

**December  
2019**



# **MONTHLY TOURIST ARRIVALS REPORT**

**SRI LANKA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

[www.sltda.lk](http://www.sltda.lk)

Photo courtesy of SLTDA, SLRC Lovingly Sri Lanka programme



## SUMMARY

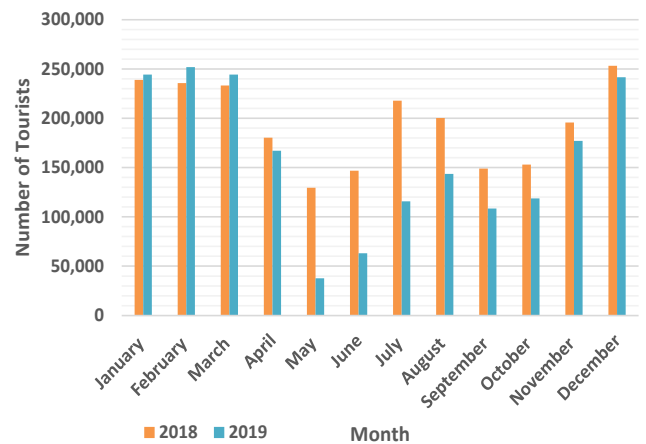
The total number of international tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka during December 2019 was 241,663. In comparison to December last year, there was a decline of 4.5% when the arrivals were 253,169.

This month, the largest source market for tourists was India, followed by the United Kingdom and Russian Federation.

Almost 93 % of tourists travelled by air to Sri Lanka.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, 1,913,702 of tourists had visited Sri Lanka for this year. It is a decline of 18% over last year when 2,333,796 of tourists has visited the country during the same period.

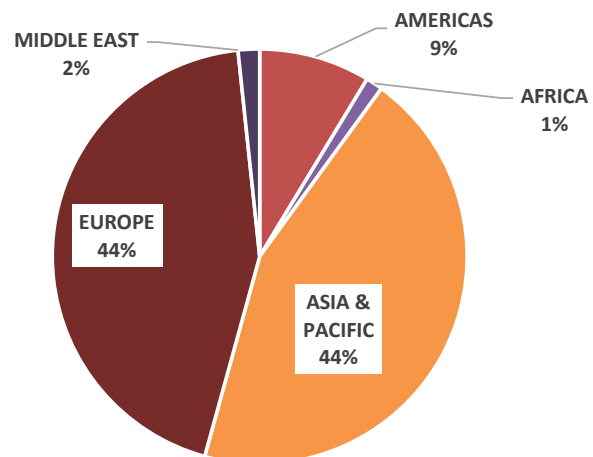
Month	2018	2019	% change 2018/2019
January	238,924	244,239	2.2
February	235,618	252,033	7.0
March	233,382	244,328	4.7
April	180,429	166,975	(7.5)
May	129,466	37,802	(70.8)
June	146,828	63,072	(57.0)
July	217,829	115,701	(46.9)
August	200,359	143,587	(28.3)
September	149,087	108,575	(27.2)
October	153,123	118,743	(22.5)
November	195,582	176,984	(9.5)
December	253,169	241,663	(4.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,333,796</b>	<b>1,913,702</b>	<b>(18.0)</b>



## TOURIST ARRIVALS BY REGION

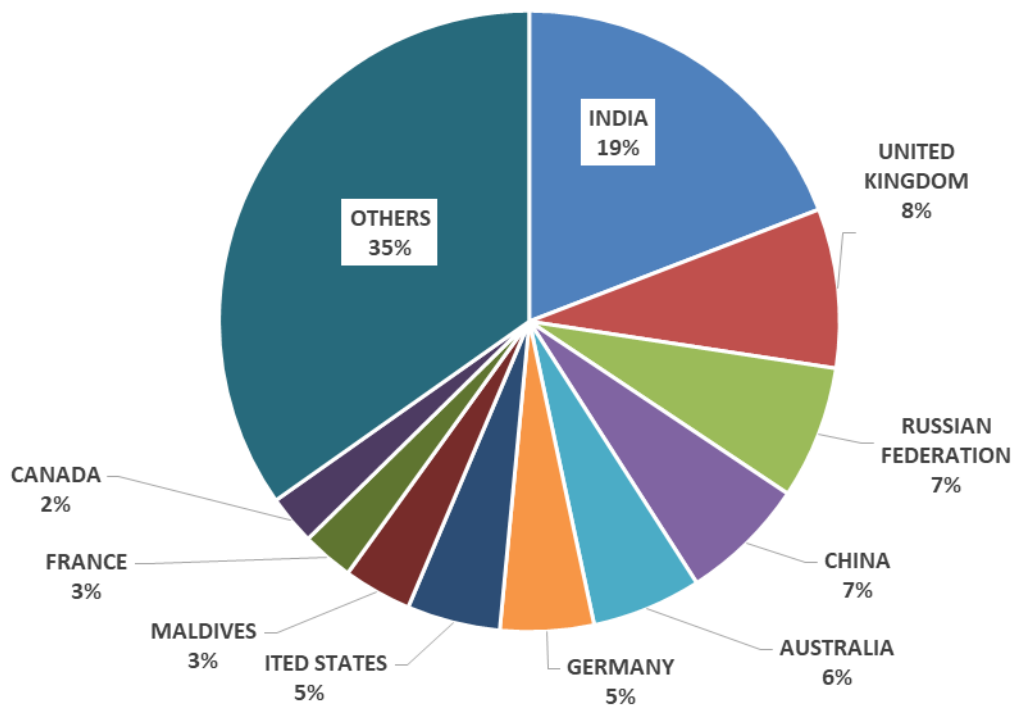
Europe and Asia & Pacific became the largest sources of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka both recording 44% (both 44%) of the total traffic received in December 2019.

Americas accounted for 9% of the total traffic, Middle East 2% and Africa 1%.



## TOP TEN SOURCE MARKETS – MONTH OF DECEMBER – 2019

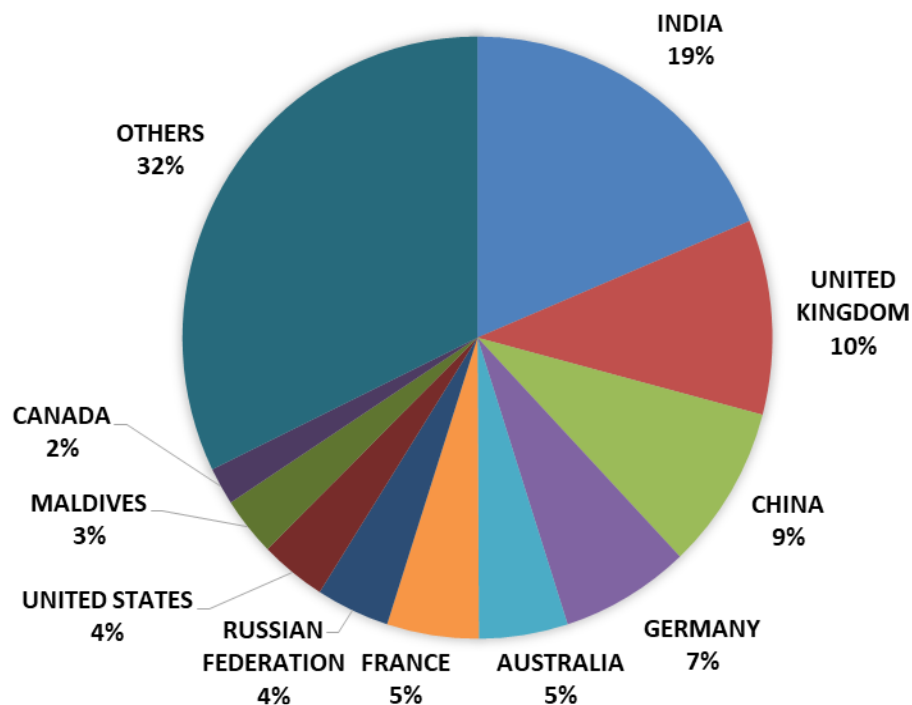
India, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, China and Australia were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets in the month of December this year. India was the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 19% of the total traffic received in December 2019. UK accounted for 8% of the total traffic; while Russian Federation, China and Australia accounted for 7%, 7% and 6% respectively.



Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals December 2019			Tourist Arrivals December 2018	% Change December 2019/2018
		By Air	By Sea	Total		
1	INDIA	46,979	1463	48,442	45,797	5.8
2	UNITED KINGDOM	18,453	2,531	20,984	26,828	(21.8)
3	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	17,093	466	17,559	11,258	56.0
4	CHINA	16,463	185	16,648	18,283	(8.9)
5	AUSTRALIA	12,941	1526	14,467	14,961	(3.3)
6	GERMANY	11,680	669	12,349	16,624	(25.7)
7	UNITED STATES	9,783	2,519	12,302	8,848	39.0
8	MALDIVES	9,028	5	9,033	12,054	(25.1)
9	FRANCE	6,460	364	6,824	9,475	(28.0)
10	CANADA	5,268	1,244	6,512	4,680	39.1

## TOP TEN SOURCE MARKETS – JANUARY TO DECEMBER - 2019

India, United Kingdom, China, Germany and Australia were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets from January to December this year. India was the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 19% of the total traffic received from January to December 2019. UK accounted for 10% of the total traffic; while China, Germany and Australia accounted for 9%, 7% and 5%.



Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals (Jan – Dec) - 2019	Tourist Arrivals (Jan - Dec) - 2018	% Change (Jan – Dec 2019 & Jan – Dec 2018)
1	INDIA	355,002	424,887	(16.4)
2	UNITED KINGDOM	198,776	254,176	(21.8)
3	CHINA	167,863	265,965	(36.9)
4	GERMANY	134,899	156,888	(14.0)
5	AUSTRALIA	92,674	110,928	(16.5)
6	FRANCE	87,623	106,449	(17.7)
7	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	86,549	64,497	34.2
8	UNITED STATES	68,832	75,308	(8.6)
9	MALDIVES	60,278	76,108	(20.8)
10	CANADA	48,729	52,681	(7.5)

## INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

	December 2019			Total Tourist Arrivals December 2018	% Change December (19/18)	Total Tourist Arrivals up to December 2019	Total Tourist Arrivals up to December 2018	% Change up to December 2019
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>16,477</b>	<b>4,466</b>	<b>20,943</b>	<b>14,409</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>127,423</b>	<b>137,626</b>	<b>(7.4)</b>
<b>North America</b>	<b>15,521</b>	<b>4,142</b>	<b>19,663</b>	<b>13,644</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>119,681</b>	<b>129,492</b>	<b>(7.6)</b>
Canada	5,268	1,244	6,512	4,680	39.1	48,729	52,681	(7.5)
Mexico	470	379	849	116	631.9	2,120	1,503	41.1
United States	9,783	2,519	12,302	8,848	39.0	68,832	75,308	(8.6)
<b>Caribbean &amp; Central America</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>3.0</b>
Costa Rica	28	7	35	20	75.0	143	132	8.3
Jamaica	8	0	8	7	14.3	58	102	(43.1)
Others	78	18	96	67	43.3	737	677	8.9
						0		
<b>South America</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>1,141</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>6,804</b>	<b>7,223</b>	<b>(5.8)</b>
Argentina	129	63	192	103	86.4	1,403	1,809	(22.4)
Brazil	420	178	598	269	122.3	2,964	2,774	6.8
Chile	100	30	130	89	46.1	938	1,002	(6.4)
Colombia	98	12	110	113	(2.7)	713	702	1.6
Others	95	16	111	97	14.4	786	936	(16.0)
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>2,551</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>2,653</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>15,094</b>	<b>14,873</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>2,780</b>	<b>2,991</b>	<b>(7.1)</b>
Morocco	143	22	165	147	12.2	1031	1,036	(0.5)
Sudan	57	0	57	72	(20.8)	584	858	(31.9)
Others	243	88	331	154	114.9	1165	1,097	6.2
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>2,638</b>	<b>2,280</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>12,314</b>	<b>11,882</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Kenya	125	7	132	195	(32.3)	1,559	874	78.4
Mauritius	187	99	286	98	191.8	739	720	2.6
Nigeria	16	0	16	27	(40.7)	172	412	(58.3)
South Africa	1,556	410	1,966	1,752	12.2	7,132	7,416	(3.8)
Others	224	14	238	208	14.4	2,712	2,460	10.2

	December 2019			Total Tourist Arrivals December 2018	% Change December (19 /18)	Total Tourist Arrivals up to December 2019	Total Tourist Arrivals up to December 2018	% Change up to December 2019
	Tourist Arrivals							
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
<b>ASIA &amp; PACIFIC</b>	<b>102,988</b>	<b>4,039</b>	<b>107,027</b>	<b>112,124</b>	<b>(4.5)</b>	<b>839,470</b>	<b>1,091,800</b>	<b>(23.1)</b>
<b>North East Asia</b>	<b>22,140</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>22,441</b>	<b>24,866</b>	<b>(9.8)</b>	<b>217,477</b>	<b>339,558</b>	<b>(36.0)</b>
China	16,463	185	16,648	18,283	(8.9)	167,863	265,965	(36.9)
Japan	3,682	48	3,730	4,657	(19.9)	30,079	49,450	(39.2)
South Korea	1,455	22	1,477	1,311	12.7	12,195	15,748	(22.6)
Taiwan	502	46	548	597	(8.2)	7,127	8,187	(12.9)
Others	38	0	38	18	111.1	213	208	2.4
<b>South East Asia</b>	<b>6,895</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>7,327</b>	<b>8,455</b>	<b>(13.3)</b>	<b>68,904</b>	<b>84,013</b>	<b>(18.0)</b>
Cambodia	66	0	66	19	247.4	2,841	771	268.5
Indonesia	472	71	543	514	5.6	4,919	5,365	(8.3)
Malaysia	1,937	40	1,977	2,307	(14.3)	16,861	22,808	(26.1)
Myanmar	274	11	285	431	(33.9)	3,124	3,241	(3.6)
Philippines	956	218	1,174	1,427	(17.7)	14,590	19,303	(24.4)
Singapore	1,824	57	1,881	2,524	(25.5)	13,871	19,861	(30.2)
Thailand	1,174	34	1,208	1,031	17.2	9,861	9,178	7.4
Vietnam	186	1	187	186	0.5	2,643	3,189	(17.1)
Others	6	0	6	16	(62.5)	194	297	(34.7)
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>14,671</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>16,378</b>	<b>16,931</b>	<b>(3.3)</b>	<b>105,414</b>	<b>125,069</b>	<b>(15.7)</b>
Australia	12,941	1526	14,467	14,961	(3.3)	92,674	110,928	(16.5)
New Zealand	1,683	180	1,863	1,938	(3.9)	12,463	13,825	(9.9)
Others	47	1	48	32	50.0	277	316	(12.3)
<b>South Asia</b>	<b>59,282</b>	<b>1,599</b>	<b>60,881</b>	<b>61,872</b>	<b>(1.6)</b>	<b>447,675</b>	<b>543,160</b>	<b>(17.6)</b>
Afghanistan	38	0	38	72	(47.2)	473	861	(45.1)
Bangladesh	1,011	18	1,029	1,019	1.0	8,261	10,487	(21.2)
Bhutan	35	0	35	136	(74.3)	343	679	(49.5)
India	46,979	1463	48,442	45,797	5.8	355,002	424,887	(16.4)
Iran	275	2	277	248	11.7	3,249	5,720	(43.2)
Maldives	9,028	5	9,033	12,054	(25.1)	60,278	76,108	(20.8)
Nepal	509	87	596	480	24.2	5,414	5,302	2.1
Pakistan	1,407	24	1,431	2,066	(30.7)	14,655	19,116	(23.3)

	December 2019			Total Tourist Arrivals December 2018	% Change December (19 / 18)	Total Tourist Arrivals up to December 2019	Total Tourist Arrivals up to December 2018	% Change up to December 2019
	Tourist Arrivals							
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>98,779</b>	<b>7,676</b>	<b>106,455</b>	<b>117,968</b>	<b>(9.8)</b>	<b>887,572</b>	<b>1,017,861</b>	<b>(12.8)</b>
<b>Northern Eur.</b>	<b>28,061</b>	<b>2,902</b>	<b>30,963</b>	<b>40,757</b>	<b>(24.0)</b>	<b>267,264</b>	<b>339,047</b>	<b>(21.2)</b>
Denmark	1,406	39	1,445	2,008	(28.0)	16,869	19,223	(12.2)
Finland	1,109	35	1,144	1,860	(38.5)	7,028	8,888	(20.9)
Norway	1,337	50	1,387	1,852	(25.1)	13,446	17,217	(21.9)
Sweden	4,810	96	4,906	6,834	(28.2)	22,464	28,267	(20.5)
United Kingdom	18,453	2,531	20,984	26,828	(21.8)	198,776	254,176	(21.8)
Others	946	151	1,097	1,375	(20.2)	8,681	11,276	(23.0)
<b>Western Eur.</b>	<b>26,544</b>	<b>1,428</b>	<b>27,972</b>	<b>38,379</b>	<b>(27.1)</b>	<b>322,068</b>	<b>392,356</b>	<b>(17.9)</b>
Austria	1,747	77	1,824	2,014	(9.4)	14,713	19,320	(23.8)
Belgium	1,246	70	1,316	1,719	(23.4)	14,948	17,519	(14.7)
France	6,460	364	6,824	9,475	(28.0)	87,623	106,449	(17.7)
Germany	11,680	669	12,349	16,624	(25.7)	134,899	156,888	(14.0)
Netherlands	2,740	118	2,858	4,323	(33.9)	38,993	57,160	(31.8)
Switzerland	2,593	128	2,721	4,097	(33.6)	29,981	33,965	(11.7)
Others	78	2	80	127	(37.0)	911	1,055	(13.6)
<b>Central / Eastern Europe</b>	<b>33,883</b>	<b>1,307</b>	<b>35,190</b>	<b>26,538</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>196,856</b>	<b>176,905</b>	<b>11.3</b>
Belarus	651	11	662	578	14.5	4,796	4,621	3.8
Czech Republic	2,421	13	2,434	2,228	9.2	19,204	17,600	9.1
Estonia	597	16	613	634	(3.3)	2,516	2,744	(8.3)
Hungary	560	39	599	630	(4.9)	4,091	4,514	(9.4)
Kazakhstan	661	37	698	431	61.9	2,399	2,721	(11.8)
Lithuania	373	12	385	422	(8.8)	2,793	3,386	(17.5)
Poland	3,195	166	3,361	2,533	32.7	20,896	20,378	2.5
Romania	829	108	937	1,042	(10.1)	5,463	5,931	(7.9)
Russian Federation	17,093	466	17,559	11,258	56.0	86,549	64,497	34.2
Slovakia	552	25	577	529	9.1	4,944	5,289	(6.5)
Ukraine	5,784	279	6,063	4,834	25.4	35,051	36,515	(4.0)
Others	1,167	135	1,302	1,419	(8.2)	8,154	8,709	(6.4)



	December 2019			Total Tourist Arrivals December 2018	% Change December (19 / 18)	Total Tourist Arrivals up to December 2019	Total Tourist Arrivals up to December 2018	% Change up to December 2019
	Tourist Arrivals							
<b>Southern / Mediterranean Europe</b>	<b>10,291</b>	<b>2,039</b>	<b>12,330</b>	<b>12,294</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>101,384</b>	<b>109,553</b>	<b>(7.5)</b>
Greece	656	265	921	884	4.2	6,980	7,778	(10.3)
Italy	3,961	1000	4,961	5,176	(4.2)	36,147	38,379	(5.8)
Portugal	572	83	655	862	(24.0)	5,193	5,933	(12.5)
Spain	1,874	148	2,022	2,251	(10.2)	24,489	29,208	(16.2)
Turkey	711	327	1,038	631	64.5	4,972	4,262	16.7
Israel	1,372	110	1,482	1,125	31.7	14,770	13,833	6.8
Others	1,145	106	1,251	1,365	(8.4)	8,833	10,160	(13.1)
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>	<b>3,984</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4,047</b>	<b>6,015</b>	<b>(32.7)</b>	<b>44,143</b>	<b>71,636</b>	<b>(38.4)</b>
Bahrain	241	16	257	308	(16.6)	2,285	2,858	(20.0)
Egypt	477	8	485	518	(6.4)	3,708	3,854	(3.8)
Iraq	88	0	88	94	(6.4)	852	1,021	(16.6)
Jordan	516	1	517	392	31.9	3,085	3,156	(2.2)
Kuwait	304	27	331	213	55.4	3,239	3,465	(6.5)
Lebanon	477	2	479	645	(25.7)	4,304	5,521	(22.0)
Oman	317	1	318	274	16.1	4,117	6,846	(39.9)
Qatar	143		143	111	28.8	1063	1,676	(36.6)
Saudi Arabia	893	3	896	2,656	(66.3)	15,707	34,703	(54.7)
United Arab Emirates	366	3	369	542	(31.9)	3,528	5,785	(39.0)
Others	162	2	164	262	(37.4)	2,255	2,751	(18.0)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224,779</b>	<b>16,884</b>	<b>241,663</b>	<b>253,169</b>	<b>(4.5)</b>	<b>1,913,702</b>	<b>2,333,796</b>	<b>(18.0)</b>

\* All visitor arrival statistics in this report are from the Department of Immigration & Emigration.