000 in Yalta specialize in providing spa programs.

The advantage of Crimean spa health improvement is its ability to use natural therapeutic resources for this purpose on a year-round basis, including climatotherapy, mud therapy with Saky muds, and several types of mineral water from Crimean springs.

All the health improvement and esthetic programs of the Crimea spa centers are based on a comprehensive approach tailored to individual needs of every client. Also, separate programs are offered for women, men, children,

middle-aged and senior persons, as well as programs based on various conditions and lifestyles of tour participants. Just to quote several tour names, which speak for

*Spa is a source of restoration of person's vital forces and inner harmony.*

themselves: Aphrodite (a beauty week for women); Apollo (a beauty week for men); Light Step, Workaholic (for hard-working individuals); Harmony of Feelings, Spirit of Nature, Morning Dew, Little Birch, Anti-Stress (for chronic fatigue syndrome, and chronic stress states); Office (corporate tour); Hundred Years, Weekend (weekend tours); Playboy (urological); Youth Cocktail, Health and Beauty (restorative, purifying); Lady (anti-cellulitis).

In addition, a spa center of the More boarding house has a unique piece of equipment, which is the only one on the Crimean coast, called alfa-capcule. The main method used in this device is aromatherapy. Injection of oils into the capsule, their circulation with warm air inside the capsule, at the temperature of 43°C, combined with vibration of the bed, and ionization of air – all provide an extraordinary curative effect.



# UNDERWATER TREASURES

**I**nvention of the aqualung (scuba) by Jacques Ives Cousteau, and subsequent films about the voyages and underwater adventures of this French explorer of marine depths have made an incredible impression on people worldwide. Many of them immediately wanted to see for themselves what Cousteau was showing them on their TV screens. Thus, scuba diving was born. Gradually, this new hobby has become one of the most popular types of recreation on the planet. Thus, scuba diving arrived in the Crimea in the 1980s.

With the emergence and development of diving on the peninsula, it turned out that numerous and varied objects were found underwater along the whole Crimean coastline, and provoked interest among the tourists familiar with the technique of scuba diving.

Today, divers from all over the world come to the peninsula every year to take diving tours along the Crimea shores. Sea depths near the peninsula's coast are interesting for both novice and experienced divers. Varied terrains and landscapes of sea bottom with grottos and caves, wonderful underwater landscapes, geological consequences of tectonic fissures and underwater eruptions, discharges of jasper, onyx, agate, cornelian, and other beautiful and semiprecious stones, enormous amounts of utensils and everyday objects dating back to various historic epochs, spectacular shipwrecks with ages ranging from several thousands to several

scores of years (incidentally, it is the seasoned, experienced divers who are the happiest about any found shipwrecks) – all these are located at acceptance

depths and in accessible locations. There are opportunities here to engage in underwater photography, find antique amphorae and even sunk cities (e.g., an ancient city of Akra, which is now fully submerged),

ancient weapons, old coins, everyday objects, explore sunk vessels.

On Tarkhankut, near the Atlesha cliff, some 100 meters from the shore, at a depth of 12m underwater, there is a unique museum called the Leader's Alley displaying busts and sculptures of USSR leaders, classical authors and artists, and other statues, totaling more than 50 exhibits. The museum was founded by a diver from Donetsk in 1992.

Numerous diving centers and diving clubs in the Crimea are there to assist both inveterate and novice divers.

To engage in diving one will need to learn a set of skills and knowledge allowing him or her to deal with possible problems underwater. These skills and knowledge will be learned in the process of training and will be documented by a certificate issued by one of the diving associations (CMAS, PADI, SSI).

Learn from Professionals

There are numerous diving schools with professional trainers in the Crimea. Under their supervision, novice

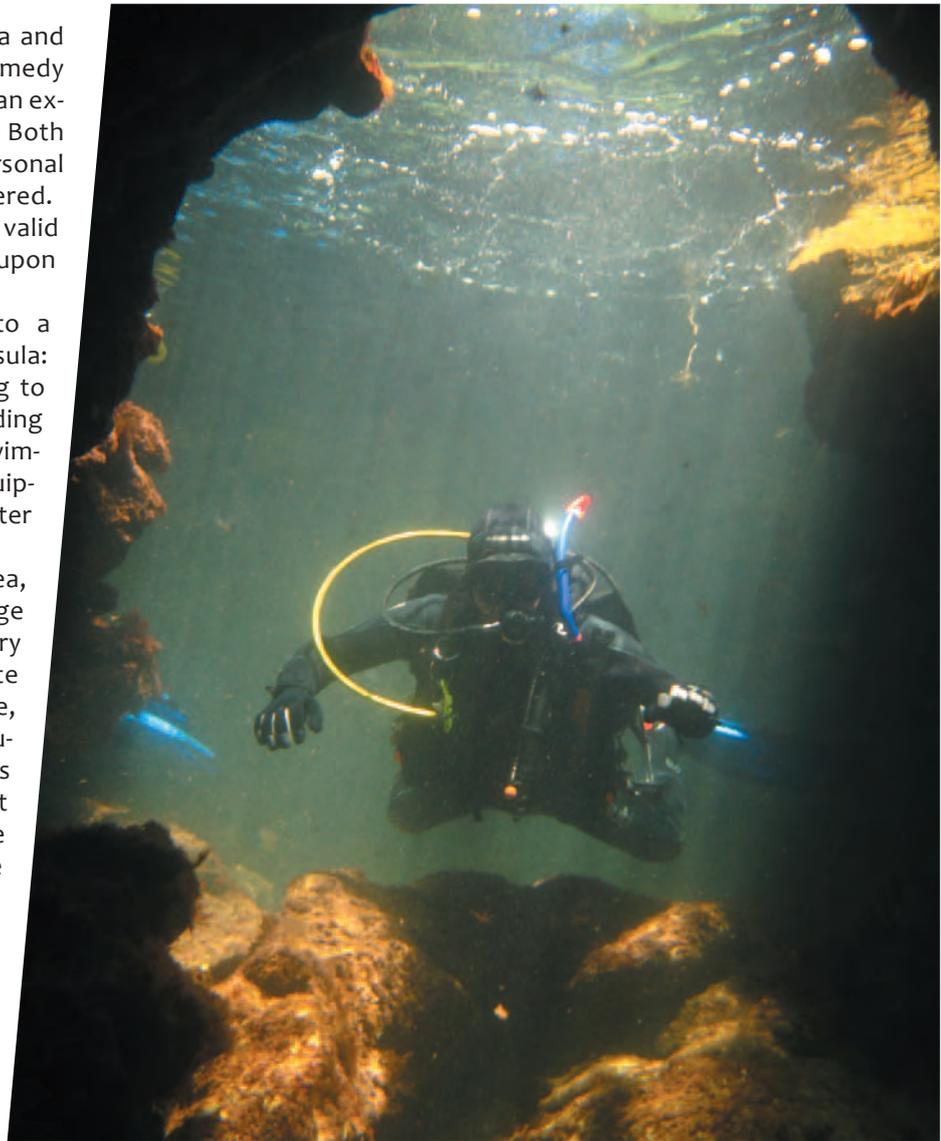
***There are over 30 diving centers in the Crimea today, located in cities along the whole Crimean coastline.***



es learn the skills of using a scuba and equipment, conduct checks and remedy any faults, make test dives, where an experienced trainer is always close. Both individual diving courses with a personal trainer, and group courses are offered. An international certificate valid throughout the world is awarded upon the completion of training.

Children's diving is developed to a rather high standard on the peninsula: many diving centers offer training to children aged from 8 to 14 according to CEDIP/UDIP in underwater swimming, skills of using the diving equipment, and the basics of underwater biology and archeology.

When vacationing in the Crimea, those not ready to seriously engage in diving could make introductory dives with a trainer. No certificate is needed for this. Many of those, however, after experiencing unusual feelings and novel impressions are taken by the diving, and enlist in serious training and continue with this hobby. Thankfully, the Crimea has a wide choice of interesting diving locations.



## ROMANTIC APPEAL OF THE PEAKS

The Crimean Mountain Club, Russia's first tourist organization, was established in 1890. Mountains and plains, gorges and valleys, yailas (mountain pastures) and canyons, caves and waterfalls, lakes and rivers, forests and the steppe – all this natural diversity has secured for the Crimea the fame of one of the best regions for mountain hiking tourism in Russia-USSR-Ukraine. The Crimea can be regarded as one of the cradles of national hiking tourism. The romantic appeal of crossings of many days and overnight stops spent at a campfire, feeling one with nature, especially such uniquely beautiful nature as the Crimean nature, have been attracting tourists to the Crimea, who are happy to carry heavy backpacks, and prefer their own feet to any vehicle on such hiking tours.

There are 84 tourist campsites and 39 recreational sites for general public in the mountain and forest zone of the Crimea. Long paths run throughout the whole peninsula. The most popular include the Chatyr-Dag peaks and plateau, peaks of Demerdzhi and Roman-Kosh (the highest mountain on the peninsula), Dolgorukov Yaila, Ay-Petri Yaila, Karabi-Yaila, Crimea's Grand Canyon, Khapkhhal reserve, cave cities, Black River, and others.

Short routes are also popular with hikers. For instance, the Ecological Ring circular route consists of three historically developed hiking paths: Botkin's, Shtangeyev's, and Issar's and sections of public roads. The paths were made in the early 20th century with participation of the physicians S.P.

Botkin and F.T. Shtangeyev, who valued highly the healing properties of the South Coast climate, maritime air, and Crimea's coniferous forests. At the beginning of the 20th century, these paths were traveled by Nicholas II with family, other Romanovs and their courtiers, and after the 1920s, these paths have been opened for the general public.

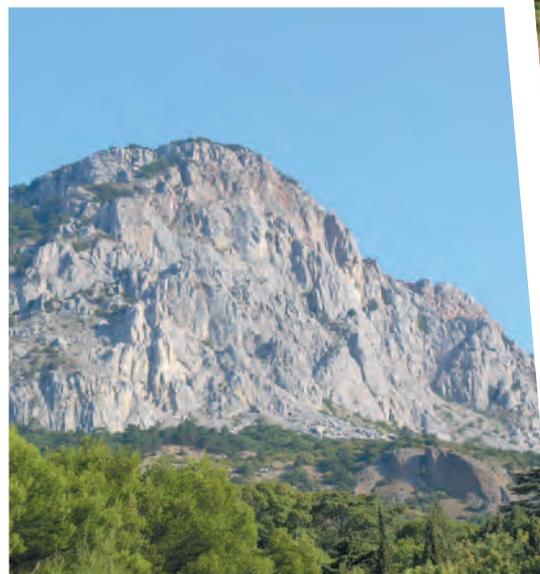
This path used to run above the Polyana skazok (Fairytale Glade), through a picturesque pine forest near the waterfalls Uchan-Su and Yauzlar, Stavri Kaya rock, and medieval fortress Issary.

A historical route, which was used in the last 19th and early 20th century by the tsar's family for walks around the Nikitsky state forest dacha, has been restored. The Romanovs' Road hiking

path is located near the Avinda tract above Gurzuf. This route starts near the settlement Partyzanske and runs via the forest road to the Gurzuf Saddle pass. Since olden times, this pass, and the Romanovs' Road itself, has served as a road connecting the Gurzuf Valley with the central part of the Crimea.

Many Crimean tour operators are engaged in the organization of hiking tours, offering combined tours with stay at tourist bases, series of radial excursions, and the completion of tours with a vacation on the sea coast.

**Roman-Kosh, the highest mountain in the Crimea at 1545 m, is located on the Babugan-Yaila. The Crimean Grand Canyon is the largest canyon in Ukraine. It is located in the Crimean Mountains, 5km to the southeast of the village Sokolyne, Bakhchysaray raion. The canyon depth is more than 320m, it is 3.5km long, with widths not more than 3m in some spots. The true altitude of canyon's bed is about 500-600m.**







## 2x4 – VACATION ON WHEELS



**T**he Crimean peninsula has long become the favorite destination for motorists and cyclists. With a car or a bicycle one could visit any of peninsula's sights, without having to stick to group excursions, and plan one's vacation independently.

A lot of discoveries are in store for a motorist in the Crimea. The peninsula stretches for nearly 200km from north to south, and more than 300km from west to east. It has expanses of plains, extensive foothills, three mountain

ranges, and the Black Sea and Azov Sea coast. Roadside and tourist service facilities are located along its roads. There are more than 30 camping sites and about 100 car parks able to accommodate more than 3500 cars in the Crimea today. One could also rent a car.

In addition to motorists, both experienced and novice cyclists come to the Crimea every year from all parts of the CIS and beyond. The Crimea is an ideal place for mountain biking at any difficulty level and for any age. An extensive network of tourist paths and rural roads provide excellent testing grounds for mountain bike enthusiasts.

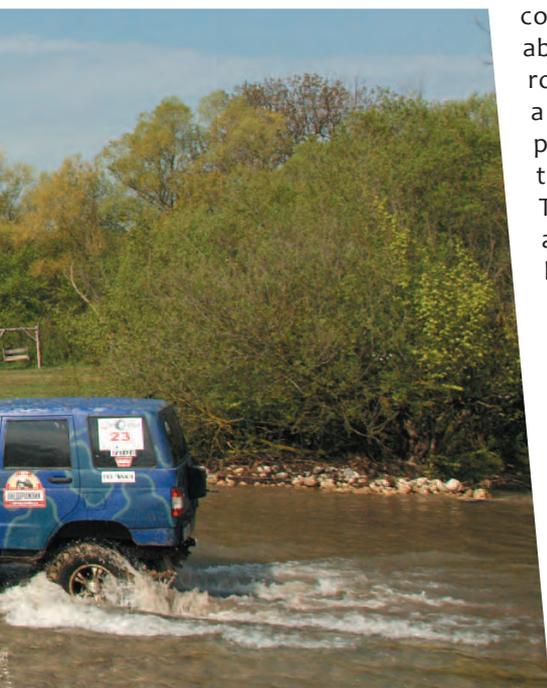
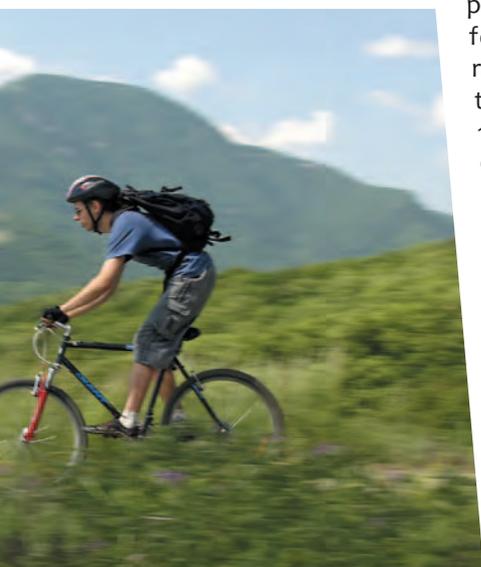
The novice adherents of two-wheel vehicles often choose either the Tarkhan-kut or the Kerch peninsulas due to their gently sloping terrain, rather empty roads, and convenient stops on the shore. Those choosing a quiet bicycle ride without extremes will enjoy the Crimean nature. Picturesque and easily accessible forests will reward the traveler with unforgettable experience, and the unique routes, thoughtfully developed by experienced guides, will not require a lot of effort.

The veteran mountain bike lovers are attracted by the south and southeast coast with a much more rugged topography, southwestern Crimea with an abundance of historical and cultural monuments and moderate difficulty roads, as well as the foothills and mountains and forests of the Crimea, where a mountain biker will experience forest clearings and rural roads, mountain paths, as well as have an opportunity to conquer some of the peaks riding their bike rather than on foot.

The southern coast of the Crimea – due to great drops in height, as well as limited visibility on mountain hairpins – is a rather challenging area for bicycle tourism intended for experienced mountain bikers. The most challenging routes include the Angara Pass – Chatyr Dag range peaks Angara-Burun and Eklizi-Burun, descent by the path from the Mangup cave city, ascent to the Ay-Petri Plateau, and then a descent to the Crimea's Grand Canyon. In fact, it is the place of numerous competitions, gatherings, and bicycle rallies, which attract thousands of mountain bike enthusiasts from Ukraine, Russia, Poland, and Germany.

Bicycle racing enthusiasts are attracted by the Alushta Cup, as part of the World Cup, which is a series of downhill races held in the town of Alushta. One of Crimea's advantages is that at the end of a difficult bicycle trip over mountain paths and tracks, it is possible to relax swimming in the Black or Azov sea and sunbathing on Crimea's sun-warmed sandy beaches.

**A mountain bike track 2.6km long is built near the settlement Vasylivka, featuring a 700m drop in height, great number of rocks, stones, and jumps. It will host the Ukraine Cup open downhill mountain bike championship in 2011. More than 150 sportsmen from CIS member-states will take part in the competition.**



# WAY TO THE TOP

**A**lpinism is derived from the word “Alps” and has its origins there too. This word is used to describe ascent to the hard-to-reach mountain peaks, including ascent on cliffs or rock-climbing. The concept of mountaineering also often includes Alpine tourism.

Ascents to mountain tops (mainly, those easier to access) have been made since extreme antiquity. Mostly due to a pressing need. However, starting in the 20th century, mountain climbing becomes a hobby and a sport. It can be stated without exaggeration that the sporting rock-climbing in Russia-USSR-Ukraine started in the Crimea.

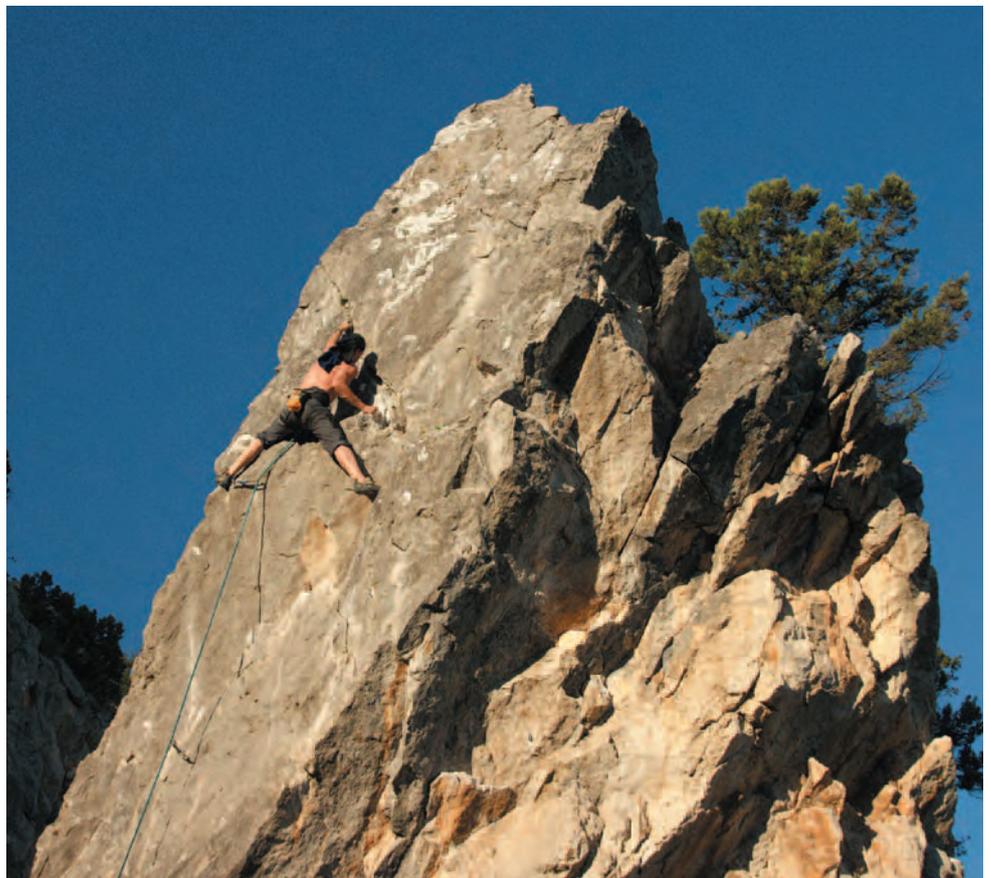
Mountaineering in its classical format – with glaciers and rarefied air – is impossible in the Crimea. This peninsula, however, offers ideal conditions for rock-climbing, both for amateurs and sportsmen. Teams of climbers, who use Crimean rocks to train for international competitions and long ascents to famous peaks, repeatedly highly praised Crimea’s opportunities for expanding and varying loads, practicing new techniques, refining their climbing skills, and testing new equipment. Despite their relatively moderate heights, many Crimean rocks are treacherous and difficult to climb. Far from every sports master can scale them on the first try.

The technical complexity and length of a number of rock routes are not inferior to famous routes in Western Europe, i.e., the Marchenko peak on the south coast. There are also more forgiving rocks for novices, for example, the Peter’s Rocks near Simferopol. Famous Crimean rock-climbing sites are equipped with account for international requirements. These include the Sokol Mountain near Sudak, and the Krestova (Stavri-Kaya) tear-away cliff towering above Yalta’s western suburb, which is known to rock-climbers world over. A rock-climbing site in the Nikitsky Crevice complies with all the international requirements. The French participated in preparing this site. An excellent training site for rock climbing with more than 120 routes has been created in the Salachik Gorge, in Bakhchysaray. The routes will suit widely differing skills of athletes – from uncomplicated routes for novices, to overhanging rocks for masters. There are several scores of rock climbing sites of various difficulty levels in the Crimea. Access to all of them is free. Training sessions and sport climbing competitions are held in the Crimea, especially on its south coast, every day. They attract thousands of enthusiasts of this extreme hobby. For instance, the Moscow climbing championship is usually held on the rocks near the Foros settlement in autumn.

As regards mountaineering proper in the Crimea, it certainly cannot compare to mountaineering among high peaks. Nevertheless, there are quite a few difficult mountaineering routes, where sportsmen hone their climbing technique before moving on to high mountains.

***The Crimean mountains have a low absolute altitude, however, the Crimean rock walls are comparable to those in the Caucasus or the Alps, in terms of their length and technical complexity***





# CAVE TREASURES

It is well known that every cave is unique and beautiful on its own terms. The Crimean mountains are a classical region of Mediterranean karst, a veritable museum of karst features, horizontal caves and vertical shafts being the most interesting. All in all, there are about 870 karst caverns in the Crimea, more than 100 of which are visited as speleological tourism sites. Geologists say that far from all Crimean caves have been discovered

***Speleological tourism in the Crimea was initially linked not only to the sport, but also to scientific research. Underground experiments provided a huge body of information in the most diverse fields of science: from tectonics and hydrology to medicine and psychology.***

and explored. It is quite likely that the scientists are right, as the majority of large and deep Crimean caves were discovered not so long ago – in the first half of the 20th century. The deepest explored Crimean cavern is the Soldatska pit in the Karabi Yaila massif (517m).

The largest cave Kyzyl Koba (The Red) is located near the village Perevalne, Simferopol raion. The cave has six floors, an underground river and lakes. Its length is growing every year and it now extends for 17.3km. The Red Cave is the only speleological site in the Crimea, where an extreme underground route, i.e., the cave part beyond the siphon, can be visited. In addition, the cave is also known as archeological site. It used to be a long-time camp of primitive man, which is now referred in research papers as Kyzyl Koba culture.

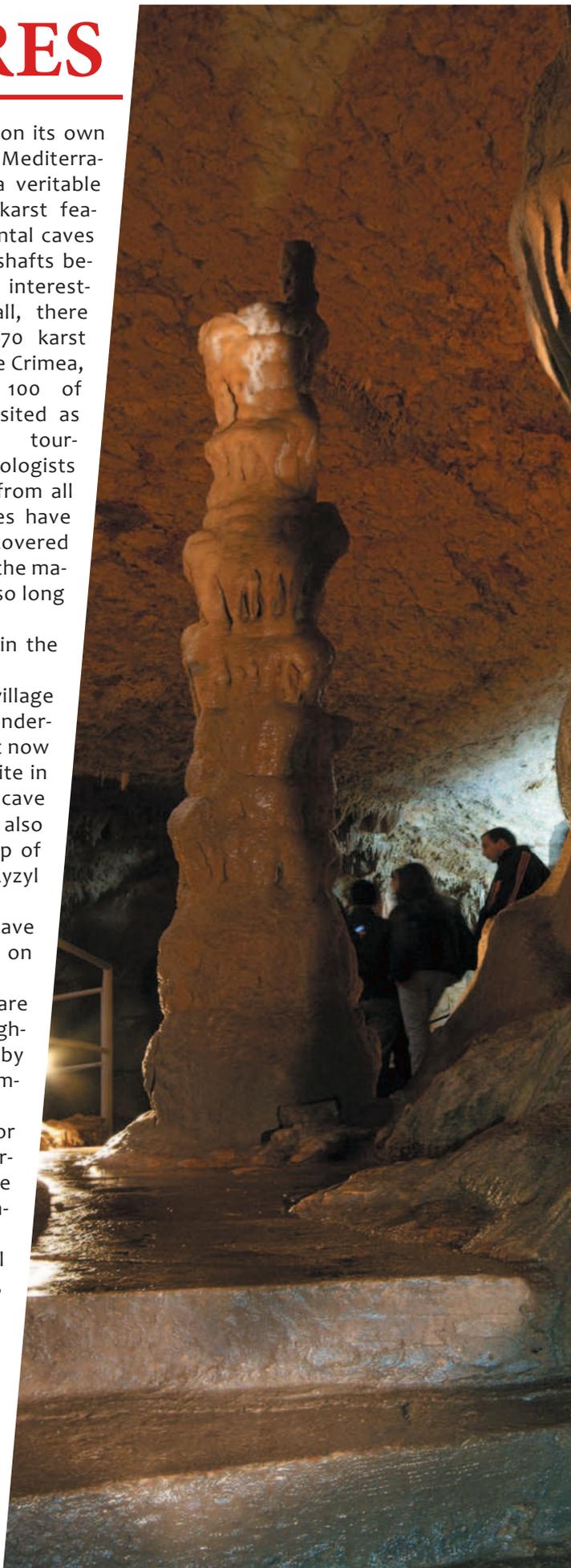
Other large and popular tourist caves include the Marble Cave and Emine Bair Khosar in Simferopol raion, Three-eyed Cave on the Ay Petri Plateau, and Skelska Cave.

The Three-eyed Cave has three holes (eye sockets), which are equipped with entrance and a ladder descent to the only high-ceilinged space. A never-melting ice mountain illuminated by the hole above is located at the center of the cave. The temperature in the cave never rises above 10°C.

The Marble Cave is the most civilized one. It was equipped for visits in 1989. Its length is more than one kilometer. Underground classical and jazz concerts, bard song festivals have been arranged in the Marble Cave for several years now, enjoying great popularity and attracting a lot of music lovers.

In the Bakhchysaray raion, there are State-protected natural monuments of local significance, such as Syundyurlyu Cave, Maksymovych Karst Pit, Danylcha Koba Cave Grotto decorated with leakage deposited calcite formations and a small lake.

However, the most interesting caving routes pass through the less accessible and less civilized caves and karst wells of Chatyrdag, Ay Petri, Karabi, Dolgoruky Yaila. With a professional trip arrangement, such routes give speleological tourists and simply those interested in caves some unforgettable lifetime experiences, fortified with a good portion of adrenaline.







# FLYING HIGH

**T**he Crimean land has a long tradition of aeronautics. The birth of gliding is linked to the Klementyev Hill in the settlement Koktebel, in the Crimea. The USSR gliding championships were held on this hill in 1923 through 1935, and the Higher Gliding Pilot School was opened in 1929. Its trainees included many of the famous

aircraft designers, such as Antonov, Ilyushin, Yanovsky, and the future academician Korolyov. The Klementyev Hill or Uzun Syrt (long spine or back in Turkic languages), with its unique thermals was discovered by the famous flier, conqueror of the spin, designer, and artist Konstantin Artseulov, who organized gliding championships in Koktebel. It was he who proposed to hold gatherings of glider pilots near the town.

Even today, the Klementyev Hill is a real Mecca for hand-, moto-, para- and simply glider pilots from various parts of the world. It is here that hand gliding clubs from all CIS member-countries hold their annual meetings. Tourists are offered here to try various air routes, here they can test their skills and expand their expertise in conquering the skies, and novices can learn skills of piloting motoglid-ers, gliders, paraplanes under trainers' guidance, as well as make parachute drops. The Para-Krym sport club will assist in training novices in parachute sport skills and organizing parachute jumps. Experienced trainers will help in overcoming any fear before the first

jump, as when approached professionally, this sport becomes really safe. Therefore, your first jump would allow you to experience absolutely new, incomparable sensations, when there is only you and a bright

sun, and you enjoy the height, feeling yourself an inseparable part of the boundless, mysterious, and alluring skies. Every flight is a special story, whose happy end is a guaranteed successful landing.

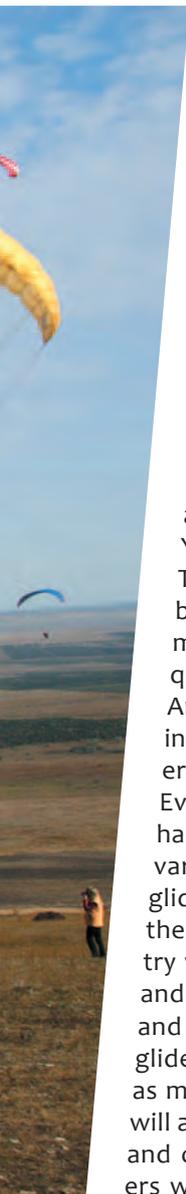
The only Museum of Hand Gliding in the CIS countries is located in Feodosiya, Crimea (there are three such museums in the world, with the other two located in Wasserkuppe, Germany, and Harris Hill, USA).

In the 1970s, a museum in the Crimean settlement Koktebel was open for several years, to be later succeeded by the museum in Feodosiya.

The museum offers a unique opportunity for visitors to imagine themselves a 20th century pilot, as each visitor can go and take pilot's seat in gliders, helicopter, which once flew over that hill, and take a memorable photo. The museum location is not incidental, since Feodosiya is a cradle of the national aviation and the city with old traditions of aeronautical sport. The Air Brotherhood aeronautics competition held in the Feodosiya area has already become traditional and quite well known. The cup championship brings a great number of fans attracted not only by their passion for the sport, but also by its sheer beauty.

Helicopter flyovers above the Crimean mountains and the Black Sea are offered in the cities of Simferopol, Yalta, and Sevastopol in the summer season.

***It is in Koktebel, where the hand glider flight distance record for CIS countries was set at 227km.***



# LUCKY HORSESHOE

**H**orses have been serving man in the Crimea for several millennia. Ancient authors even described special qualities of the Crimea breed of horses, who were stocky and fast. Scythian warriors used to ride them.

Since the Crimea became a vacation and tourism destination for subjects of the Russian Empire and foreign guests in the 19th century, horse riding became fashionable. Therefore, they can be rightly considered one of the first types of activity tourism, which emerged in the Crimea. Ladies and gentlemen, accompanied by local guides, took horse rides organized by the Crimean Mountain Club.

However, horse riding was only available before 1917 to wealthy individuals, magnates, courtiers, and royals.

Starting in the 1930s, horse riding was superseded by other types of holiday-making and tourism more oriented for the masses.

In the 1990s, entrepreneurs remembered the equestrian tourism.

It turned out that the Crimea is a great place for horse-mounted trips even today, and tourists long for communication with these wonderful animals. Equestrian clubs started to emerge in various parts of the peninsula – from Sevastopol to Kerch and from Yalta to Yevpatoriya. Horse riding has immediately become very popular with the Crimeans and guests of the peninsula. It turns out that the company of these magnificent animals and this activity relieve stress, improve general physical, psychological, and emotional well-being. Also, one can admire beautiful landscapes riding an unhurriedly stepping horse, which could be spurred to a more exciting gait, if skills allow.

***The Crimean equestrian clubs offer a variety of riding tours ranging from one to ten days long.***

There are over 20 equestrian clubs in the Crimea today. They are located in the foothills of the Chatyrdag, Demerdzhi, Paragilmen mountains, in the Baydar valley, on the capes of Kazantyp and Tarkhankut, in the vicinity of Yalta and Feodosiya. A multitude of paths and tracks run through Crimea's mountains and forests, which were traveled on horseback since olden times. The favorite riding routes for tourists pass near the rock fall on the slopes of Demerdzhi, ruins of a Genovese fortress, past the Ghost Valley and Dzhurla Glade to the famous Dzhur Dzhur waterfall.

The largest and best equipped equestrian clubs have hotel rooms for the guests to relax and spend the night. Some of the clubs successfully run sports and health improvement camps for children,

where they learn how to communicate with these smart and beautiful animals, look after them, and learn the skills of horse riding.

For the more adventurous, in addition to day trips, there are riding tours on offer (up to ten days), with overnight stops in tents, admiring the sunrise high in the mountains, and rest near the camp fire. The riding routes pass near natural and historical sights, which the tourist could visit on the way.

On all horse riding tours, tourists are accompanied by knowledgeable guides and experienced trainers.





# HUNTER'S DREAM

Once, in the Crimean forests, the Russian tsars Alexander II, Alexander III, and Nicholas II used to hunt game and fowl on their own estates; then, the General Secretaries of the Communist Party N. Khrushchov and L. Brezhnev arranged hunts in State reserves and game-preserves of the Crimea. Today, all hunters, especially foreigners, have a rather wide choice of both the hunting area and type of game. By the way, foreign hunters are frequent guests on the peninsula and invariably give high marks to hunting in the Crimea.

The Crimean forests cover 274,000 hectares, 26% of which is in a reserved area. A relatively small territory of the peninsula has closely located mountain and forest, field, and water and marches grounds, inhabited by deer, roe, wild boar, moufflons, woodcocks, pheasants, brown hares, foxes, common partridges, quails, bustards and little bustards, badgers, muskrats, and raccoon dogs.

The main migratory routes of the majority of fowl pass through the peninsula. A great number of these bird species concentrate during their passage in game-pre-

serves, and the flocks of gees numbering to several thousand stay to winter in the Crimea. Woodcocks make a stop in the Crimean game-preserves en masse during their migration.

Some species of game, which are the most popular with hunters, are specially bred in the Crimean game-preserves.

Depending on the season, hunters can go shooting the Crimean red deer, roe, moufflon, wild boar, fox, hare, pheasant, water fowl (duck and others).

There are eight registered hunters' clubs and about 18,000 hunters in the peninsula today, which, nevertheless, is half of the 1992 number.

Hunting is arranged by forestry enterprises of the Republican Committee of Forestry and Game-Preserves of the Crimean Autonomy, which has three game-pre-

serves and four combined forestry and game-preserves under its control.

Each of the providers offers a complete package of services, including the processing of required documents, pickup, lodging, meals, supplying a cross-coun-

***There are 40 registered users of hunting grounds with the total area of nearly 2,000,000 hectares in the Crimea. These include nine State-owned enterprises, 16 organizations of the Crimea Republican Hunters' and Fishers' Society (KROOR), two military and hunting NGOs, eight hunting clubs, and four limited companies.***



try vehicle, game warden's escort, and other hunting related services.

Guest hunters are offered accommodation at the lodges located in woodland and featuring all amenities and full board.

Besides, additional services are offered, such as baths, excursions, wine tasting, and fishing.

It is not advisable to accept offers of hunting tours from individuals and private firms. Hunting licenses can only be issued by a State-run forestry or game-preserve!



# NO SNOOZE TIME FOR ANGLERS IN THE CRIMEA

The amateurs of vacation with a finishing rod have several options for their finishing tour of the Crimea: marine and fresh water fishing. There are not too many freshwater reservoirs on the peninsula, however, there are fish there. Anglers are mainly fishing on water reservoirs using tickets of the Hunters' and Fishers' Society, and in ponds, upon permission of pond owners. The main fishing species here include bream, carp, crucian carp, river perch, sazan, with pike being more rare. The more adventurous test their luck in mountain rivers with trout.

Special "fishing villages" have emerged in the Crimean peninsula in recent years. This is a new format of activity tourism with a varied set of services, for instance, the Chernye Kamni fishing village in the Bakhchysaray raion, Rybatskaya derevnya at the entry to Simferopol, pond of the Rosenthal estate in the Bilohirsk raion, Klevoye Mesto Lake in the village Kuybysheve, and the Grushevoye Lake and Mramornaya recreation centers. They are built around stocked water reservoirs, where specialists provide ad-

ditional nutrition to young fish and maintain the species diversity. These facilities provide accommodation both in rooms of various comfort classes, and in tents, catering, training in the intricacies of angling, and renting of necessary equipment.

Families can come here for a weekend. Playgrounds for children are provided. The guests can use equipped pavilions, sites for charrill, firewood. One does not have to release the caught fish, just the opposite, it can be grilled and eaten.

Marine fishing enthusiasts have a much wider choice of fishing locations, which is virtually the whole coast. No

special permit is required for sea coast for fishing with single-hook tackle. In other cases, one should go to the nearest life-saving station and buy a license.

On the Crimea's south coast, one can rent a boat, motor boat or yacht for marine finishing.

There are three nominal main fishing regions in the Crimea: the Sea of Azov coast, Black Sea coast, and Syvash. Each of the areas has its own special fishing conditions.

**Many sections of the Crimean coast are natural monuments, preserved tracts or reserves, where breeding populations of valuable fish species are being protected, such as sturgeon, grey mullet, bullhead. There are also time restrictions for some species, and the day's catch should not exceed 5kg. Ban is imposed on catching Black Sea shrimp from 1 June through 31 August, and gathering of mussels from 1 June through 30 September.**



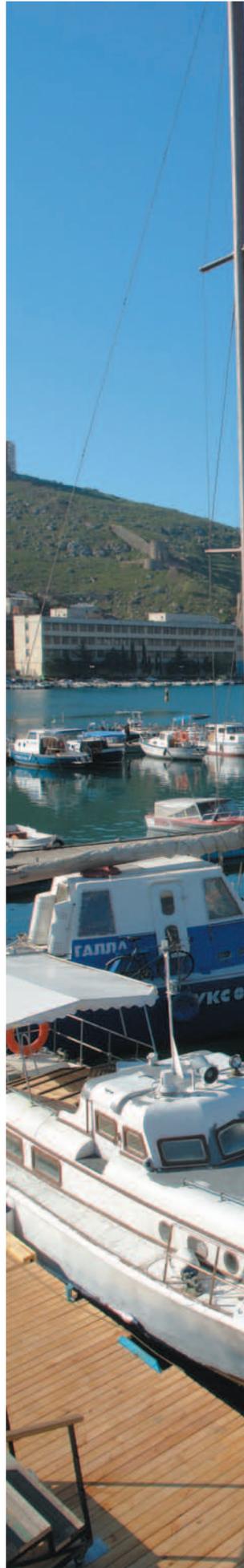
For instance, fishing on the Sea of Azov coast is conducted both from boats and from the shore. They fish for bullhead, Azov flatfish-glossa, grey mullet, Black Sea flatfish-turbot, horse mackerel, herring, and lately, also pilengas. On Syvash, they mainly fish for bullhead from boats.

On the Black Sea, near the Kerch peninsula, they are also fishing both from boats and from the shore. On the south and southeast coast, fishing is from boats. The fish species include goat-fish (king-mullet), ocean perch, horse mackerel, sea fox (stingray variety). If one is to venture into the open sea on motorboat, it is possible to catch a spur-dog (the Black Sea shark). From the shore, one can fish for blue damselfish, scorpion fish, dogfish here.

On the western coast of the Crimea, they fish for bullhead, goatfish, turbot, grey mullet, horse mackerel, bluefish. Fishing is possible both from the shore and at sea.

Underwater spear fishing is invariably popular, as well as gathering of shellfish, such as mussels and rapa whelk. There are seasonal restrictions for all species, except the last one, or bans related to the protected status of water areas.





# THE WORLD OF WIND AND SAIL

**T**he world of snow-white sails and ultramarine sea – the Crimea has all the natural and economic conditions for the peninsula to become a center of international-level yachting in the Black Sea basin: the climatic conditions, significant length of its coastline, and interest of yachting tourists to the Black Sea waters.

For the time being, the yachting infrastructure of the peninsula is rather modest: During the sailing season, yachts are moored at ports and berths of Yalta, Yevpatoriya, Sudak, and Kerch. There are five yacht clubs in the autonomy. However, the situation will change soon. According to the concept of yachting tourism development approved by autonomy's parliament, an infrastructure of yachting marinas and berths on the Crimean Black Sea coast will be developed, as well as additional national border checkpoints. As part of this concept, it is planned to modernize and reconstruct the existing berths for small vessels, make a stock of water areas, berths for small vessels, and coast protecting structures, create a fleet of sport and pleasure craft, as well as a unified system of information and reference support for yachting tourists and entities.

Implementation of this concept will make it possible to create 11 yachting marinas, four yacht berthing sites, and four filling stations; launch manufacture of not less than 200 yachts per year. Also, it is envisaged to increase the capacity of national border crossings for incoming and outgoing yacht tourism, specifically, provide for a daily entry and exit of 300 small vessels.

Even today, however, the Crimea attracts yachtsmen: the Crimea Cup competition for cruising yachts organized by the Black Sea Yachtsmen Association is being held here annually. A grandiose event to commemorate the fallen in the Great Patriotic War will be held in the Black Sea area in 2011. It will be an international-level sailing regatta for cruising yachts sponsored by the Russian Marine Corps. One of regatta's stages in June will be held in the Hero City Sevastopol, which has become a real fortress on the sea.

The Crimea coast also attracts enthusiasts of windsurfing and waterkiting. Both experience sportsmen and novices come to surf here. Donuzlav, Tarkhankut – these locations have long been popular due to shallow water area and excellent wind statistics, which puts them into leading positions in Ukraine as being suitable for kiting training. In addition to wind, the lovers of extreme tourism will experience the windsurfing and kiting centers of a new generation.

**There will be 15 yachting marinas and berthing sites in the Crimea by the year 2020, as well as 4,000 berths for small vessels and 1,600 slots for on-shore yacht storage**

# GOING ON A CRUISE? THEN, TO THE CRIMEA!

**I**ts maritime location, availability of ports and developed port infrastructure (for example, there are 51 passenger and 13 combined passenger and freight wharves with the total length of 5,541m), as well as unique natural and historical and cultural sights make further expansion and development of the cruise tourism in the Crimea very promising.

The seaports of Sevastopol, Yalta, Feodosiya, Kerch, and Yevpatoriya link the peninsula with the southern regions of Ukraine, Krasnodar territory in Russia, Georgia, and with the Mediterranean via Bosphorus and Dardanelles, and practically all countries worldwide via the Gibraltar.

The cities of Yalta, Feodosiya, Kerch, Yevpatoriya, and Sevastopol are on the visiting schedule of cruise vessels of such international companies as Holland America, Princess Cruises, Silver Cruises, Seaborn Cruises, Crystal Cruises, Costa, MSC, Azamara and others. In recent years, a clear trend emerged of growth in the number of cruise tourists visiting the Crimea every year.

In 2010, the Yalta seaport was visited by 118 foreign cruise ships, and the number of served tourists reached more than 40,000. Further development of the Yalta commercial seaport is planned: reconstruction of passenger terminal, seaport building, and berths – this program will make

it possible for large vessels to come to port, therefore, the Crimea will have greater opportunities for hosting high-class foreign cruise vessels.

In December 2010, the Yalta commercial seaport joined the Med Cruise international Mediterranean organization, which is an association actively promoting the development of cruise industry in the Mediterranean and neighboring seas. This step will assist in attracting the leading international cruise companies and regular

entry of cruise liners into Crimean ports.

Today, the association has 55 members, representing 78 ports in the Mediterranean, and 20 members representing other associations, tourism boards, shipping and port agents.

The port cities Kerch,

Feodosiya, and Yevpatoriya are also on the visiting schedule of the Swan Hellenic, Corintia, Hebridean, and Classic International Cruises cruise ships.

The Kerch commercial seaport is open for passenger service as border crossing checkpoint.

The Crimean tour operators have developed sightseeing tours for cruise ship tourists, which highlight the life of the Romanovs in the Crimea, the Yalta Conference of 1945, as well as historical, literary, and wine tours.

***The Crimea was visited by 60 foreign cruise ships in 2010, and by 70 in 2010. The policy of the Crimean authorities will make it possible to accept more than 90 foreign cruise ships in 2011.***





## THE CRIMEA IS THE WORLD IN MINIATURE

**T**he historical and cultural heritage of the Crimea is inexhaustible. Indeed, the Crimea not only has the nature of nearly all parts of the Earth, but also nearly the whole human history: from caves of the Neanderthals and their Cro-Magnon enemies, and to the tsar palaces of the Romanovs dynasty, and government dachas of Soviet general secretaries.

Since ancient times, the Crimea was a multiethnic place and home to many peoples. The Cimmerians and Scythians, ancient Greeks and Thracians, Sarmatians and Khazars, Polovtsians and Goths, the Hunns and Vandals left their mark here.

Inquisitive tourists can join excursions or simply take a stroll on the ruins of old Greek cities Panticapaeum and Chersonesus, Roman fortress Charax, and medieval fortresses Cembalo and Kalamita, Turkish fortress Yenikale in Kerch, the fortifications of Kaffa (Feodosiya) and Sudak, enter the restored castle of a Genovese consul, ascend to the capital of the medieval Principality of Theodoro – the city of Mangup, and the famous “cave cities” – ruins of numerous castles and monasteries.

The old Greek republic of Chersonesus on the western coast, coexisted with the Greek-founded Bosporan Kingdom on the eastern coast, savage Taurians plundered the area, and the nomadic Scythians established their own kingdom in the heart of the peninsula, led by their famous king Skilurus, who ruled from his capital of Neapolis (present-day Simferopol). The peninsula was once part of the Kingdom of Pontus and the dying place of the great king Mithridates; it was part of the Roman Empire and Rome’s invincible legions were stationed here; was part of the Byzantine Empire, was visited by basileus emperors, and served as exile for disgraced Roman emperors, popes, and

archbishops. Volodymyr, the Prince of Kyiv, was baptized and married Anna, the sister of the Byzantine emperor, in Chersonesus, and it is from here that Christianity came to Rus’. In the middle ages, there was a Rus’ principality of Tmutarakan’ on the Kerch peninsula; the Great Silk Road from Europe to China passed through the Crimea; and there was a house of merchants Polo brothers, one of whom, Marco wrote the famous book *The Voyage to Kaitai*. It is here, in Feodosiya, that merchant Afanasiy Nikitin wrote his book *The Voyage of Three Seas*, about his trip to India.

Christ’s apostles used to preach here, primarily, Andrew the First-called, and St. Stefan of Surozh, the saints Cyril and Methodius created the basics of Slav written language. The Crimea served as a refuge for the Khazars after destruction of their empire on the Volga, and for Mamai Khan after his defeat at the Kulikovo Field. Batu Khan scourged peninsula’s cities by fire and sword and founded a small Holden Horde ulus, which was to become the Crimean Tatar Khanate. A medieval palace in Bakhchysaray is the most important landmark of the Khanate period. After that, the Ottoman Empire seized the Crimea, and two centuries later, it was captured from the Turks for Russia by the illustrious prince G. Potyomkin-Tavricheskiy, prince V. Dolgorukov-Krymskiy, and Generalissimo A. Suворov.

Lambro Kachioni, a national hero of Greece, also took part in fighting the Ottomans, and was rewarded for his heroism and courage by Catherine with a stretch of land on the Crimea’s southern coast on the slopes of the Mogabi Hill. He gave his new estate the name Livadia.

Already as part of the Russian Empire, the Crimea became a fashionable health resort. Magnificent palaces, villas,



and private residences were built here. The most famous of these are the Vorontsov's and Yusupov's palaces, and the Massandra and Livadia palaces with unique parks, which were owned by the tsars. While the prince Golitsyn's fine wines from the cellars of Massandra, Livadia, Inkerman, and Novy Svet have been fascinating the connoisseurs with their unique flavor since the 19th century and up to this day.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, the Crimea became a Mecca for writers, painters, actors, and scholars. The memorial houses of A. Chekhov, M. Voloshyn, S. Sergeyev-Tsensky, I. Aivazovskiy, memories of A. Griboyedov, I. Bunin, L. Tolstoy, M. Gorky, A. Tolstoy, K. Paustovsky, A. Akhmatova, A. Averchenko, K. Stanyukovich, V. Mayakovsky, V. Aksenov, Yu. Semenov, K. Bogayevsky, D. Mendeleev, I. Kurchatov, St. Luka (prof. V.F. Voina-Yasenetsky), N. Pirogov, admirals Kornilov, Ushakov, Nakhimov, and Kolchak, and of the feat of captain A. Kazarsky and crew of his brig Mercuriy, and about F. Shapyalin's concerts — all these allow tourists not only receive a charge of energy and health from the Crimea, but also a lot of new knowledge and impressions.



# PALACES AND MUSEUMS

There are more than 11,500 historical, cultural, and architectural monuments in the Crimea, related to various historical epochs, civilizations, peoples and religions, about 150 world-famous historical and archeological sites, some of which have been entered in UNESCO catalogs. The most interesting of them, e.g., the complex of cave fortresses and monasteries, ruins of antique and medieval cities, palaces and the tsars and khans, garden and park ensembles, memorial homes of writers and painters, buildings erected by famous architectures are all used as tourist sights.

The bulk of information about the historical and cultural heritage of the Crimea is contained in numerous museums of the peninsula with their unique exhibitions. Especially interesting exhibitions are prepared for tourists at the Crimea's Central Museum, Crimean Ethnographic Museum, Simferopol Picture Gallery, and in museums of local history of Yalta, Alushta, Yevpatoriya, Kerch, Feodosiya, and other Crimean cities.

The peninsula's travel agencies are developing tours devoted to traditions, culture, and life of the people living in the Crimea, conduct historical and folklore festivals and ethnic holidays. The popular programs include those devoted to life of the Romanovs in the Crimea, the Yalta Conference of the three allied states of 1945, where the destiny of the post-war Europe was decided and the United Nations Organization was created, as well as programs devoted to the work and life in the Crimea of prominent writers and painters, and to other events of the Crimean history. The choice of excursion programs have been expanded in recent years, mainly, thanks to freely

available visits to the sights, which had been closed for tourists before (palaces of grand dukes in Dyulber and Charax, the Foros estate of the tea king Kuznetsov, St. George's Monastery on the Fiolent Promontory, and others).

The antiquity, middle ages, and modernity, architecture and culture of various peoples are fancifully intertwines in such Crimean cities as Feodosiya (known as Ardavda, Kaffa, and Kuchuk Istanbul in the Middle Ages), Yevpatoriya (Kerkitida and Gyozev in antiquity and middle ages, respectively), Kerch (aka Panticapaeum, Bosphorus, Korchev). In these cities, tourists get familiarized with the architectural monuments of different centuries, with the culture and religions of various peoples.

In addition, tourists will have an opportunity to learn firsthand about the work and life of the prominent culture personalities who used to live in the Crimea. They will be assisted in this by excursions to the A. Chekhov memorial home (White Dacha) in Yalta (where in his latter years, he wrote the plays *Cherry Orchard* and *Three Sisters*, stories *A Lady with a Small Dog*, *In the Ravine*, *The Bishop*, prepared his collected works, where the writer was visited by Bunin, Shalyapin, Kuprin, Levitan, Vasnetsov, Rakhmaninov, Mamin-Sibiriyak), the Yulian Semyonov memorial home in Mukhalatka (he wrote his last novels here, including the final books in the *Schtirlitz* series), to the memorial homes of S. Sergeyev-Tsenskiy (the author of *The Sevastopol Toil*, and *The Transfor-*







mation of Russia series in many volumes) and émigré writer I. Shmelyov in Alushta, memorial homes of K. Paustovsky (whose works repeatedly return to the Crimea) and A. Grin (author of the books *The Scarlet Sail*, *The Wave Runner*, *The Gold Chain*) in Sary Krym. Tourists can pay a visit to the famous memorial home (Poet's Home) of M. Voloshyn in Koktebel (where the artistic elite of the Soviet period gathered and came to stay for extended periods, including M. Bulgakov, M. Gorky, O. Mandelshtam, A. Belyi, V. Bryusov, A. Tolstoy, V. Veresayev, A. Grin, M. Tsvetayeva, M. Zoshchenko, K. Chukovsky, I. Erenburg), and in Feodosiya, tourists will be welcomed by the I. Aivazovsky National Picture Gallery (in fact, the memorial home of the great painter of seascapes), as well as A. Grin Museum, and sculptress Vera Mukhina Museum, as well as the Museum of Money.

Endless streams of tourists come to the four famous palaces, four magnificent historical and cultural gems of the Crimea: Alupka (Vorontsov), Livadia, Massandra, and Bakhchysaray.

#### THE ALUPKA STATE PALACE AND PARK MEMORIAL MUSEUM

is located in a palace built in the European-Moorish style by English architect E. Blore in 1828-1848 for the Governor General of the Novorossiya province, the count and, later, the illustrious prince Mikhail Semyonovich Vorontsov, and on the grounds of a wonderful English park surrounding the palace.

In February 1945, during the Yalta Conference, the palace housed the English delegation led by W. Churchill, and was the venue for meetings of foreign ministers. In the period of 1945 through 1955, the palace was used as government dacha.

Today, there are several permanent exhi-



bitions in the museum. Nine formal rooms display palace interior of the 1830s-1840s. The former guest house hosts the permanent exhibition of the Vorontsovs' Family Gallery, which has on display mainly portraits of several generations of the Vorontsovs' and Vorontsov-Dashkovs, as well as their relatives: Shuvalovs, Naryshkins, and Dolgorukiys, who used to own large estates in the Crimea.

#### **THE MASSANDRA PALACE MUSEUM.**

The Massandra Palace Museum was incorporated in the Alupka State Palace and Park Memorial Museum as branch on 19 December 1991. The branch was opened in the Massandra Palace building.

The palace is situated in a secluded location, in the Upper Massandra, and is surrounded by a beautiful park, which ends in woodland. The palace built under Nicholas II served the emperor and his family as a hunting lodge. Several interiors have been restored in the palace. It also houses an exhibition "A Unique Collection of 16th-17th Century Maps."

The French architect M. Buchart started building the palace for prince S. Vorontsov in 1881. Then, the construction work was suspended and only resumed in 1889 by architect M. Mesmacher under orders of Alexander III, after the imperial family bought this land. The construction was suspended for several years after the emperor's death, and was only completed in 1902.

#### **THE LIVADIA PALACE MUSEUM.**

The Livadia White Palace was built on the site of the Old Grand Palace in 1911 by a Yalta architect N. Kras-

nov, who was rewarded with the title of an academician of the Russian architecture and the court architect for building this palace and a number of other palace buildings on Crimea's south coast.

The Livadia Palace was a summer residence of the last Russian tsar, and then, the first health center for peasants in the 1920s, and the meeting place of the leaders of the three allied countries: USSR, USA, and Great

Britain at the end of World War II, where they decided the matters of ending WWII and the postwar world arrangement, and I. Stalin's government dacha after the war.

The palace became a museum in the late 1950s. Today, the museum displays to visitors the interiors and recreates the furnishings of several rooms inhabited by the imperial family, and collaborates with contemporary art exhibitions, and showcases a collection of paintings by contemporary Crimean artists.

*There are more than 11,500 historical, cultural, and architectural monuments in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, with 150 historical and architectural monuments entered in UNESCO catalogs.*

nov, who was rewarded with the title of an academician of the Russian architecture and the court architect for building this palace and a number of other palace buildings on Crimea's south coast.

#### **THE BAKHCHYSARAY HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PRESERVE**

The Palace Museum is a center of research, conservation, and promotion of the historical and cultural heritage of the Crimea Tatars and other peoples of the southwest Crimea. It comprises the Khans' palace, ruins of the medieval city Chufut Kale, and the so-called "cave cities," which are the ruins of medieval castles, settlements, and monasteries. The preserve was established in 1991, on the basis of the Bakhchysaray Historical and Architectural Museum, and inherited its collection.





# THE STONES SPEAK

The Crimea has always been a zone of perpetual meetings, collisions, commerce, and interpenetration of various peoples, cultures, and civilizations, which is reflected in the diversity (about 6,000) of its historical and archeological sites. Some of them are quite impressive sightseeing destinations, visited by tourists year-round.

The most popular historical and architectural sites in the Crimea include:

- **BELYAUS.** A Greek-Scythian site of ancient settlement located in the northwestern Crimea, in the present-day Chornomorsky

raion. This sea-front settlement was founded by ancient Greeks, who migrated from the Chersonese in the last quarter of the 4th century

B.C., and was reconquered and settled by the Royal Scythians 200 hundred years thereafter.

- Kalos Limen (translated as Beautiful Harbor), a fortified ancient town, the ruins of which can be found at the northern outskirts of the present-day urban-type settlement Chornomorske, on a rocky promontory of the southeastern coast of the Ak Mechet bay. The settlement was founded by the Chersonese in the 4th century B.C. as an outpost for exploring the northwestern part of the peninsula.

- **NEAPOLIS OF SCYTHIA.** The largest monument of late Scythian architectural culture in the Crimea, which is considered the capital of the late Scythian kingdom of the late 4th to the middle 3rd century B.C. The site is located at the southeastern outskirts of Simferopol. The foundations of palace and religious buildings of Scythian kings have been unearthed. A rich burial site of the famous king Skilurus and numerous Scythian nobility, as well as remnants of the royal throne were found here.

- **NYMPHAEUM.** A site of antique settlement located 17

km south of Kerch, near the settlement Eltigen (Heroivske). "Nymphaeum is a temple of nymphs, a city location on the Pontus..." Founded in the first half of the 6th century B.C, Nymphaeum occupied a prominent position among cities of the Kingdom of Bosphorus.

- **CHERSONESE** (also known as Kherson, Sarsona or Korsun' in the Middle Ages), an antique city founded in the 6th century B.C. by ancient Greek emigrants from Heraclea Pontus, has a rich history (the city existed for more than 2500 years). The city was an independent republic, then, successively, a province of the Pontus, Roman, and Byzantine empires. It is the place of baptism of Volodymyr, the Prince of Kyiv. One of Byzantine emperors was proclaimed and enthroned in the Chersonese. Jesus' pupil Andrew the First

Called and the creators of Slav characters also visited the Chersonese.

Called and the creators of Slav characters also visited the Chersonese.

- **PANTICAPAEUM,** the capital of the Kingdom of Bosphorus founded in the 7th century B.C., by Greek émigrés from Miletus. It is located on the Mithridates Hill in Kerch. Since the 2nd century B.C., the Bosphorus Kingdom was under protectorate of the Pontic Empire, and then under the rule of the Roman Empire. The Great Silk Road used to pass through the city. In the Middle Ages, the city was part of the Byzantine Empire (as Bosphorus), was part of the Khazar Kaganate (as Charsha), and, then, was the capital of the Principality of Tmutarakan' (as Korchev) ruled by Rus' princes. When the Genovese ruled the Crimean shores, the city was a Genoa colony.

- **THE SUDAK FORTRESS** has its powerful fortifications intact, two lines of defense, and a caste of the Genoa consul. The digs are ongoing of the medieval city Sugdea-Sudak, which the Slavs called Surozh. There was a large colony of Rus' merchants and craftsmen in the city.

Archeological camps operate in the Crimea every year, and tourists can also take part in the digs. The program of tourist stay in these camps includes participation in archeological excavations, short lecture courses on ancient history of the Crimea, familiarizing with the objects found during the excavations, walking tours to archeological sights.

**Neapolis of Scythia is a new archaeological site open for tourists in the Crimean capital Simferopol in 2011.**



# A MAN IS THE WORLD, A PEOPLE IS THE UNIVERSE

**T**he Crimea is a museum under open skies. It concentrates invaluable treasures, masterpieces of the national and world culture, material and spiritual monuments of the peoples inhabiting the peninsula. Ethnographic tourism makes it possible to learn the culture of Crimea peoples, their way of life, customs and traditions, festivals and ceremonies.

There are 34 national cultural societies and communities in the Crimea, 23 cultural and ethnographic centers, including the Armenian Surb Khach ethnographic centers in the town Staryi Krym; Greek Karachol in the village Chornopillya, Bilohirsk raion; German Kronenthal Club in the village Kolchuhyne, Simferopol raion; Crimea Tatar centers in the villages Tankove, Sokolyne, Bahata Ushchelyna, Zarichne, Morske, and in the town Staryi Krym.

There are 77 ethnographic sights in the Crimea. On their basis, travel agencies have developed ethnographic excursion routes, topical tours introducing tourists to the variety of nationalities, which used to live in the Crimea and live here today. These include such programs as "Visiting the Crimean Tatars," "German settlements in the Crimea," "Destinies of Crimean peoples," "Visiting the Greeks." The tours include visits to the museums of history, life, and culture of various peoples. Ethnographic departments are open in many local history museums of the peninsula, including in the Central Museum of the Crimea.

An interesting aspect of ethnographic tourism comprises tours to religious pilgrimage sites, numerous Christian monasteries and churches.

There are numerous natural sights – springs, rocks, caves, trees – which are revered as "sacred" and honored by that or other ethnic group. For example, a Sacred Oak Grove of the Karaites in a valley near the ruins of the ancient city of Chufut Kale. Interesting pilgrimage tours can also be arranged to visit these sights.

Doors of rural farmsteads open their doors hospitably to shelter tourists for the night. Rural tourism differs from other types of tourism in its distinct approach to the organization of recreation activities. It is based on a very careful approach to the nature and man in nature. Vacation in a rural area is not like a resort, where there are crowds of tourists. There are no noisy bars and restaurants here. The only thing available here is a soothing and relaxing environment, which is especially important for urban dwellers!

Rural tourism facilities are located in the mountains, foothills, steppe, and coastal areas of the Crimea. The farmstead owners offer horse and donkey rides to tourists, fishing, animal and bird watching, walks in the woods, tasting home-cooked dishes, and fruits from landlord's orchards. Certainly, this also includes bringing home objects made by Crimean folk craftsmen, souvenirs made by farmstead owners according to their ethnic customs.







## THE CRIMEA AS

**F**or spiritual life of our society, it is necessary to stay in communication with the greatest heritage left to us by the ancestors. The ancient Taurica has retained a lot of unique holy sites of Orthodox Christianity. To this end, the Simferopol and Crimea eparchy, upon blessing of the Eminent Lazar, the Metropolitan of Simferopol and Crimea, arranges and conducts pilgrimage tours, which include visits to temples, active monasteries, and monuments of ancient Christianity on the peninsula.

Pilgrimage, believers' walks to worship at holy sites, is known from ancient times. The word pilgrimage ("palomnichestvo" in Russian) originates from "palma" (palm) in Latin, and is related to a custom to bring a palm fronds from Palestine. In the 4th century A.D., Saint Helena, the mother of Byzantine Emperor Constantine, became the first pilgrim to holy sites. During her journey, she found the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified. Thus, the pilgrimage tradition emerged.

After the christening of Rus', pilgrimage has also become a tradition in Rus', as pilgrims flocked to domestic holy sites. After the annexation of the Crimea by Russia, the peninsula became the destination for pilgrimage to visit the holy sties of the Crimea.

The Crimea is the place, where Christ's pupil, St. Apostle Andrew the First Called, taught in the 1st century A.D., St. Clemens preached in the late 1st cen-



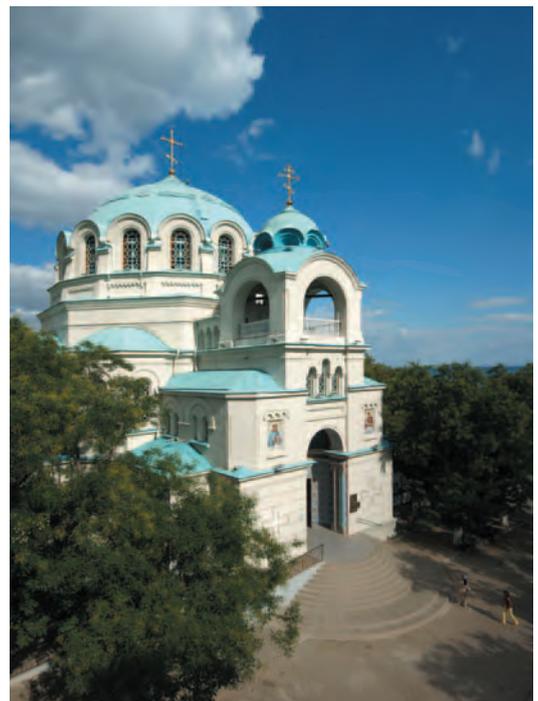
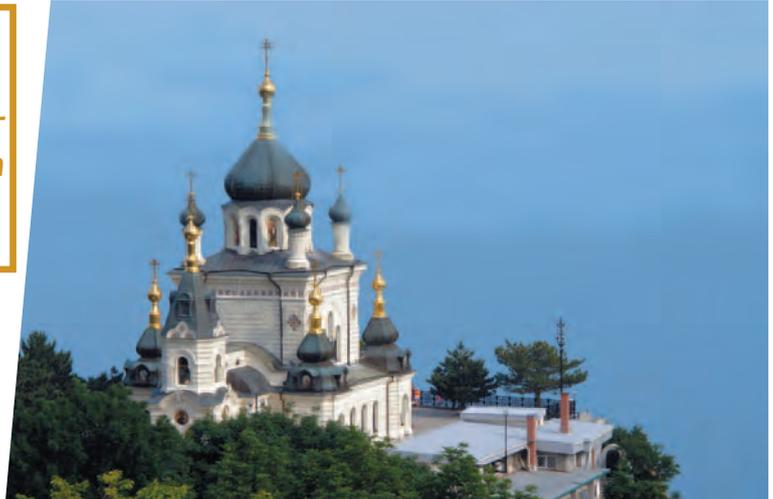
# THE CRADLE OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

tury, and later, St. Stefan of Surozh.

To come into contact with the mystery of monastic life, one can embark on a pilgrimage to the active mon-

asteries of the Crimea: St. George's in Balaklava, St. Clemens' in Inkerman, Holy Assumption in Bakhchysaray, St. Cosma and Damian's, which is the highest located in the mountains, St. Trinity's women's monastery in Simferopol, where the relics of the sainted hierarch Luke (V.F. Voino-Yasenetsky), a prominent theologian, professor of medicine, and other relics are located. One could learn about the history of the reinstated women's monastery during the pilgrimage to the Toplovsky St. Paraskeva Monastery, where there is a cross with relics of Holy Saints, springs of St. Parasceva the Venerable Martyr, St. George the Victorious, the Three Holy Bishops, into the baths of which one can plunge. Pilgrims will learn about the past and present of Orthodox Christian temples of the Crimea's south coast. One of the tours passes via the old Shulska Road, where Mangup is located, formerly the capital of a Christian principality. The Crimean pilgrims will learn about the history of the eparchy, will get to know about the saints in whose honor churches are named, about festivals of the Orthodox Church, visit Orthodox holy sites of the Chersonese and other parts of the peninsula.

***There are nine Orthodox monasteries annually hosting pilgrims in the Crimea today.***



# PHILOSOPHY OF WINE

Vacation in the Crimea will be incomplete without a glass of good local wine.

Moreover, if a visitor to the Crimea is a connoisseur of fine wines, he is she will certainly take part in exciting wine tours.

In addition, there are specialized wine festivals held in the Crimea, which are becoming increasingly popular every year.

From vineyards of old Greeks, via wine cellars of medieval monasteries and castles, via laboratories of famous wine makers of the 19th century tsarist Russia, via palaces of nobles and tsars, via the hearts of opponents of Gorbachev's eradication of vines, and to the international recognition and admiration, numerous awards at international fairs – thus, the history of the Crimean wine making is linked throughout the whole Crimean history, from olden times to the present day.

Archeological research shows that vine growing started on the peninsula as early as the 7th-6th centuries B.C. The old Greeks managed to lay the foundations of commercial wine making in the Crimea.

Also, the vine did not disappear in the Middle Ages.

Excavations of rural estates in antique and medieval settlements of the peninsula have uncovered numerous large wineries and innumerable amphorae for wine maturation and storage. Another boom of wine growing and making occurred in the period after Crimea's annexation by Russia in 1783, when many landlords of Crimea estates, nobles, and even the tsar's family acquired their own vineyards and wine cellars.

Massandra, Novy svet, Inkerman, Zolotaya balka, Solnechnaya dolina, Magarach, Koktebel – today, the worldwide reputation of Crimean wine brands and high

product quality make it possible to hear from guests of the peninsula, when they are asked: "Wine of what country would you prefer at this time of day?", respond immediately "Crimean, of course!"

One can immerse themselves into the variety of wine blooms, flavors, tastes, tones, shades, aftertastes, and color at excursions and wine tasting events. The culture of wine, esthetics of enotheques, coolness of wine cellars, and, of course, beverages themselves

– all these are the subject matter of demonstration and story-telling. In tasting rooms of famous wineries one can taste an aged prod-

uct of guaranteed quality and genuineness.

Dry, fortified, dessert, liqueur, Champaign and sparkling wines – in their variety every connoisseur will find his or her own favorites.

The cellars of Crimean products have accumulated and store with care vast collections of wines, which include ancient, unique, and literally precious items.

For instance, the Massandra company collection has about one million bottles of domestic and foreign wines, including very old and rare specimens, and is entered in the Guinness Book of Records.

As part of wine tours, one can also visit vineyards, descend into cellars, and get familiarized with the process used in the production of Crimean wines, visit the museums of grapes and wine making, and bring home some part of southern summer, contained in bottles of famous wine making companies of the Crimea.

**Wine festivals are held in the Crimea in the autumn. These events attract thousands of tourists.**







# THE CRIMEAN CUISINE IS A PURE GIFT OF NATURE



**A** vacation in the Crimea should be not just healing, but also tasty. And there is every opportunity for this, since a unique and inimitable Crimean cuisine has developed, a paradise for gastronomical tourism lovers.

The Armenians, Greeks, Karaites, Crimean Tatars, Krymchaks, and Crimean Gypsies are the creators and bearers of traditions of the medieval Crimean cuisine.

As the result of centuries-old national and religious proximity, mutual penetration of cultures, and a lot of interethnic marriages, there emerged a rather homogeneous set of everyday dishes on the peninsula.

In the 19th century, the Crimean cuisine started enriching itself not only with dishes of the Bulgarian, German, Jewish, Russian, and Ukrainian cuisines, but also new cooking techniques. At the same time, the unique, interethnic Crimean cuisine has had a significant influence on the formulation of the diet of new settlers.

As the Crimea became the favorite place for recreation for Russian nobility in the last 19th century, restaurants with foreign chefs started opening here. As the result, the Crimean cuisine, which is southeastern in general in its traditions, has become more European due to influence of the Slav and “nobles” cooking, Jewish, Italian, and German cuisines. Products and dishes, which were new for the Crimea, appeared, and new kitchen and tableware become part of local lifestyle.

In addition to the old traditions, culinary achievements of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Transcaucasia, and Turkey have established themselves in the Crimea. In the last ten years, staples of the menus of Crimean cafes and restaurants now include such dishes as lagman, shurpa, shashlyk, kubite, several kinds of lavash and pilaf, chanakhi and pakhlava, manty and beshbarmak. Alongside with chebureks and Karaites pasties, samsa and Khachapuri are now very popular with both locals and visitors. Fish, vegetables, meat, dairy and sour milk products, Crimean fruits, pastries, and sweets – they know how and love to cook in the Crimea today too.

Splendid teas with addition of Crimean mountain herbs, which not only have esthetic, but also medicinal properties, and aromatic coffee made both according to European and oriental recipes will become a worthy conclusion of any meal.

As the result of such a mixture of traditions, the local cuisine now has now incorporated various culinary achievements of the North and South, East and West.

Interestingly, when on gastronomical tours, one can not only taste various dishes of the peoples inhabiting the Crimea, but also learn how to cook them. Specially for tourists, chefs will conduct master classes on preparing national dishes and beverages.

# GREEN IS TRENDY

The natural reserve stock of the autonomy has 152 sites with the total area 135,300 hectares, including 43 sites of national significance and 109 local-significance sites. Six nature reserves are especially popular with tourists: the Crimean Natural Reserve, Yalta Mountain and Forest Reserve, Karadag Reserve, Kazantyp Reserve, Opuk Reserve, and Martyan Cape with the total area 63,836.1 hectares.

The Yalta Mountain and Forest Reserve is one of the most unique and interesting sites in Eastern Europe in terms of the variety and beauty of its nature. The territory of the Yalta reserve is crossed by such ecological routes as the Botkin's, Shtangeyev's, Jewish, Romanov's trails. It has famous natural objects, such as Uchan Su waterfall (the highest waterfall in Ukraine at 98 m), Shhyshko Rock, Ay Petri Teeth, Alimushka Rock, Hell's Ladder, Sweet Cherry Orchard, Mushroom, Silver Pavilion.

The mountainous wooded area of the southwestern Crimea is not inferior to the famous regions of the southern coast in terms of its climate and tourist attractions. It has such well-known reserves as Grand Canyon of the Crimea, Baydary, Belbek Yew Grove. The territory of the reserves, the tracts of the mixed oak, beech, and hornbeam forest and rocks are crossed by ecological trails and routes, which evolved historically.

A combination of an amazingly beautiful bay and picturesque mountain peaks, wild cliffs, and protected plants have created for the Sudak coast the fame of one of the most attractive places in the south-eastern Crimea. There are ten national reserves in the Sudak region, with the best known of those being the Novy Svit national reserve.

The Alchak Kaya promontory is a unique natural point of interest, being a floristic, geological, and mineral complex. The day trip to the promontory passes on the ecological path equipped with handrails, benches, with a small wood bridge crossing the Devil's Gorge.

The Khapkhalsky national hydrological reserve is located in a most picturesque gorge. A massive flow of water falls from the height of 15 meters of the Crimea's most powerful Dzhur Dzhur waterfall.

Unique in their beauty are the mountain forest landscapes near Alushta, which is covered on three sides by the mountain ridges of Kastel, Babugan, Chatyrdag, and Demerdzhi. There are 12 natural reserves of national and local significance in Alushta, 27 hiking and horse riding tourist routes familiarize tourists with the sights of the region.

The Ayu Dag Mountain, which is the symbol of the Crimea, is a national landscape reserve with the plant life specific and typical of the southern coast, and ancient archeological sites.





*The Crimea's clean environment has become the basis of an actively developing green tourism.*

# BUSINESS MEETINGS

**D**ue to historical and natural-geographical reasons, the Crimea has always been a center of attraction for political and business elites.

It can be argued that it was the Russian tsars, who began the congress tourism on the peninsula. They were spending their time here from spring to late autumn and conducted high-level meetings and conferences in the Crimean residences. However, in the modern understanding of this phenomenon, it is likely that its founders were the «Great Troika» leaders – Stalin, Churchill, and Roosevelt, coming to the famous Yalta conference in 1945.

Today, the Crimea hosts over 500 various seminars, conferences, and symposia, including international ones every year, as well as summits and meetings of heads of state.

In addition to the opportunity to get out of a megacity and immerse in an atmosphere of a health resort, what is it that the Crimean hospitality business could offer to the participants of congress events?

Firstly, a convenient geographic location and communications: planes, trains, road transport – everything is at the service of “business tourists.” Secondly, there are more than 500 accommodation facilities, which would suit every requirement: from budget to refined. Thirdly, the infrastructure of Crimea’s hotels and boarding houses provides opportunities for conducting business, schol-

arly, and cultural meetings in any format. And, lastly, in the last twenty year, travel agencies of the peninsula have acquired sufficient experience to not only organize such an event, but to do it perfectly. Practical groundwork allows avoiding any “sharp corners” and resolve any non-standard situations, which inevitably emerge when arranging any large meetings and conferences, in the best possible manner. Transport service, planning of the working agenda, sightseeing components, telecommunications, computer support, cultural program – all these are developed upon individual requirements of the client.

As a rule, congress tourism events are conducted outside the “high” season – in balmy spring or the velvet Crimean autumn. For the participants of any corporate retreats, it is a blessing, since they are able to avoid heat and excessive crowding of the Crimea in summer. And for the peninsula’s economy, the congress tourism is a great opportunity to expand the season and take a worthy place on the tourist market, in one of its rapidly developing segments. They are well aware of it in the Crimea, and, therefore, they are always happy to welcome guests and provide the best possible conditions and excellent service for fruitful work and accompanying recreation.



The annual congresses in the Crimea bring more than 100,000 business people from all over the world.





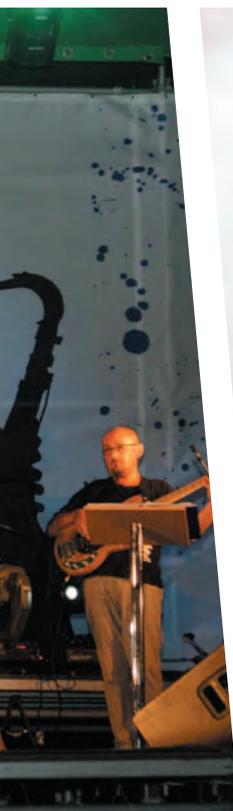
## MORE THAN 100 FESTIVALS ANNUALLY

A trend of event tourism is developing actively on the peninsula — when the traditional vacation is combined with unrestrained holiday atmosphere. There emerged events and programs, which have become regular on the peninsula:

- The Vmeste (Together) international TV and cinema forum in Yalta. Here, one can meet famous actors, journalists, and authors. Participating in the competitions are TV programs, documentaries, educational, and feature TV films.
- The CineYalta international festival of producer cinema in Yalta. Russian and Ukrainian festival cinema in the South Coast setting.
- The Agons of Bosphorus international festival of antique art in Kerch. Theatrical processions, antique competitions, fireworks, competitive performances of theatrical troupes from the Crimea, Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and the far-abroad.
- The Annual Battle international break dance festival in Yalta. All the components of the modern hiphop culture for several days in Yalta only.
- The fireworks festival in Yalta. A grandiose and captivating festival of panoramic fireworks and pyrotechnic show.
- The Air Brotherhood international aeronautics festival in Koktebel. Also, competitive air balloons flight on the Kara Goz airfield.
- The Jazz Koktebel festival in Koktebel. It has a cult following not only in the Crimea and Ukraine, but also among jazz lovers in various

parts of the world. For the time of the festival, the settlement of Kotebel turns into a concert hall under the open skies.

- The Artek children film festival in Yalta. The festival program include new films for children and adolescents, master classes with film stars, creative workshops, aqua shows.
- The Sea of Hope dance festival in the settlement Mykolaivka. A week on the seashore to the dancing beat: classical, folk and stage dances, swing.
- The War and Peace festival in Sevastopol. The legendary Sevastopol becomes the arena for competition between historical reenactment and militaria clubs from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and other countries. Many amateurs of exotic shows come to witness the reenactments of battles from different epochs.
- The Pontus Arena variety and circus competition in Sevastopol. The festival of variety and circus, folklore and theatrical children and youth troupes.
- The Fairytale City creative ethno-esoteric festival on Cape Sarych. Meditations, introduction to various esoteric practices.
- The Live in Blue Bay jazz festival in Koktebel. Festival days unfold on the great arena for the “masters” and a small scene for jazz juniors.
- The Metelitsa rock festival in Armyansk. For ten years now, rock groups from various cities of Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, and Belarus come to the Crimea. The festival is notable in that starting musicians are given the opportunity to perform alongside rock stars.



# THE CRIMEA IS THE UKRAINIAN RALLY CENTER

In the diversity of entertainment events in the Crimea it is difficult to name the most significant, as they all are targeting various audiences and have differing concepts. However, a sports competition of a very serious level was launched in the Crimea in 2005 – the Prime Yalta Rally, The venue is Yalta, with hardtop roads near the Ay Petri mountains, roads near Alushta, and settlements Sokolyne and Orlyne. The time is 2 through 4 June, 2011. Once, stages of the USSR rally championship were contested on the mountain road hairpins on the slopes of Ay Petri, and the Crimean stage was rightly considered to be one of the hardest not only in the Union, but also worldwide.

After the breakup of the USSR, the Yalta rally was held a few more times under the name of Antika-Rally (it is the name given to the race by V.Aksenov in his famous novel The Island of Crimea), however, it ceased to exist soon, until the year 2005, when the rally was revived.

The rally has been given the status of European Cup stage and this event was a sensation for the motor sport in Ukraine in 2006. The Yalta route was noticed by FIA as a possible venue for holding competitions of an even higher status. In 2006, the prestige factor was increased for the race according to the FIA scale.

The Crimea welcomed increasingly greater number of motor

sport fans from all over the world. The rally has met with enthusiastic response from both common spectators and the press, as well as observes from the International Automobile Federation.

More and more teams from various European countries came to participate in the competition. In 2008, the Prime Yalta Rally was named the best sports event of the year, and it began to be seriously considered as a contender for hosting a stage of the increasingly popular Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) racing series, which was launched in 2006, and thanks to support of the Eurosport TV channel, has become the most popular with spectators and contestants all over the world even today. Lastly, it was announced in December 2010, that the Prime Yalta Rally was to become stage IC in the IRC series, also known as the “alternative world championship”.

It is not a simple matter to be included in the IRC series. For this, a candidate will need to have at least some zest, which is bound to turn attention of organizers of the “alternative world championship.”

The Crimea has absolutely everything for this: the location, sophisticated mountain routes, unique nature and climate, infrastructure – to be able to represent Ukraine in the world of the motoring sport.





# RESTING ONLY!

**B**oth a tourist, and a health resort visitor come to the Crimea to not only relax, but also enjoy some entertainment.

So, what is on offer in the health resort and tourist Crimea?

Swimming in the sea and snoozing on the equipped beach, or resting after a tourist hike of many days can be diversified by a visit to an aquapark. There are aquaparks in nearly all the resort regions of the Crimea today: The Aquaparkos Banana Republic in Yevpatoriya; Water World in Sudak, Blue Bay in Simeiz; Zurbagan in Sevastopol, and the Almond-Tree Grove in Alushta.

If you wish to communicate with animals, Crimean zoos and zoological gardens are at the service of vacationers. If you are interested in seeing a white tiger, giraffes and lions, watch bear cubs, and feed monkeys, then, you must go to the Skazka (Fairytale), a private zoo in the outskirts of Yalta.

Sea dwellers can be observed in detail not only during scuba diving expeditions, but also in aquariums, which are available in many coastal cities in the Crimea, with the oldest and best known located on the seafront in Sevastopol. One can also enjoy a show in the Akvatoria marine animal theater near Yalta, or visit one of the seven Crimean dolphinariums: in the Cosack Bay in Sevastopol (one of the largest dol-

phinariums of Europe) or in the Art Bay (this dolphinarium has long become the city's landmark); there are also dolphinariums in Alushta, Koktebel, Yevpatoriya, Yalta, and at the foot of the Karadag Mountain.

Children are invariably delighted

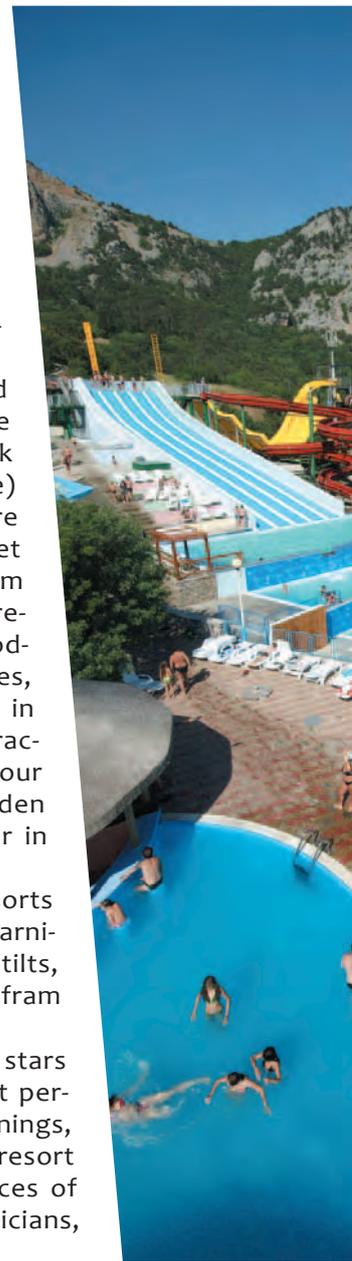
*The evening and night life of the resort peninsula is vibrant in numerous night clubs, with dance floors available in all regions of the Crimea.*

by a visit to the Polyana skazok (Fairytale glade) complex, where they will meet characters from fairytales, represented as wood-carved sculptures, puppet show in

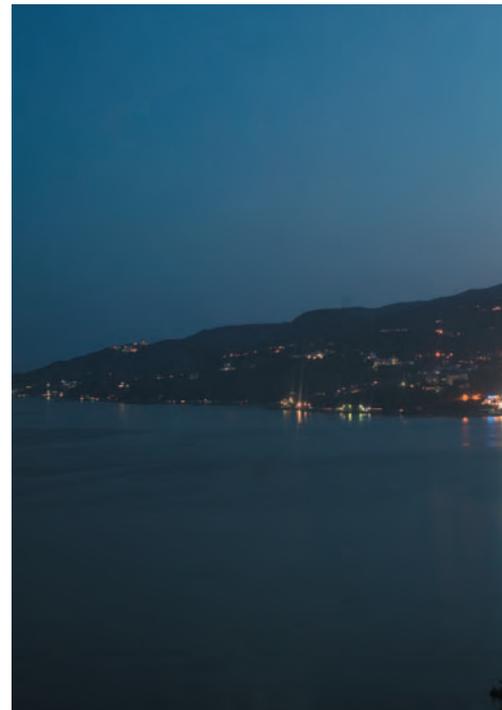
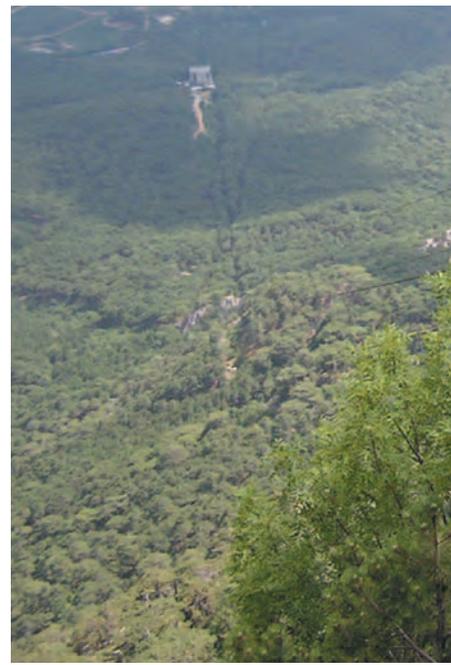
open air, and other exciting attractions. Or else you can go with your children to see a show of the Golden Key International Children's Center in Yevpatoriya with children-actors.

In Yevpatoriya, guests of the resorts are entertained every week with carnival performances of theater on stilts, theater of living statues, and Wolfram fire theater.

From spring to late autumn, pop stars from CIS counties come with guest performances to the Crimea. On evenings, from concert halls of Crimea's resort towns one could hear familiar voices of singers, actors, comics, and musicians, well known from TV shows.









One could have an excellent walk by visiting the Nikitsky State Botanical Gardens in the settlement Nikita near Yalta, especially, if it has a show of tulips, roses, or chrysanthemums, depending on the season.

It is interesting to take a Yalta cable car and travel over city's roofs or make a longer trip on cable road from Miskhor to Ay Petri. It takes the car to the height of 1152m over a distance of nearly 3.5km. The structure is unique in that the section between the stops Sosnovy bir and Ay Petri, nearly 2km long, is the longest cable road without supports in Europe. What could be better than walks in a shady park? Nearly every health center, boarding house or hotel have their own parks, however, some of them are monuments of landscape and park design in Livadia, Alupka, Miskhor, Gurzuf, and Saky.

One of the most beautiful and romantic parks of the Crimea is located in Partenit, which is the park of the Aivazovske medical treatment and health improvement complex. On steep slopes of a small bay between the promontories Tepeler and Plaka, there is a park with an olive grove, lawns, palms, cedars, flower borders, artificial cascades.

Before work started at the Aivazovsky, the staff of a landscape design workshop established here, conducted a thorough and comprehensive analysis and created the concept of "romantic park." The concept was based on myths, legends, and historical facts related to Partenit: antique culture, dolmens of the Taurians, medieval Genovese fortifications, Tatar farmsteads – the details from all of these have been reflected in the park design. Cafes and bars, small and large restaurants, bowling alleys and snooker rooms, concepts and shopping for souvenirs, sea trips, and children's attractions, tennis, and theatrical performances, spa centers, and beauty parlors – the Crimea has all the trappings of leisure time at a resort.





## CHILDREN'S

**W**hat kind of recreation do children need?

Firstly, it should be safe, and, secondly, not boring.

Can the Crimea offer such a recreation?

It, definitely, can.

Today, the children's health centers and holiday camp successfully combine the unique, nearly a century-old expertise of arranging the recreation, medical treatment, and health improvement of children, and the state-of-the-art achievements in the organization of children's leisure. All these, without exaggeration, allow one to refer to the Crimea as "The Childhood Republic." At any time of the year, they can make the recreation of children and teenagers here fascinating, full of adventure, and assuredly safe, and the medical treatment effective.

What kind of a vacation should you give to your children?

The Crimea offers a wide range of opportunities: these include a conceptual, known in many countries Artek children's center, with its lively festivals and nearly a century of history, which was started as far back as 1925; the traditional family and children's health resort of Yevpatoriya, which is famous in all CIS countries as "All-Ukraine children's health resort," whose history is as rich as that of Artek; the beautiful beaches of the western Crimea, color-

# RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

ful eastern coast, full of mystery mountain forests, and a special, heroic atmosphere of Sevastopol.

Since early 1990s, the Crimea has been an international base for training leaders of children's movements related to living in nature. It should be noted that scouting in the Crimea appeared long ago, before Artek, and it emerged with the first honored scout of Russia – cesarevitch Aleksey, who visited the peninsula many times.

Today's children and teenagers, when on vacation in the Crimea, are engaged in horse riding, learn to drive a mountain bike, and learn the basics of scuba diving, learn to drive cross country vehicles, take part in role-playing games, including paintball battles, study mountain herbs, learn the technique of caving and mountaineering. In hiking tours, they learn the rules of providing the first medical aid, basics of tourist technique and sport orienteering, learn to love nature.

In some vacation camps, children are immersed in English-speaking environment, hold daily teaching session with native speakers, organize topic games, and theatrical performances.

The goal for activity vacation of children is not only providing new impressions and general health improvement effect, but also for them to learn various skills and develop their initiative.

The children's vacation in the Crimea is a combination of beach vacation, educational programs, day trips, scouting, pedagogically correct communication, and adequate medical support. Here, you can choose for your child the most suitable format of vacation, depending on his or her age, character, and interests, since the organizers of children's vacations in the Crimea develop their own programs, taking into account the international experience and modern demands of work with children.



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