



**SEPTEMBER  
2018**

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

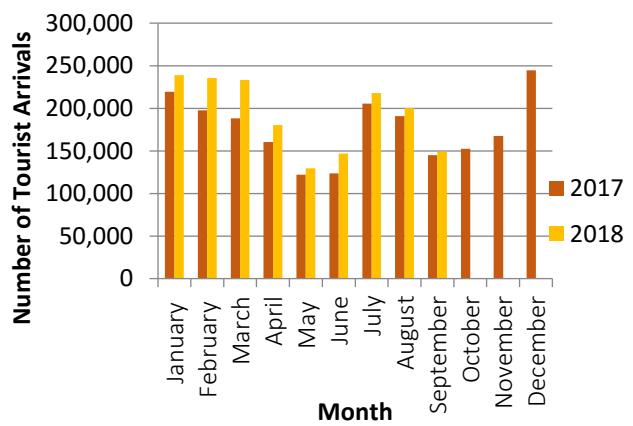
This month, the largest source market for tourists was India, followed by China and United Kingdom.

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

As at 30<sup>th</sup> 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		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,116,407</b>		
<b>Up to September</b>	<b>1,551,931</b>	<b>1,731,922</b>	<b>11.6</b>

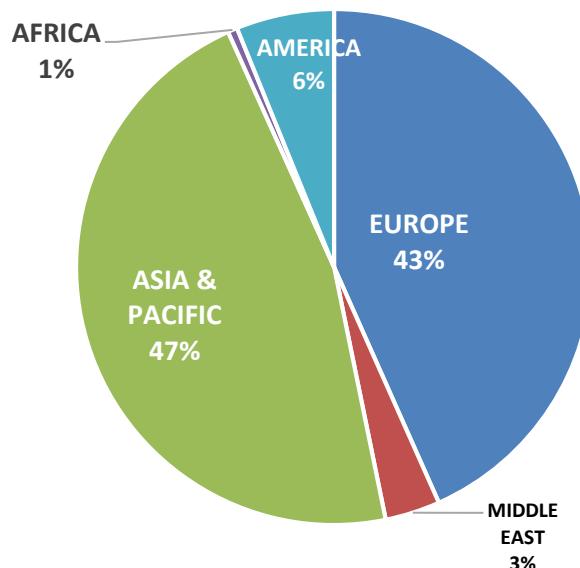
\*Rebased



## TOURIST ARRIVALS BY REGION

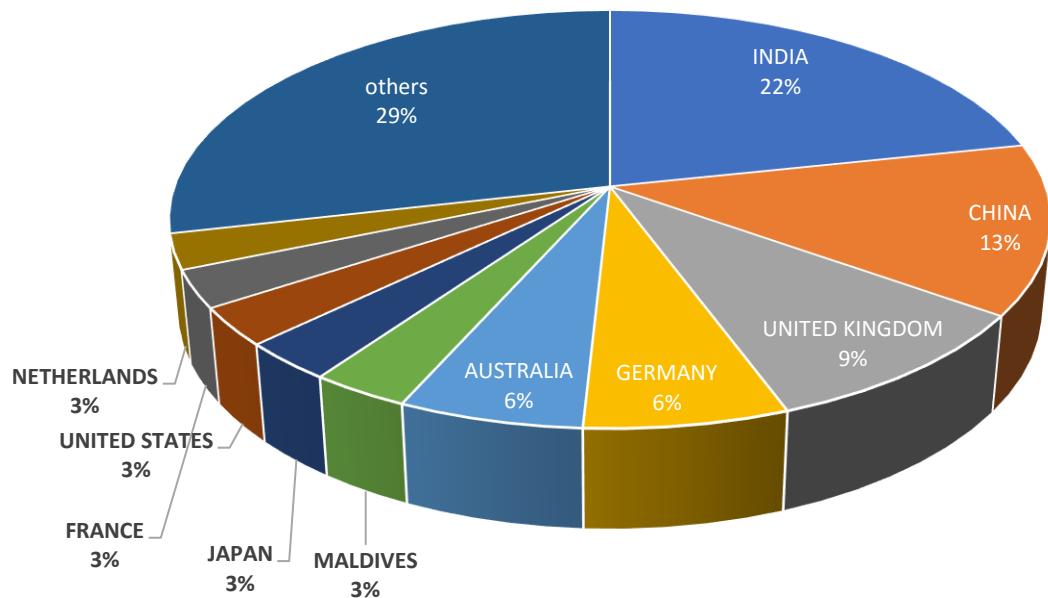
Asia and Pacific continued to be the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 47% of the total traffic received in September 2018.

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 <sup>1</sup>								
	By Air	By Sea	Total						
<b>AMERICAS</b>	<b>7,145</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>7,802</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>106,380</b>			
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			
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>1,059</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,069</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>10,343</b>			
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 <sup>1</sup>								
	By Air	By Sea	Total						
<b>ASIA &amp; PACIFIC</b>	<b>79,832</b>	<b>1,282</b>	<b>81,114</b>	<b>83,815</b>	<b>(3.2)</b>	<b>804,871</b>			
<b>North East Asia</b>	<b>25,437</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>25,552</b>	<b>24,862</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>267,854</b>			
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			
<b>South East Asia</b>	<b>5,876</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>6,200</b>	<b>6,270</b>	<b>(1.1)</b>	<b>62,936</b>			
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			
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>9,598</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>9,692</b>	<b>7,150</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>88,805</b>			
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			
<b>South Asia</b>	<b>38,921</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>39,670</b>	<b>45,533</b>	<b>(12.9)</b>	<b>385,276</b>			
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			Total Tourist Arrivals September 2017	% Change September (2017 /2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to September 2018			
	Tourist Arrivals <sup>1</sup>								
	By Air	By Sea	Total						
<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>54,847</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>55,716</b>	<b>47,056</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>750,594</b>			
<b>Northern Europe</b>	<b>16,837</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>17,070</b>	<b>14,807</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>248,907</b>			
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			
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>22,135</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22,164</b>	<b>20,436</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>296,941</b>			
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			
<b>Central / Eastern Europe</b>	<b>7,235</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>7,594</b>	<b>5782</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>121,292</b>			
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 <sup>1</sup>								
	By Air	By Sea	Total						
<b>Southern / Mediterranean Europe</b>	<b>8,640</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>8,888</b>	<b>6,031</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>83,454</b>			
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			
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>	<b>3,375</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3,386</b>	<b>7,253</b>	<b>(53.3)</b>	<b>59,734</b>			
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			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146,258</b>	<b>2,829</b>	<b>149,087</b>	<b>145,077</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>1,731,922</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Rebased

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