



**December
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 December 2018 was 253,169. In comparison to December last year, there is a growth of 3.5% when the arrivals were 244,536.

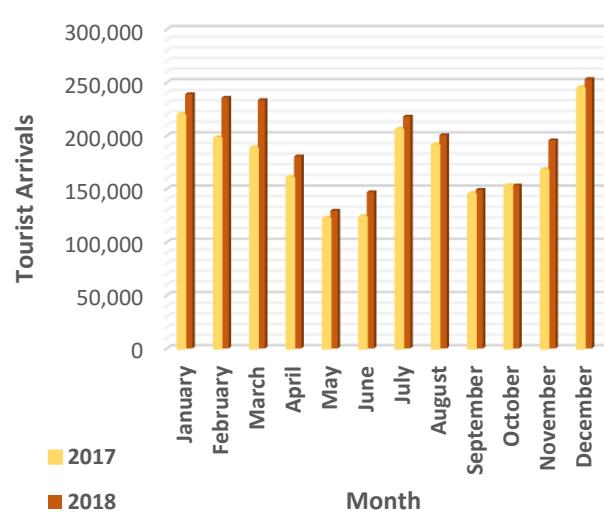
This month, the largest source market for tourists is India, followed by United Kingdom and China.

Almost 97% of tourists travelled by air to Sri Lanka.

As at 31st December 2018, 2,333,796 tourists had visited Sri Lanka for this year. It is a 10.3% growth over last year when 2,116,407 tourists had visited the country.

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	153,123	0.5
November	167,511	195,582	16.8
December	244,536	253,169	3.5
TOTAL	2,116,407	2,333,796	10.3

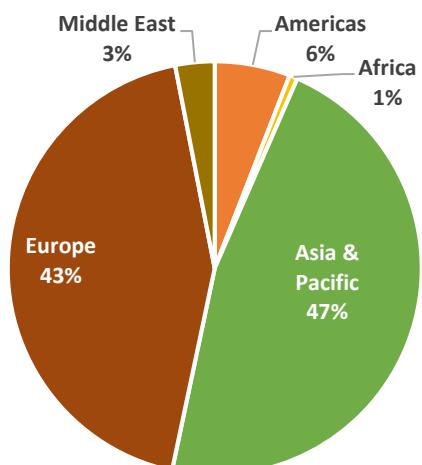
*Rebased



TOURIST ARRIVALS BY REGION

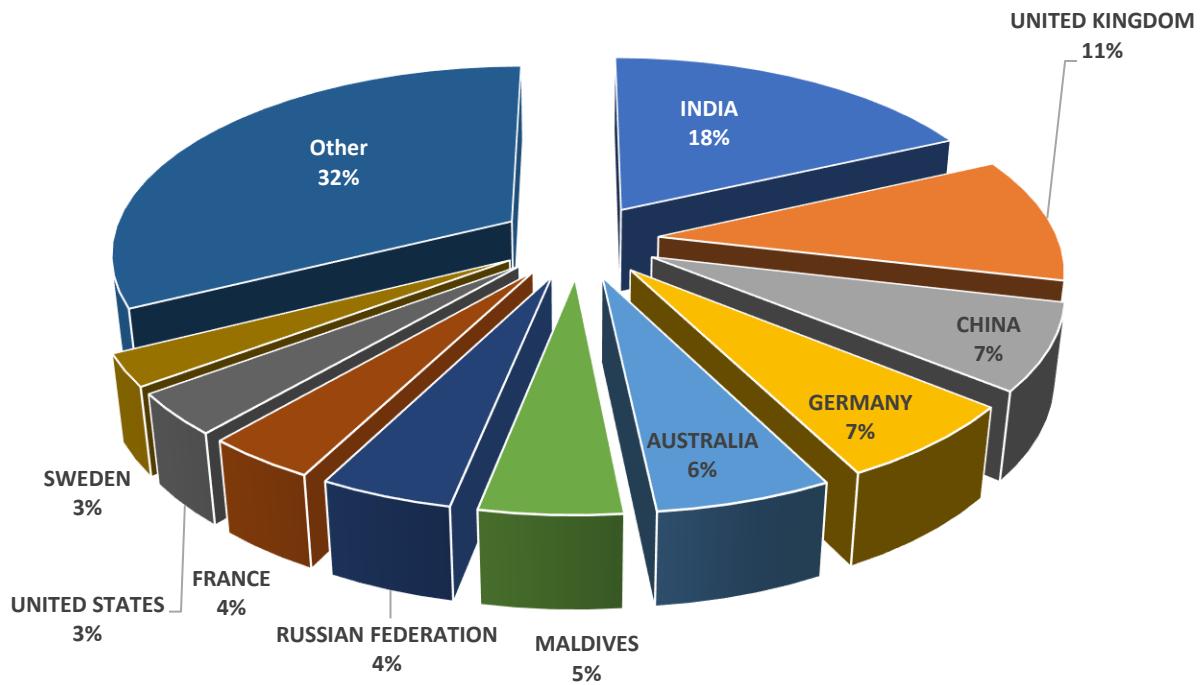
Asia and Pacific continued to be the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 47% of the total traffic received in December 2018.

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



TOP TEN SOURCE MARKETS

India, United Kingdom, China, Germany and Australia were Sri Lanka's top five international tourist generating markets in the month of December this year. India was the largest source of tourist traffic to Sri Lanka with 18% of the total traffic received in December 2018. United Kingdom accounted for 11% of the total traffic, while China, Germany and Australia accounted for 7%, 7% and 6% respectively.



Rank	Country of Residence	Tourist Arrivals December 2018			Tourist Arrivals December 2017	% Change December 2017/2018
		By Air	By Sea	Total		
1	INDIA	45,006	791	45,797	47,788	(4.2)
2	UNITED KINGDOM	24,963	1,865	26,828	21,756	23.3
3	CHINA	18,167	116	18,283	19,234	(4.9)
4	GERMANY	14,730	1,894	16,624	12,123	37.1
5	AUSTRALIA	14,915	46	14,961	15,058	(0.6)
6	MALDIVES	12,038	16	12,054	13,261	(9.1)
7	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	11,084	174	11,258	9,942	13.2
8	FRANCE	9,110	365	9,475	8,858	7.0
9	UNITED STATES	8,795	53	8,848	9,123	(3.0)
10	SWEDEN	6,819	15	6,834	5,860	16.6

INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ARRIVALS BY COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE

	December 2018			Total Tourist Arrivals December 2017	% Change December (2017/2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to December 2018			
	Tourist Arrivals ¹								
	By Air	By Sea	Total						
AMERICAS	14,282	127	14,409	14,678	(1.8)	137,626			
North America	13,566	78	13,644	14,040	(2.8)	129,492			
Canada	4,658	22	4,680	4,772	(1.9)	52,681			
Mexico	113	3	116	145	(20.0)	1,503			
United States	8,795	53	8,848	9,123	(3.0)	75,308			
Caribbean & Central America	88	6	94	95	(1.1)	911			
Jamaica	7	0	7	18	(61.1)	102			
Costa Rica	16	4	20	8	150.0	132			
Others	65	2	67	69	(2.9)	677			
South America	628	43	671	543	23.6	7,223			
Argentina	95	8	103	92	12.0	1,809			
Brazil	240	29	269	230	17.0	2,774			
Chile	85	4	89	66	34.8	1,002			
Colombia	113	0	113	88	28.4	702			
Others	95	2	97	67	44.8	936			
AFRICA	2,545	108	2,653	2,437	8.9	14,873			
North Africa	372	1	373	385	(3.1)	2,991			
Morocco	147	0	147	123	19.5	1,036			
Sudan	71	1	72	96	(25.0)	858			
Others	154	0	154	166	(7.2)	1,097			
Sub-Saharan Africa	2,173	107	2,280	2,052	11.1	11,882			
Kenya	195	0	195	109	78.9	874			
Mauritius	91	7	98	87	12.6	720			
Nigeria	26	1	27	43	(37.2)	412			
South Africa	1,654	98	1,752	1,490	17.6	7,416			
Others	207	1	208	323	(35.6)	2,460			

	December 2018			Total Tourist Arrivals December 2017	% Change December (2017/2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to December 2018			
	Tourist Arrivals ¹								
	By Air	By Sea	Total						
ASIA & PACIFIC	110,638	1,486	112,124	121,609	(7.8)	1,091,800			
North East Asia	24,718	148	24,866	26,062	(4.6)	339,558			
China	18,167	116	18,283	19,234	(4.9)	265,965			
Japan	4,639	18	4,657	4,594	1.4	49,450			
South Korea	1,298	13	1,311	1,482	(11.5)	15,748			
Taiwan	596	1	597	707	(15.6)	8,187			
Others	18	0	18	45	(60.0)	208			
South East Asia	8,075	380	8,455	12,206	(30.7)	84,013			
Cambodia	19	0	19	39	(51.3)	771			
Indonesia	466	48	514	2,748	(81.3)	5,365			
Malaysia	2,280	27	2,307	3,199	(27.9)	22,808			
Myanmar	413	18	431	385	11.9	3,241			
Philippines	1,152	275	1,427	1,430	(0.2)	19,303			
Singapore	2,519	5	2,524	3,218	(21.6)	19,861			
Thailand	1,025	6	1,031	952	8.3	9,178			
Vietnam	185	1	186	209	(11.0)	3,189			
Others	16	0	16	26	(38.5)	297			
Oceania	16,882	49	16,931	16,983	(0.3)	125,069			
Australia	14,915	46	14,961	15,058	(0.6)	110,928			
New Zealand	1,935	3	1,938	1,866	3.9	13,825			
Others	32	0	32	59	(45.8)	316			
South Asia	60,963	909	61,872	66,358	(6.8)	543,160			
Afghanistan	72	0	72	66	9.1	861			
Bangladesh	1,009	10	1,019	1,342	(24.1)	10,487			
Bhutan	136	0	136	117	16.2	679			
India	45,006	791	45,797	47,788	(4.2)	424,887			
Iran	224	24	248	468	(47.0)	5,720			
Maldives	12,038	16	12,054	13,261	(9.1)	76,108			
Nepal	430	50	480	505	(5.0)	5,302			
Pakistan	2,048	18	2,066	2,811	(26.5)	19,116			

	December 2018			Total Tourist Arrivals December 2017	% Change - December (2017 /2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to December 2018			
	Tourist Arrivals ¹								
	By Air	By Sea	Total						
EUROPE	111,396	6,572	117,968	101,181	16.6	1,017,861			
Northern Europe	38,831	1,926	40,757	34,114	19.5	339,047			
Denmark	1,987	21	2,008	1,749	14.8	19,223			
Finland	1,854	6	1,860	1,834	1.4	8,888			
Norway	1,849	3	1,852	1,639	13.0	17,217			
Sweden	6,819	15	6,834	5,860	16.6	28,267			
United Kingdom	24,963	1,865	26,828	21,756	23.3	254,176			
Others	1,359	16	1,375	1,276	7.8	11,276			
Western Europe	35,815	2,564	38,379	32,537	18.0	392,356			
Austria	1,956	58	2,014	2,258	(10.8)	19,320			
Belgium	1,687	32	1,719	1,517	13.3	17,519			
France	9,110	365	9,475	8,858	7.0	106,449			
Germany	14,730	1,894	16,624	12,123	37.1	156,888			
Netherlands	4,265	58	4,323	4,400	(1.8)	57,160			
Switzerland	3,952	145	4,097	3,288	24.6	33,965			
Others	115	12	127	93	36.6	1,055			
Central / Eastern Europe	25,837	701	26,538	22,894	15.9	176,905			
Belarus	567	11	578	421	37.3	4,621			
Czech Republic	2,221	7	2,228	1,872	19.0	17,600			
Estonia	629	5	634	502	26.3	2,744			
Hungary	615	15	630	676	(6.8)	4,514			
Kazakhstan	430	1	431	647	(33.4)	2,721			
Lithuania	416	6	422	309	36.6	3,386			
Poland	2,458	75	2,533	2,390	6.0	20,378			
Romania	997	45	1,042	785	32.7	5,931			
Russian Federation	11,084	174	11,258	9,942	13.2	64,497			
Slovakia	529	0	529	449	17.8	5,289			
Ukraine	4,585	249	4,834	3,855	25.4	36,515			
Others	1,306	113	1,419	1,046	35.7	8,709			

	December 2018			Total Tourist Arrivals December 2017	% Change December (2017/2018)	Total Annual Tourist Arrivals up to December 2018			
	Tourist Arrivals ¹								
	By Air	By Sea	Total						
Southern / Mediterranean Europe	10,913	1,381	12,294	11,636	5.7	109,553			
Greece	656	228	884	620	42.6	7,778			
Italy	4,523	653	5,176	5,288	(2.1)	38,379			
Portugal	717	145	862	500	72.4	5,933			
Spain	2,145	106	2,251	2,359	(4.6)	29,208			
Turkey	458	173	631	412	53.2	4,262			
Israel	1,110	15	1,125	1,174	(4.2)	13,833			
Others	1,304	61	1,365	1,283	6.4	10,160			
MIDDLE EAST	5,982	33	6,015	4,631	29.9	71,636			
Bahrain	308	0	308	266	15.8	2,858			
Egypt	507	11	518	384	34.9	3,854			
Iraq	93	1	94	135	(30.4)	1,021			
Jordan	391	1	392	380	3.2	3,156			
Kuwait	213	0	213	273	(22.0)	3,465			
Lebanon	645	0	645	714	(9.7)	5,521			
Oman	274	0	274	413	(33.7)	6,846			
Qatar	111	0	111	92	20.7	1,676			
Saudi Arabia	2,656	0	2,656	1,121	136.9	34,703			
United Arab Emirates	540	2	542	624	(13.1)	5,785			
Others	244	18	262	229	14.4	2,751			
TOTAL	244,843	8,326	253,169	244,536	3.5	2,333,796			

¹ Rebased

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