



# MONTHLY TOURIST ARRIVALS REPORT:

A MONTHLY SNAPSHOT OF INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS TO  
SRI LANKA FROM IMMIGRATION STATISTICS

**MAY 2024**

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## **Introduction**

The following document provides a synthesis of the most recent May, 2024 international visitor arrivals data sourced from the Department of Immigration & Emigration. The data is current as of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024, and subject to change. The data provides an overview of month-on-month and annual changes in visitor arrivals to Sri Lanka from international source markets. The data is meant to provide an overview of how travel and tourism is performing to Sri Lanka.

This report is developed by the Research & International Relations Division at Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA). Questions, comments and feedback are welcome and will support the future amendment and enhancement of the report to ensure it meets the data and insights needs of Sri Lanka's Government and industry stakeholders.



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# Summary

In May, tourist arrivals declined to 112,128, marking the lowest number of visitors this year and representing a 24.6% drop compared to April. These numbers are still below April 2018's figure of 129,466 and the conservative forecast of 120,934. Total arrivals up to April reached 896,799.

Sri Lanka's key source markets in May included India, the United Kingdom, Maldives, China and Germany, with significant increases in visitors from these countries contributing to the growth of the tourism sector.

According to the latest UNWTO Barometer, the prospects for international tourism from May to August 2024 are generally positive, with a strong recovery anticipated. However, several factors continue to weigh on the recovery of international tourism. These include persistent economic challenges, such as inflation and high fuel prices, as well as geopolitical uncertainties. Additionally, the travel restrictions including visa requirements, low consumer confidence and COVID 19 related issues also play significant roles in influencing recovery trajectories.

Table 1. Monthly tourist arrivals, May 2024

Month	2023	2024	% Change 2024/23
January	102,545	208,253	103.08
February	107,639	218,350	102.09
March	125,495	209,181	66.7
April	105,498	148,867	41.1
May	83,309	112,128	34.6
June	100,388		
July	143,039		
August	136,405		
September	111,938		
October	109,199		
November	151,496		
December	210,352		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,487,303</b>	<b>896,799</b>	



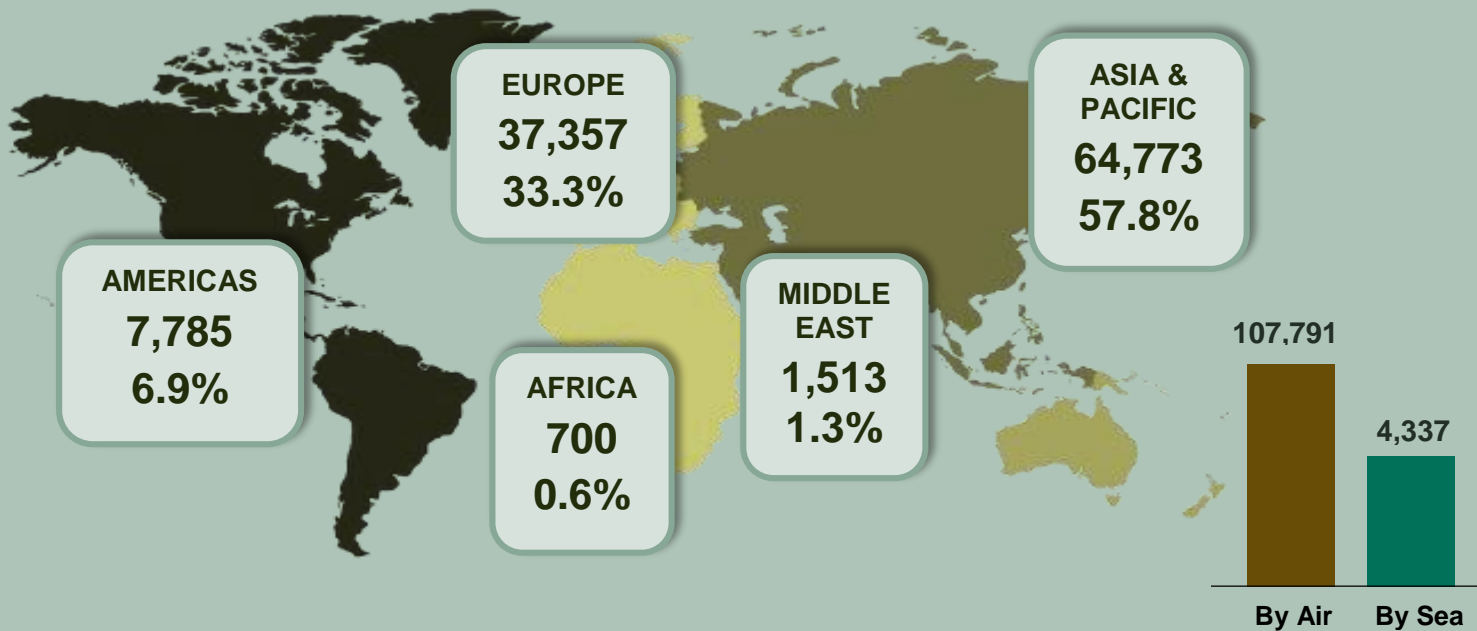
Tourist Arrivals | May 2024

# 112,128



## Tourist arrivals by region and percentage share May 2024

Map 1. Tourist arrivals by region and percentage share



Europe has had a significant impact on Sri Lanka's tourism, accounting for 33.3% of total arrivals. Meanwhile, Asia and the Pacific have become major contributors, representing 57.8% of visitors. This change underscores the evolving dynamics of Sri Lanka's tourism industry, with both Europe and the Asia-Pacific region playing key roles.

The rise in tourism is attributable to increasing demand from India, the UK, Maldives, China, and Germany, which have bolstered Sri Lanka's tourism sector. The Americas made up 6.9% of arrivals, while the Middle East and Africa contributed 1.3% and 0.6%, respectively, shaping Sri Lanka's unique tourism profile.



## Top primary markets and top potential markets

### Top primary markets, May 2024



Note: The top primary markets for Sri Lanka have been identified using visitor arrivals. The previous methodology used to identify the markets was altered due to the current arrival trends in the source markets and the socio economic factors in Sri Lanka. The intention is to track these source markets on a go-forward basis to understand future performance of Sri Lanka's tourism economy, including during the projected international tourism recovery period, 2022-2025.



### Top potential markets, May 2024



Note: The top potential markets for Sri Lanka have been identified using visitor arrivals data. The previous methodology used to identify the markets was altered due to the current arrival trends in the source markets and the socio economic factors in Sri Lanka. The intention is to track these source markets on a go-forward basis to understand future performance of Sri Lanka’s tourism economy, including during the projected international tourism recovery period, 2022-2025.





# Top ten source markets

## May 2024

In May, India was the leading source of tourists to Sri Lanka, accounting for 28.8% of total arrivals. The UK and Maldives followed at 7.2% each, while China and Germany contributed 6.7% each. These figures reflect changing travel preferences. Notably, there was an increase in arrivals from the Maldives compared to the previous year, suggesting a shift towards emerging destinations. The decline in Russian tourist arrivals compared to May last year may be due to changes in their travel season or a preference for other destinations. Additionally, the decrease in Canadian tourist arrivals could be attributed to fewer visits for the purpose of visiting friends and relatives.

The combined influence of improved air connections, favorable local conditions, geographical proximity, and geopolitical circumstances has significantly enhanced the importance of these countries as major contributors to Sri Lanka's tourism sector.

Chart 1. Top ten source markets to Sri Lanka, May 2024

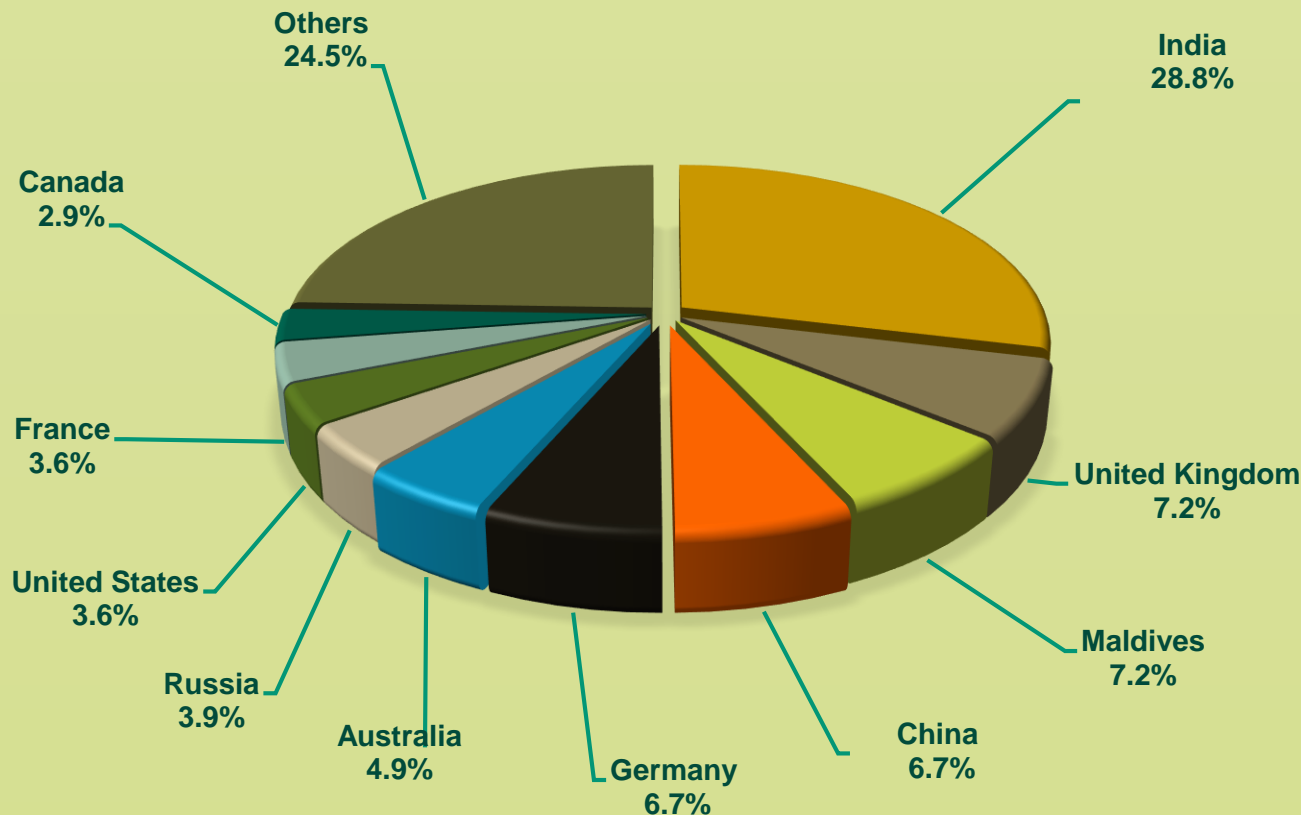


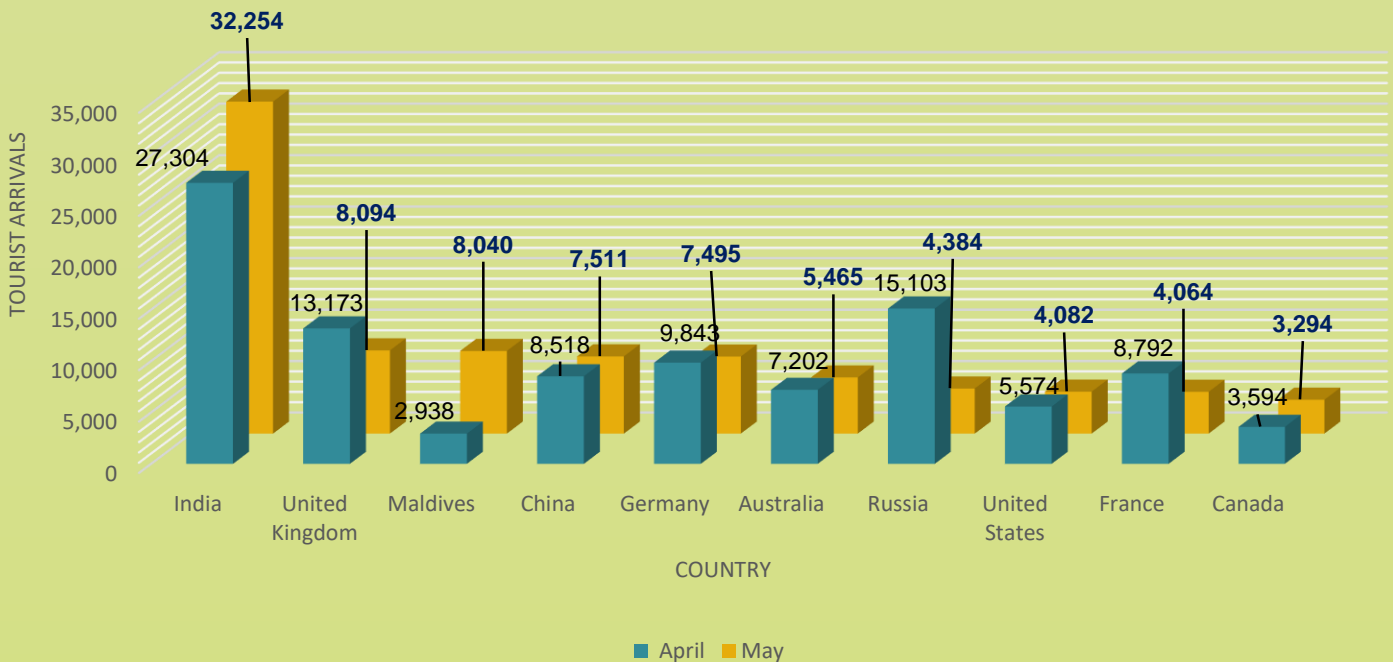




Table 2. Top ten source markets to Sri Lanka, May

Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals (May 2024)			Tourist Arrivals (May 2023)
		By Air	By Sea	Total	
1	India	32,251	3	32,254	23,016
2	United Kingdom	7,942	152	8,094	5,987
3	Maldives	8,040	0	8,040	2,438
4	China	7,507	4	7,511	4,173
5	Germany	5,182	2,313	7,495	6,854
6	Australia	5,299	166	5,465	4,201
7	Russian Federation	4,381	3	4,384	7,760
8	United States	2,970	1,112	4,082	3,240
9	France	4,058	6	4,064	2,414
10	Canada	3,086	208	3,294	3,753

Chart 2: Comparison of arrivals from top ten markets to Sri Lanka, April / May 2024





# Top ten source markets

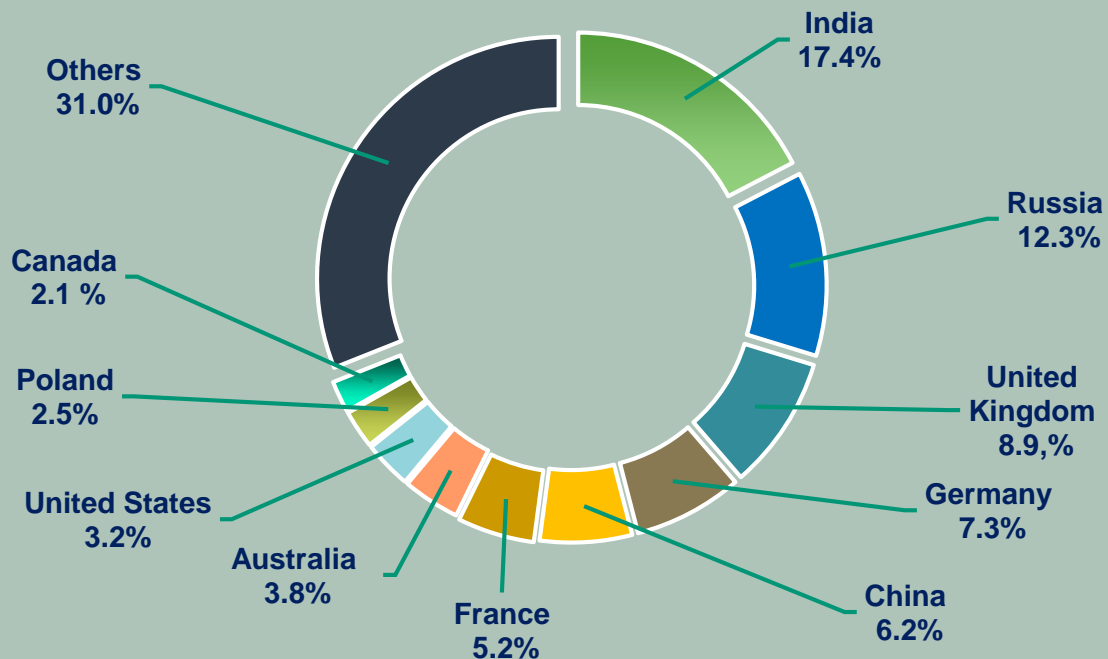
## January to May 2024

In the first five months of this year, Sri Lanka saw a significant influx of tourists from India, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, Germany, and China, establishing these countries as the top five international tourist markets. Notably, there was a substantial increase in arrivals from China and Poland during this period. It is worth mentioning that among these countries, Canada and the Russian Federation showed the least growth in tourist arrivals compared to others during this timeframe.

**Table 3. Top ten markets to Sri Lanka, January to May 2024**

Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals (Jan ~ May 2024)	Tourist Arrivals (Jan ~ May 2023)
1	India	155,837	89,363
2	Russian Federation	110,692	102,307
3	United Kingdom	80,086	42,841
4	Germany	65,514	40,107
5	China	55,241	14,757
6	France	46,238	24,693
7	Australia	34,429	20,703
8	United States	28,694	17,960
9	Poland	22,849	5,639
10	Canada	18,960	17,917
11	Other	278,259	148,199
<b>Total</b>		<b>896,799</b>	<b>524,486</b>

**Chart 3. Top ten source markets to Sri Lanka, January to May 2024**





# Tourist arrivals by purpose of visit

## May 2024

An in-depth analysis of why tourists choose Sri Lanka as their destination highlights several travel motivations. The leading reason, comprising 13% of all visits, is for leisure and vacation, emphasizing the country's appeal as a leisure destination. Moreover, 2% of travelers visit to reunite with friends and family, demonstrating Sri Lanka's capacity to draw individuals seeking personal connections.

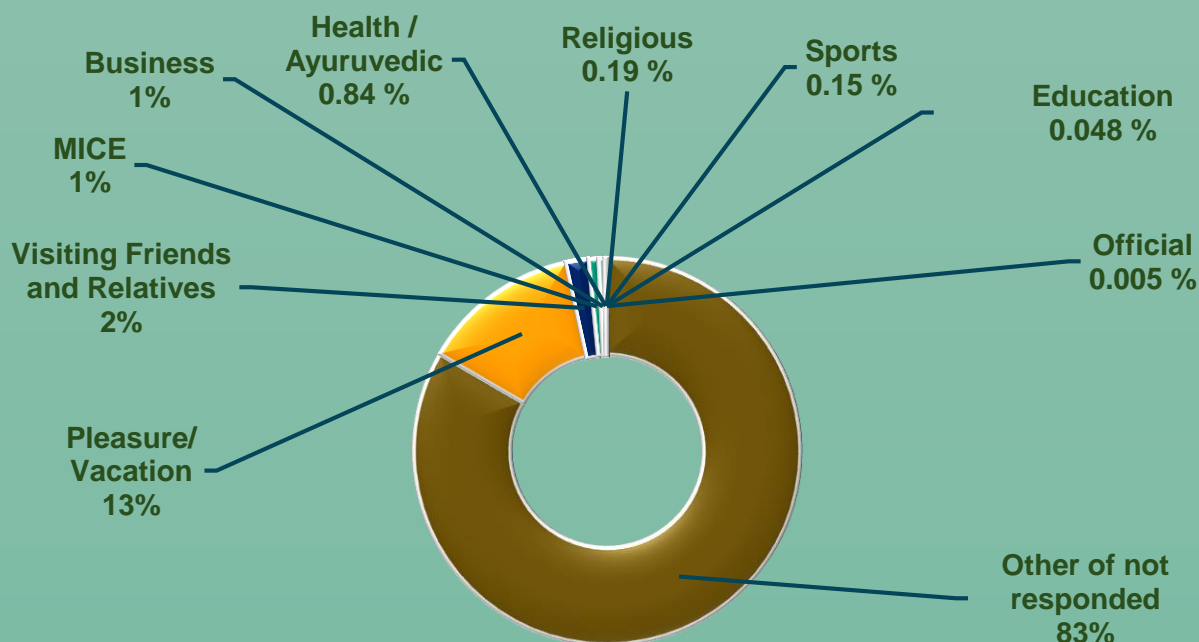
In contrast, only 1% of visits are for business purposes, indicating a limited emphasis on professional activities. Additionally, 1% of travelers come for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) events, highlighting Sri Lanka's rising status as a corporate event destination. Niche interests are evident as well, with 0.8% of travelers seeking health/Ayurvedic experiences and 0.19% visiting for religious purposes.

In May, leisure and vacation were the main reasons travelers from major source markets chose Sri Lanka as their destination. Notably, a large proportion of tourists from all key markets, except Canada, visited Sri Lanka for leisure, reinforcing its reputation as a place for relaxation and enjoyable experiences.

In May, the appeal of visiting friends and relatives in Sri Lanka declined, as seen in the reduced interest among tourists. Specifically, 4.2% of Australian visitors, 13.5% of Canadian travelers, and 3.6% of British tourists chose to connect with friends and family during their trips.

Additionally, 1.7% of German tourists visited Sri Lanka for health-related services, highlighting the diverse motivations driving tourism to the country.

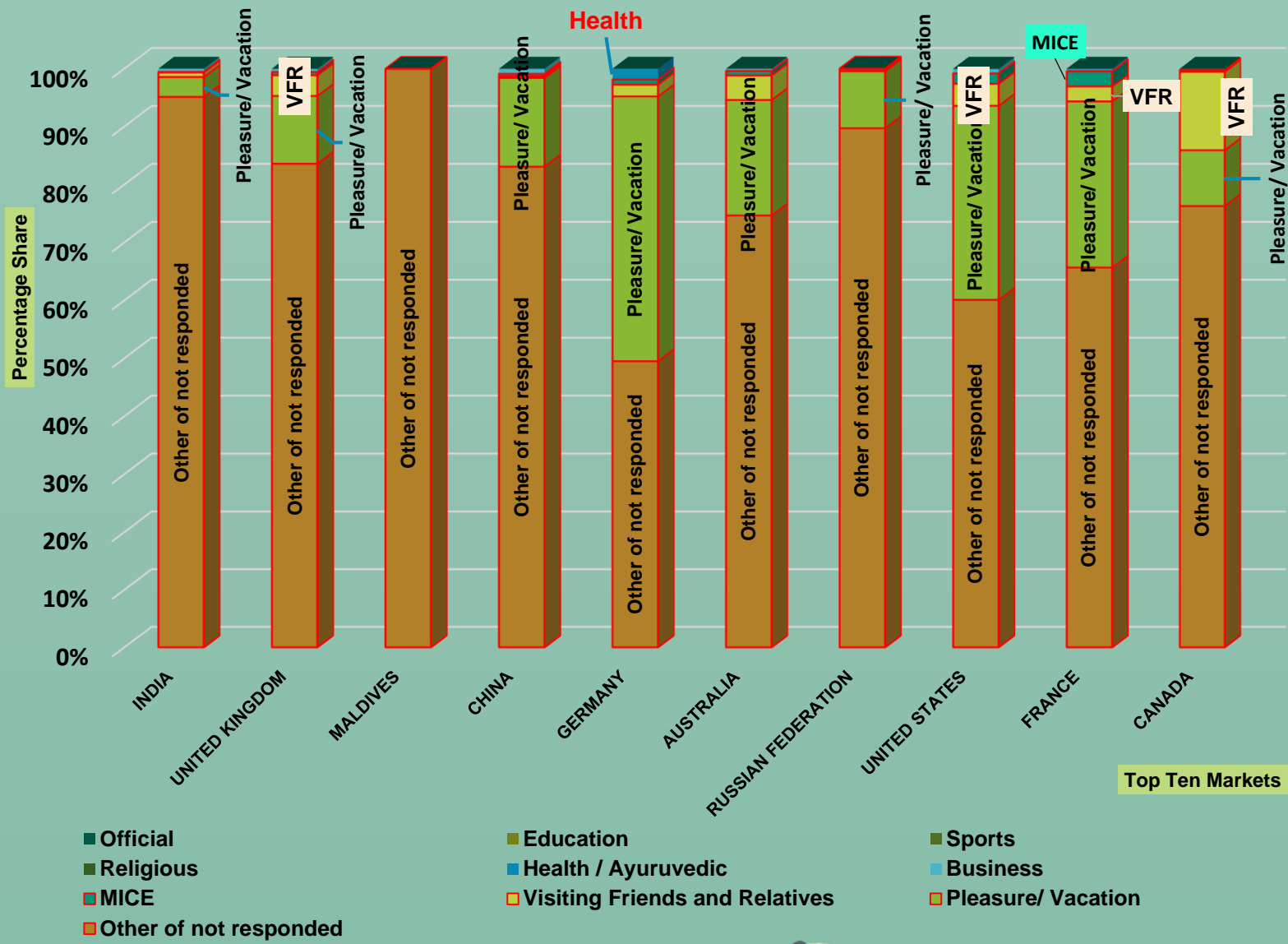
### Chart 4: Purpose of visit



The significant number of tourists categorized as "other" or "not responded" is a result of the lack of classification for the purpose of visit in the recently introduced visa categories. This also include tourists who had visited for other purposes also.



Chart 5: Purpose of visit vs main source markets







## Travel and Tourism Development Index and Sri Lanka

Introduced in 2022, the Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) evaluates and benchmarks the factors and policies that promote the sustainable and resilient growth of the Travel & Tourism (T&T) sector, contributing to national development. Evolving from the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), which has been published biennially since 2007, the TTDI provides valuable insights for policy-makers, companies, and stakeholders. It highlights the strengths and areas for improvement in T&T economies by examining the interconnected internal and external factors that drive this multifaceted sector.

Additionally, the TTDI aims to offer context and promote multistakeholder dialogue, helping stakeholders understand emerging trends and risks in global travel and tourism. This guidance supports policy formulation, operational practices, and investment strategies, ensuring the index remains relevant to the evolving global landscape. The index consists of five dimensions, 17 pillars, and 102 individual indicators, each allocated to different pillars.

Tourism in Sri Lanka has evolved significantly over the decades, becoming a vital component of the country's post-war economic development. After the civil war ended in 2009, Sri Lanka experienced unprecedented growth in tourist arrivals, with an impressive annual growth rate. This growth has been driven by the country's rich cultural heritage, diverse wildlife, and scenic landscapes, which include pristine beaches, wildlife parks, ancient ruins, and tea plantations. The tourism sector's development has been supported by government initiatives, including the establishment of a systematic and planned approach to tourism in 1966. Key attractions such as Yala National Park, Sigiriya Rock Fortress, and the central highlands' tea plantations highlight the country's natural and cultural diversity. These efforts have positioned tourism as a significant driver of employment and foreign exchange earnings in Sri Lanka.

In the latest Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) report for 2024, Sri Lanka is ranked 76th. This ranking reflects the country's performance across various pillars such as business environment, safety and security, health and hygiene, human resources, and travel infrastructure. The TTDI measures the set of factors and policies that enable the sustainable and resilient development of the Travel & Tourism sector, which are critical for the overall economic health and competitiveness of the tourism industry.

Comparison of ranks for Sri Lanka reveals that it has gradually come down in its position from 64th in 2017 to 77th in 2019, 74 in 2021 and 76 in 2024. This indicates a persistent challenge in improving the key determinants of tourism development, despite the country's rich natural and cultural resources.

When compared to other countries in the South Asian region, Sri Lanka's ranking indicates it is lagging behind several of its neighbors. Countries such as India (39th), Indonesia (22nd), Malaysia (35th), Thailand (47th) and Vietnam (59th) typically rank higher due to their more developed tourism infrastructure and stronger policy frameworks supporting tourism. They have scored in the areas such as Prioritization of travel and tourism, price competitiveness, ICT readiness, Natural, cultural and non-leisure resources and on-air transport and infrastructure. The regional results show that Europe and Asia-Pacific regions continue to outperform, highlighting the need for Sri Lanka to adopt more robust and effective tourism policies to climb the rankings.

Several factors contribute to Sri Lanka's current ranking, including infrastructure challenges, Cultural resources, and non-cultural resources issues. Addressing these areas through targeted policy measures and investments is crucial for improving the country's standing in future editions of the TTDI.



In the Travel and Tourism Index 2024, Sri Lanka exhibits strengths in safety and security (5.21), health and hygiene (4.66), ICT readiness (4.43), prioritization of travel and tourism (4.78), price competitiveness (5.69), and travel and tourism socio-economic impact (5.84). These metrics indicate the country's effective policies, and favorable conditions for tourists. Sri Lanka's high scores in safety, health, and ICT readiness signify a secure and well-prepared environment for travelers, while its prioritization of tourism highlights the government's commitment to the sector's development. Moreover, its competitive pricing and positive socio-economic impact further enhance its attractiveness to tourists. These strengths position Sri Lanka as an appealing destination for travelers seeking safety, affordability, and a positive socio-economic experience. Leveraging these strengths can help Sri Lanka sustain its growth momentum and enhance its standing in the global tourism landscape.

According to the Travel and Tourism Index, Sri Lanka faces challenges in areas like cultural resources (1.44), non-leisure resources (1.61), and tourist services and infrastructure (1.58). Therefore, it's essential for Sri Lanka to leverage its abundant cultural resources and enhance its tourist services and infrastructure. By doing so, the country can fully utilize these resources to drive the development of the tourism industry.

To elaborate, focusing on cultural assets such as historical sites, traditions, and local heritage can enrich tourists' experiences and attract more visitors. Additionally, improving tourist services like accommodation, transportation, and attractions can enhance satisfaction levels and encourage repeat visits. Investing in infrastructure development, including better roads, airports, and communication networks, can further support tourism growth by facilitating easier access to destinations and ensuring a smoother travel experience.

By addressing these areas of improvement, Sri Lanka can enhance its competitiveness in the global tourism market, attract more tourists, and ultimately foster sustainable growth and development in the tourism sector.

In summary, Sri Lanka's tourism has seen significant growth, fueled by its natural beauty, cultural wealth, and government backing. Despite challenges like cultural resources and tourist infrastructure, its strengths in safety, health, and ICT readiness offer a strong foundation for advancement. By maximizing strengths and tackling shortcomings, Sri Lanka can boost its global tourism appeal and cater to travelers seeking unique experiences. Through targeted investments and policies, the nation can ensure sustainable tourism growth, playing a pivotal role in its economic progress and prosperity. Leveraging strengths and addressing weaknesses will enhance Sri Lanka's tourism competitiveness and foster sustainable growth.

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## International tourist arrivals by country of residence

	May 2024			Tourist Arrivals May 2023	Change May (24/23) 2024	Total Tourist Arrivals Up to May 2024	Total Tourist Arrivals Up to May 2023	Change Up to May (24/23) 2024
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>6,424</b>	<b>1,361</b>	<b>7,785</b>	<b>7,315</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>51,014</b>	<b>37,922</b>	<b>34.5</b>
<b>North America</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>7,433</b>	<b>7,039</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>48,168</b>	<b>36,144</b>	<b>33.3</b>
Canada	3,086	208	3,294	3,753	(12.2)	18,960	17,917	5.8
Mexico	44	13	57	46	23.9	514	267	92.5
United States	2,970	1,112	4,082	3,240	26.0	28,694	17,960	59.8
<b>Caribbean &amp; Central America</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>66.4</b>
Costa Rica	06	01	07	03	133.3	63	15	320.0
Jamaica	07	0	07	03	133.3	41	21	95.2
Others	44	05	49	36	36.1	342	232	47.4
<b>South America</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>1,510</b>	<b>58.9</b>
Argentina	44	0	44	66	(33.3)	486	350	38.9
Brazil	99	07	106	74	43.2	952	578	64.7
Chile	33	09	42	33	27.3	289	176	64.2
Colombia	40	0	40	33	21.2	321	209	53.6
Others	51	06	57	28	103.6	352	197	78.7
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>5,287</b>	<b>2,708</b>	<b>95.2</b>
<b>North Africa</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>41.0</b>
Morocco	59	0	59	40	47.5	390	248	57.3
Sudan	69	0	69	39	76.9	250	233	7.3
Others	85	0	85	49	73.5	560	370	51.4
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>4,087</b>	<b>1,857</b>	<b>120.1</b>
Kenya	45	0	45	24	87.5	276	190	45.3
Mauritius	25	0	25	25	0.0	228	113	101.8
Nigeria	0	0	0	04	—	24	22	9.1
South Africa	193	02	195	145	34.5	1,899	991	91.6
Others	222	0	222	122	82.0	1,660	541	206.8



## Monthly Tourist Arrivals Report May 2024

	May 2024			Tourist Arrivals May 2023	Change May (24/23) 2024	Total Tourist Arrivals Up to May 2024	Total Tourist Arrivals Up to May 2023	Change Up to May (24/23) 2024
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
<b>ASIA &amp; PACIFIC</b>	<b>64,536</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>64,773</b>	<b>41,249</b>	<b>57.0</b>	<b>334,464</b>	<b>172,412</b>	<b>94.0</b>
<b>North East Asia</b>	<b>10,079</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10,090</b>	<b>5,760</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>74,922</b>	<b>24,194</b>	<b>209.7</b>
China	7,507	04	7,511	4,173	80.0	55,241	14,757	274.3
Japan	1,579	02	1,581	876	80.5	10,764	5,954	80.8
South Korea	569	02	571	498	14.7	4,576	2,404	90.3
Taiwan	416	03	419	211	98.6	4,301	1,036	315.2
Others	08	0	08	02	300.0	40	43	(7.0)
<b>South East Asia</b>	<b>3,775</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3,792</b>	<b>2,889</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>21,804</b>	<b>11,493</b>	<b>89.7</b>
Cambodia	82	0	82	75	9.3	858	222	286.5
Indonesia	218	0	218	142	53.5	1,267	761	66.5
Malaysia	1,200	04	1,204	895	34.5	7,548	3,459	118.2
Myanmar	83	0	83	90	(7.8)	525	278	88.8
Philippines	390	05	395	300	31.7	2,070	1,448	43.0
Singapore	911	03	914	691	32.3	4,604	2,727	68.8
Thailand	578	05	583	455	28.1	3,566	1,658	115.1
Vietnam	290	0	290	233	24.5	1,265	878	44.1
Others	23	0	23	08	187.5	101	62	62.9
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>5,941</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>6,147</b>	<b>4,756</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>38,677</b>	<b>23,224</b>	<b>66.5</b>
Australia	5,299	166	5,465	4,201	30.1	34,429	20,703	66.3
New Zealand	624	40	664	540	23.0	4,111	2,450	67.8
Others	18	0	18	15	20.0	137	71	93.0
<b>South Asia</b>	<b>44,741</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>44,744</b>	<b>27,844</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>199,061</b>	<b>113,501</b>	<b>75.4</b>
Afghanistan	20	0	20	24	(16.7)	85	37	129.7
Bangladesh	2,878	0	2,878	1,145	151.4	11,258	3,965	183.9
Bhutan	52	0	52	21	147.6	346	121	186.0
India	32,251	03	32,254	23,016	40.1	155,837	89,363	74.4
Iran	280	0	280	259	8.1	5,902	5,643	4.6
Maldives	8,040	0	8,040	2,438	229.8	18,694	9,829	90.2
Nepal	282	0	282	361	(21.9)	2,008	1,421	41.3
Pakistan	938	0	938	580	61.7	4,931	3,122	57.9
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>34,620</b>	<b>2,737</b>	<b>37,357</b>	<b>32,770</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>496,219</b>	<b>302,243</b>	<b>64.2</b>
<b>Northern Europe</b>	<b>9,496</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>9,657</b>	<b>7,261</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>104,239</b>	<b>55,504</b>	<b>87.8</b>
Denmark	409	01	410	348	17.8	7,431	4,161	78.6
Finland	159	0	159	93	71.0	2,264	850	166.4
Norway	378	01	379	344	10.2	4,515	2,744	64.5
Sweden	275	03	278	287	(3.1)	5,970	3,134	90.5
United Kingdom	7,942	152	8,094	5,987	35.2	80,086	42,841	86.9
Others	333	04	337	202	66.8	3,973	1,774	124.0





## Monthly Tourist Arrivals Report May 2024

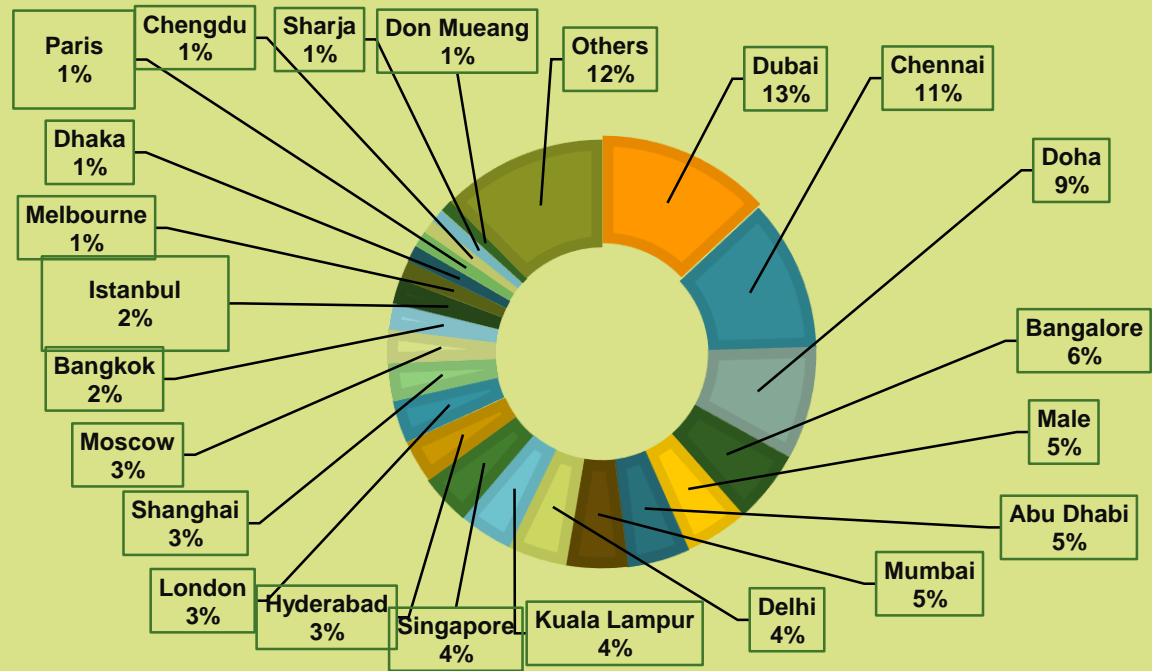
	May 2024			Tourist Arrivals May 2023	Change May (24/23) 2024	Total Tourist Arrivals Up to May 2024	Total Tourist Arrivals Up to May 2023	Change Up to May (24/23) 2024
	By Air	By Sea	Total					
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>13,384</b>	<b>2,497</b>	<b>15,881</b>	<b>12,451</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>155,962</b>	<b>87,863</b>	<b>77.5</b>
Austria	489	55	544	440	23.6	8,067	3,851	109.5
Belgium	538	11	549	420	30.7	5,918	3,149	87.9
France	4,058	06	4,064	2,414	68.4	46,238	24,693	87.3
Germany	5,182	2,313	7,495	6,854	9.4	65,514	40,107	63.3
Netherlands	1,812	33	1,845	1,072	72.1	17,531	7,237	142.2
Switzerland	1,272	73	1,345	1,208	11.3	12,263	8,540	43.6
Others	33	06	39	43	(9.3)	431	286	50.7
<b>Central/ Eastern Europe</b>	<b>6,935</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6,957</b>	<b>10,136</b>	<b>(31.4)</b>	<b>192,053</b>	<b>133,655</b>	<b>43.7</b>
Belarus	195	0	195	428	(54.4)	6,838	4,902	39.5
Czech Republic	314	0	314	259	21.2	11,917	4,532	163.0
Estonia	11	0	11	35	(68.6)	2,745	667	311.5
Hungary	76	02	78	72	8.3	3,755	1,469	155.6
Kazakhstan	65	0	65	75	(13.3)	8,515	2,004	324.9
Lithuania	68	01	69	59	16.9	4,305	1,216	254.0
Poland	992	10	1,002	616	62.7	22,849	5,639	305.2
Romania	145	02	147	163	(9.8)	3,233	1,532	111.0
Russia	4,381	03	4,384	7,760	(43.5)	110,692	102,307	8.2
Slovakia	173	0	173	172	0.6	3,822	2,123	80.0
Ukraine	203	0	203	167	21.6	4,225	2,455	72.1
Others	312	04	316	330	(4.2)	9,157	4,809	90.4
<b>Southern/ Mediterranean Europe</b>	<b>4,805</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>4,862</b>	<b>2,922</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>43,965</b>	<b>25,221</b>	<b>74.3</b>
Greece	133	0	133	48	177.1	1,272	653	94.8
Italy	980	30	1,010	680	48.5	12,436	6,222	99.9
Portugal	308	06	314	155	102.6	2,655	1,438	84.6
Spain	1,350	19	1,369	857	59.7	10,281	5,228	96.7
Turkey	294	0	294	141	108.5	3,057	1,265	141.7
Israel	1,506	0	1,506	863	74.5	9,648	8,116	18.9
Others	234	02	236	178	32.6	4,616	2,299	100.8
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>	<b>1,513</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,513</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>(0.9)</b>	<b>9,795</b>	<b>9,201</b>	<b>6.5</b>
Bahrain	68	0	68	78	(12.8)	385	389	(1.0)
Egypt	223	0	223	164	36.0	1,652	1,026	61.0
Iraq	101	0	101	58	74.1	308	361	(14.7)
Jordan	149	0	149	249	(40.2)	954	1,358	(29.7)
Kuwait	77	0	77	99	(22.2)	814	772	5.4
Lebanon	216	0	216	161	34.2	1,577	1,282	23.0
Oman	139	0	139	93	49.5	644	632	1.9
Qatar	39	0	39	25	56.0	240	234	2.6
Saudi Arabia	213	0	213	372	(42.7)	1,724	2,144	(19.6)
United Arab Emirates	229	0	229	155	-	1,125	678	65.9
Others	59	0	59	73	(19.2)	372	325	14.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>107,791</b>	<b>4,337</b>	<b>112,128</b>	<b>83,309</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>896,799</b>	<b>524,486</b>	<b>71.0</b>



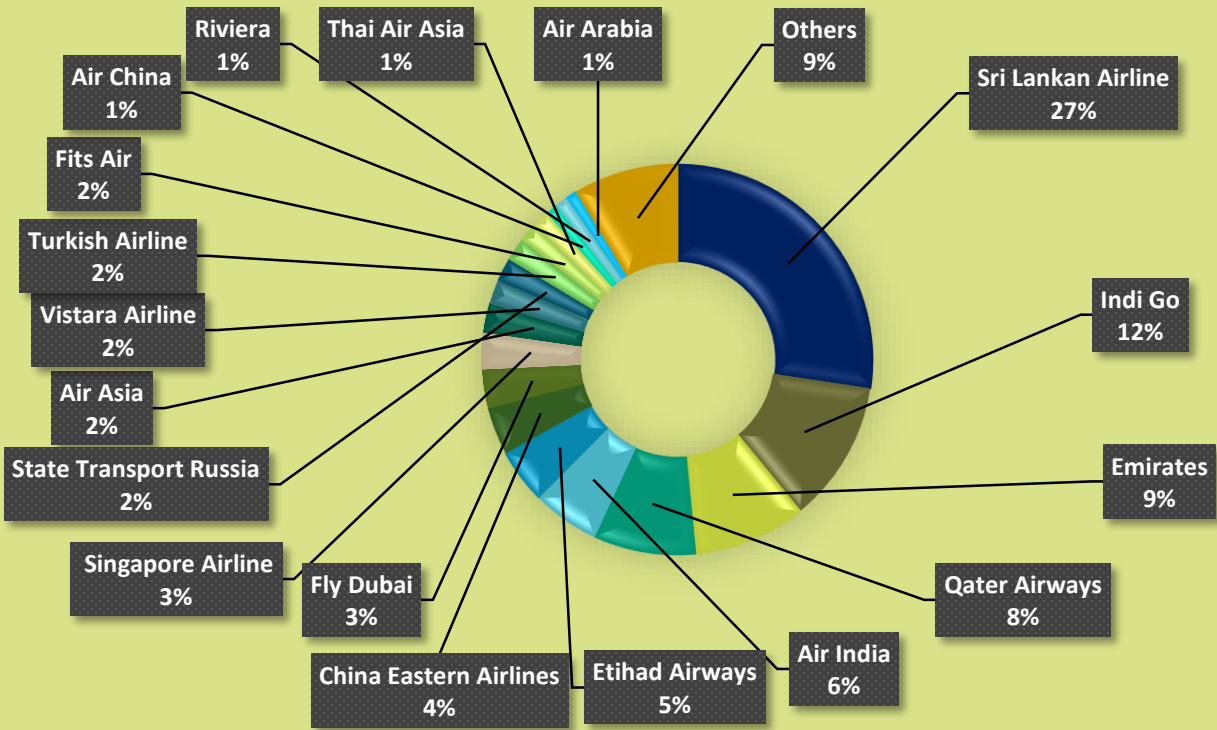
# Main last departure airports and airlines to Sri Lanka, May 2024

An analysis of tourists' departure airports and preferred airlines traveling to Sri Lanka highlights the critical role of air travel in the country's tourism industry. About 33% of tourists used Dubai, Chennai, and Doha airports as their final transit hubs before arriving in Sri Lanka. Additionally, the top airlines for travel to Sri Lanka—Sri Lankan Airlines, IndiGo, and Emirates—together accounted for 48% of total tourist arrivals. This underscores the significant role of air transportation in facilitating tourism, with particular airports and airlines serving a large proportion of visitors.

**Chart 6. Main last departure airports to Sri Lanka, May 2024**



**Chart 7. Main airlines to Sri Lanka, May 2024**





# Top ten markets versus main last departure airports and Main airlines to Sri Lanka

## May 2023

Tourists' choice of airlines greatly influences their travel experiences to Sri Lanka, often aligning with their nationalities and airline preferences. Indian visitors frequently choose IndiGo and Sri Lankan Airlines, while Russian tourists prefer State Transport Russia. Conversely, SriLankan Airlines is favored by travelers from the UK, Maldives, Australia, United States, France, and Canada. Chinese tourists typically opt for China Eastern, whereas Qatar Airways is popular among visitors from Germany.

Chennai is the main departure airport for Indian travelers, while Doha serves as the primary gateway for tourists from Germany and the USA. Australians, Russians, and Chinese travelers typically depart from Singapore, Moscow, and Shanghai airports, respectively. This highlights the essential role of accessibility in boosting Sri Lanka's tourism, showing how travelers' airline and airport preferences are shaped by their home countries and emphasizing the importance of seamless travel connections in attracting visitors.

**Table 4. Top ten markets vs. main airlines to Sri Lanka, May 2024**

Country	Sri Lankan Airline	Indi Go	Emirates	Qatar Airways	Air India	Etihad Airways	China Eastern Airlines	Fly Dubai	Singapore Airline	Air Asia	State Transport Russia	Turkish Airline	Fits Air	Thai Air Asia	Air China	Riviera	Air Arabia	Island Aviation	Others	
India	34.58	36.96	0.80	0.37	14.98	0.34	0.04	0.64	0.19	0.30	0.00	0.02	2.43	0.18	0.00	0.01	0.31	0.01	7.84	100.00
United Kingdom	38.03	1.42	12.02	20.04	1.53	10.32	0.17	1.64	1.01	3.10	0.00	2.03	0.17	2.10	0.00	1.26	0.23	0.00	4.92	100.00
Maldives	36.53	0.09	34.00	0.15	0.02	0.04	1.85	7.67	0.14	0.75	0.00	0.02	4.84	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.04	12.84	0.77	100.00
China	13.85	0.15	2.25	0.67	0.03	0.99	50.10	1.60	0.65	3.42	0.07	0.03	0.15	3.20	15.28	0.00	0.07	0.00	7.52	100.00
Germany	11.30	0.77	14.25	20.57	1.07	7.83	0.19	2.43	0.33	2.04	0.01	3.78	0.31	1.03	0.00	0.28	0.24	0.01	33.56	100.00
Australia	49.15	1.06	1.99	0.82	1.34	0.38	0.26	0.44	28.36	3.11	0.00	0.13	0.05	0.81	0.00	1.90	0.04	0.00	10.16	100.00
Russian Federation	1.16	0.84	1.85	1.98	0.66	4.11	1.67	3.72	0.05	0.96	48.24	0.36	0.21	1.12	0.00	0.00	7.39	0.00	25.68	100.00
United States	15.48	4.39	6.17	19.77	2.92	6.32	0.49	2.55	5.34	1.45	0.00	2.28	0.42	1.54	0.00	16.32	0.20	0.00	14.38	100.00
France	20.89	1.06	25.10	25.49	3.08	9.01	0.22	1.40	0.94	2.68	0.00	4.55	0.57	1.30	0.00	0.10	0.27	0.00	3.35	100.00
Canada	29.23	0.94	26.02	8.65	2.34	12.14	0.18	3.58	1.46	1.49	0.00	0.91	0.24	0.70	0.06	4.16	0.18	0.00	7.71	100.00

**Table 5. Top ten markets vs. main last departure airports to Sri Lanka, May 2024**

Country	Dubai	Chennai	Doha	Bangalore	Male	Abu Dhabi	Mumbai	Delhi	Kuala Lumpur	Singapore	Hyderabad	London	Shanghai	Moscow	Bangkok	Istanbul	Melbourne	Dhaka	Paris	Other	Total
India	598	11,445	141	5,666	85	128	4,558	3,221	277	195	3,374	20	7	0	195	5	25	17	40	2,257	32,254
United Kingdom	1,119	223	1,620	62	43	840	48	126	320	128	37	2,592	14	0	106	164	38	15	6	593	8,094
Maldives	3,357	34	12	49	3,856	3	2	5	131	49	2	2	2	0	100	2	1	4	1	428	8,040
China	342	7	50	1	179	78	6	3	340	82	4	9	2,809	5	194	2	2	64	0	3,334	7,511
Germany	1,279	69	1,546	55	20	602	123	146	185	36	14	105	10	1	68	283	6	3	383	2,561	7,495
Australia	137	45	43	31	29	21	17	221	617	1,705	42	34	10	0	79	7	1,412	0	37	978	5,465
Russian Federation	247	10	87	9	18	200	14	40	50	5	17	4	69	2,727	21	16	0	1	0	849	4,384
United States	402	150	809	76	67	268	52	128	87	237	86	151	12	0	69	93	3	22	17	1,353	4,082
France	1,100	77	1,031	48	19	386	103	138	124	50	9	59	7	0	30	185	5	2	454	237	4,064
Canada	1,018	133	279	16	11	407	19	82	83	65	5	353	5	0	34	30	2	3	365	384	3,294



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