

**SEPTEMBER
2018**



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 during September 2018 was 149,087. In comparison to September last year, there was a growth of 2.8% when the arrivals were 145,077.

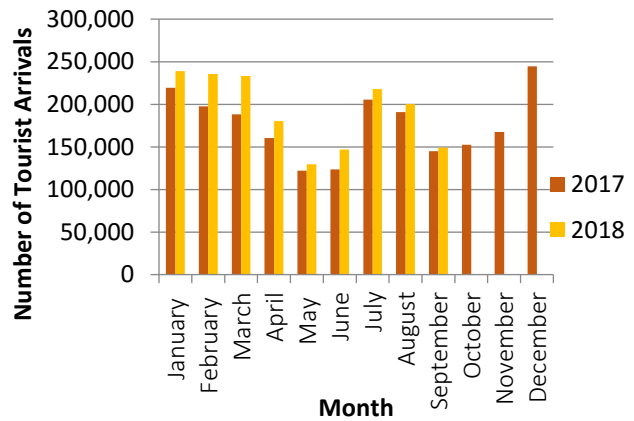
This month, the largest source market for tourists was India, followed by China and United Kingdom.

Almost 98% of tourists travelled by air to Sri Lanka.

As at 30th September 2018, 1,731,922 tourists had visited Sri Lanka for this year. It is a 11.6% growth over last year when 1,551,931 tourists had visited the country during the same period.

Month	2017	2018*	% Change 2017/2018
January	219,360	238,924	8.9
February	197,517	235,618	19.3
March	188,076	233,382	24.1
April	160,249	180,429	12.6
May	121,891	129,466	6.2
June	123,351	146,828	19.0
July	205,482	217,829	6.0
August	190,928	200,359	4.9
September	145,077	149,087	2.8
October	152,429		
November	167,511		
December	244,536		
TOTAL	2,116,407		
Up to September	1,551,931	1,731,922	11.6

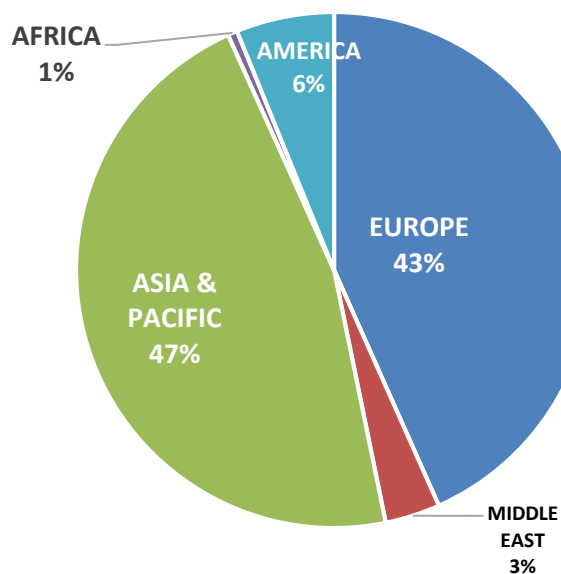
*Rebased



TOURIST ARRIVALS BY REGION

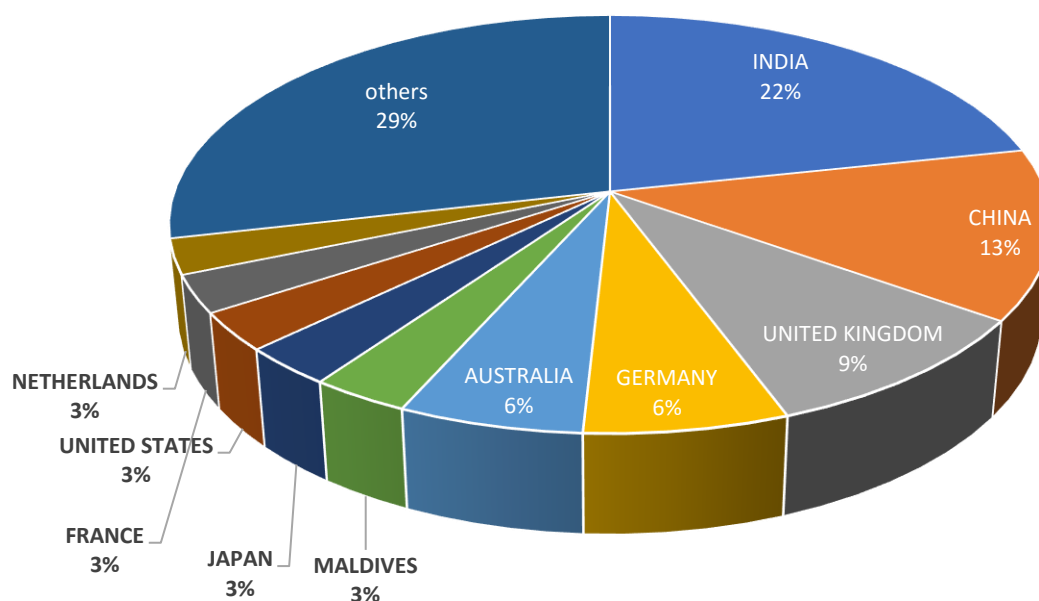
Asia and Pacific continued to be the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 47% of the total traffic received in September 2018.

Europe accounted for 43% of the total traffic, America 6%, Middle East 3% and Africa 1%.



TOP TEN SOURCE MARKETS

India, China, United Kingdom, Australia and Germany were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets in the month of September this year. India was the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 22% of the total traffic received in September 2018. China accounted for 13% of the total traffic, while United Kingdom, Australia and Germany accounted for 9%, 6% and 6% respectively.



Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals September 2018			Tourist Arrivals September 2017	% Change September 2017/2018
		By Air	By Sea	Total		
1	INDIA	31,658	642	32,300	34,481	(6.3)
2	CHINA	19,511	89	19,600	18,939	3.5
3	UNITED KINGDOM	14,007	219	14,226	12,593	13.0
4	GERMANY	9,659	9	9,668	8,574	12.8
5	AUSTRALIA	8,665	81	8,746	6,310	38.6
6	MALDIVES	4,695	0	4,695	5,522	(15.0)
7	JAPAN	4,479	1	4,480	4,254	5.3
8	UNITED STATES	3,793	613	4,406	3,204	37.5
9	FRANCE	4,308	8	4,316	4,637	(6.9)
10	NETHERLANDS	4,037	12	4,049	3,818	6.1

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

	SEPTEMBER 2018			Total Tourist Arrivals September 2017	% Change September (2017/2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to September 2018
	Tourist Arrivals ¹					
	By Air	By Sea	Total			
AMERICAS	7,145	657	7,802	6,020	29.6	106,380
North America	6,726	656	7,382	5,615	31.5	100,242
Canada	2,861	42	2,903	2,328	24.7	42,099
Mexico	72	1	73	83	(12.0)	1,196
United States	3,793	613	4,406	3,204	37.5	56,947
Caribbean & Central America	67	1	68	69	1.4	679
Jamaica	7	0	7	7	0.0	87
Costa Rica	26	0	26	9	188.9	103
Others	36	1	37	53	(30.2)	491
South America	352	0	352	336	4.8	5,459
Argentina	92	0	92	68	35.3	1,450
Brazil	102	0	102	127	(19.7)	2,082
Chile	55	0	55	61	(9.8)	735
Colombia	43	0	43	34	26.5	484
Others	60	0	60	46	30.4	708
AFRICA	1,059	10	1,069	933	14.1	10,343
North Africa	291	3	294	228	28.9	2,210
Morocco	63	0	63	62	1.6	735
Sudan	141	1	142	95	49.5	674
Others	87	2	89	71	25.4	801
Sub-Saharan Africa	768	7	775	705	9.4	8,133
Kenya	55	0	55	51	7.8	510
Mauritius	79	0	79	49	61.2	497
Nigeria	47	0	47	33	42.4	312
South Africa	410	3	413	320	29.1	4,930
Others	177	4	181	252	(29.0)	1,884

	SEPTEMBER 2018			Total Tourist Arrivals September 2017	% Change September (2017/2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to September 2018
	Tourist Arrivals ¹					
	By Air	By Sea	Total			
ASIA & PACIFIC	79,832	1,282	81,114	83,815	(3.2)	804,871
North East Asia	25,437	115	25,552	24,862	2.8	267,854
China	19,511	89	19,600	18,939	3.5	209,912
Japan	4,479	1	4,480	4,254	5.3	39,304
South Korea	949	21	970	1,150	(15.7)	11,927
Taiwan	470	4	474	488	(2.9)	6,556
Others	28	0	28	31	(9.7)	155
South East Asia	5,876	324	6,200	6,270	(1.1)	62,936
Cambodia	37	0	37	39	(5.1)	660
Indonesia	350	31	381	561	(32.1)	3,965
Malaysia	1,889	14	1,903	1,564	21.7	16,963
Myanmar	138	21	159	174	(8.6)	2,300
Philippines	1,063	243	1,306	1,583	(17.5)	14,856
Singapore	1,510	10	1,520	1,336	13.8	14,449
Thailand	655	3	658	692	(4.9)	6,973
Vietnam	220	2	222	290	(23.4)	2,531
Others	14	0	14	31	(54.8)	239
Oceania	9,598	94	9,692	7,150	35.6	88,805
Australia	8,665	81	8,746	6,310	38.6	78,756
New Zealand	911	12	923	813	13.5	9,811
Others	22	1	23	27	(14.8)	238
South Asia	38,921	749	39,670	45,533	(12.9)	385,276
Afghanistan	34	0	34	74	(54.1)	696
Bangladesh	749	22	771	1,344	(42.6)	7,838
Bhutan	38	0	38	34	11.8	467
India	31,658	642	32,300	34,481	(6.3)	301,784
Iran	194	36	230	684	(66.4)	5,021
Maldives	4,695	0	4,695	5,522	(15.0)	51,413
Nepal	337	40	377	372	1.3	3,789
Pakistan	1,216	9	1,225	3,022	(59.5)	14,268

	SEPTEMBER 2018					
	Tourist Arrivals ¹			Total Tourist Arrivals September 2017	% Change September (2017 /2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to September 2018
	By Air	By Sea	Total			
EUROPE	54,847	869	55,716	47,056	18.4	750,594
Northern Europe	16,837	233	17,070	14,807	15.3	248,907
Denmark	571	5	576	420	37.1	15,278
Finland	231	0	231	143	61.5	5,972
Norway	598	7	605	550	10.0	13,454
Sweden	651	0	651	547	19.0	18,183
United Kingdom	14,007	219	14,226	12,593	13.0	187,704
Others	779	2	781	554	41.0	8,316
Western Europe	22,135	29	22,164	20,436	8.5	296,941
Austria	875	0	875	658	33.0	14,578
Belgium	1,384	0	1,384	1,119	23.7	13,939
France	4,308	8	4,316	4,638	(6.9)	85,365
Germany	9,659	9	9,668	8,574	12.8	111,590
Netherlands	4,037	12	4,049	3,818	6.1	46,295
Switzerland	1,824	0	1,824	1,593	14.5	24,363
Others	48	0	48	36	33.3	811
Central / Eastern Europe	7,235	359	7,594	5782	31.3	121,292
Belarus	174	0	174	85	104.7	3,287
Czech Republic	889	0	889	558	59.3	12,786
Estonia	30	4	34	38	(10.5)	1,708
Hungary	147	0	147	144	2.1	3,246
Kazakhstan	132	0	132	107	23.4	2,070
Lithuania	141	1	142	89	59.6	2,445
Poland	1,079	38	1,117	735	52.0	14,078
Romania	278	25	303	269	12.6	4,057
Russian Federation	1,532	58	1,590	1521	4.5	42,053
Slovakia	205	0	205	152	34.9	3,950
Ukraine	2,084	208	2,292	1687	35.9	25,545
Others	544	25	569	397	43.3	6,067

	SEPTEMBER 2018			Total Tourist Arrivals September 2017	% Change September (2017/2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to September 2018
	Tourist Arrivals ¹					
	By Air	By Sea	Total			
Southern / Mediterranean Europe	8,640	248	8,888	6,031	47.4	83,454
Greece	328	183	511	360	41.9	5,644
Italy	1,644	10	1,654	1,365	21.2	29,687
Portugal	333	1	334	343	(2.6)	3,896
Spain	2,926	0	2,926	2,115	38.3	22,175
Turkey	165	16	181	172	5.2	3,161
Israel	2,778	0	2,778	1,170	137.4	11,539
Others	466	38	504	506	(0.4)	7,352
MIDDLE EAST	3,375	11	3,386	7,253	(53.3)	59,734
Bahrain	99	0	99	291	(66.0)	2,357
Egypt	224	6	230	309	(25.6)	2,772
Iraq	125	1	126	108	16.7	819
Jordan	200	0	200	368	(45.7)	2,289
Kuwait	154	0	154	281	(45.2)	2,894
Lebanon	366	1	367	407	(9.8)	4,270
Oman	305	0	305	458	(33.4)	6,053
Qatar	56	0	56	106	(47.2)	1,455
Saudi Arabia	1,432	0	1,432	4,003	(64.2)	30,168
United Arab Emirates	279	0	279	556	(49.8)	4,535
Others	135	3	138	366	(62.3)	2,122
TOTAL	146,258	2,829	149,087	145,077	2.8	1,731,922

¹ Rebased

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