



MARCH  
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 March 2018 was 233,382. In comparison to March last year, there is a growth of 24.1 % when the arrivals were 188,076.

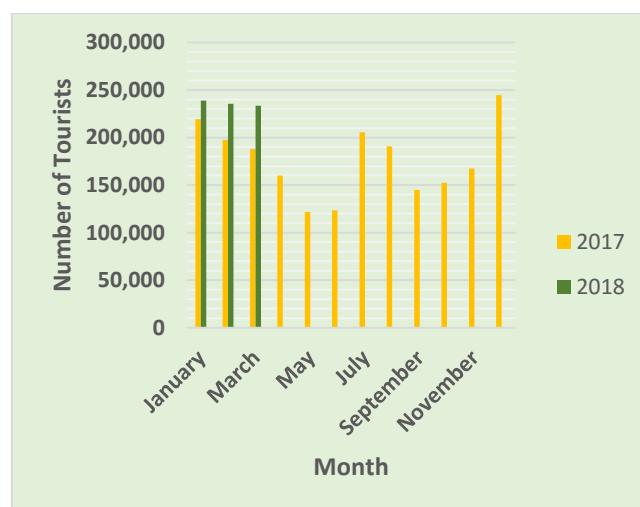
This month, the largest source market for tourists is India, followed by United Kingdom and Germany.

Almost 94% of tourists travelled by air to Sri Lanka.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018, 707,924 tourists had visited Sri Lanka for this year. It is a 17.1% growth over last year when 604,953 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		
May	121,891		
June	123,351		
July	205,482		
August	190,928		
September	145,077		
October	152,429		
November	167,511		
December	244,536		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,116,407</b>		
<b>Up to Mar</b>	<b>604,953</b>	<b>707,924</b>	<b>17.1</b>

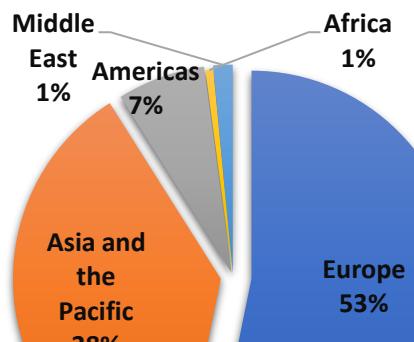
\*Rebased



## TOURIST ARRIVALS BY REGION

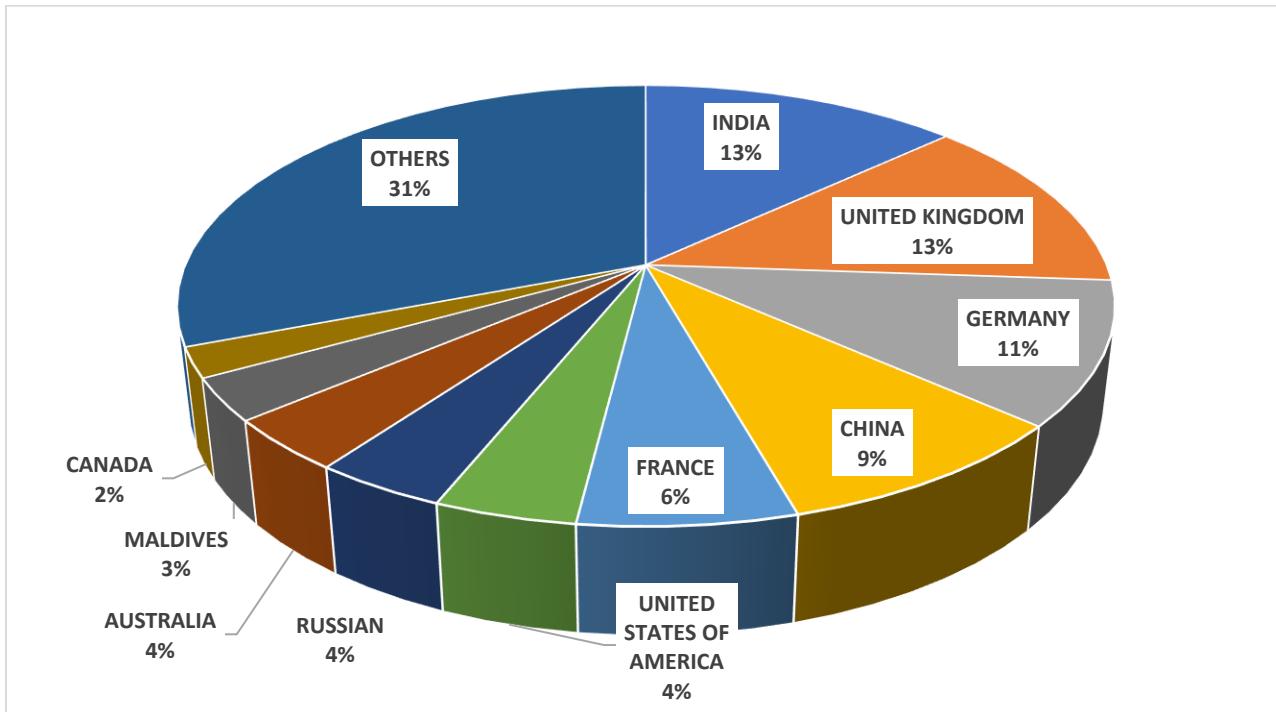
Europe continued to be the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 53% of the total traffic received in March 2018.

Asia and the Pacific accounted for 38 % of the total traffic, America 7%, Middle East 1% and Africa 1%.



## TOP TEN SOURCE MARKETS

India, United Kingdom, Germany, China and France were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets in the month of March this year. India was the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 13% of the total traffic received in March 2018. United Kingdom accounted for 13% of the total traffic, while Germany, China and France accounted for 11%, 9% and 6% respectively.



Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals March 2018			Tourist Arrivals March 2017	% Change March 2017/2018
		By Air	By Sea	Total		
1	INDIA	29,986	597	30,583	27,075	13.0
2	UNITED KINGDOM	27,367	2,999	30,366	19,451	56.1
3	GERMANY	21,447	2,976	24,423	15,207	60.6
4	CHINA	20,977	124	21,101	22,172	(4.8)
5	FRANCE	13,839	979	14,818	11,487	29.1
6	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	7,701	2,000	9,701	5,291	83.3
7	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	8,956	133	9,089	7,097	28.1
8	AUSTRALIA	8,322	610	8,932	5,575	60.2
9	MALDIVES	7,237	2	7,239	8,076	(10.4)
10	CANADA	4,660	453	5,113	4,064	25.8

## INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

	MARCH 2018			Total Tourist Arrivals March 2017 <sup>1</sup>	% Change - March (2017 /2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to March-2018			
	Tourist Arrivals								
	By Air	By Sea	Total						
<b>AMERICAS</b>			<b>16,006</b>	<b>9,942</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>40,859</b>			
North America	12,510	2,484	14,994	9,431	59.0	38,331			
Canada	4,660	453	5,113	4,064	25.8	14,794			
Mexico	149	31	180	76	136.8	351			
United States	7,701	2000	9,701	5,291	83.3	23,186			
Caribbean & Central America	92	2	94	65	44.6	262			
Jamaica	21	1	22	7	214.3	38			
Costa Rica	14	0	14	8	75.0	43			
Others	57	1	58	50	16.0	181			
South America	748	170	918	446	105.8	2,266			
Argentina	202	69	271	105	158.1	761			
Brazil	277	80	357	149	139.6	739			
Chile	93	16	109	63	73.0	312			
Colombia	72	0	72	63	14.3	183			
Others	104	5	109	66	65.2	271			
<b>AFRICA</b>			<b>1,413</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3,729</b>			
North Africa	279	4	283	261	8.4	785			
Morocco	93	4	97	93	4.3	284			
Sudan	53	0	53	73	(27.4)	161			
Others	133	0	133	95	40.0	340			
Sub-Saharan Africa	1,098	32	1,130	785	43.9	2,944			
Kenya	48	0	48	45	6.7	147			
Mauritius	60	0	60	27	122.2	216			
Nigeria	40	2	42	47	(10.6)	124			
South Africa	764	27	791	472	67.6	1,941			
Others	186	3	189	194	(2.6)	516			

	MARCH 2018			Total Tourist Arrivals March 2017	% Change - March (2017 /2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to March 2018			
	Tourist Arrivals <sup>1</sup>								
	By Air	By Sea	Total						
<b>ASIA &amp; PACIFIC</b>			<b>88,299</b>	<b>86,405</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>284,129</b>			
<b>North East Asia</b>	<b>27,683</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>27,854</b>	<b>28,188</b>	<b>(1.2)</b>	<b>103,985</b>			
China	20,977	124	21,101	22,172	(4.8)	81,305			
Japan	4,612	17	4,629	4,271	8.4	14,586			
South Korea	1,378	20	1,398	1,201	16.4	5,250			
Taiwan	690	10	700	531	31.8	2,780			
Others	26	0	26	13	100.0	64			
<b>South East Asia</b>	<b>7,486</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>7,840</b>	<b>9,850</b>	<b>-20.4</b>	<b>21,131</b>			
Cambodia	103	0	103	194	-46.9	273			
Indonesia	532	57	589	3,677	-84.0	1,474			
Malaysia	1,985	9	1994	2,145	-7.0	5,473			
Myanmar	159	13	172	249	-30.9	667			
Philippines	1,523	252	1775	1093	62.4	5,186			
Singapore	1,796	13	1809	1,573	15.0	4,665			
Thailand	1023	5	1028	668	53.9	2,379			
Vietnam	325	5	330	237	39.2	947			
Others	40	0	40	14	185.7	67			
<b>Oceania</b>	<b>9,303</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>9,966</b>	<b>6,299</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>26,790</b>			
Australia	8,322	610	8,932	5,575	60.2	24,077			
New Zealand	951	53	1,004	714	40.6	2,648			
Others	30	0	30	10	200.0	65			
<b>South Asia</b>	<b>41,942</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>42,639</b>	<b>42,068</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>132,223</b>			
Afghanistan	112	0	112	53	111.3	345			
Bangladesh	981	15	996	1,732	(42.5)	2,719			
Bhutan	37	0	37	46	(19.6)	219			
India	29,986	597	30,583	27,075	13.0	101,433			
Iran	1696	20	1716	2272	(24.5)	2,662			
Maldives	7,237	2	7,239	8,076	(10.4)	18,089			
Nepal	323	44	367	381	(3.7)	1,334			
Pakistan	1,570	19	1,589	2,433	(34.7)	5,422			

	MARCH 2018					
	Tourist Arrivals <sup>1</sup>			Total Tourist Arrivals March 2017	% Change - March (2017 /2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to March 2018
	By Air	By Sea	Total			
<b>EUROPE</b>			<b>124,144</b>	<b>85,890</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>363,313</b>
<b>Northern Europe</b>	<b>36,767</b>	<b>3,269</b>	<b>40,036</b>	<b>25,705</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>112,007</b>
Denmark	2,129	98	2,227	1,527	45.8	8,468
Finland	1,025	11	1,036	983	5.4	4,389
Norway	1,738	46	1,784	859	107.7	5,357
Sweden	3,032	77	3,109	2,038	52.6	13,228
United Kingdom	27,367	2999	30,366	19,451	56.1	77,123
Others	1476	38	1,514	847	78.7	3,442
<b>Western Europe</b>	<b>46,621</b>	<b>5,218</b>	<b>51,839</b>	<b>34,965</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>138,337</b>
Austria	2,289	284	2,573	2,113	21.8	8,562
Belgium	1,585	81	1,666	1,203	38.5	4,390
France	13,839	979	14,818	11,487	29.0	43,910
Germany	21,447	2976	24,423	15,207	60.6	56,787
Netherlands	4,223	309	4,532	3,043	48.9	14,333
Switzerland	3,111	571	3,682	1,848	99.2	10,020
Others	127	18	145	64	126.6	335
<b>Central / Eastern Europe</b>	<b>21,347</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>21,861</b>	<b>18,581</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>80,266</b>
Belarus	663	3	666	517	28.8	2,410
Czech Republic	2,665	9	2,674	2,327	14.9	8,013
Estonia	352	7	359	412	(12.9)	1,380
Hungary	504	13	517	496	4.2	2,281
Kazakhstan	370	0	370	464	(20.3)	1,451
Lithuania	392	10	402	265	51.7	1,354
Poland	1,598	78	1,676	1,503	11.5	8,125
Romania	512	49	561	473	18.6	2,439
Russian Federation	8,956	133	9,089	7,097	28.1	31,701
Slovakia	890	6	896	804	11.4	2,476
Ukraine	3,366	166	3,532	3,582	(1.4)	15,306
Others	1,079	40	1,119	641	74.6	3,330

	MARCH 2018			Total Tourist Arrivals March 2017	% Change - March (2017/2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to March 2018			
	Tourist Arrivals <sup>1</sup>								
	By Air	By Sea	Total						
<b>Southern / Mediterranean Europe</b>	<b>9,239</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>10,408</b>	6,639	56.8	32,703			
Greece	550	220	770	403	91.1	1,987			
Italy	3,498	659	4,157	2,629	58.1	14,348			
Portugal	522	15	537	402	33.6	1,604			
Spain	2,240	212	2,452	1,321	85.6	5,520			
Turkey	355	10	365	370	-1.4	1,655			
Others	2,074	53	2,127	1,514	40.5	7,589			
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>	<b>3,504</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3,520</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>-26.6</b>	<b>15,894</b>			
Bahrain	195	0	195	149	30.9	930			
Egypt	272	6	278	251	10.8	992			
Iraq	40	1	41	48	-14.6	279			
Jordan	299	0	299	366	-18.3	919			
Kuwait	240	0	240	317	-24.3	1,188			
Lebanon	561	0	561	345	62.6	1,461			
Oman	268	0	268	429	-37.5	1,683			
Qatar	63	0	63	47	34.0	406			
Saudi Arabia	997	0	997	2,034	-51.0	6,459			
United Arab Emirates	419	1	420	635	-33.9	1,003			
Others	150	8	158	172	-8.1	574			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>218,619</b>	<b>14,763</b>	<b>233,382</b>	<b>188,076</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>707,924</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Rebased

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