

**MARCH  
2021**

# **MONTHLY TOURIST ARRIVALS REPORT**



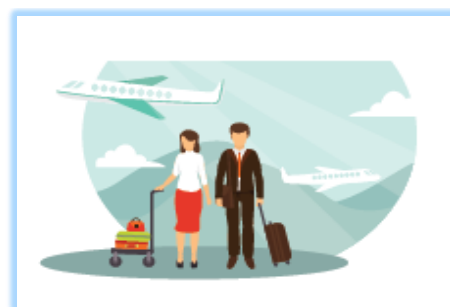
Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority  
[www.sltda.gov.lk](http://www.sltda.gov.lk)



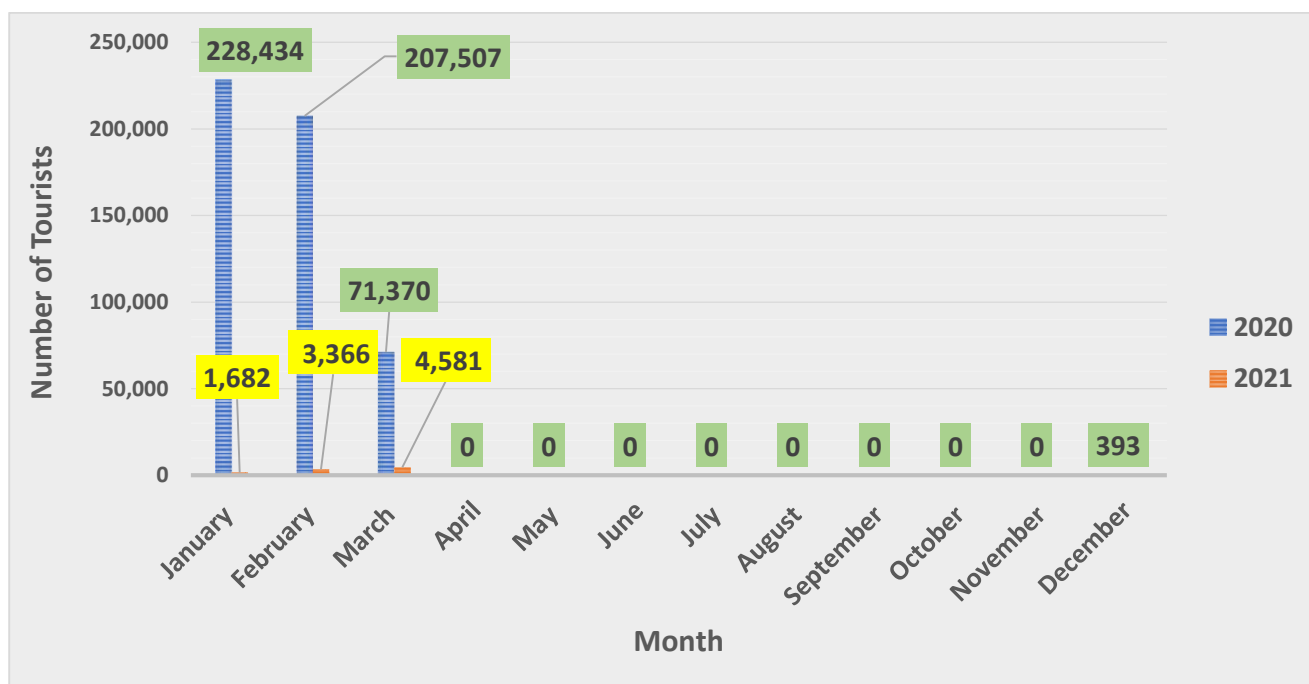
## SUMMARY

The total number of international tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka during March 2021 was 4,581. In comparison to March last year (2020), there was a decline of 93.6% when the arrivals were 71,370. As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, 9,629 of tourists has visited Sri Lanka for this year. It is a decline of 98.1% over last year when 507,311 tourists had visited the country during the same period. The figures reflect the unprecedented health, social and economic crisis caused by the the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The largest source markets recorded for the month of March was Kazakhstan, followed by the Germany, and United Kingdom.

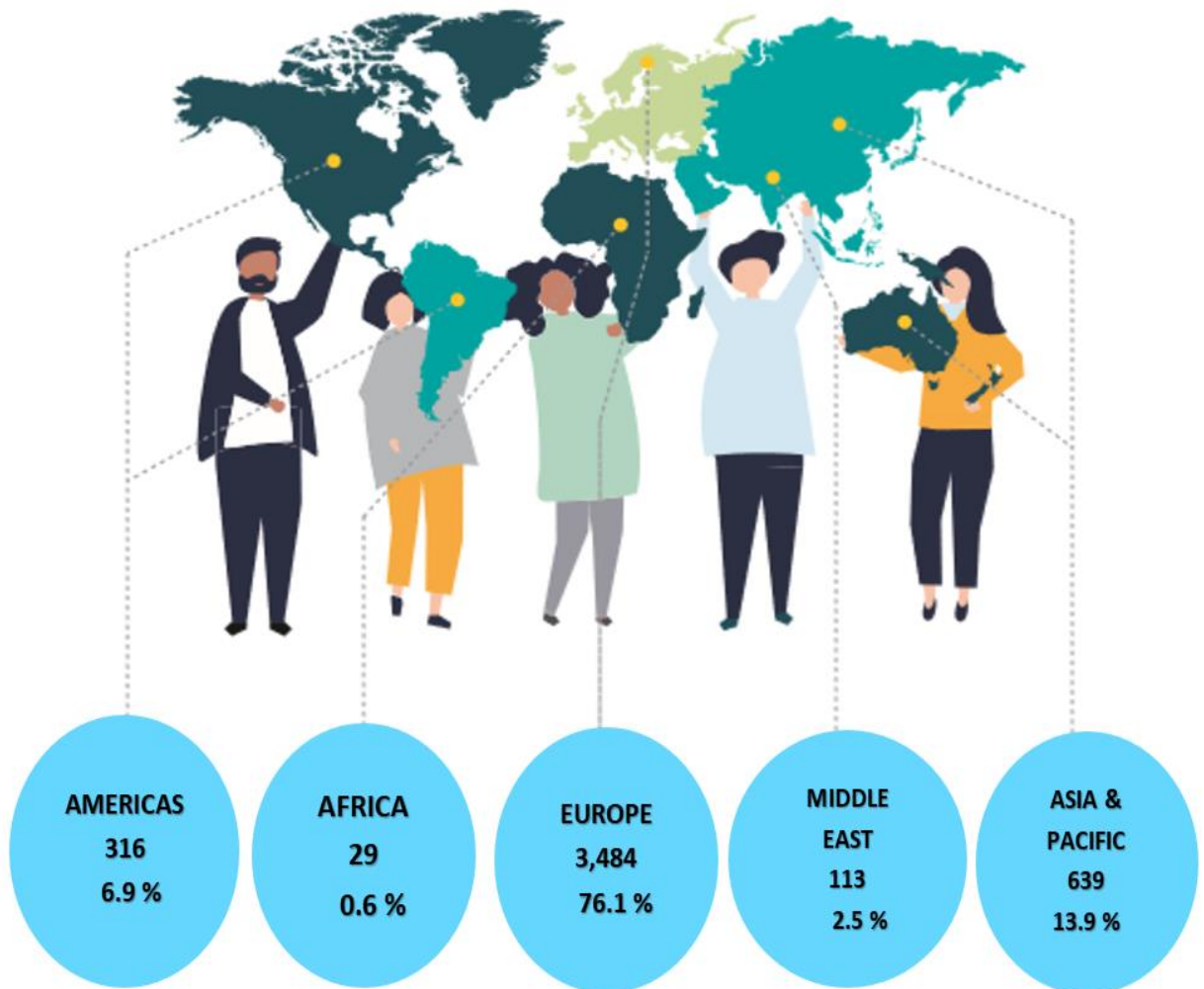
| Month                      | 2020           | 2021         | % change 2021/20 |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| January                    | 228,434        | 1,682        | (99.3)           |
| February                   | 207,507        | 3,366        | (98.4)           |
| March                      | 71,370         | 4,581        | (93.6)           |
| April                      | 0              | -            | -                |
| May                        | 0              | -            | -                |
| June                       | 0              | -            | -                |
| July                       | 0              | -            | -                |
| August                     | 0              | -            | -                |
| September                  | 0              | -            | -                |
| October                    | 0              | -            | -                |
| November                   | 0              | -            | -                |
| December                   | 393            | -            | -                |
| <b>Total (Jan ~ March)</b> | <b>507,311</b> | <b>9,629</b> | <b>(98.1)</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>               | <b>507,704</b> |              |                  |



**Tourist Arrivals – March**  
**4,581**



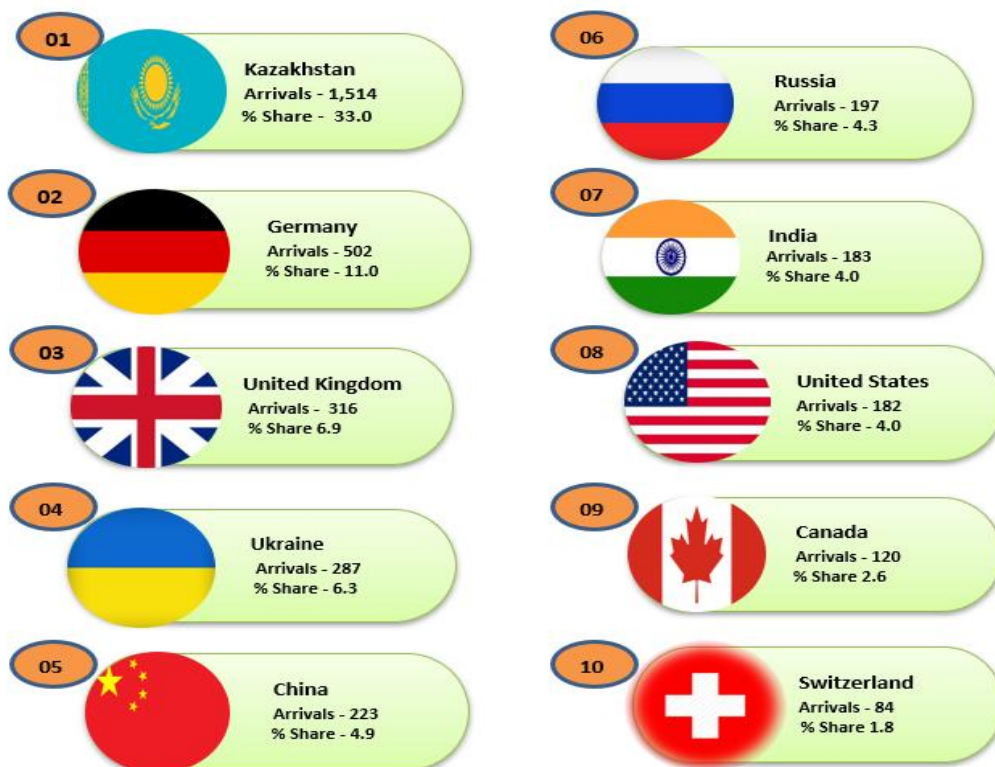
## TOURIST ARRIVALS BY REGION AND PERCENTAGE SHARE- MARCH 2021



Europe became the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 76.1% of the total traffic received in March 2021. Asia and Pacific accounted for 13.9% of the total traffic while Americas accounted for 6.9%. In comparison to March last year all regions have recorded a decline in arrivals. It is noteworthy that arrivals from Kazakhstan and Iran have recorded a growth in comparison to March 2020.

## TOP TEN SOURCE MARKETS –MARCH 2021

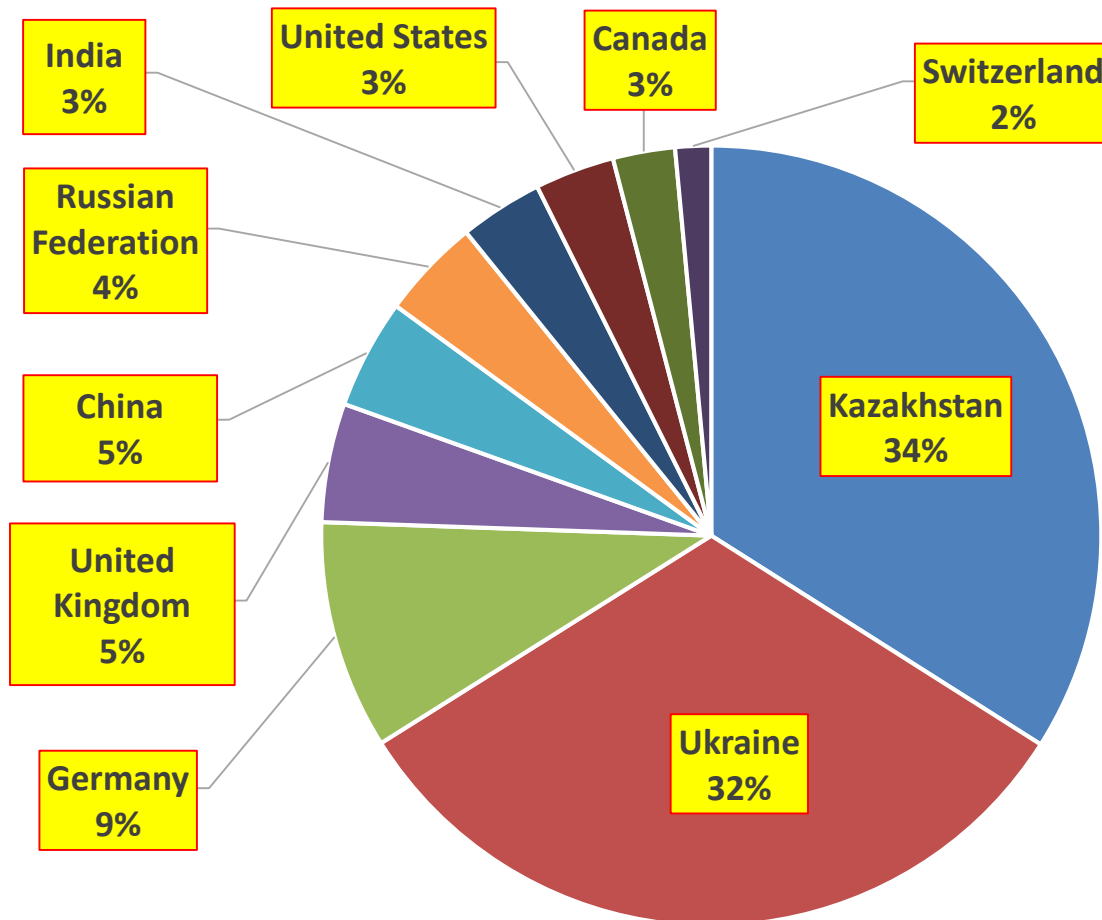
Kazakhstan, Germany, United Kingdom, Ukraine and China were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets in the month of March this year. Kazakhstan was the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 33 % of the total traffic received in above period. Germany accounted for 11% of the total traffic; while United Kingdom, Ukraine and China accounted for 6.9%, 6.3% and 4.9% respectively. The increased tourist arrivals from the Central and Eastern European countries could be partly owing to the pilot project carried out from 28th December 2020 by the Government of Sri Lanka. This has resulted in Kazakhstan and Ukraine moving in to the top positions of the main source markets. Further the presence of countries from the Americas, Western Europe and South Asiain regions among the top source markets indicates the gradual revitalisation of tourism industry in Sri Lanka.



| Rank | Country of Residence | Tourist Arrivals March 2021 |        |       | Tourist Arrivals March 2020 |
|------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------|-----------------------------|
|      |                      | By Air                      | By Sea | Total |                             |
| 1    | Kazakhstan           | 1,514                       | -      | 1,514 | 478                         |
| 2    | Germany              | 502                         | -      | 502   | 6,608                       |
| 3    | United Kingdom       | 316                         | -      | 316   | 7,969                       |
| 4    | Ukraine              | 287                         | -      | 287   | 2,155                       |
| 5    | China                | 223                         | -      | 223   | 1,688                       |
| 6    | Russian Federation   | 197                         | -      | 197   | 8,833                       |
| 7    | India                | 183                         | -      | 183   | 12,600                      |
| 8    | United States        | 182                         | -      | 182   | 1,545                       |
| 9    | Canada               | 120                         | -      | 120   | 1,444                       |
| 10   | Switzerland          | 84                          | -      | 84    | 957                         |

## TOP TEN SOURCE MARKETS – JANUARY TO MARCH - 2021

Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Germany, United Kingdom and China were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets from January to March this year. Kazakhstan was the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 34% of the total traffic received from January to March 2021 and it has recorded a growth of 17.7% compared to 2020 in terms of total arrivals for the consecutive months of January, February and March. Ukraine accounted for 32% of the total traffic; while Germany and China accounted for 9%, 5% (both) respectively.



| Rank | Country of Residence | Tourist Arrivals (Jan-March) 2021 | Tourist Arrivals (Jan - March) 2020 | % Change (Jan - Mar 2021 & Jan - Mar 2020) |
|------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1    | Kazakhstan           | 2,746                             | 2,333                               | 17.7                                       |
| 2    | Ukraine              | 2,592                             | 16,776                              | (84.5)                                     |
| 3    | Germany              | 766                               | 34,507                              | (97.8)                                     |
| 4    | United Kingdom       | 398                               | 55,455                              | (99.3)                                     |
| 5    | China                | 367                               | 26,147                              | (98.6)                                     |
| 6    | Russian Federation   | 336                               | 49,397                              | (99.3)                                     |
| 7    | India                | 279                               | 89,357                              | (99.7)                                     |
| 8    | United States        | 267                               | 16,842                              | (98.4)                                     |
| 9    | Canada               | 208                               | 12,436                              | (98.3)                                     |
| 10   | Switzerland          | 120                               | 6,389                               | (98.1)                                     |

## INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

|  | March 2021       |          |            | Total Tourist Arrivals March 2020 | % Change March (21/20) | Total Tourist Arrivals up to March 2021 | Total Tourist Arrivals up to March 2020 | % Change up to March 2021/20 |
|--|------------------|----------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|
|  | Tourist Arrivals |          |            |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
|  | By Air           | By Sea   | Total      |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
| <b>AMERICAS</b>                        | <b>316</b>       | <b>0</b> | <b>316</b> | <b>3,273</b>                      | <b>(90.3)</b>          | <b>502</b>                              | <b>31,843</b>                           | <b>(98.4)</b>                |
| <b>North America</b>                   | <b>304</b>       | <b>0</b> | <b>304</b> | <b>3,019</b>                      | <b>(89.9)</b>          | <b>480</b>                              | <b>29,627</b>                           | <b>(98.4)</b>                |
| Canada                                 | 120              | 0        | 120        | 1,444                             | (91.7)                 | 208                                     | 12,436                                  | (98.3)                       |
| Mexico                                 | 2                | 0        | 2          | 30                                | (93.3)                 | 5                                       | 349                                     | (98.6)                       |
| United States                          | 182              | 0        | 182        | 1,545                             | (88.2)                 | 267                                     | 16,842                                  | (98.4)                       |
|  |                  |          |            |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
| <b>Caribbean &amp; Central America</b> | <b>3</b>         | <b>0</b> | <b>3</b>   | <b>22</b>                         | <b>(86.4)</b>          | <b>7</b>                                | <b>226</b>                              | <b>(96.9)</b>                |
| Costa Rica                             | -                | -        | -          | -                                 | -                      | -                                       | 33                                      | -                            |
| Jamaica                                | 1                | 0        | 1          | -                                 | -                      | 1                                       | 25                                      | (96.0)                       |
| Others                                 | 2                | 0        | 2          | 22                                | (90.9)                 | 6                                       | 168                                     | (96.4)                       |
|  |                  |          |            |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
| <b>South America</b>                   | <b>9</b>         | <b>0</b> | <b>9</b>   | <b>232</b>                        | <b>(96.1)</b>          | <b>15</b>                               | <b>1,990</b>                            | <b>(99.2)</b>                |
| Argentina                              | -                | -        | -          | 52                                | -                      | -                                       | 416                                     | -                            |
| Brazil                                 | 3                | 0        | 3          | 71                                | (95.8)                 | 6                                       | 875                                     | (99.3)                       |
| Chile                                  | -                | -        | -          | 26                                | -                      | 1                                       | 271                                     | (99.6)                       |
| Colombia                               | 3                | 0        | 3          | 41                                | (92.7)                 | 5                                       | 201                                     | (97.5)                       |
| Others                                 | 3                | 0        | 3          | 42                                | (92.9)                 | 3                                       | 227                                     | (98.7)                       |
|  |                  |          |            |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
| <b>AFRICA</b>                          | <b>29</b>        | <b>0</b> | <b>29</b>  | <b>373</b>                        | <b>(92.2)</b>          | <b>35</b>                               | <b>2,880</b>                            | <b>(98.8)</b>                |
| <b>North Africa</b>                    | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b>   | <b>120</b>                        | <b>-</b>               | <b>2</b>                                | <b>689</b>                              | <b>(99.7)</b>                |
| Morocco                                | -                | -        | -          | 50                                | -                      | 1                                       | 311                                     | (99.7)                       |
| Sudan                                  | -                | -        | -          | 36                                | -                      | 1                                       | 143                                     | (99.3)                       |
| Others                                 | -                | -        | -          | 34                                | -                      | -                                       | 235                                     | -                            |
|  |                  |          |            |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
| <b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>              | <b>29</b>        | <b>0</b> | <b>29</b>  | <b>253</b>                        | <b>(88.5)</b>          | <b>33</b>                               | <b>2,191</b>                            | <b>(98.5)</b>                |
| Kenya                                  | 1                | 0        | 1          | 15                                | (93.3)                 | 1                                       | 110                                     | (99.1)                       |
| Mauritius                              | 2                | 0        | 2          | 19                                | (89.5)                 | 3                                       | 170                                     | (98.2)                       |
| Nigeria                                | -                | -        | -          | -                                 | -                      | -                                       | 25                                      | -                            |
| South Africa                           | 23               | 0        | 23         | 134                               | (82.8)                 | 24                                      | 1,364                                   | (98.2)                       |
| Others                                 | 3                | 0        | 3          | 85                                | (96.5)                 | 5                                       | 522                                     | (99.0)                       |

|                           | March 2021       |          |            | Total Tourist Arrivals March 2020 | % Change March (21/20) | Total Tourist Arrivals up to March 2021 | Total Tourist Arrivals up to March 2020 | % Change up to March 2021/20 |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|
|                           | Tourist Arrivals |          |            |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
|                           | By Air           | By Sea   | Total      |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
| <b>ASIA &amp; PACIFIC</b> | <b>639</b>       | <b>0</b> | <b>639</b> | <b>24,299</b>                     | <b>(97.4)</b>          | <b>1,020</b>                            | <b>181,154</b>                          | <b>(99.4)</b>                |
| <b>North East Asia</b>    | <b>245</b>       | <b>0</b> | <b>245</b> | <b>2,600</b>                      | <b>(90.6)</b>          | <b>404</b>                              | <b>37,320</b>                           | <b>(98.9)</b>                |
| China                     | 223              | 0        | 223        | 1,688                             | (86.8)                 | 367                                     | 26,147                                  | (98.6)                       |
| Japan                     | 12               | 0        | 12         | 712                               | (98.3)                 | 22                                      | 6,644                                   | (99.7)                       |
| South Korea               | 7                | 0        | 7          | 87                                | (92.0)                 | 12                                      | 2,499                                   | (99.5)                       |
| Taiwan                    | 3                | 0        | 3          | 109                               | (97.2)                 | 3                                       | 1,985                                   | (99.8)                       |
| Others                    | -                | -        | -          | 4                                 | -                      | -                                       | 45                                      | -                            |
|                           |                  |          |            |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
| <b>South East Asia</b>    | <b>31</b>        | <b>0</b> | <b>31</b>  | <b>3,028</b>                      | <b>(99.0)</b>          | <b>72</b>                               | <b>14,927</b>                           | <b>(99.5)</b>                |
| Cambodia                  | 1                | 0        | 1          | 74                                | (98.6)                 | 1                                       | 372                                     | (99.7)                       |
| Indonesia                 | 3                | 0        | 3          | 198                               | (98.5)                 | 11                                      | 1,114                                   | (99.0)                       |
| Malaysia                  | 3                | 0        | 3          | 695                               | (99.6)                 | 7                                       | 3,494                                   | (99.8)                       |
| Myanmar                   | 1                | 0        | 1          | 128                               | (99.2)                 | 6                                       | 532                                     | (98.9)                       |
| Philippines               | 8                | 0        | 8          | 1,160                             | (99.3)                 | 29                                      | 4,249                                   | (99.3)                       |
| Singapore                 | 4                | 0        | 4          | 453                               | (99.1)                 | 5                                       | 2,545                                   | (99.8)                       |
| Thailand                  | 6                | 0        | 6          | 217                               | (97.2)                 | 8                                       | 1,880                                   | (99.6)                       |
| Vietnam                   | 5                | 0        | 5          | 97                                | (94.8)                 | 5                                       | 709                                     | (99.3)                       |
| Others                    | -                | -        | -          | 6                                 | -                      | -                                       | 32                                      | -                            |
|                           |                  |          |            |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
| <b>Oceania</b>            | <b>36</b>        | <b>0</b> | <b>36</b>  | <b>2,895</b>                      | <b>(98.8)</b>          | <b>71</b>                               | <b>22,706</b>                           | <b>(99.7)</b>                |
| Australia                 | 29               | 0        | 29         | 2,590                             | (98.9)                 | 56                                      | 20,283                                  | (99.7)                       |
| New Zealand               | 7                | 0        | 7          | 302                               | (97.7)                 | 15                                      | 2,342                                   | (99.4)                       |
| Others                    | -                | -        | -          | 3                                 | -                      | -                                       | 99                                      | -                            |
|                           |                  |          |            |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
| <b>South Asia</b>         | <b>327</b>       | <b>0</b> | <b>327</b> | <b>15,776</b>                     | <b>(97.9)</b>          | <b>473</b>                              | <b>106,201</b>                          | <b>(99.6)</b>                |
| Afghanistan               | 1                | 0        | 1          | 17                                | (94.1)                 | 1                                       | 146                                     | (99.3)                       |
| Bangladesh                | 3                | 0        | 3          | 212                               | (98.6)                 | 9                                       | 1,986                                   | (99.5)                       |
| Bhutan                    | 1                | 0        | 1          | 2                                 | (50.0)                 | 1                                       | 208                                     | (99.5)                       |
| India                     | 183              | 0        | 183        | 12,600                            | (98.5)                 | 279                                     | 89,357                                  | (99.7)                       |
| Iran                      | 65               | 0        | 65         | 25                                | 160.0                  | 65                                      | 648                                     | (68.8)                       |
| Maldives                  | 56               | 0        | 56         | 2,183                             | (97.4)                 | 86                                      | 9,407                                   | (99.1)                       |
| Nepal                     | 1                | 0        | 1          | 235                               | (99.6)                 | 2                                       | 1,384                                   | (99.9)                       |
| Pakistan                  | 17               | 0        | 17         | 502                               | (96.6)                 | 30                                      | 3,065                                   | (99.0)                       |

|                                 | March 2021       |          |              | Total Tourist Arrivals March 2020 | % Change March (21/20) | Total Tourist Arrivals up to March 2021 | Total Tourist Arrivals up to March 2020 | % Change up to March 2021/20 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|
|                                 | Tourist Arrivals |          |              |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
|                                 | By Air           | By Sea   | Total        |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
| <b>EUROPE</b>                   | <b>3,484</b>     | <b>0</b> | <b>3,484</b> | <b>42,804</b>                     | <b>(93.3)</b>          | <b>7,945</b>                            | <b>281,203</b>                          | <b>(97.2)</b>                |
| <b>Northern Eur.</b>            | <b>403</b>       | <b>0</b> | <b>403</b>   | <b>10,099</b>                     | <b>(96.0)</b>          | <b>539</b>                              | <b>75,146</b>                           | <b>(99.3)</b>                |
| Denmark                         | 21               | 0        | 21           | 506                               | (95.8)                 | 32                                      | 4,905                                   | (99.3)                       |
| Finland                         | 7                | 0        | 7            | 275                               | (97.5)                 | 9                                       | 2,298                                   | (99.6)                       |
| Norway                          | 21               | 0        | 21           | 336                               | (93.8)                 | 35                                      | 3,019                                   | (98.8)                       |
| Sweden                          | 22               | 0        | 22           | 723                               | (97.0)                 | 31                                      | 7,061                                   | (99.6)                       |
| United Kingdom                  | 316              | 0        | 316          | 7,969                             | (96.0)                 | 398                                     | 55,455                                  | (99.3)                       |
| Others                          | 16               | 0        | 16           | 290                               | (94.5)                 | 34                                      | 2,408                                   | (98.6)                       |
|                                 |                  |          |              |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
| <b>Western Eur.</b>             | <b>743</b>       | <b>0</b> | <b>743</b>   | <b>14,235</b>                     | <b>(94.8)</b>          | <b>1,159</b>                            | <b>82,229</b>                           | <b>(98.6)</b>                |
| Austria                         | 38               | 0        | 38           | 602                               | (93.7)                 | 62                                      | 4,300                                   | (98.6)                       |
| Belgium                         | 9                | 0        | 9            | 628                               | (98.6)                 | 16                                      | 3,371                                   | (99.5)                       |
| France                          | 72               | 0        | 72           | 4,056                             | (98.2)                 | 116                                     | 24,838                                  | (99.5)                       |
| Germany                         | 502              | 0        | 502          | 6,608                             | (92.4)                 | 766                                     | 34,507                                  | (97.8)                       |
| Netherlands                     | 35               | 0        | 35           | 1,355                             | (97.4)                 | 74                                      | 8,656                                   | (99.1)                       |
| Switzerland                     | 84               | 0        | 84           | 957                               | (91.2)                 | 120                                     | 6,389                                   | (98.1)                       |
| Others                          | 3                | 0        | 3            | 29                                | (89.7)                 | 5                                       | 168                                     | (97.0)                       |
|                                 |                  |          |              |                                   |                        |   |   |                              |
| <b>Central / Eastern Europe</b> | <b>2,217</b>     | <b>0</b> | <b>2,217</b> | <b>16,170</b>                     | <b>(86.3)</b>          | <b>6,064</b>                            | <b>100,373</b>                          | <b>(94.0)</b>                |
| Belarus                         | 23               | 0        | 23           | 438                               | (94.7)                 | 67                                      | 2,638                                   | (97.5)                       |
| Czech Republic                  | 52               | 0        | 52           | 1,280                             | (95.9)                 | 69                                      | 7,599                                   | (99.1)                       |
| Estonia                         | 8                | 0        | 8            | 140                               | (94.3)                 | 11                                      | 1,185                                   | (99.1)                       |
| Hungary                         | 6                | 0        | 6            | 175                               | (96.6)                 | 12                                      | 1,588                                   | (99.2)                       |
| Kazakhstan                      | 1,514            | 0        | 1,514        | 478                               | 216.7                  | 2,746                                   | 2,333                                   | 17.7                         |
| Lithuania                       | 11               | 0        | 11           | 143                               | (92.3)                 | 16                                      | 1,054                                   | (98.5)                       |
| Poland                          | 45               | 0        | 45           | 1,638                             | (97.3)                 | 56                                      | 11,908                                  | (99.5)                       |
| Romania                         | 4                | 0        | 4            | 246                               | (98.4)                 | 6                                       | 1,724                                   | (99.7)                       |
| Russian Federation              | 197              | 0        | 197          | 8,833                             | (97.8)                 | 336                                     | 49,397                                  | (99.3)                       |
| Slovakia                        | 26               | 0        | 26           | 244                               | (89.3)                 | 40                                      | 1,513                                   | (97.4)                       |
| Ukraine                         | 287              | 0        | 287          | 2,155                             | (86.7)                 | 2,592                                   | 16,776                                  | (84.5)                       |
| Others                          | 44               | 0        | 44           | 400                               | (89.0)                 | 113                                     | 2,658                                   | (95.7)                       |



|  | March 2021       |          |              | Total Tourist Arrivals March 2020 | % Change March (21/20) | Total Tourist Arrivals up to March 2021 | Total Tourist Arrivals up to March 2020 | % Change up to March 2020 |
|--|------------------|----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|
|  | Tourist Arrivals |          |              |                                   |                        |   |   |                           |
|  | By Air           | By Sea   | Total        |                                   |                        |   |   |                           |
| <b>Southern / Mediterranean Europe</b> | <b>121</b>       | <b>0</b> | <b>121</b>   | <b>2,300</b>                      | <b>(94.7)</b>          | <b>183</b>                              | <b>23,455</b>                           | <b>(99.2)</b>             |
| Greece                                 | 3                | 0        | 3            | 357                               | (99.2)                 | 4                                       | 1,573                                   | (99.7)                    |
| Italy                                  | 34               | 0        | 34           | 406                               | (91.6)                 | 59                                      | 8,603                                   | (99.3)                    |
| Portugal                               | 4                | 0        | 4            | 184                               | (97.8)                 | 8                                       | 1,602                                   | (99.5)                    |
| Spain                                  | 36               | 0        | 36           | 496                               | (92.7)                 | 54                                      | 3,385                                   | (98.4)                    |
| Turkey                                 | 15               | 0        | 15           | 163                               | (90.8)                 | 19                                      | 2,121                                   | (99.1)                    |
| Israel                                 | 14               | 0        | 14           | 329                               | (95.7)                 | 15                                      | 3,556                                   | (99.6)                    |
| Others                                 | 15               | 0        | 15           | 365                               | (95.9)                 | 24                                      | 2,615                                   | (99.1)                    |
|  |                  |          |              |                                   |                        |   |   |                           |
| <b>MIDDLE EAST</b>                     | <b>113</b>       | <b>0</b> | <b>113</b>   | <b>621</b>                        | <b>(81.8)</b>          | <b>127</b>                              | <b>10,231</b>                           | <b>(98.8)</b>             |
| Bahrain                                | 8                | 0        | 8            | 14                                | (42.9)                 | 8                                       | 549                                     | (98.5)                    |
| Egypt                                  | 9                | 0        | 9            | 152                               | (94.1)                 | 12                                      | 956                                     | (98.7)                    |
| Iraq                                   | 3                | 0        | 3            | 15                                | (80.0)                 | 3                                       | 138                                     | (97.8)                    |
| Jordan                                 | 34               | 0        | 34           | 60                                | (43.3)                 | 38                                      | 627                                     | (93.9)                    |
| Kuwait                                 | 3                | 0        | 3            | 34                                | (91.2)                 | 3                                       | 825                                     | (99.6)                    |
| Lebanon                                | 48               | 0        | 48           | 48                                | 0.0                    | 54                                      | 483                                     | (88.8)                    |
| Oman                                   | 1                | 0        | 1            | 48                                | (97.9)                 | 1                                       | 1,045                                   | (99.9)                    |
| Qatar                                  | -                | -        | -            | 7                                 | -                      | 1                                       | 129                                     | (99.2)                    |
| Saudi Arabia                           | 1                | 0        | 1            | 179                               | (99.4)                 | 1                                       | 4,755                                   | -                         |
| United Arab Emirates                   | 4                | 0        | 4            | 30                                | (86.7)                 | 4                                       | 352                                     | (98.9)                    |
| Others                                 | 2                | 0        | 2            | 34                                | (94.1)                 | 2                                       | 372                                     | (99.5)                    |
|  |                  |          |              |                                   |                        |   |   |                           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>4,581</b>     | <b>0</b> | <b>4,581</b> | <b>71,370</b>                     | <b>(93.6)</b>          | <b>9,629</b>                            | <b>507,311</b>                          | <b>(98.1)</b>             |

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