



September
2020

MONTHLY TOURIST ARRIVALS REPORT

SRI LANKA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

www.sltda.lk

Photo courtesy of SLTDA, SLRC. Lovingly Sri Lanka programme



SUMMARY

The total number of international tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka from **January to March 2020** was 507,311. No tourist arrivals have been recorded since April to September due to the termination of all passenger flight & ship arrivals into Sri Lanka from 18th March 2020. Total arrivals recorded from January to September 2019 was 1,376,312. In comparison to January to September last year (2019) a decline of 63.1 % has been recorded for the same period in 2020.

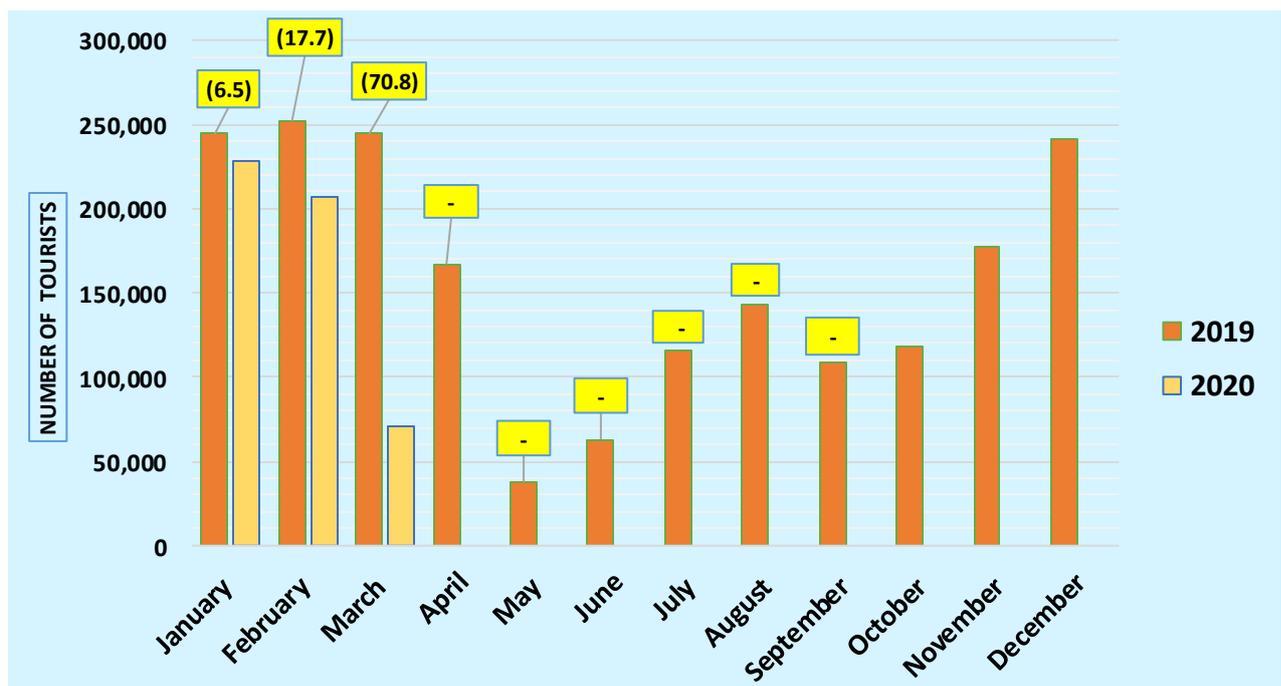
The largest source market recorded from January to September was India, followed by the United Kingdom and Russian Federation.

Almost 95 % of tourists travelled by air to Sri Lanka.

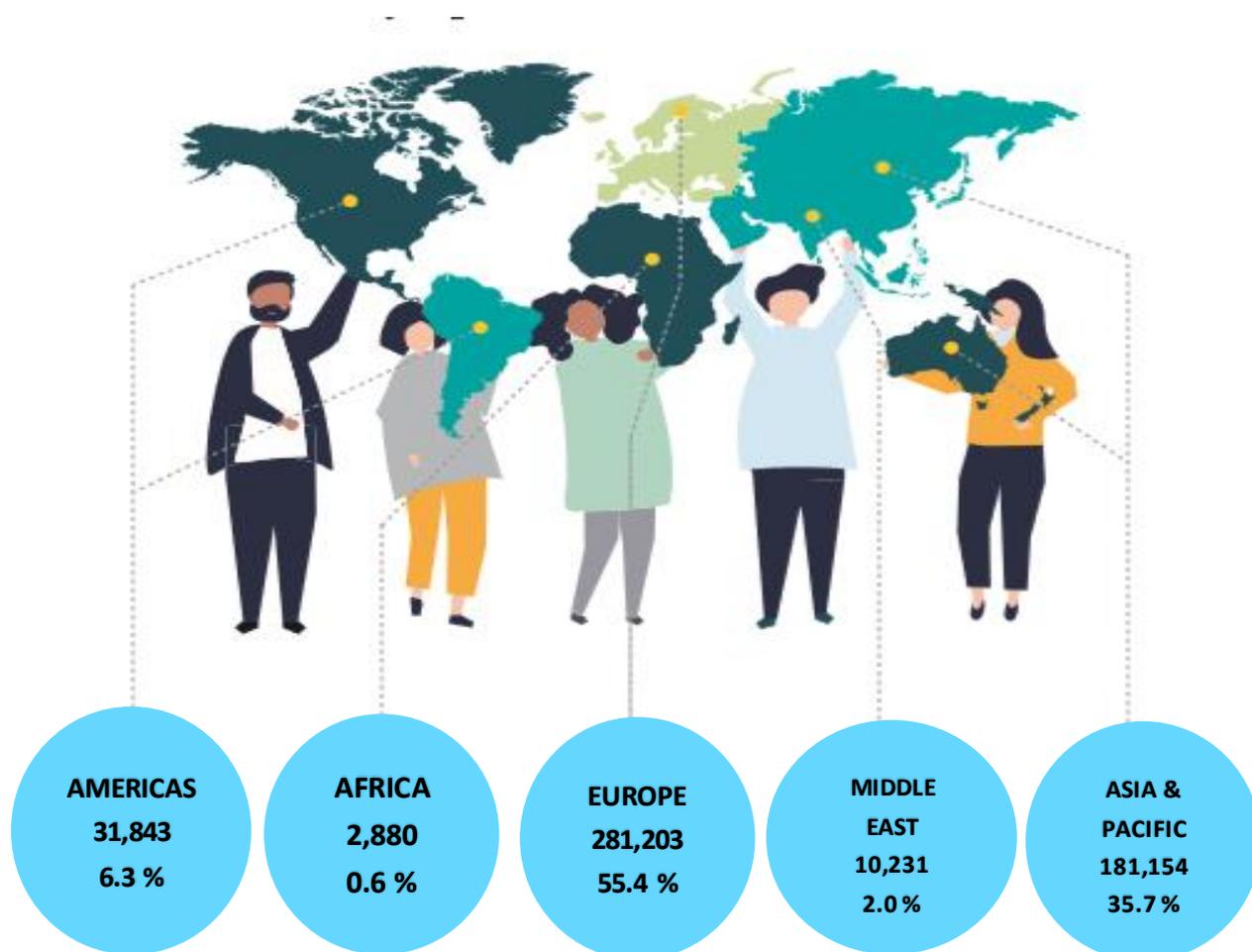
Month	2019	2020	% change 2019/20
January	244,239	228,434	(6.5)
February	252,033	207,507	(17.7)
March	244,328	71,370	(70.8)
April	166,975	0	-
May	37,802	0	-
June	63,072	0	-
July	115,701	0	-
August	143,587	0	-
September	108,575	0	-
October	118,743		
November	176,984		
December	241,663		
Total (Up to Sep)	1,376,312	507,311	(63.1)
Total	1,913,702		



**Tourist Arrivals – September
Zero (0)**
(Due to effect of the outbreak of COVID 19)



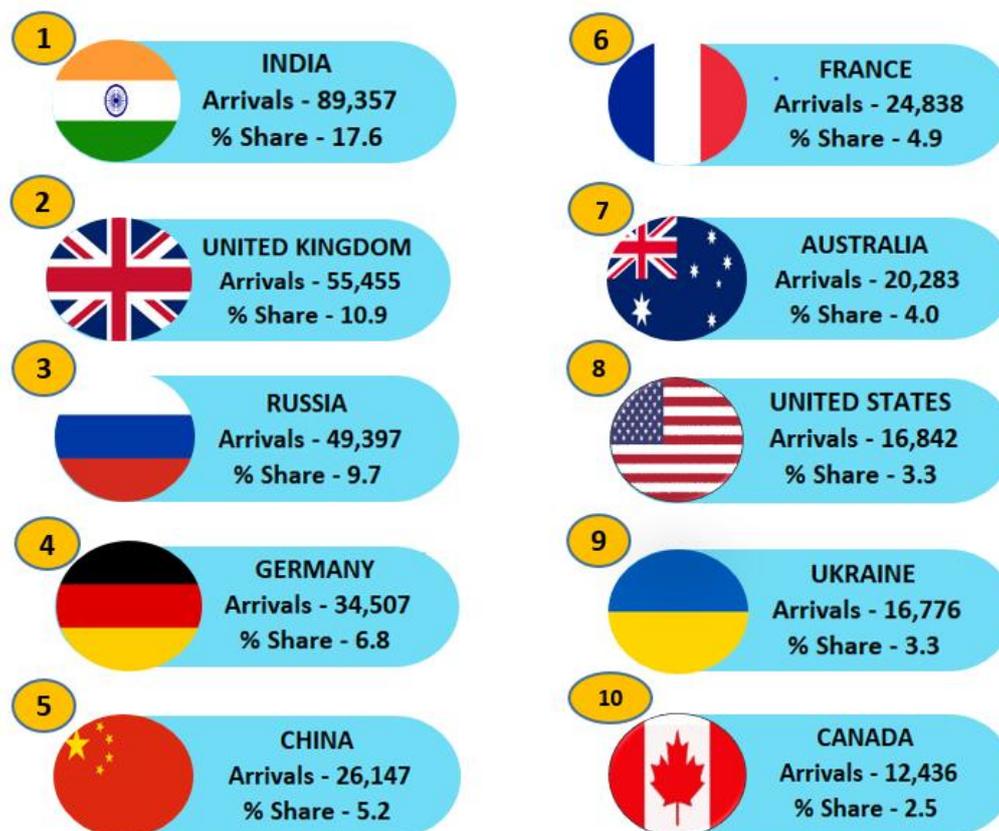
TOURIST ARRIVALS BY REGION AND PERCENTAGE SHARE JANUARY ~ SEPTEMBER 2020



Europe became the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 55.4 % of the total traffic received from January to September 2020. Asia and Pacific accounted for 35.7% of the total traffic, Americas 6.3 %, Middle East 2.0 % and Africa 0.6%. In comparison to January - September last year the highest decline of 70.7 % was recorded for Middle East while Asia & Pacific recorded a decline of 69.4 %. Africa recorded a decline of 66.3 % whereas Americas recorded a decline of 65.5 %. A decline of 56.5 % was recorded from Europe. The effect of the outbreak of COVID 19 is clearly evident as all countries have recorded a decline in arrivals from mid of February. However, country wise it is noteworthy that arrivals from Kazakhstan have recorded an increase of 67.8 % while the highest decline in arrivals (91.8 %) have recorded from Kenya.

TOP TEN SOURCE MARKETS – JANUARY ~ SEPTEMBER 2020

India, United Kingdom, Russia, Germany and China were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets in the period from January to September this year. India was the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 17.6 % of the total traffic received in above period. United Kingdom accounted for 10.9 % of the total traffic; while Russian Federation, Germany and China accounted for 9.7 %, 6.8 % and 5.2 % respectively. Comparing the top ten markets, the effect of the outbreak of COVID 19 is clearly evident as all countries have recorded a decline in arrivals except Russia. It is noteworthy that China has recorded the highest at (78.8 %).



Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals from January to September 2020			Tourist Arrivals January to Sep 2019	% Change Jan ~ Sep 2020/2019
		By Air	By Sea	Total		
1	India	86,639	2,718	89,357	241,666	(63.0)
2	United Kingdom	49,015	6,440	55,455	152,991	(63.8)
3	Russian Federation	48,457	940	49,397	48,692	1.4
4	Germany	32,495	2,012	34,507	93,886	(63.2)
5	China	25,910	237	26,147	123,220	(78.8)
6	France	24,330	508	24,838	72,559	(65.8)
7	Australia	17,896	2,387	20,283	65,578	(69.1)
8	United States	14,349	2,493	16,842	49,180	(65.8)
9	Ukraine	16,043	733	16,776	21,563	(22.2)
10	Canada	11,122	1,314	12,436	36,779	(66.2)

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

	January ~ September 2020			Total Tourist Arrivals January to September 2019	% Cha Jan ~ September (2020/19)
	Tourist Arrivals				
	By Air	By Sea	Total		
AMERICAS	27,585	4,258	31,843	92,431	(65.5)
North America	25,723	3,904	29,627	87,058	(66.0)
Canada	11,122	1,314	12,436	36,779	(66.2)
Mexico	252	97	349	1,099	(68.2)
United States	14,349	2,493	16,842	49,180	(65.8)
Caribbean & Central America	211	15	226	618	(63.4)
Costa Rica	33	0	33	93	(64.5)
Jamaica	23	2	25	48	(47.9)
Others	155	13	168	477	(64.8)
South America	1,651	339	1,990	4,755	(58.1)
Argentina	352	64	416	1,016	(59.1)
Brazil	675	200	875	1,942	(54.9)
Chile	232	39	271	702	(61.4)
Colombia	190	11	201	499	(59.7)
Others	202	25	227	596	(61.9)
AFRICA	2,510	370	2,880	8,541	(66.3)
North Africa	638	51	689	1,867	(63.1)
Morocco	275	36	311	724	(57.0)
Sudan	137	6	143	445	(67.9)
Others	226	9	235	698	(66.3)
Sub-Saharan Africa	1,872	319	2,191	8,538	(74.3)
Kenya	106	4	110	1,338	(91.8)
Mauritius	132	38	170	409	(58.4)
Nigeria	25	0	25	130	(80.8)
South Africa	1,144	220	1,364	4,473	(69.5)
Others	465	57	522	2,188	(76.1)

		January ~ September 2020				
		Tourist Arrivals				
		By Air	By Sea	Total	Total Tourist Arrivals January to September 2019	% Cha Jan ~ September (2020/19)
ASIA & PACIFIC		173,837	7,317	181,154	592,461	(69.4)
North East Asia		36,944	376	37,320	160,524	(76.8)
China		25,910	237	26,147	123,220	(78.8)
Japan		6,613	31	6,644	22,692	(70.7)
South Korea		2,428	71	2,499	8,785	(71.6)
Taiwan		1,949	36	1,985	5,660	(64.9)
Others		44	1	45	167	(73.1)
South East Asia		13,496	1,431	14,927	50,398	(70.4)
Cambodia		372	0	372	2,659	(86.0)
Indonesia		948	166	1,114	3,604	(69.1)
Malaysia		3,433	61	3,494	12,175	(71.3)
Myanmar		473	59	532	2,406	(77.9)
Philippines		3,176	1,073	4,249	10,802	(60.7)
Singapore		2,506	39	2,545	9,870	(74.2)
Thailand		1,857	23	1,880	6,680	(71.9)
Vietnam		699	10	709	2,058	(65.5)
Others		32	0	32	139	(77.0)
Oceania		20,122	2,584	22,706	74,750	(69.6)
Australia		17,896	2,387	20,283	65,578	(69.1)
New Zealand		2,130	194	2,324	9,007	(74.2)
Others		96	3	99	165	(40.0)
South Asia		103,275	2,926	106,201	306,789	(65.4)
Afghanistan		146	0	146	358	(59.2)
Bangladesh		1,963	23	1,986	5,941	(66.6)
Bhutan		208	0	208	227	(8.4)
India		86,639	2,718	89,357	241,666	(63.0)
Iran		645	3	648	2,358	(72.5)
Maldives		9,404	3	9,407	41,461	(77.3)
Nepal		1,248	136	1,384	3,653	(62.1))
Pakistan		3,022	43	3,065	11,125	(72.4)

	January ~ September 2020				
	Tourist Arrivals				
	By Air	By Sea	Total	Total Tourist Arrivals January to September 2019	% Cha Jan ~ September (2020/19)
EUROPE	265,099	16,104	281,203	646,069	(56.5)
Northern Eur.	68,008	7,138	75,146	204,906	(63.3)
Denmark	4,769	136	4,905	14,025	(65.0)
Finland	2,216	82	2,298	5,222	(56.0)
Norway	2,954	65	3,019	10,860	(72.2)
Sweden	6,899	162	7,061	15,415	(54.2)
United Kingdom	49,015	6,440	55,455	152,991	(63.8)
Others	2,155	253	2,408	6,393	(62.3)
Western Eur.	79,156	3,073	82,229	244,833	(66.4)
Austria	4,188	112	4,300	10,997	(60.9)
Belgium	3,274	97	3,371	12,138	(72.2)
France	24,330	508	24,838	72,559	(65.8)
Germany	32,495	2,012	34,507	93,886	(63.2)
Netherlands	8,492	164	8,656	32,263	(73.2)
Switzerland	6,217	172	6,389	22,248	(71.3)
Others	160	8	168	742	(77.4)
Central / Eastern Europe	97,718	2,655	100,373	122,079	(17.8)
Belarus	2,606	32	2,638	3,247	(18.8)
Czech Republic	7,580	19	7,599	14,439	(47.4)
Estonia	1,177	8	1,185	1,580	(25.0)
Hungary	1,493	95	1,588	3,001	(47.1)
Kazakhstan	2,267	66	2,333	1,390	67.8
Lithuania	1,037	17	1,054	1,886	(44.1)
Poland	11,481	427	11,908	13,234	(10.0)
Romania	1,574	150	1,724	3,813	(54.8)
Russian Federation	48,457	940	49,397	48,692	1.4
Slovakia	1,488	25	1,513	3,628	(58.3)
Ukraine	16,043	733	16,776	21,563	(22.2)
Others	2,515	143	2,658	5,606	(52.6)

January ~ September 2020					
Tourist Arrivals					
	By Air	By Sea	Total	Total Tourist Arrivals January to September 2019	% Cha Jan ~ Sep (2020/19)
<u>Southern/ Mediterranean Europe</u>	20,217	3,238	23,455	74,251	(68.4)
Greece	1,092	481	1,573	5,013	(68.6)
Italy	7,135	1,468	8,603	26,322	(67.3)
Portugal	1,377	225	1,602	3,706	(56.8)
Spain	3,255	130	3,385	18,559	(81.8)
Turkey	1,517	604	2,121	2,977	(28.8)
Israel	3,422	134	3,556	11,117	(68.0)
Others	2,419	196	2,615	6,557	(60.1)
<u>MIDDLE EAST</u>	10,139	92	10,231	34,946	(70.7)
Bahrain	543	6	549	1,726	(68.2)
Egypt	922	34	956	2,510	(61.9)
Iraq	137	1	138	596	(76.8)
Jordan	621	6	627	2,027	(69.1)
Kuwait	822	3	825	2,650	(68.9)
Lebanon	480	3	483	3,285	(85.3)
Oman	1,041	4	1,045	3,273	(68.1)
Qatar	128	1	129	839	(84.6)
Saudi Arabia	4,745	10	4,755	13,350	(64.4)
United Arab Emirates	350	2	352	2,833	(87.6)
Others	350	22	372	1,857	(80.0)
TOTAL	479,170	28,141	507,311	1,376,312	(63.1)

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

Sri Lanka suspends tourist arrivals from all countries from 18th March 2020 due to COVID-19